

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

BEREISHIT

21-22 OCTOBER | 27 TISHREI

Scratch the Surface



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Any movie director could do a lot with this week's sidra; the story of creation is definitely up there with the more cinematic sections of the Torah. But it's the next scene, after mankind was created, which to me never received the cinematic acclaim it deserves. When Adam awoke to this new world, the verse (Bereishit 2:5, as explained by Rashi, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, 1040-1105) tells us

that the land was devoid of greenery. Although the trees had been created, they were poised under the surface of the earth, waiting for Adam to pray for rain and for the brown surface of the world to explode into green. And with the simplest of prayers, one of the most cinematic scenes of creation unfolds. Imagine. Fully formed redwood trees, oaks and cedars climb through the topsoil to meet, and then climb above, Adam's wondrous gaze.

And one can't help but wonder why it was that God left this particular final piece for Adam to put into His puzzle.

I think this was a message to Adam all those years ago and to all of us today as well. Maybe Adam, so called because he was made from the ground (*adamah*), saw this as a metaphor for himself and for the humanity he represented. There is so much potential within us, just waiting for a prayer, a thought, or a word of encouragement to set it free. We may look at our lives, at ourselves, and see not much above ground. But there is so much fully-formed greatness that God has placed within us, already installed, if only we would just scratch the surface.

Parasha Wordsearch

T	E	I	A	C	C	N	S	A	R	A	M	N	D
E	V	S	H	O	R	B	S	A	L	B	N	E	A
D	E	I	C	S	A	R	M	B	E	O	N	S	E
E	D	E	B	M	A	N	S	A	N	M	A	S	A
N	N	A	M	T	E	A	I	S	S	I	I	L	N
R	S	H	S	C	I	B	S	M	A	T	C	N	A
O	D	V	B	N	T	E	E	D	A	A	C	N	T
N	A	A	A	S	A	L	A	B	C	L	O	F	E
N	N	N	N	L	N	N	B	E	H	I	S	I	H
I	M	A	A	H	M	A	E	O	T	C	E	S	V
A	M	I	S	A	H	S	H	A	C	V	A	H	L
C	A	E	A	S	C	E	E	S	I	A	A	C	A
E	N	S	E	L	H	R	M	N	A	E	T	N	A
M	A	A	H	O	C	D	A	N	S	L	S	T	I

ABEL
ANIMALS
CREATION
SHABBAT
EVE
EDEN
CAIN
MAN
FISH
STARS

