

R' Jannai said: From the very beginning of the world's creation the Holy One, blessed be God, foresaw the deeds of the righteous and the deeds of the wicked. 'And the earth was desolate' alludes to the deeds of the wicked: 'And God said: Let there be light,' [refers] to those [actions] of the righteous; 'And God saw the light, that it was good,' [refers] to the deeds of the righteous.

—Bereshith Rabbah 3:8

In the "First Light" God saw the image of human goodness and the souls of the righteous.*

* Freema Gottlieb in *The Lamp of God, A Jewish Book of Light* (Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1989), p. 143.