

Bereshit Rabbah 1:3

R. Tanhuma commenced with: *For You are great and perform wonders* (Ps. 86:10). R. Tanhum ben R. Hiyya said: If a gourd has a hole even as small as the eye of a needle, all its air escapes, yet though man is formed with many cavities and orifices, his breath does not escape through them. Who achieved this? *You alone are God* (Ps. 86:10).

When were the angels created? R. Johanan said: They were created on the second day, as it is written, *He sets the rafters of His lofts in the waters, [makes the clouds His chariot, moves on the wings of the wind (רוּחַ)]* (Ps. 104:3), followed by, *He makes the winds (רוּחוֹת) His messengers (מְלַאכָיִי)* (Ps. 104:4).

R. Hanina said: They were created on the fifth day, for it is written, *Birds that fly above the earth* (Gn. 1:20), and it is written, *And with two he would fly* (Isa. 6:2).

R. Luliani ben Tabri said in R. Isaac's name: Whether we accept the view of R. Hanina or that of R. Johanan, all agree that none were created on the first day, lest you should say, Michael stretched [the world] in the south and Gabriel in the north, while the Holy One, blessed be He, measured it in the middle; but *It is I, the Lord, who made everything, who alone (בְּיָחִיד) stretched out the heavens and unaided spread out the earth* (Isa. 44:24).

Mi itti (מי איתי - alone, by Myself, who was with Me) is written: Who was associated with Me in the creation of the world?

Ordinarily, a mortal king is honored in his realm and the great men of the realm are honored with him. Why? Because they bear the burden [of state] with him. The Holy One, blessed be He, however, is not so, but He alone created His world, He alone is glorified in His universe. R. Tanhuma quoted: *For You are great and perform wonders* (Ps. 86:10). Why? Because *You alone are God* (Ps. 86:10). You alone created the world. Hence, *When God began to create* (Gn. 1:1).