

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #7

Genesis 1:14-19

Genesis 1 describes an Awesome God who systematically planned, designed and produced everything .

THE MAJESTIC GOD IS THE GREAT CREATOR OF ALL EXISTENCES, INCLUDING THE HEAVENLY LIGHTS .

God created the heavens, the earth and light on Day # 1 !

God created the atmosphere on Day # 2 !

God created dry land, the seas and vegetation on Day # 3 !

The first three creative days gave form to a formless heavens and earth.

The last three creative days give filling to an empty heavens and earth.

Creative Day #4 is specifically given to give filling to the heavens . God for some very significant reasons will put luminaries in the heavens . These luminaries will testify of God's greatness and glory .

CREATIVE FACT #1 – The creation of the heavenly lights. **1:14a**

The word “lights” is a different Hebrew word than the one in **verse 3**. This word refers to something that produces light, something from which light comes (Gesenius, p. 23).

The fact that the word is plural “lights” indicates that God wanted multiple luminaries in existence and His powerful word created them.

Contextually, one reason why God would create this at this time is because He knew that the vegetation of **versus 11 and 12** would require special light and heat other than just that of day light which was create on Day #1.

CREATIVE FACT #2 – The location of the heavenly lights. **1:14b, 17a**

It is clear that the place where God wanted these lights to be located was in the expanse region. We may recall that the “expanse” is the heavens area which includes our atmosphere .

When verse 17 says that God “placed” them in the “expanse,” it means God is the One who assigned these lights their specific place .

These luminaries have their own specific purpose and place in God's program.

CREATIVE FACT #3 – The purposes of the heavenly lights. **1:14c-18b**

(Purpose #1) – The division purpose. **1:14c, 18**

God created these lights to separate day time from night time. These luminaries mark off the time of light from the time of darkness .

(Purpose #2) – The sign purpose. **1:14b**

Many misunderstand this point and think these luminaries are signs of destinies of men, when in fact they are signs for the greatness of God.

These lights of the heavens are a sign of God, which means (Hebrew root) that they mark, designate and describe things that God wants. These sky lights certainly designate weather (Matthew 16:2-3) but most significantly they are a testimony of and to God . These sky lights testify of God's glory (Psalm 19:1); of God's faithfulness (Jeremiah 31:35-37); of God's mercy (Psalm 136:4-9) and one day they will testify of God's judgment (Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:25; Acts 2:19; Revelation 6:12-13, 17).

The Babylonians taught these lights were the dwelling places of their “gods”. Some actually worship the heavens (Zephaniah 1:5). Some worshipped the sun (Ezekiel 8:16). Some worshipped heavenly bodies (Jeremiah 19:13). The tragedy is these lights are given to signify the one who should be worshipped – The Great, Glorious God. God gave strong warning against this in His law (Exodus 20:1-5; Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-7).

(Purpose #3) – The seasons purpose. **1:14e**

The word “seasons” is one that actually refers to set points of time . This not only has agricultural significance, but also great worship significance.

Certainly we know that the seasons have much to do with our seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter...but this word also has to do with the sacred festivals and feasts given by God to Israel (Leviticus 23:2, 4, 37, 44).

(Purpose #4) – The days purpose. **1:14f**

The Hebrew word “day” refers to the time of day that has heat and warmth. These luminaries give heat and warmth to God's creation that needs it.

(Purpose #5) – The years purpose. **1:14g**

The word “years” is intriguing because it is a Hebrew word that implies a rotation of the earth in relationship to the sun (Gesenius, p. 840). It is this very rotation that brings about the seasons and the seasons bring about a year.

Purposes 3 through 5 clearly have to do with time . These luminaries are given by God so that time may be computed . For Israel, this was very important in order to know when to worship God.

(Purpose #6) – The light purpose. 1:15-17

God created these luminaries to be an additional light source system to that which was already in existence (1:3-5). Verse 15 informs us that these lights provide light for the heavens (1:15a) and light for the earth (1:15b). God wants His creation lit up. It did not take billions of years for light to travel from the stars to the earth, as some scientists speculate, it took one day. In fact, light was on earth before these heavenly luminaries were even created (i.e. **Genesis 1:3**).

Verse 16 informs us that God made three sources of heavenly lights – 1) the sun ;
2) The moon ; and 3) The stars .

When the text says God made the two “great” lights, that word “great” means He made two magnificent, strong, large lights (Gesenius, p. 159). The “sun” is the greater of the great lights which governs the day and the moon is the lesser of the great lights which governs the night . The third light source – the stars – holds a subordinate place to the sun and the moon. However, even though the stars are subordinate, they have all been numbered and named by God (Psalm 147:4).

Verses 17 and 18 repeat again some of the purposes of these luminaries because heathen religions were threatening Israel. The astrologers were focused on the stars. The Babylonians and the Egyptians were known for the astrological charts and pagan worship systems which featured sun gods and moon gods.

Astrology was clearly forbidden in the law of God (Deuteronomy 18:9-12). Star gazing was evil according to the Word of God (Isaiah 47:13, see v.11). The worship of heavenly luminaries was detestable to God (Deuteronomy 4:15-16, 19).

Moses wanted Israel to clearly understand that the purpose of the luminaries...was to provide light and time and magnify the Glory of the True God who should be worshipped.

Since we have actually landed some Americans on the moon, it is quite obvious from its surface (lack of vegetation, plants, trees) that God did not intend for man to live there. There is only one planet designed by God to sustain life – planet earth . The other planets are for these purposes here.

CREATIVE FACT #4 – The evaluation of the heavenly lights. 1:18c

God’s evaluation of these lights was that they were “good,” they had His Divine approval because they met His divine standard and purpose.

The lights of the sky clearly testify of the glory of God. How about the light of our lives?