

**Day 1 – Heavens, Earth, & Light**

- God created the heavens and the earth
- God said, let there be light, and there was light
- God divided the light from the darkness
- God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.

**Day 2 – Atmosphere** (“heaven”), which divided the waters above it and below it

**Day 3 – Biosphere** - Gathering of waters (seas); appearing of land (earth); vegetation (grass, herbs, & trees)

**Day 2: Now Here! Atmosphere!**

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; <sup>15</sup> "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. [He made] the stars also. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that [it was] good. <sup>19</sup> So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Then

**God said,**

"Let there be

lights

in the firmament of the heavens

to divide the day from the night; and

let them be

for signs and seasons, and

for days and years; and

let them be

for lights

in the firmament of the heavens

to give light on the earth";

and it was so.

Then

**God made**

two great lights:

the greater light

to rule the day, and

the lesser light

to rule the night. [He made]

the stars also.

**God set**

Them

in the firmament of the heavens

to give light on the earth, and

to rule

over the day and

over the night, and

to divide the light from the darkness.

And

**God saw**

that [it was] good.

So

the evening and the morning

were the fourth day.

**WHAT Was Created?**

The translation “luminaries” is evoked by the Hebrew word used here, ma’or, lit., “place of light,” which is thus distinguished from the word ‘ôr, translated as “light” in vv. 3,,5,18. Other possibilities would be “light bearers” or “lamps.” (Victor P. Hamilton, in *The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-17, New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, p. 126)

**1. Lights (“luminaries”)**

- To divide day from night
- To give light on the earth

**2. Two great lights (Ps 136:7-9)**

- To rule the day (the greater light)
- To rule the night (the lesser light)

**3. The stars also.**

It is interesting that the stars are mentioned as of only minor importance relative to the sun and moon. “He made the stars also.” Even though stars are incomparably bigger than the earth, and many of them even larger than our sun, they are of much simpler structure than the earth. A star is mostly hydrogen and helium, essentially quite simple; whereas the structure of the earth is of great complexity, perfectly and uniquely designed for living creatures. Complexity and organization are much more meaningful measures of significance than mere size! (*The Genesis Record*, Henry M. Morris, p. 67)

**WHEN Were These Lights Created?**

“The most natural way to understand these verses is that on the fourth day God began and finished the creation of the sun and moon. The light source which existed previously may have been similar to the sun, but there seems to be no reason to conclude that it was virtually identical to it. It already has been noted that ‘āsâ is commonly a synonym of bārā’. Furthermore, if Moses wanted to say that the heavenly bodies merely “appeared” on the fourth day, surely he would have used an expression similar to the one he used in verse 9 with respect to the dry land.” (*From Paradise to Prison*, John J. Davis, p.64)

## WHY Were These Lights Created?

**Physical Functions** (NOTE: to serve, not to be served; to encourage worship of God, not gods to be worshiped)

- **To Separate** – To divide day from night, and light from darkness (involves earth's rotation; to solidify the structure & concept of time? – predictability of movement of planets & stars, etc. – landing on the moon!)
  - for signs and seasons, and for days and years; OR
  - indicators of seasons, days, and years
    - NET – let them be signs to indicate seasons and days and years,
    - NIV – let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years

*"Many have mistakenly concluded from the phrase "for signs" that God designed the celestial bodies to determine the destinies of individual man. Modern astrologers have often appealed to verse 14 to justify their enterprise. The signs of verse 14, however, relate to faith (Ps. 19; Rom. 1:14-20), weather (Matt. 16:2,3), prophecy (Matt. 2:2; Luke 21:25), and judgment (Joel 2:30,31; Matt. 24:29). They are also a means of getting bearings for long journeys." (From Paradise to Prison, John J. Davis, p.65)*

- **To Illuminate** – To give light on the earth (all lights, including stars)
- **To Legislate (or Regulate)** – To rule over the day and night

**Ps 136:7-9** <sup>7</sup> To Him who made great lights, For His mercy [endures] forever – <sup>8</sup> The sun to rule by day, For His mercy [endures] forever; <sup>9</sup> The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy [endures] forever.

## Spiritual Functions

- **To declare God's power**

**Ps 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

**Ps 147:4-5** <sup>4</sup> He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. <sup>5</sup> Great [is] our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding [is] infinite.

**Is 40:25-26** <sup>25</sup> "To whom then will you liken Me, Or [to whom] shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these [things], Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of [His] power; Not one is missing.

**Rom 1:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

- **To demonstrate God's faithfulness**

**Ps 89:33-37** <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. <sup>34</sup> My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. <sup>35</sup> Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: <sup>36</sup> His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; <sup>37</sup> It shall be established forever like the moon, Even [like] the faithful witness in the sky." Selah

**Jer 31:35-36** <sup>35</sup> Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts [is] His name): <sup>36</sup> "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, [Then] the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

- **To indicate God's judgment**

**Joel 2:30-31** <sup>30</sup> "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

**Matt 24:29** <sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**Luke 21:25-28** <sup>25</sup> "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; <sup>26</sup> "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

- **To initiate God's worship**

*("seasons" infers celebrations, feasts, & worship; the Jewish religious calendar was based upon the lunar changes)*

**Ps 8:3-4** <sup>3</sup> When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup> What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

## Other Thoughts:

On the Accuracy & Perspective of Scripture – Read Phillips (Exploring Genesis), pp. 43-44. Add with this the consideration of the choice of terms which relay their purpose or function rather than direct terms (like "sun") which were used as names of pagan deities. Care is used to avoid confusion!

Complexity and exactness of every element (sun, moon, stars); Starlight; Young sun