

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take your Bibles and turn to Genesis chapter 1.
2. We are looking today at “Day Four of Creation” that is found in verses 14-19.
3. Genesis 1:14-19 (NASB) Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. 16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day,

and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. 17 God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. 19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

4. God created everything in six literal days.
5. On Day 1, the heavens and earth were created. This includes light, matter, time, and energy.
6. On Day 2, the atmosphere was created. Some of the waters covering the Earth were brought into the sky while the rest remained on the Earth as ocean.

7. On Day 3, dry land appeared out of the ocean, and vegetation began to grow.
8. And now of Day 4 He creates the “lights in the expanse.”
9. This is the stellar heaven where the sun, moon and stars appear (see 1:17).
10. To rephrase the first four days of creation in scientific terms, we could say, “On the first day of creation, God created and energized the entire universe, the infinite sphere of divine activity and purpose.
11. On the second day, He made the primeval hydrosphere and atmosphere for the terrestrial sphere.

12. On the third day, He made the earth's lithosphere and plant biosphere.
13. Finally, on the fourth day, He made the astrosphere, the “celestial sphere” of the stars and planets surrounding and illuminating the terrestrial sphere.¹
14. You might be asking, “What are all these spheres?”
15. On Day Two God created the hydrosphere.
16. The hydrosphere is the liquid water component of the Earth. It includes the oceans, seas, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.²

¹ Morris, Henry M. The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

² http://earth.rice.edu/mtpe/hydro/hydrosphere/hydrosphere_what.html

17. Also on Day Two God created the atmosphere.
18. The atmosphere is the body of gasses that surrounds the earth, held in place by earth's gravity.³
19. On Day Three God created the lithosphere.
20. The lithosphere is sometimes called the geosphere.
21. This refers to all of the rocks of the earth. It includes the planet's mantle and crust, the two outermost layers.⁴

³ <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-four-spheres-of-the-earth-1435323>

⁴ Ibid., <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-four-spheres-of-the-earth-1435323>

22. Also on Day Three God created the plant biosphere.
23. The biosphere is composed of all living organisms: plants, animals and one-celled organisms alike.⁵
24. On Day Three God created the plants and fruit trees but it's not until the sixth day where He creates animals that live in the biosphere.
25. On Day Four, God created the astrosphere which is a bubble of charged gas and magnetic fields which surrounds stars and the sun. In the case of the sun it is called the heliosphere.⁶

⁵ Ibid., <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-four-spheres-of-the-earth-1435323>

⁶ https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/ibex/multimedia/astrospheres.html#.W3hVOpNKg3E

26. As I stated last time, the Bible is not a science book but when it speaks about science it is 100% accurate.
27. The Bible speaks about the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, the lithosphere, the biosphere, and the astrosphere but doesn't use those terms.
28. Most of those terms were not used until the 1800s.
29. The term atmosphere was first used in 1630.
30. But the account that we're given in Genesis is true and historical and God was there to tell us how it happened.

31. Let's look at verses 14-19 as we consider now Day Four of creation.
32. Psalms 8:3 (NASB) calls Day Four the "work of Your fingers" when it says, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained."
33. Psalms 19:1 (NASB) The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
34. As we look at vv.14-19, we see the purpose of the lights in the expanse (vv.14-15), and then the creation of the lights in the expanse (vv.16-19)

35. First...

LESSON

I. The Purpose of the Lights in the Expanse (vv.14-15)

Genesis 1:14-15 (NASB) Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

Each creation day begins the same with “Then God said” (vv.3,6,9,14,20,24,26).

Each act of creation is by divine fiat. God spoke “and it was so.”

God calls for “lights in the expanse of the heavens” for 3 reasons:

First...

A. To Separate the Day from the Night
(v.14a)

Genesis 1:14 (NASB) Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night.”

1. God Himself had already separated light from darkness on day one, and He had already named the light day and the darkness night (v.5).
2. The introduction of the sun and stars on day four doesn't alter the

definition, nor is there any suggestion that it changes the rhythm or the duration of the days.

3. Rather, sun and moon are set in place as permanent markers “to divide the day from the night” (v.14)⁷

B. To Be for Signs, Seasons, Days, and Years (v.14b)

These heavenly bodies would not only mark the passing of days and nights, but they would also be permanent signposts:

“Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years” (Genesis 1:14).

⁷ MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning: The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam. Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001. Print.

1. The Hebrew word for “signs” is oth, meaning “beacons” or “signals.”
2. It suggests that the heavenly bodies were set in place to serve as signs for the inhabitants of the earth.⁸
3. They set our calendars. They determine the length of a year. They divide the year into seasons. And they mark the passage of our days and nights.
4. The whole pulse of human life is governed and regulated by the heavenly bodies.
5. The sun determines our days. The moon determines the months. And the stars, sun, and moon all

⁸ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning, p.112.

determine our seasons and years.

6. Our whole calendar is thus determined by the stars, and even seasonal weather patterns are determined by the sun and moon.
7. Psalms 74:16-17 (NASB) Yours is the day, Yours also is the night; You have prepared the light and the sun.
17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth; You have made summer and winter.
8. Psalms 104:19-23 (NASB) He made the moon for the seasons; the sun knows the place of its setting. 20 You appoint darkness and it becomes night, in which all the beasts of the forest prowl about. 21

The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. 22 When the sun rises they withdraw and lie down in their dens. 23 Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until evening.

9. The rotation of the earth on its axis is what determines a twenty–four–hour day. The moon’s orbits around the earth determine our months. And the earth’s revolutions around the sun determine our years.⁹

C. To Be for Lights in the Expanse to Give Light on the Earth (v.15)

Genesis 1:15 (NASB) and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth.”

⁹ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning.

Jeremiah 31:35 (NASB) Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name.

1. By whatever means God had previously illuminated the earth—whether it was a supernatural light source, a disembodied and diffused light, or latent energy from the initial creation—it was no longer necessary.
2. The sun henceforth would permanently give light to the earth by day, and the moon and stars would illuminate the night.

3. From day four on, sunlight became the chief source of light and energy on earth.¹⁰

II. The Creation of the Light in the Expanse (vv.16-19)

A. God Made Two Great Lights (v.16)

1. The sun is the greater light to govern the day (v.16a)
 - a) The sun is an immense ball of flame. Its diameter measures 865,000 miles, which is about 109 times the diameter of the earth.
 - b) Its volume is 1.3 million times greater than that of the earth,

¹⁰ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning, p.116.

meaning that if the sun were hollow, it would take more than a million earth-sized objects to fill it.

- c) If the sun were the size of a bowling ball, the earth by comparison would look like a poppy seed.
- d) Most scientists believe the sun is composed of 70 percent hydrogen, 28 percent helium, 1.5 percent carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, and less than .5 percent other elements.
- e) The surface temperature of the sun is estimated at about 10 thousand degrees Fahrenheit,

and scientists believe the temperature at its core is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit.¹¹

2. The moon is the lesser light to govern the night (v.16b)
 - a) The moon is also an immense body.
 - b) Its diameter is more than one-fourth that of the earth's, and it is larger than the planet Pluto.
 - c) Its surface temperature varies enormously compared to that of the earth.

¹¹ Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning, pp.109-110.

- d) Depending on whether it is in sunlight or darkness, the moon's surface can be as hot as 215 degrees Fahrenheit or as cold as -243 degrees Fahrenheit.
- e) The moon circles the earth like a far-off satellite in a slightly elliptical orbit that varies from 221,000 miles at its closest point (the perigee) to 252,000 miles at its furthest point (the apogee).
- f) The moon completes a full orbit around the earth every 27.3 days, traveling a distance of almost a million and a half miles each month.¹²

¹² Ibid., MacArthur, John. The Battle for the Beginning, p.111.

- g) \$20 billion has been spent on exploring the moon. And they have no information about how the moon evolved because it didn't. Evolution is clueless.¹³
- h) C.S. Lewis took the discussion of the solar system, evolution to its logical end. He said, "If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident and the whole evolution of man was also an accident. If so, then all our present thoughts are accidents. The accidental byproduct of the movement of atoms. This holds for the thoughts of the materialists and

¹³ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-215/creation-day-4>

astronomers as well as for everybody else. But if their thoughts are merely accidents, why should we believe any of them?¹⁴

- i) I see no reason,” says C.S. Lewis, “that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents.” And Lewis says in his book on miracles, “Each particular thought is valueless if it is the result of irrational causes. Obviously then, the whole process of human thought, what we call reason is equally valueless if it is the result of irrational causes, hence every theory of the universe which

¹⁴ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-215/creation-day-4>

makes the human mind a result of irrational causes is inadmissible, for it would be a proof that there are no such things as proofs, which is nonsense. But evolution it's commonly held and is precisely a theory of this sort.”¹⁵

3. He made the stars also as luminaries in the night (v.16c)

The Hebrew text simply adds afterward, as if a mere afterthought—“and the stars” (1:16)¹⁶

“Stars” is a general term that

¹⁵ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-215/creation-day-4>

¹⁶ Mathews, K. A. [Genesis 1-11:26](#). Vol. 1A. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. Print. The New American Commentary.

includes all different kinds of stars.¹⁷

- a) Jeremiah 33:22 (written 2,500 years ago) speaks of countless stars when it says, “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand the sea measured...”
- b) There is an average of 100 billion stars per galaxy means that there are about 1 billion trillion stars in the observable universe!¹⁸
- c) Today, the local Milky Way galaxy (of which our sun is a part) has been found to contain 200,000 million stars.¹⁹

¹⁷ Reyburn, William David, and Euan McG. Fry. A Handbook on Genesis. New York: United Bible Societies, 1998. Print. UBS Handbook Series.

¹⁸ <https://scienceline.ucsb.edu/getkey.php?key=3775>

¹⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/stars/counting-the-stars/>

B. God Placed the Two Great Lights in the Expanse (v.17) (3 purposes)

1. To give light on the earth (v.17)
2. To govern the day and night (v.18a)
3. To separate the light from darkness (v.18b)

C. God Saw that it was Good (v.18c)

1. This phrase is used in verse 10, after the dry land and the sea were separated.
2. It's used in verse 12, after the trees and the plants.

3. It's used again here.
4. It means it was ready for habitation.
5. That's why on day five he starts to create the swarms of living creatures and birds and sea creatures and then the next day, the animals and man.²⁰

D. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day (v.19)

1. Just in case somebody might not get it, this all happened, in a 24 hour period.
2. Verse 5, day one, there was evening there was morning, one day.

²⁰ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-215/creation-day-4>

3. Verse 8, there was evening, there was morning, a second day.
4. Verse 13, there was evening, there was morning, a third day.
5. We just read verse 19
6. Verse 23, the same thing, there was evening, there was morning a fifth day.
7. Verse 31, there was evening, there was morning, the sixth day.
8. And then chapter 2 verse 1, thus the heaven and the earth were completed all their host and by the seventh day, God completed his

work and he rested on the seventh day.²¹

CONCLUSION

1. Praise God for what He has created.
2. And He did it for man who is the highest of His creation.
3. Think for a moment: If He did all that for man, then man is special.
4. Even after the Fall of man, God provides a covering for their sin by the shedding of animal blood.
5. 2000 years ago Jesus came and died in our place for provide forgiveness of our sins.

²¹ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-215/creation-day-4>

6. What He did then has present results today.
7. If you have never repented and surrendered your life to Him, I urge you to do so right now as we pray.
8. Let's pray.