

# MAN DEPENDENT UPON HASHEM

## Background

**C**hazal liken Creation to the situation of a man who invites a guest. First he prepares the banquet: he cooks the food, sets the table, and prepares the wine. Only when everything is in place does he usher in his honored guest.

Before HASHEM created man, everything was in place. Light and darkness, Atoms, molecules, and quarks. The laws governing physicality: gravity and quantum physics. The sun, the moon, and the stars. All the animals in the fields. All the birds in the sky.

Only at the last minute, when everything else in Creation had already been brought forth, did HASHEM create man. As in the parable, man is the guest. The reason for Creation is man. The motivation for bringing forth all that is in existence was to give to man. Everything had to be in place — the table had to be set — before man could be brought into the picture.

Yet one thing was lacking: rain. HASHEM didn't yet create rain. Rashi explains why. HASHEM wanted man to recognize that something was lacking. When man would recognize that everything is dependent upon rain, he would pray to HASHEM because HASHEM desires the prayers of *tzaddikim*.

## Questions

**T**his Rashi is very difficult to understand.

The *tzaddikim* have a relationship with HASHEM regardless of their needs.

What does it mean that HASHEM desires the prayers of the righteous? Is HASHEM acting in a selfish manner?

### ספר בראשית פרק ב

ה) וְכֹל שֵׁיחַ הַשָּׂדֶה טָרָם יִהְיֶה בְּאֶרֶץ וְכֹל עֵשֶׂב הַשָּׂדֶה טָרָם יִצְמַח כִּי לֹא הִמְטִיר יְיָ אֱלֹהִים עַל הָאֶרֶץ וְאָדָם אֵין לְעִבְדָּא אֶת הָאָדָמָה

*Now no tree of the field was yet on the earth, and neither did any herb of the field yet grow because HASHEM had not brought rain upon the earth, and there was no man to work the soil.*

### רש"י על בראשית פרק ב פסוק ה

ה) טרם יהיה בארץ - ואף זה תפרש עדיין לא היה בארץ כשנגמרה בריאת העולם בששי קודם שנברא אדם וכל עשב השדה עדיין לא צמח ובג' שכתוב ותוצא לא יצאו אלא על פתח הקרקע עמדו עד יום ו' ולמה כי לא המטיר

ומה טעם לא המטיר לפי שאדם אין לעבוד את האדמה ואין מכיר בטובתן של גשמים וכשבא אדם וידע שהם צורך לעולם התפלל עליהם וירדו וצמחו האילנות והדשאים