

Genesis 1:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴Then 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; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

The Hebrew for “lights” is a word that means *‘light-bearers’*.

So God who is light, who created light in the darkness on the first day of creation now on the fourth day places the light-bearers behind the points of light that had already filled the universe.

Comparing the first creation with the new creation--Paul said:

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

I want you to notice that Paul, in v.8, didn't say we were once “in darkness” (although we were), he said that we once “were darkness” and we demonstrated it by living and walking in that darkness (sin and rebellion against God) every day.

But once we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior we are now “light in the Lord”.

The word “light” in v.8 is *phōs* (φως), and it doesn't simply mean to *reflect* light but to actually *be* light.

You remember that Jesus said to His disciples, “*You are the light of the world...*” Well He was saying the same thing as Paul basically.

We don’t just reflect the light of God in this world—when we were born again Jesus Himself came inside of us through the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit and we became the light-bearers of God.

We don’t just reflect light like the moon—the moon doesn’t have light within itself.—in that regard it is a ‘deceiver’. (liken to religious people who appear to have light within them but don’t)

On the other hand, as true disciples of Christ we have become a light source like the sun.

God created the sun, in part, for the purpose of giving light to our planet.

As sunlight comes in contact with our planet it produces photosynthesis which allows plants, grasses, trees and phytoplankton to grow and reproduce which makes life on this planet possible.

Most of the oxygen on planet earth doesn’t come from the rain forest; it comes from phytoplankton in the world’s oceans and seas—which would not exist were it not for the light of the sun.

Now applying that illustration to Christians—when the Son (capital SON) came into our hearts and filled us with His Son-light something began to happen—fruit began to grow.

Just as physical fruit grows naturally as a result of the light of the sun so too in the life of a Christian spiritual fruit naturally begins to grow when we are filled with the light of Christ—therefore we must stay in the light, walk in the light and let our light so shine so that people can see our fruit and glorify our Father in heaven.

Genesis 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...

John MacArthur in his book *“The Battle for the Beginning”* gives some interesting stats on the sun and moon:

“The sun, of course, radiates light, while the moon merely reflects light. But from an earthly perspective, both are light sources. The Genesis account does not aim at a scientific explanation of how the moon gives light. It simply reveals that the divine purpose for the moon was to provide illumination by night, and that purpose is perfectly fulfilled through the reflective light cast by the moon.

The sun and the moon are fascinating heavenly bodies. The sun is an immense ball of flame. Its diameter measures 865,000 miles, which is about 109 times the diameter of the earth. Its volume is 1.3 million times greater than that of the earth, meaning that if the sun were hollow, it would take more than a million earth-sized objects to fill it...

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.

As stars go, the sun is only small- to medium-sized. Astronomers classify it as a yellow dwarf. By comparison, many stars, known as supergiants, are as much as one thousand times larger than our sun. One such supergiant star that we can observe is Betelgeuse. Its size varies, because it seems to pulsate. And at times it is at least six hundred times larger than our sun.

The distance from the earth to the sun is about ninety-three million miles. At that distance, it takes about eight and a half minutes for light to travel from the sun to the earth. So the light you see at the first glimpse of a 6:00 A.M. sunrise is light that left the sun when it was about 5:51 A.M. at your location on the earth.

The moon is also an immense body. Its diameter is more than one-fourth that of the earth's, and it is larger than the planet Pluto. Its surface temperature varies enormously compared to that of the earth. 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.

The moon circles the earth like a far-off satellite in a slightly elliptical orbit...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.

The moon has virtually no atmosphere, so there is no diffusion of the reflected light at the moon's surface. Standing on the moon, the sky appears black, even in bright daylight. And viewing the moon through a telescope, its features may be seen from earth with amazing clarity.

The moon, like the sun, helps keep the perfect balance of earth's life sustaining environment. Ocean tides are caused by the moon's gravitational pull.

High tides align with the moon on both sides of the earth. The earth bulges slightly both toward and away from the moon, and this affects the water level of the oceans.

As the earth rotates on its axis, those bulges move across the face of the earth. That is why there are two high and low tides each day. The size of the tides varies depending on how close the moon is to earth and where it lines up with the sun. (The sun's gravity also has an effect on earth's tidal ebb and flow.) These tides are vital to the balance of earth's ecosystems.

Scientists have proposed a number of theories about how the moon might have been formed by natural processes. Some have suggested it split off from the earth or was violently torn from the earth by a collision with a massive body the size of Mars. Some believe it was formed elsewhere in the solar system and captured by the earth's gravitational pull. Others believe it formed along with the earth as a kind of double planet. Each of these explanations poses major problems. For example, three minerals have been discovered on the moon that are unknown on earth, undermining the theory that moon and earth were once a single body. The dynamics of how the moon might have broken off and escaped earth's gravitational pull are also impossible to explain by any known model. For this reason there is no real consensus among scientists and evolutionists on the question of how the moon was formed—even though some twenty billion dollars has been spent by modern scientists trying to answer the question of how the moon "evolved."

The Bible's explanation avoids all such difficulties: God simply created the moon and placed it in orbit around the earth. He did this on day four of creation week."

Let's go back to verse 14 for a moment—

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴Then 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;

Now while it is true that since the beginning of time man has used the sun, moon and stars to determine the time of day, the seasons of the year—the Jews could look at the moon and tell you what day of the month it was and be very accurate because they were on a lunar calendar—

And so for many centuries man used the sun, moon and stars to determine the time of day, the seasons of the year and even to navigate with—but the Hebrew in v.14 gives us further insight into why God created the sun and the moon.

The Hebrew word for ‘**seasons**’ is *moed* which is translated ‘feasts’ in Leviticus 23:2-3.

Hebrew scholars point out that the most accurate translation of the Hebrew word *moed* is “divine appointment”.

So in other words, part of the purpose of these heavenly bodies was to announce the coming each year of the feasts of God which were divine appointments where He and His people connected in a very special way.

The seven feasts of Moses outlined in Leviticus 23 were divine appointments not only as yearly feasts days when Israel and God came together to remember significant events in their past—as with Passover;

Or to remember the way God took care of His people during their wilderness wanderings—as with the Feast of Tabernacles;

Or to simply trust and thank the Lord for providing an abundant harvest of good things to eat—as most of these feasts had an agricultural emphasis to them—

As N.T. Christians we know these feasts had a very important spiritual significance to them as well in that they prophesied of a coming time when God would keep some very special appointments with His people.

The first three feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits speak of Jesus’ first coming and the work He accomplished.

The last three feasts: Trumpets, Yom Kippur, and Tabernacles speak of His second coming and the work He has yet to accomplish—He will fulfill that appointment soon!

And in the middle you have the Feast of Pentecost which signifies the time between His first and second coming or the Church Age when God the Holy Spirit was sent to keep a special appointment that Jesus promised He'd keep in the upper room the night before His crucifixion (Explain)

However Genesis 1:14 gives us another reason why God created the sun, moon, and stars—they would not only be used to mark the passing of time in the sense of days and nights and of the months and seasons of the year—but in v.14 God said they would also be for '**signs**'.

The Hebrew word for “signs” is *oth*, meaning “beacons” or “signals” and suggests that the stars especially were placed in the heavens by God to serve as a beacon to guide the people of earth in a particular direction.

Of course it begs the question—“*What direction?*”

And for that matter what did God want to signal or announce to the inhabitants of the earth through the stars?

Well, many believe the stars were given as astrological signs to announce important events or simply to predict a person's future.

However astrology is an occult, pagan practice and all such forms of fortunetelling are strictly forbidden in Scripture (Deuteronomy 18:10–12; Isaiah 7:12–14).

We know that Satan is a counterfeiter of God's truth and so many see the zodiac as a satanic counterfeit of the Hebrew Mazzaroth.

What is the Mazzaroth?

Well the precise meaning of the word is uncertain but its context from Scripture has something to do with the constellations—

Job 38:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? ³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?"

So what is the Mazzaroth exactly?

There are many who believe that the stars, and in particular the constellations, were placed in the heavens by God to point to and announce to the people of earth the gospel of His Son.

There is an interesting if not cryptic verse in Galatians 3 that plays into this subject—

Galatians 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

You say, "*What does Paul mean when he says, "God preached the gospel to Abraham."*"

Well, first of all it seems that Abraham *did* know the gospel—

Genesis 22:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ("God will provide Himself a Lamb" KJV)

Genesis 22:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

So Abraham knew the gospel, Paul said God preached it to him—the question is how?

Many believe it was through the Mazzaroth, which some have called the '*gospel in the stars*'.

Be careful here because some reject this because they believe that what we are saying is that God preached the gospel through the zodiac.

God doesn't use occult things to preach the gospel—but He can and does use things like the Mazzaroth which Satan then counterfeited and perverted with the zodiac.

The late (or early depending on how you look at it) Dr. D. James Kennedy writes on this subject using Genesis 1:14 where God said He made the stars "*for signs*" as a launching off point—

"A sign is something which proclaims a message. What is the message proclaimed by the stars? I would like to talk to you about what might be called... "The Gospel in the Stars."

We are told [in Psalm 19:1-3]: "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard."

God gave to all of the world a proclamation of the Gospel in the stars. A picture is worth a thousand words, we are told, and God has indeed painted the sky and made it a picture gallery, replete with the glories of his redemption.

There exists in the writings of virtually all civilized nations a description of the major stars in the heavens—something which might be called the "constellations of the zodiac" or the "signs of the zodiac," of which there are twelve. If you go back in time to Rome, or beyond that to Greece, or before that to Egypt, or to Persia, or Assyria, or Babylonia —regardless of how far back you go, there is a remarkable phenomenon: All nations had the same twelve signs, representing the same twelve things, placed in the same order.

Archaeologists, historians and antiquarians have searched the dustiest libraries, uncovered the oldest tablets, ciphred the most difficult hieroglyphics, and have failed to discover how it is that all over the world, the same signs exist.

Remarkably, the stars in the heavens which represent those twelve signs bear absolutely no resemblance to the pictures or the signs themselves.

For example, what we call the Big Dipper has been called Ursa Major (Great Bear). One thing is that it does not look like is a great bear! Neither do any of the other signs look like what they are supposed to represent.

Where did their names come from? The Bible tells us that God has named all of the stars, the host of heaven—that He has numbered them, ordered them and set them in the firmament to be signs.

The original meaning was corrupted into something which was demonic, something which was satanic, something which was counterfeit, something which has given birth to what is known as modern astrology, which the Bible repeatedly condemns and warns Christians against. The corruption began in Babylon with the Tower of Babel.

It is well that you have nothing to do with modern astrology whatsoever because of its corruption and satanic aspects. But in order that you might appreciate what God has done, let us look briefly at a few pictures of the zodiac.

The word “zodiac” is thought to mean “circle of animals,” although some linguists say that it comes from an ancient Hebrew word meaning “a path” or “step”; that it actually is displaying the way of salvation...”

I won't read you the entire article but let me whet your appetite to study this on your own—

The Mazzaroth (zodiac) starts with **‘Virgo’** a picture of a woman—

Kennedy says,

“You can look at the stars in Virgo until you are green in the face, and they would never look like a woman! But the picture which has gone with them down through the ages in every nation in the world is a picture of a woman. This woman is clearly identified as a virgin. Virgo means “virgin” in Latin, Hebrew, Greek and Arabic. So the first thing we see is the emphasis upon the virginity of this woman.”

The next sign is ‘**Coma**’

“Coma means “the desired” or “the longed for one.” It is a picture of a woman with a child in her lap. The book of Haggai tells us, “The desire of all nations shall come” (Haggai 2:7). Jesus Christ is the Desire of all nations who was to come.”

The fourth sign is ‘**Crux**’

Kennedy says,

“Crux, [is] the Southern Cross. This is one constellation which looks like that for which it is named, because it consists of four stars placed very clearly in the shape of a cross, as if God did not want us to miss it. In Hebrew it is called Adom which means “cutting off.” Christ is that One who was cut off out of the land of the living for our sins.”

The last sign is ‘**Leo**’

Kennedy—

“Finally, we come to Leo the Lion—a picture of Christ who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, coming again. He is coming this time not in humiliation but in great power and glory. The Lion’s claws are right over Hydra, the serpent, who He is about to finally and totally destroy.”

Dr. Kennedy finishes by saying,

“The art gallery of God painted in the sky is a great and glorious picture. All ancient traditions, all ancient mythologies, all pagan religions (which some skeptics say Christianity has adopted and fashioned into the Christian religion), are all nothing more than corruptions of the ancient [gospel] given by God to Adam and written in the celestial sky for all the world to see. How glorious it is that whether we talk about the special revelation God has given to us in His Word, or the general revelation which He has given to us in nature, the story is always the same: the seed of the woman will destroy the seed of the serpent. At last there came that One who was born of a woman, who came to die and rise again that we might live forever.

I hope that as you go out on a given evening and look up at the glories of the starry skies, you will be more impressed than ever with the greatness and wonder of our God and the majesty of His grace and mercy.”

Genesis 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."

God's creation consists of one dimensional, two dimensional and three dimensional things and creatures.

- 1. Plants, trees, grasses etc. are one dimensional in that they have a body and are alive but have no consciousness.*
- 2. Animals, birds, sea-creatures, insects etc. are two dimensional creatures in that they have a body and a soul (consciousness)—they are animate but they don't have a spirit.*
- 3. However only man is a three dimensional creature made up of body, soul and spirit—for only man was made in the image of God who is a triune Being.*

And so on day five God creates for the first time 'living creatures'—

Genesis 1:20-23 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

We see that God didn't use 'theistic evolution' to create these creatures slowly over millions of years of time. (Explain)

We can see from Scripture that these creatures appeared suddenly as God created them instantly and distinctively out of nothing (bara).

All life did not come from the same primordial cell leading to a ‘great chain of life’—but it did all come from the same Designer.

“Doesn’t the fossil record show these creatures slowly evolved into existence, instead of suddenly appearing?”

Most people are unaware that Darwin’s strongest opponents were not clergymen, but fossil experts.

Darwin admitted the state of the fossil evidence was *“the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory,”* and because of the fossil evidence, *“all the most eminent paleontologists . . . and all our greatest geologists . . . have unanimously, often vehemently, maintained that the species do not change.”*

The fossil record is marked by two great principles:

- ***First, stasis***, which means most species are unchanged in all their documented history. *The way they look when they first appear in the fossil record is the way they look when last appearing in the fossil record. They have not changed.*

- ***Second, sudden appearance***, which means in any local area, a species does not arise gradually, but appears all at once and *“fully formed.”*

Harvard Professor Philip Johnson comments on this—

“If evolution means the gradual change of one kind of organism into another kind, the outstanding characteristic of the fossil record is the absence of evidence for evolution.”

Dr. Duane Gish in his book, *“The Fossils Say No”* states that *“fossils are the creationist’s best friends...”* (Explain)

Philip Johnson quotes evolutionist Nile Eldredge who writes, *“We paleontologists have said that the history of life [in the fossil record] supports [the story of gradual evolution], all the while knowing that it does not.”*

Since that is true some evolutionists have embraced what is called “The Hopeful Monster Theory” which suggests that major evolutionary transformations have occurred in large leaps between species due to macro-mutations.

In other words this theory teaches that a lizard laid an egg and out came a bird!

Again, all animal life was created by God **“according to its kind”** and given the ability by Him to **“reproduce after its kind”**.

God designed into each kind of living creature the ability to adapt to its environment or what we would call ‘changes within a kind’ or what scientists call *microevolution*—but never does one kind become another kind (lizards never become birds; birds never become dogs etc.)

One author—

“Evolutionists often give convincing examples of microevolution, the variation of a kind within its kind, adapting to the environment. For example, the ratio of black to white peppered moths may increase when pollution makes it easier for dark moths to escape detection; or finches may develop different beaks in response to their distinctive environment. But the moths are still moths, and the finches are still finches. There has been no change outside of the kind. Microevolution does not prove macroevolution.”

The “**great sea creatures**” (v.21) were probably the great marine dinosaurs—yes dinosaurs are real.

The book of Job talks about two of them—one a great sea creature it calls ‘leviathan’; and the other a great land dinosaur it calls ‘behemoth’ which seems to have been a brontosaurus.

Let me close by saying that the intricate design of each of God’s creatures is a testimony to His creative genius and testifies to how the creation reveals the glory of God!

God created the birds of the air on the fifth day—who taught them how to fly or how to build their nests?

The Golden Plover makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any shorebird.

It breeds on the high Arctic tundra of Alaska and Canada and before its offspring hatch it takes off for South America where it winters.

When their little ones hatch they take a couple of weeks to get strong enough and they take off for South America never having been there.

How do they know where to fly? And if they encounter a storm that blows them 100 miles off course—they still find their way to the place where their parents winter.

How can you explain this except by the hand of God! And the same goes for all of His creation.