

## Earth Spirit Rising: Top Rated Jewish Prayers

Derived from the ratings of reviewers Paul Kaufman, and Rabbi Lawrence Troster

<b>TOP TIER: (One Star/ One 4)</b>	
NUMBER	J7
TITLE	B'rakhot of Gratitude: Extolling God's Glory
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Supplementary Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays</i> . The Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism
YEAR	2003
THEME	praise, adoration, storm, thunder, stars, deserts, mountains, sunrise, sunset, ocean, trees, creatures, vegetation,
SEASON	Any

*Upon seeing the wonders of nature- lightning, shooting stars, vast deserts, high mountains, a spectacular sunrise or sunset-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, renewing the work of creation.

*Upon seeing a storm or hearing thunder-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, whose power and might fill the universe.

*Upon seeing a rainbow-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, faithfully recalling the covenant by keeping the divine promise.

*Upon seeing the ocean-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, having fashioned the great sea.

*Upon seeing trees in bloom for the first time each year-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, which lacks nothing; for God created fine creatures and pleasant trees in order that humans might enjoy them.

*Upon seeing creatures or vegetation of striking beauty-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, in whose world such beauty exists.

*Upon seeing unusual creatures-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, diversifying creation.

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NUMBER J8  
 TITLE B'Rakhot of Gratitude: Prayer Before Eating  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR *Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays*. The Rabbinical  
 Assembly of Conservative Judaism  
 YEAR 2003  
 THEME eating, meal, bread, thanksgiving, vegetables, food, fruit,  
 wine, grape juice  
 SEASON Any

*Prayer over the washing of the hands in preparation for b'rakah over bread-*  
 Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us  
 the holiness of the mitzvot by commanding us to rinse our hands.

*Before eating bread-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, bringing forth  
 bread from the earth.

*Before eating foods made of the five grains of Israel- wheat, barley, oats, rye, or  
 spelt-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, creating various  
 grains.

*Before eating fruit-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, creating the fruit  
 of the tree.

*Before eating vegetables (from plants which sprout annually)*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, creating the fruit  
 of the earth.

*Before drinking wine or grape juice-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, creating the fruit  
 of the vine.

*Before partaking of other foods or liquids-*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, through whose  
 world all things exist.

*When eating a new food, or a seasonal fruit not tasted since the previous season,  
 add this b'rakah before eating:*

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, granting us life,  
 sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

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NUMBER J15  
 TITLE Kiddush L'Vanah

TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays.</i> Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed. [The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America]
YEAR	1985
THEME	praise, new moon, Kiddush
SEASON	Any

Halleluyah. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him, angels on high.  
Praise Him, sun and moon and all shining stars. Praise Him, highest heavens. Let  
them praise the glory of the Lord at whose command they were created, at whose  
command they endure forever and by whose laws nature abides.

Psalm 148:1-6

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe whose word created the  
heavens, whose breath created all that they contain. Statutes and seasons He set  
for them, that they should not deviate from their assigned task. Happily, gladly  
they do the will of their Creator, whose work is dependable. To the moon He  
spoke: renew yourself, crown of glory for those who were borne in the womb,  
who also are destined to be renewed and to extol their Creator for His glorious  
sovereignty. Praised are You, Lord who renews the months.

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NUMBER	J22
TITLE	Psalm for Shabbat [Psalm 92]
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals.</i> The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.
YEAR	1998
THEME	Shabbat, Psalm 92, creation, praise
SEASON	Any [Shabbat]

It is good to acclaim Adonai,  
To sing your praise, exalted God,  
*To affirm Your love each morning,  
And Your faithfulness each night,  
To the music of the lute  
And the melody of the harp.*  
Your works, Adonai, make me glad;  
I sing with joy of Your creation.  
*How vast Your works, Adonai!  
Your designs are beyond our grasp.*  
The thoughtless cannot comprehend;  
The foolish cannot fathom this:  
*The wicked may flourish, springing up like grass,*

*But their doom is sealed, for You are supreme forever.*  
Your enemies, Adonai, Your enemies shall perish;  
All the wicked shall crumble.

*But me You have greatly exalted;*  
*I am anointed with fragrant oil.*  
*I have seen the downfall of my foes;*  
*I have heard the despair of my attackers.*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree;  
They shall grow tall like a cedar in Lebanon.  
Planted in the house of Adonai,  
They will thrive in the courts of our God.

*They shall bear fruit even in old age;*  
*They shall be ever fresh and fragrant,*  
*To proclaim: Adonai is just-*  
*My Rock, in whom there is no flaw.*

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NUMBER	J47
TITLE	“A Prayer of Reb Nahman of Bratslav”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Translated by Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, CSW Rabbinic Director, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Reb Nahman of Bratslav, nature, outdoors, trees, grass, plants,
SEASON	Any

Hashem:

Grant me the ability to be alone!

May it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grass-  
among all growing things,

and there may I be alone,

and enter into prayer,

to talk with the One to whom I belong.

May I express there everything in my heart,

and may all the foliage of the field-

all grasses, trees and plants-

awake at my coming,

to send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer

so that my prayer and speech are made whole

through the life and the spirit of all growing things,

which are made as one by their transcendent Source.

May I then pour out the words of my heart

before your Presence like water, Hashem,

and lift up my hands to You in song,

on my behalf, and that of my children!

<b>SECOND TIER: One Star/ One 3</b>
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NUMBER	J9
TITLE	First berakhah before K'riat Sh'Ma
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays.</i> Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed. [The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America]
YEAR	1985
THEME	berakhah, K'riat Sh'Ma, praise, creation
SEASON	Any

Light and Darkness, night and day.  
*We marvel at the mystery of the stars.*  
 Moon and sky, sand and sea.  
*We marvel at the mystery of the sun.*  
 Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn.  
*Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.*  
 Flesh and bone, steel and stone.  
*We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.*  
 Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace.  
*Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.*  
 Splendor, mercy, majesty, love endure.  
*We are but little lower than the angels.*  
 Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise.  
*The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.*  
 Evening darkness, morning dawn.  
*Renew our lives as You renew all time.*

“The heavens are the heavens of the Lord”- they are already heavenly in character. “But the earth He has given to mortals”- so that we might make of it something heavenly.

NUMBER	J11
TITLE	First berakhah before K'riat Sh'ma
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays.</i> Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed. [The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America]
YEAR	1985
THEME	berakhah, K'riat Sh'ma, sun, bird, breath, spring, fall
SEASON	Any

I am weak before the wind; before the sun  
 I faint, I lose my strength;  
 I am utterly vanquished by a star;

I o to my knees at length  
 Before the song of the bird; before  
 The breath of spring or fall  
 I am lost; before these miracles  
 I am nothing at all.

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NUMBER	J13
TITLE	Morning service: Nishmat (Shabbat and Festivals)
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays.</i> Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed. [The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America]
YEAR	1985
THEME	Nishmat, sea, sky, eagle's, deer, praise
SEASON	Any

Could song fill our mouth as water fills the sea  
*And could joy flood our tongue like countless waves,*  
 Could our lips utter praise as limitless as the sky  
*And could our eyes match the splendor of the sun,*  
 Could we soar with arms like eagle's wings  
*And run with gentle grace, as the swiftest deer,*  
 Never could we fully state our gratitude  
 For one ten-thousandth of the lasting love  
*Which is Your precious blessing, dearest God,*  
*Granted to our ancestors and to us.*

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NUMBER	J18
TITLE	K'riat Sh'ma and its B'rakhot [Evening]
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Jules Harlow. <i>Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and      Festivals.</i> The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.
YEAR	1998
THEME	K'riat Sh'ma, B'rakhot, b'rakhah, praise, creation, dusk, light and darkness
SEASON	Any

Light and darkness, night and day;  
 We marvel at the mystery of stars.  
*Moon and sky, sand and sea;*  
*We marvel at the mystery of sun.*  
 Twilight, high noon, dusk, and dawn;  
 Though we are mortal, we are creation's crown.  
*Flesh and bone, steel and stone;*  
*We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.*  
 Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace;

Sustain us, O God- our origin is dust.  
*Majesty, mercy, love endure;*  
*We are but little lower than the angels.*

Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise;  
 The grandeur of creation lifts our lives.  
*Evening darkness, morning dawn;*  
*Renew our lives as You renew all time.*

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NUMBER	J27
TITLE	“A Hymn on Creation”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	from <i>Hekhalot Rabbati</i>
YEAR	no later than the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century
THEME	creation, majesty, praise, tree, herb
SEASON	Any

King of kings,  
 God of gods and Lord of lords  
 He who is surrounded with chains of crowns  
 Who is encompassed by the cluster of the rulers of radiance,  
 Who covers the heavens with the wing of His magnificence,  
 And in His majesty appeared from the heights,  
 From His beauty the deeps were enkindled,  
 And from His stature the heavens are sparkling.  
 His stature sends out the lofty,  
 And His crown blazes out the mighty,  
 And His garment flows with the precious.  
 And all trees shall rejoice in His word,  
 And herbs shall exult in His rejoicing,  
 And His words shall drop as perfumes,  
 Flowing forth in flames of fire,  
 Giving joy to those who search them,  
 And quiet to those who fulfill them.

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### THIRD TIER: One Star/ One 2

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NUMBER	J4
TITLE	A Dialogue: Selections from the Book of Job
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer/Reading
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	(tbd)
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	Job, Leviathon,
SEASON	Any

**Narrator:** Then the Lord answered Job of the whirlwind:  
**Reader 1:** Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Who determined its measurements- surely you know! Who laid its

cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Who has let the wild ass go free? Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Do you give the horse its might? Its majestic snorting is terrible. It paws violently, exults mightily; it goes out to meet the weapons. It laughs at fear, and is not dismayed; it does not turn back from the sword.

Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south?

**Reader 2:** See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

**Reader 1:** Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down its tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope in its nose, or pierce its jaw with a hook? Will it speak soft words to you? Will it make a covenant with you to be taken as your servant forever? Will you play with it as with a bird, or will you put it on a leash for your girls? Who can confront it and be safe?

**Reader 2:** I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Therefore I repent in dust and ashes.

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NUMBER	J12
TITLE	First berakhah before K'riat Sh'ma
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays.</i> Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed. [The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America]
YEAR	1985
THEME	berakhah, K'riat Sh'ma, creation, stars, light and darkness, day and night, praise, nightfall
SEASON	Any

Beloved are You, eternal God,  
 By whose design the evening falls,  
 By whose command dimensions open up  
 And aeons pass away and stars spin in their orbits.  
 You set the rhythms of day and night;  
 The alternation of light and darkness  
 Sings Your creating world.  
 In rising sun and in spreading dusk,

Creator of all, You are made manifest.  
 Eternal, everlasting God,  
 May we always be aware of Your dominion.  
 Beloved are You, Lord, for this hour of nightfall.

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NUMBER	J20
TITLE	Ma'ariv for Shabbat and Festivals
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Jules Harlow. <i>Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals</i> . The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.
YEAR	1998
THEME	peace, creation, covenant, earth
SEASON	Any

Creator of peace, compassionate God, guide us to a covenant of peace with all Your creatures- birds and beasts as well as all humanity- a reflection of Your image of compassion and peace. Give us strength to help sustain Your promised covenant abolishing blind strife and bloody warfare, so they will no longer devastate the earth, so discord will no longer tear us asunder. Then all that is savage and brutal will vanish, and we shall fear evil no more. Guard our coming and our going, now toward waking, now toward sleep, always within Your tranquil shelter. Beloved are You, Sovereign of peace, whose embrace encompasses Jerusalem, the people Israel, and all humanity.

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NUMBER	J31
TITLE	“Meditation Before the ‘Sanctification’”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	“ <i>Tehinnah</i> , Sulzsbach, 1798. Translated by Jacob Sloan
YEAR	1798?
THEME	night, light, creation, day, heaven, earth
SEASON	Any

God, it is true, before you there is no night, and the light is  
 With you, and you make the whole world shine with your light.

The mornings tell of your mercy and the nights tell of your  
 Truth, and all creatures tell of your great mercy and of great  
 Miracles.

Each day you renew your help, O God! Who can recount your  
 Miracles? You sit in the sky and count the days of the devout,  
 And set the time for all your creatures. Your single day is a thousand  
 Years and your years and days are unbounded.

All that is in the world must live its life to and end, but you are there,  
 You will always be there, and outlive all your creatures.

You, God, are pure, and pure are your holy servants who three times every day cry, "Holy," and sanctify you in heaven and on earth:

You, God, are sanctified and praised. The whole world is filled with your glory forever and ever.

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#### FOURTH TIER: No Star/ One 4

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NUMBER	J1
TITLE	Reading from the Babylonian Talmud Taanit 23a, tr.) [Responsive]
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Dr. J. Rabinowitz
YEAR	1990
THEME	Honi, circle-drawer, tree, carob tree
SEASON	Any

One: One day Honi the circle-drawer was journeying on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked him "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

**All: The man replied, "Seventy years."**

One: Honi further asked him, "Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?"

**All: The man replied, "I found grown carob trees in the world; as my ancestors planted these for me, so I too plant these for my children."**

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NUMBER	J17
TITLE	K'riat Sh'ma and its B'rakhot [Evening]
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals</i> . The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.
YEAR	1998
THEME	K'riat Sh'ma, B'rakhot, b'rakhah, praise, creation, dusk, light and darkness
SEASON	Any

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, Your word brining the evening dusk. You open with wisdom the gates of dawn, design the day with wondrous skill, set out the succession of seasons, and arrange the stars in the sky according to Your will. Adonai Tz'va-ot, You create day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness away from light. Eternal God, Your sovereignty shall forever embrace us. Praised are You Adonai, for each evening's dusk.

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NUMBER	J26
TITLE	The Tree Knows

TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR Ben Zion Bokser. *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.  
 YEAR 1998  
 THEME tree, leaves, foliage  
 SEASON Any [Winter]

Naked and lonely,  
 Bereaved of her children,  
 The brood of green foliage,  
 The tree stands in the winter cold  
 Shaking in the wind.  
 She bears witness to her faith  
 That the world will green again.  
 The storm bends her,  
 But she remains rooted  
 In the spot  
 Where God or man  
 Stationed her.  
 She knows through the wisdom  
 Imbided in her flesh  
 That storms recede,  
 That spring returns,  
 That her hard limbs  
 Will grow soft again  
 At the touch of a warmer sun,  
 And the crown of new foliage  
 Will mark the renewal  
 Of her life.

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NUMBER J34  
 TITLE "A Perfect World"  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR Talmud, Berakhot 43b. Translated by Olga Marx  
 YEAR N/A  
 THEME world, creatures, beauty, blessing  
 SEASON Any

Blessed be He who did not let His world lack anything,  
 Who created for it beautiful creatures,  
 And these beautiful trees,  
 That men may see them and be filled with joy.

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NUMBER J35  
 TITLE "God in Nature"  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer

TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.</i> The Reconstructionist Press
YEAR	1995
THEME	seasons, stars, creation, dark and light,
SEASON	Any

Blessed are you, Eternal One our God, sovereign of all worlds, by whose word the evenings fall. In wisdom you open heaven's gates. With divine discernment you make seasons change, causing the times to come and go, and ordering the stars on their appointed paths through heaven's dome, all according to your will. Creator of the day and night, who rolls back light before the dark, and dark before the light, who makes day pass away and brings on night, dividing between day and night: The Leader of the Throngs of Heaven is your name! Living and enduring God, rule over us, now and always. Blessed are you, Almighty One, who makes evenings fall.

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NUMBER	J36
TITLE	"Interpretive Version: Asher Bidvaro"
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.</i> The Reconstructionist Press
YEAR	1995
THEME	praise, rhythm of life, setting sun, sunset, tranquility, night, day, thanks
SEASON	Any

Praised are you, God, ruler of the universe, who has ordained the rhythm of life. The day with its light calls to activity and exertion. But when the day wanes, when, with the setting of the sun, colors fade, we cease from our labors and welcome the tranquility of the night. The subdued light of the moon and stars, the darkness and the stillness about us invite rest and repose. Trustfully we yield to the quiet of sleep, for we know that, while we are unaware of what goes on within and around us, our powers of body and mind are renewed. Therefore, at this evening hour, we seek composure of spirit. We give thanks for the day and its tasks and for the night and its rest. Praised are you, God, who brings on the evening.

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NUMBER	J40
TITLE	"Interpretive Version: Yotzer"
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.</i> The Reconstructionist Press
YEAR	1995
THEME	
SEASON	Any

Blessed is our God, sovereign of the universe, who in love illuminates the earth and those who dwell on it. With the dawn, nature's familiar shapes and colors emerge from the darkness to delight us afresh with their variety and beauty. And with our awakening from slumber, our sense and our spirits respond anew to the splendor of the world. Reborn with the day, we hail our God, who renews continually the work of creation. Blessed is our God, for the light of day.

And blessed is our God, for the light of understanding with we read the meaning of nature and discover the laws by which we can live. The more we delve into the mysteries of creation, the more we marvel at the order, the power, the wonder and the beauty of the universe. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the earth proclaims God's handiwork.

Our God, you have created us in your image and have made us to share in your work of creation. You have given to each generation the task of shaping the future of humanity. May our gratitude for all the beauty, order and power that reveal you in nature impel us to serve you. May nothing that we do mar the holiness of life by causing any other creature to lose the joy of living. May all our acts conform with your law and bring blessing to us and to all whose lives touch ours. Give us of your light that we may walk in your way. Blessed are you, our God, creator of luminaries.

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NUMBER	J48
TITLE	(prayer)
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Aaron David Gordon
YEAR	1910
THEME	Zionism, Gordon, Nature, Adam, food and drink, dress
SEASON	Any

"O child of Adam, when you return to Nature, on that day you shall open your eyes... You shall know that you have returned to yourself, for in hiding from Nature, you hid from yourself... And you will recognize on that day...you must renew everything: your food and your drink, your dress and your home, the character of your work and the way that you learn -- everything."

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NOTE: Prayers 49, 50, 51, 53 and 54 were submitted by Paul Kaufman and need to be added to 'ESR Jewish Prayers'. These prayers are attached to Paul's score sheets (in Fletcher's possession).

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<b>FIFTH TIER: No Star/ One 3</b>
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NUMBER	J2
TITLE	Let There Be Light: A New Prayer to Incorporate into your Celebration of the Festival of Lights
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer

TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, of the Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, of Bethesda, MD created the blessing.
YEAR	Contemporary
THEME	Festival of Lights, Psalm, Creation, thanks
SEASON	Hanukah, Hanukkah, Chanukah

*O Source of Light, by Your light we see light. (Psalm 36:10)*

*"And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:16-18)*

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

**All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.**

*"Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose lovingkindness extends eternally." (Psalm 136:1,7)*

Gracious God, may we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

**All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.**

*"With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun's] heat." (Psalm 19:7)*

Holy God, may this simple act of harnessing Your eternal light help us escape the global heating that our generation is causing over Your creation.

**All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.**

*"Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned -- the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)*

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine.  
May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.

**All: Amen.**

TITLE Prayer  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR Traditional  
 YEAR N/A  
 THEME blessing, praise, living beings, creation, Universe  
 SEASON Any

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Guide of the Universe, who creates innumerable living beings and their needs, for all the things You have created to sustain every living being. Praised are You, the life of the Universe.

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NUMBER J6  
 TITLE Prayer  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR Rabbi Moshe Hakotun  
 YEAR (tbd)  
 THEME woods, grasses, holy mountain  
 SEASON Any

When I walk through thy woods,  
 May my right foot and my left foot  
 Be harmless to the little creatures  
 That move in its grasses: as it is said  
 By the mouth of thy prophet,  
 They shall not hurt nor destroy  
 In all my holy mountain.

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NUMBER J32  
 TITLE "Meditation on the Creation of Man"  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR *Tehinnah*, Sulzbach, 1789, No. 44. Translation: Solomon B. Freehof, "Devotional Literature in the Vernacular," *Central Conference of American Rabbis Yearbook XXXIII*, 1923, pp. 397 f.  
 YEAR 1789?  
 THEME man, creation, earth  
 SEASON Any

Our God and God of our fathers, Creator of the whole world  
 With your holy words. You are alone, there is none else, and so  
 Will you be forever in your oneness, and none will be there but  
 You to rule this world and the world to come.

On the sixth day of the week, all of your holy thought was  
 Turned to creating man, who would rule all creatures below the  
 Heavens, on earth and on the sea, and would enjoy all the works

Which you have created for his sake upon the earth; so that man  
 May at all times labor in your service to praise and to honor your  
 Holy name, to tell of your wonders and to point out the marvelous  
 Creations of your hands, how all the world is created in proper  
 Measure and number.

You have created man out of dust and have breathed a living spirit  
 Into his nostrils. With grace and mercy have you given him speech  
 To praise your holy name. Such praise from man is more pleasing to you than the  
 praises of all the angels of heaven, because man  
 Has permission to do either good or evil.

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NUMBER	J38
TITLE	“God in Nature”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.</i> The Reconstructionist Press
YEAR	1995
THEME	
SEASON	Any

Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, the sovereign of all worlds, who fashions  
 light and creates darkness, maker of peace and creator of all.

Let all beings acknowledge you, all cry praise to you, and all declare: There is  
 none as holy as The One! Let all beings hold you in the highest reverence, you,  
 the fashioner of all. The God who opens up each day the doors and gateways of  
 the East, who bursts open the windows of the heavens’ dome, bringing forth the  
 sunlight from its place and moonlight from its seat of rest, providing light for the  
 entire world and for its creatures- all of whom divinity, in boundless love, brought  
 into being. Bringer of light, with tender care, upon the earth and its inhabitants, in  
 goodness you renew each day perpetually Creation’s wondrous work.

You are the world’s sole sovereign, dwelling in the highest heights before the  
 dawn of time, praised and magnified and held in awe since the primordial days.  
 God of the world, in your abundant mercy care for us. Source of our strength, our  
 fortress rock, our shield of help, the shelter over us! None like you exists, no God  
 apart from you. Beside you there is nothing. Who resembles you? None like you  
 exists, Eternal One, our God, within this world, no God apart from you, our  
 sovereign, in any future world. Beside you, our redeeming power, there is  
 nothing in the days to come. None resembles you, our saving force, throughout  
 all lifetimes and all worlds.

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NUMBER	J41
TITLE	“Meditation Before Tefilat Geshem”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer

TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR David A. Teutsch. *Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.*  
 The Reconstructionist Press  
 YEAR 1995  
 THEME Tefilat Geshem, crops, rainfall, natural forces, natural  
 resources, pollution, Israel, water  
 SEASON Any

In the land of Israel, Shemini Atzeret marks the beginning of the rainy season. This outpouring drenches the parched earth, filling streams and lakes and preparing the ground for the fertile season to come. With a whole year's crops depending upon the rainfall, our ancestors prayed for water- a salvation symbol in our tradition.

For us the rain speaks primarily of natural forces- forces beyond our control that provide the water we drink. We tamper with them at our own risk. Our prayers for rain contain a plea that we respect natural resources rather than pollute them. Our world's salvation and our heart's salvation here are intertwined.

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NUMBER J43  
 TITLE "Tefilat Geshem/ The Prayer for Rain"  
 TYPE OF RESOURCE Prayer  
 TRADITION Jewish  
 AUTHOR *Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.* The  
 Reconstructionist Press  
 YEAR 1995  
 THEME rain, earth  
 SEASON Any

Our God, our ancients' God:

With raindrops of Ancient light, illuminate the earth.  
 With raindrops of Blessing divine, please bless the earth.  
 With raindrops of Gleeful rejoicing, give joy to the earth.  
 With raindrops of Divine exultation, enrich the earth.  
 With raindrops of Heavenly splendor, give glory to the earth.  
 With raindrops of Wise assembly, let the earth be gathered.  
 With raindrops of Song and melody, make music through the earth.  
 With raindrops of Healing life, enable earth to live.  
 With raindrops of Timeless good, give goodness to the earth.  
 With raindrops of Your saving help, redeem the earth.  
 With raindrops of Caring nurturance, nourish the earth.

For you are the Fount of Life, our God, abundant in your saving acts, who makes the wind to blow and rain to fall.

For blessing, not for curse.  
 For living, not for death.

For plenty, not for dearth.

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NUMBER	J44
TITLE	“Tefilat Tal/ The Prayer for Dew”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	<i>Kol Haneshamah. Shabbat Vehagim.</i> The Reconstructionist Press
YEAR	1995
THEME	dew, earth,
SEASON	Any

Our God, our ancients’ God:

With dewdrops of Ancient light, illuminate the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Blessing divine, please bless the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Gleeful rejoicing, give joy to the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Dancing exultation, enrich the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Heavenly splendor, give glory to the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Wise assembly, let the earth be gathered.  
 With dewdrops of Song and melody, make music through the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Healing life, enable earth to live.  
 With dewdrops of Timeless good, give goodness to the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Your saving help, redeem the earth.  
 With dewdrops of Caring and nurturing, nourish the earth.

For you are the Abundant One, our God, abundant in your saving acts, who makes the wind to blow and brings down the dew.

For blessing, not for curse.  
 For living, not for death.  
 For plenty, not for dearth.

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NUMBER	J46
TITLE	“A Tu B’Shvat Prayer for Creation”
TYPE OF RESOURCE	Prayer
TRADITION	Jewish
AUTHOR	Rabbi Warren. G. Stone
YEAR	N/A
THEME	Tu B’Shvat, natural wonders, creation, Earth, forest, ameobae, falcon, ferret, wild turkey, human being, eagle, tree of life, praise
SEASON	Tu B’Shvat

Source of Creation and Life of the Universe, we gather together on Tu B'Shvat, as Jews of conscience, with a deep spiritual bond to your natural wonders, to affirm and preserve creation.

We are grateful for creation in all its majesty: the ever-flowing waters, the azure blue skies, the complex life of Earth's forests, the myriad of life forms--amoebae and falcon, black footed ferret and wild turkey, human being and soaring eagle.

The life of all creatures and our own lives are One, profoundly dependent upon each other.

We call our ancient scroll of wisdom, the Torah, an "eytz chaim," a tree of life, for it, like the Earth's great forests, sustains us. Torah teaches us that creation, in its great diversity, is harmoniously interconnected. Like the trees, we too need strong and deep roots for nourishment. The uplifted branches of trees point to our future. God let us be strong, as strong as ancient trees. The Psalmist was right when he said, "like a tree planted by the waters, we shall not be moved."

We are grateful for the life we are lent. We pledge to lift up our voices both in praise of You and in defense of Your Creation.

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NOTE: Prayer 52 was submitted by Paul Kaufman and must be added to 'ESR Jewish Prayers'