



# Toras Avigdor

## Junior

Adapted from the teachings  
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פרשת בראשית

## Bright Beginnings

In honor of

Bar Mitzvah

**Jonah Kazam**

Mazal Tov!

## Bright Beginnings

Everybody knows what happened in this week's parsha — it was the biggest miracle that ever happened. Bigger than kriyas Yam Suf. Bigger than the Ten Makkos. Even bigger than the miracles we're going to see when Moshiach comes! It was the tremendous miracle of **בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים**. Hashem created the world out of nothing! From nothing at all He made air and dirt and water and the gazillion things we see around us. And He made another gazillion things that we don't see.

That's a very big deal and it takes a lot of work. Just building a highway takes years, can you imagine how much work it takes to create a world? Probably Hashem had to put on a construction hat and make millions of Malachim and then give them shovels and tractors and work for years and years to make the world.

But of course we know that that is not how the world was created **בְּי הוּא אָמַר וַיְהִי**, Hashem spoke and the world came into being! That means that He didn't have to work hard at all. He didn't need tractors, not even a shovel or a hammer. All Hashem needed to do was say one word, and it happened.

In our parsha we find nine times *vayomer hashem*. “Hashem said this” and “Hashem said that”. And that's how the world came into being, by His words alone.

Now, when we look in the chumash we can see what Hashem's first words were when He wanted to make the world. That's pretty exciting! It must be pretty important if it was said right in the beginning. Not just the beginning of anything — it was the beginning of everything!

So what were those most important words? וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹקִים יְהִי אוֹר — And Hashem said “Let there be light!” Light, that was the first thing Hashem created with His words.

Now close your eyes for a few seconds and imagine what the world looked like before Hashem said those words. What do you see? You see nothing! Without light it was just darkness. It was darker than even your basement is when all the lights are off and all the window shades are down. Not even a little nite light. Nothing — just pitch dark!

There is no way to picture a world with no light because you can't see anything without light! Without light we wouldn't see a thing, not even an outline of anything.

Now, imagine you made a beautiful picture for your mother but you showed it to her in a pitch dark room. What's the point? All the time you spent making the picture would be wasted.

Hashem didn't want to waste creating this beautiful world so He created light so that we could see everything He made for us. And that's why the Torah tells us that Hashem's first words were וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹקִים יְהִי אוֹר — “Let there be light!”



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We thank Hashem for creating light every single day. Did you know that? The longest bracha we say every day is Yotzer Ha'meoros, thanking Hashem for light! It starts right after Yishtabach and it doesn't end for a few pages! That's pretty long!

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה'שֵׁם יוֹצֵר הַמְּאוֹרוֹת. We thank Hashem for creating the sun that gives us light by day and for the moon and stars which give us light by night, because it's so good to live in a lit up world. Without light, the whole world would be nothing.

But there's even more to thank Hashem for. You know that even with the moon, it can still be very dark in your room at night. And that's why we say a special bracha every Motza'ei Shabbos thanking Hashem for all types of light. By havdalah we all say בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ and we thank Hashem for creating fire and candles and light bulbs. You may have thought it was just another bracha, a part of havdalah. No, it's a special bracha thanking Hashem for all the different types of lights that He created.

We begin every day and we start every week by delighting in the gift of light, just like Hashem started off the world by Creating that wonderful gift so that we should be able to see and enjoy His beautiful world!

***Have a wonderful Shabbos !***

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