**Bereshit 1:1-2:4a**

**Beginning at the beginning with Light/(m) אור**

What types of light are mentioned in this section? What day/s/ is light created?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Why so many types?

What different functions do the varieties of light play?

What different methods does God use for creating? (fiat, division)

Do you have multiple media?

Is it literal or figurative light?

How does light play with us humans? How do you as artists play with light?

**Commentary: Bereshit Rabbah**

Light is mentioned five times in the opening chapter of the Bible. This points to the five books of Moses. "God said, let there be light," refers to the book of Genesis, which enlightens us as to how creation was carried out. The words, "And there was light," bear reference to the book of Exodus, which contains the history of the transition of Israel from darkness to light. "And God saw the light that it was good": this alludes to the book of Leviticus, which contains numerous statutes. "And God divided between the light and between the darkness": this refers to the book of Numbers, divided as that book is between the history of those who came out of Egypt and that of those who were on their way to possess the promised land. "And God called the light day": this bears reference to the book of Deuteronomy, which is not only a rehearsal of the four earlier books, but contains Moses's eloquent dying charge to Israel and many laws not mentioned in the preceding books.

**From the *Gemara* on Hagigah 12a (Soncino translation and notes):**

But was the light created on the first day?

For, behold, it is written: And God set them in the firmament of the heaven, and it is [further] written: And there was evening and there was morning a fourth day.

This is [to be explained] according to R. Eleazar. For R. Eleazar said: The light which the Holy One, blessed be He, created on the first day, one could see thereby from one end of the world to the other; but as soon as the Holy One, blessed be He, beheld the generation of the Flood and the generation of the Dispersion, and saw that their actions were corrupt, He arose and hid it from them, for it is said: But from the wicked their light is withholden.

And for whom did he reserve it? For the righteous in the time to come,for it is said: And God saw the light, that it was good; and ‘good’ means only the righteous, for it is said: Say ye of the righteous that he is good. As soon as He saw the light that He had reserved for the righteous, He rejoiced, for it is said: He rejoiceth at the light of the righteous.

Now Tannaim [differ on the point]: The light which the Holy One, blessed be He, created on the first day one could see and look thereby from one end of the world to the other; this is the view of R. Jacob. But the Sages say: It is identical with the luminaries for they were created on the first day, but they were not hung up [in the firmament] till the fourth day.

**Other mentions of Light in the Tanakh**

**Psalm 104**

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| **א**  בָּרְכִי נַפְשִׁי,    אֶת-יְהוָה: יְהוָה אֱלֹהַי, גָּדַלְתָּ מְּאֹד;    הוֹד וְהָדָר לָבָשְׁתָּ. | **1** Bless the LORD, O my soul.   O LORD my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with glory and majesty. |
| **ב**  עֹטֶה-אוֹר, כַּשַּׂלְמָה;    נוֹטֶה שָׁמַיִם, כַּיְרִיעָה. | **2** Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; |

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| Isaiah 6-7 | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **ו**  לְמַעַן יֵדְעוּ, מִמִּזְרַח-שֶׁמֶשׁ וּמִמַּעֲרָבָה, כִּי-אֶפֶס, בִּלְעָדָי:  אֲנִי יְהוָה, וְאֵין עוֹד. | **6** That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me; I am the LORD; and there is none else; |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **ז**  יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ, עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא רָע; אֲנִי יְהוָה, עֹשֶׂה כָל-אֵלֶּה. | **7** I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I am the LORD, that doeth all these things. | |  |  |   **Job 38:18-19**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **יח**  הִתְבֹּנַנְתָּ, עַד-רַחֲבֵי-אָרֶץ;    הַגֵּד, אִם-יָדַעְתָּ כֻלָּהּ. | **18** Hast thou surveyed unto the breadths of the earth? Declare, if thou knowest it all. | | **יט**  אֵי-זֶה הַדֶּרֶךְ, יִשְׁכָּן-אוֹר;    וְחֹשֶׁךְ, אֵי-זֶה מְקֹמוֹ. | **19** Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and as for darkness, where is the place thereof; | |  |  |   **Jeremiah 10:2**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, אֶל-דֶּרֶךְ הַגּוֹיִם אַל-תִּלְמָדוּ, וּמֵאֹתוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם, אַל-תֵּחָתּוּ:  כִּי-יֵחַתּוּ הַגּוֹיִם, מֵהֵמָּה. | **2** thus saith the LORD: Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |