

PARSHAT B'REISHIT
GENESIS 1:1-6:8
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 42:5-43:10
24 TISHREI 5786/16 OCTOBER 2025



The Starry Night
Oil on canvass by Vincent van Gogh

DEEP CALLS UNTO DEEP

1. With beginning God began to create heaven and earth, the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the depths (תְּהוֹם) and the spirit of God hovered over the surface of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)
2. O my God, my soul is downcast;
therefore I will remember You
from the land of Jordan and Hermon
from Mount Mitzar,
where deep calls to deep (תְּהוֹם-אֶל-תְּהוֹם)
to the sound of Your water channels;
all Your breakers and waves passed over me.
(Psalm 42:7-8)

3. God separated the waters below from the waters above. (Genesis 1:7)
4. They are crying like a family being torn apart. The lowers waters long to go up in order to be reunited with their other half. (Midrash, B'reishit Rabbah 5:5)
5. "Going down in a mine is an unpleasant business...looking upward, the daylight appears to be about as big as a start in the sky....The workers get used to it, but even so, they never shake off an unconquerable feeling of horror and dread that stays with them, not without reason or unjustifiably. Once down there, however, it isn't so bad, and the effort is richly rewarded by what one sees." (Vincent van Gogh, letter to his brother Theo; April 1879)