

“LET THERE BE LIGHTS!”
4th Day of Creation: Genesis 1:14-19
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INTRODUCTION

Here we see how God created the light-bearers, and how these fulfilled their God-given positions; likewise, we must fulfill our God-given place in His creation.

LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THIS DARK WORLD SHINING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

I. THE DIVINE COMMAND (14-15)

In the description of day four of creation, God gives us an unusually exhaustive statement of his purpose for creation, leaving no room for heathen misconstructions concerning the sun, stars and their possible worship.

A. The Objects Of Creation

- “Light-bearers”, not just lights. The light of the first three days is now concentrated in these. The matter of these heavenly bodies was created on day one, but now God finishes them and gives them their functions.
- These heavenly bodies did not merely become visible due to the disappearance of vapors – this result would’ve happened on day 2 when the firmament was created.

B. The purposes of their creation

1. To separate the day from the night (cf. vv. 4-5); cf. v. 18—“to separate light from darkness”

2. For signs, seasons, days, years

a. Signs

- Signs to faith – declaring the creator (Psalm 19)
- Signs of geographical bearings for seamen etc.
- Signs indicating extraordinary events (Mt. 2:2; Luke 21:25; Joel 2:30)
- indications of weather (Matthew 16:2-3)
- Does the mention of “signs” endorse the “Signs of the Zodiac”, astrology charts, fortune-telling, etc.?
- The Scriptures give a dogmatic “**no!**” Cf. Jeremiah 10:2-3-- don’t learn the ways of the heathen. Such signs and charts are a figment of man’s imagination and have demonic endorsement.
- Also see [Isaiah 47:13](#), and note the vain astrologers of the book of Daniel.

b. Seasons – i.e. fixed definite times, not merely festal seasons, holidays, etc.

- Agricultural seasons (Hosea 2:9, 11)
- Seasons for seafaring men and also other human occupations.
- Marking the course of human, animal, and vegetable life – e.g. breeding time for animals, migration of birds, (Jeremiah 8:7) etc.
- Here the idea is of fixed times coming with regularity.

c. Days and years – i.e. the division and calculation of such

3. To give light on the earth (v. 15, v. 17)

- These heavenly bodies serve as light-bearers to give light on the earth.
- This is a wider view of the “expanse” than we see on day 2 of creation.

- Sometimes the “expanse” refers to the atmosphere, the solar system, and even Heaven.
- This function is the main one upon which the earth depends.

Note that Jesus is the light of the world – the source of light and life (see John 8:12; 1:4-5; and see Malachi 4:2 where he is called the Sun of righteousness.

II. The fulfillment (15b-17) – “it was so”; “and God made”

A. The two great lights-- that is the sun and the moon.

- They are “great” in comparison with the stars, not in actual size but in importance for the earth.
- The sun and the moon shed more light – that is their most important function.
- They appear greater to man.
- Literally the text reads “the greater and the small – i.e. the greater and smaller

B. The Stars-- added almost as an afterthought: “He made the stars also.”

- Even the verb, “He made” is missing.
- Such is a powerful blow against astrology.
- The stars are not as important to Earth or to man.

C. “To rule the day and night”

- Not just in producing light in the day or night, but the influence exerted by such light on all nature – organic and inorganic.
- Also, the length of each period of light.
- Cf. Psalm 136:9 – the stars also rule by night.
- Note that verse 17 repeats their placement and their purpose “to give light on the earth,” lest anyone try to add another purpose not intended by God.

III. DIVINE SATISFACTION (18b) – “And God saw that it was good.”

IV. SIGNIFICATION

- God only gave names to the larger divisions of his creation, Adam being the only exception.
- God does know each star by name (Psalm 147:4).

V. SUMMARY (v. 19)—“And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.”

A. What about the distance of the stars from the earth in light years – much older than the earth?
Light trails were created on the first day. Then the light bearers were created on the fourth day.

B. What about novas – exploding stars that apparently exploded before creation?

- The methods of measuring vast distances are not certain.
- We have no assurance that the speed of light at such distances is uniform.
- God could have created such pulses of light resembling novas.

CONCLUSION

JESUS IS THE LIGHT:

- John 1:4 – “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”
- John 1:11 – “He came unto his own things, and his own people received him not.”
- John 1: 12 – “As many as received him, to them he gave the authority to become the sons of God.”

WE ARE THE LIGHT: Matthew 7:14 – “You are the light of the world.” 7:16 – “Let your light shine before men.”

- Let us mediate light as Christ has commanded.
- Just as the sun is not the largest star but is the most important one, believers with the greatest gifts are not necessarily the most important –it is those who are the most useful who are most important.
- All cannot be the greatest lights! Let us serve him without complaint.