


“The Nature of God”

a study of Genesis 1

part one:
“God is Spirit”
Genesis
1:1-5



WELCOME! We are grateful you are here,
and we are excited to share God’s word with you!
Friday, February 21, 2020 – 7:30 pm

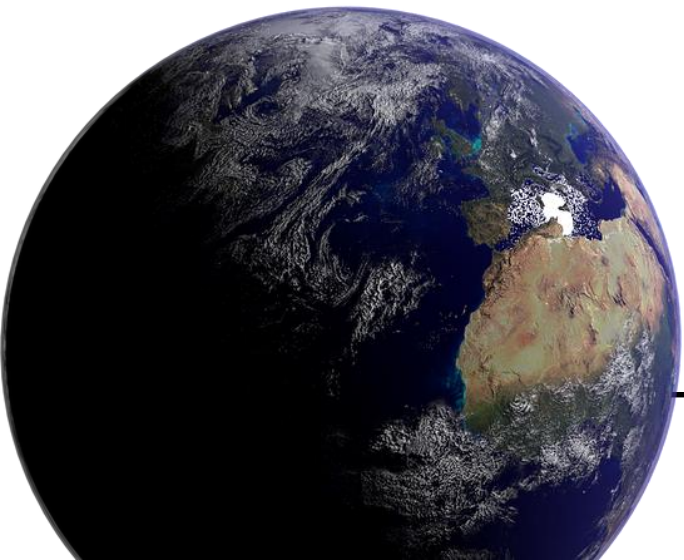
←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

Genesis 1:1-5

If God created “In the beginning” [v1], then what existed before?

- ♦ God is ETERNAL
 - Distinction between ETERNAL and IMMORTAL

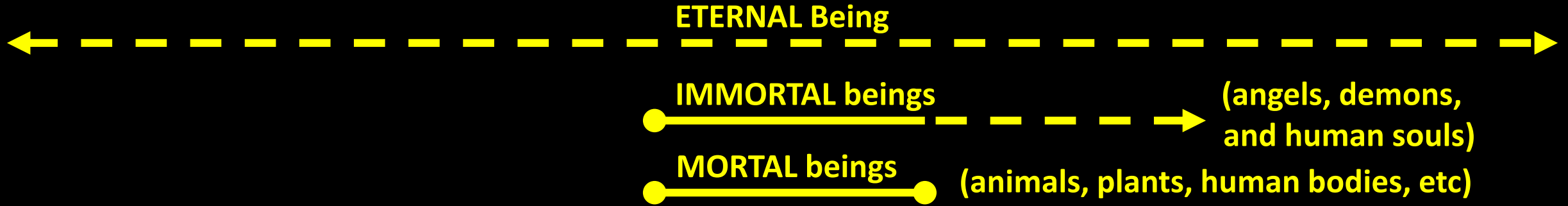
ONLY GOD!!!



—————→
Genesis 1

The Nature of God

Eternal vs Immortal



TIMELINE

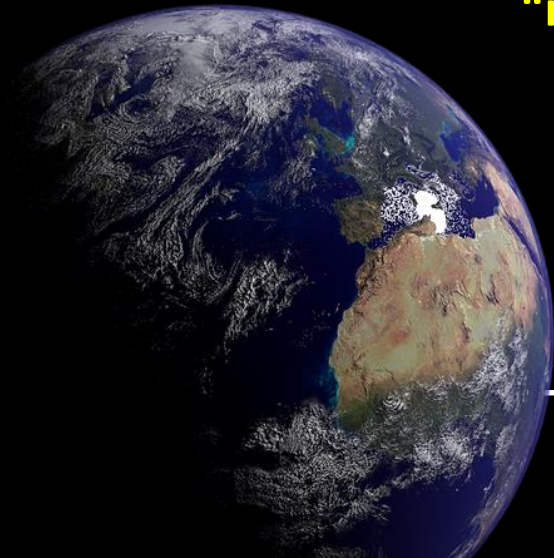
"in the beginning"
[Genesis 1:1]

"Then comes the end"
[1 Corinthians 15:24]

"...in the last day"
[John 12:48]

"the elements will melt..."
[2 Peter 3:10-12]

Genesis 1



The Nature of God

Eternal vs Immortal

ETERNAL Being

ETERNAL Being: is not born and cannot die, and thus is not limited by TIME; the eternal nature is unique to Divinity (GOD)

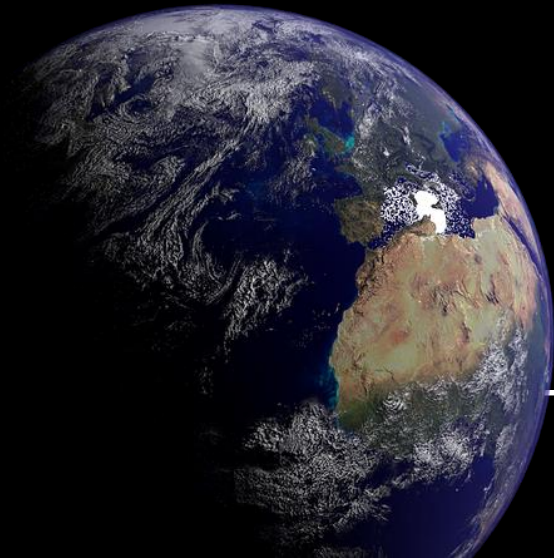
IMMORTAL beings: are born into TIME, but cannot die; in some form they live beyond the line that is TIME

TIMELINE



MORTAL beings: are born, die, and cease to exist along the line that is TIME

Genesis 1

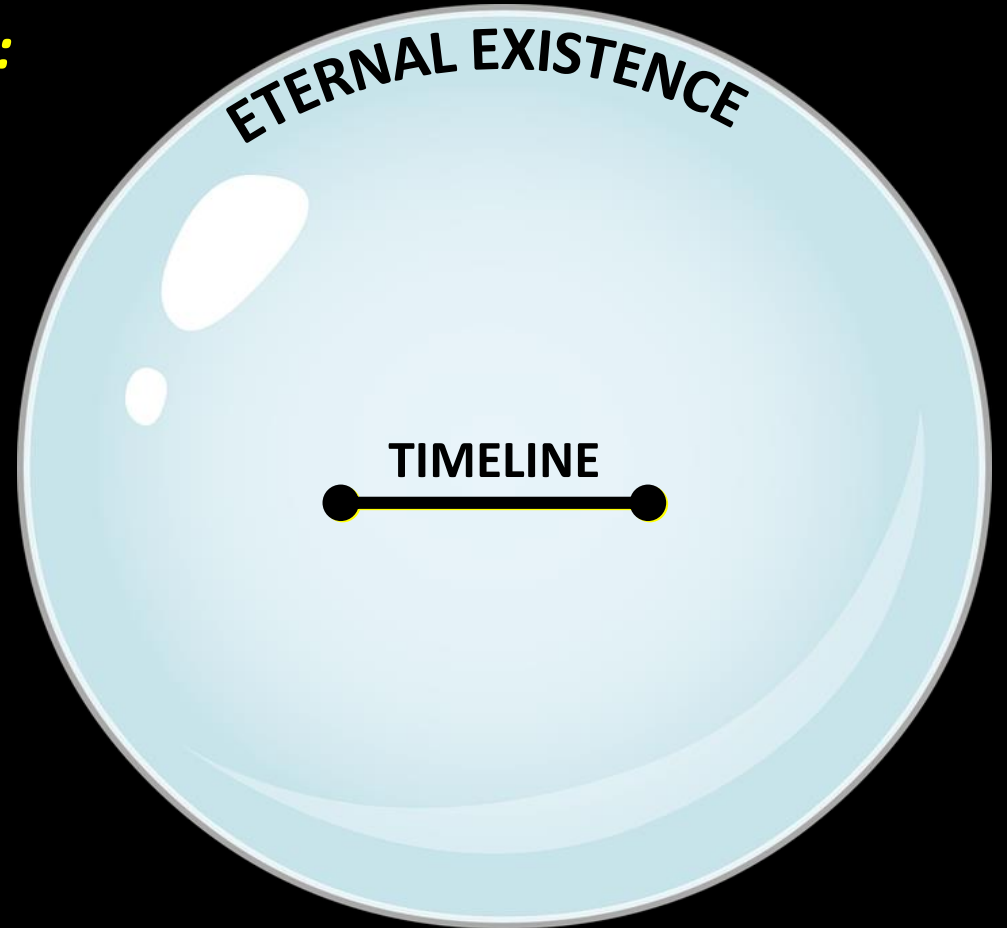


The Nature of God

Eternal vs Immortal

SOME QUALITIES OF THE DIVINE ETERNAL NATURE:

OMNIPRESENCE – no physical body, so not limited by space; capable of being anywhere at any time, or perhaps all places at all times



Genesis 1

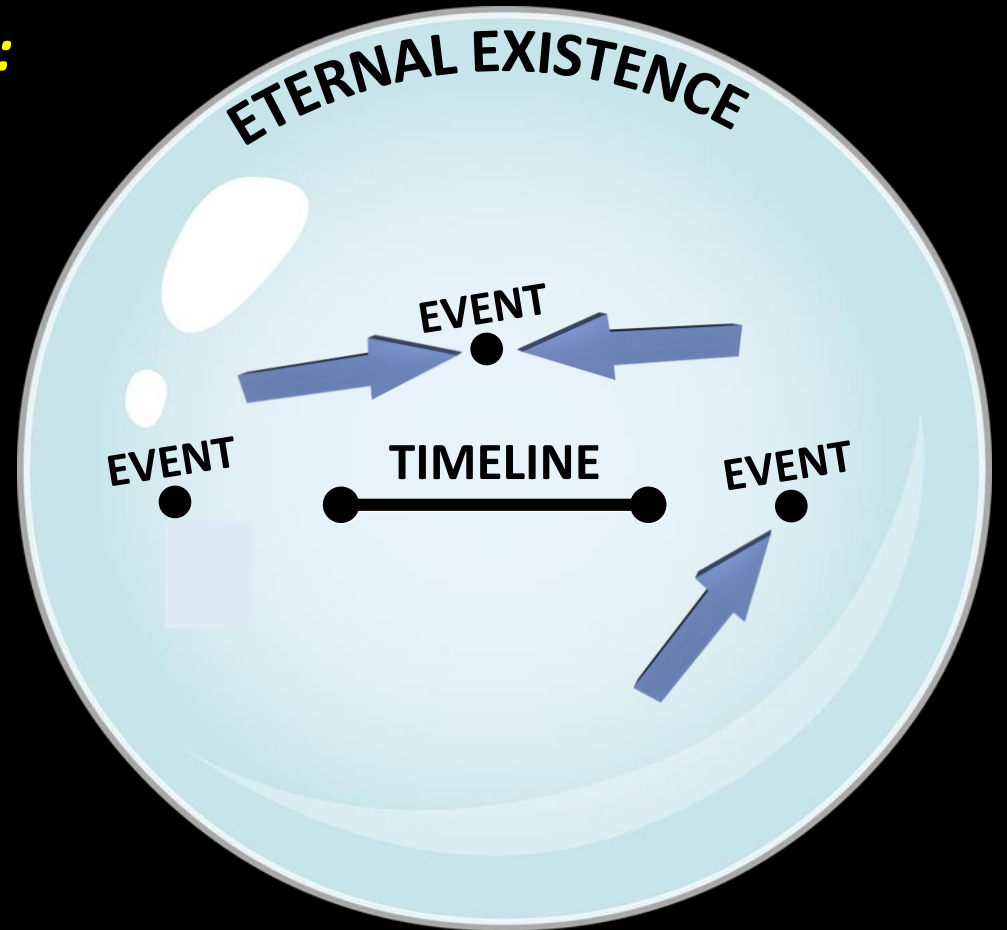
The Nature of God

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SOME QUALITIES OF THE DIVINE ETERNAL NATURE:

OMNIPRESENCE – no physical body, so not limited by space; capable of being anywhere at any time, or perhaps all places at all times

OMNISCIENCE – no physical body, so not limited by time; capable of knowing everything about any event before, after, or along the line of TIME



Genesis 1

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♦ God is ETERNAL

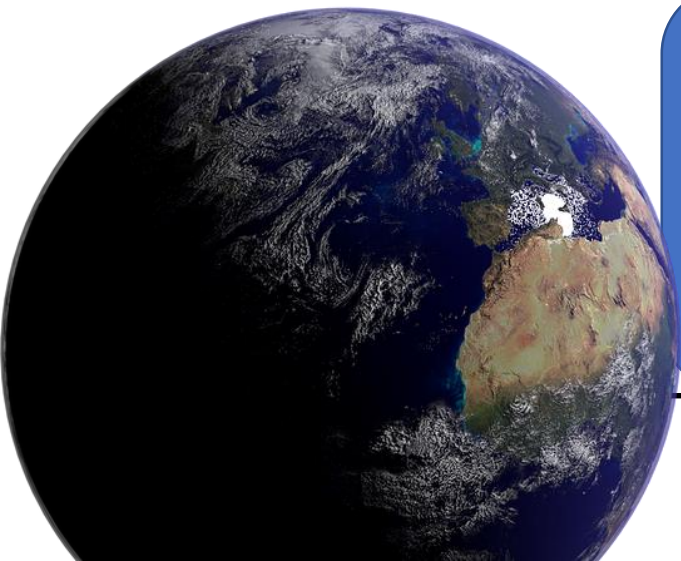
- Distinction between ETERNAL and IMMORTAL
- God’s eternal nature (His “eternal power and Godhead”) is “understood by the things that are made...” [Romans 1:20]
 - this is the “argument from design”: the Creator necessarily exists *before* His creation!
 - cp John’s “argument” for the deity of Jesus [John chapter 1]

ONLY GOD!!!

- The Word (Jesus) was “in the beginning with God” [John 1:1, 2]
- He was “with God, and...was God” [John 1:1]
- “*All things* were made through Him...” [John 1:3]

If He is from “the beginning” (eternal!) and is the Creator, then He is God!

Genesis 1

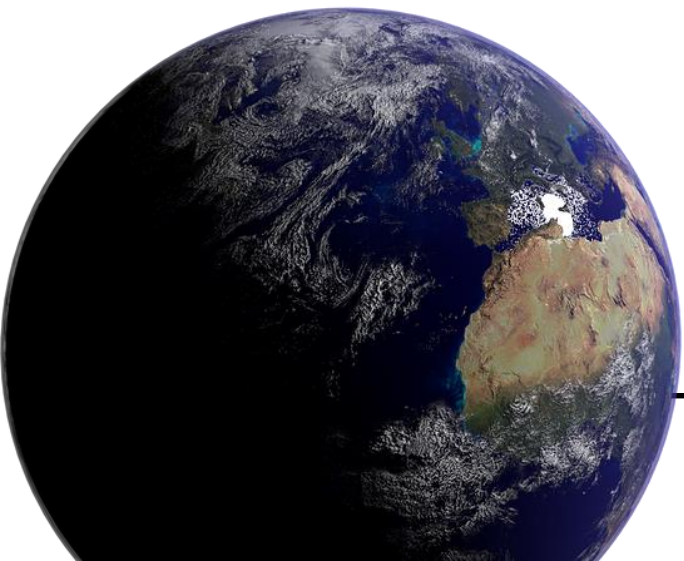


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Genesis 1:1-5

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

- ◆ “...the *worlds* were framed by the word of God” [Hebrews 11:3]
 - Both visible and invisible, physical and spiritual, terrestrial and celestial
 - “Heavens and the earth” describes the whole created universe [cp “*all things*” John 1:3]



Genesis 1

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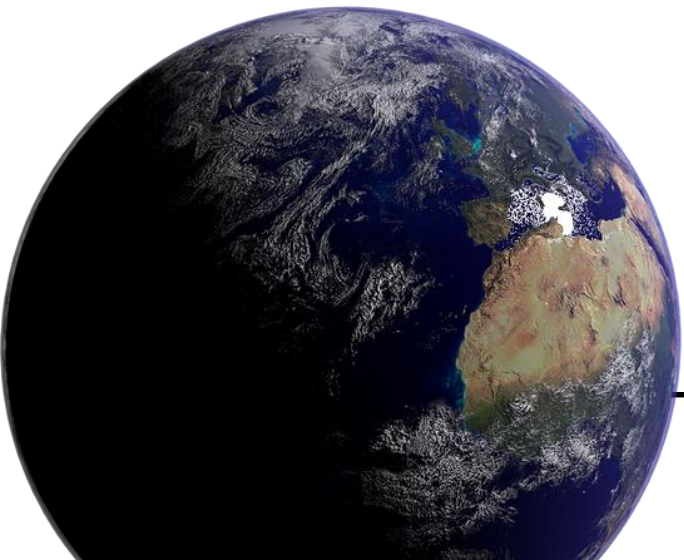
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“The earth was...” [v2]

- ◆ “...without form” (“without order”, “place of chaos”)
- ◆ “...and void” (“empty”)
- ◆ “...darkness was on the face of the deep” (“deep darkness”, “a dark abyss”)

During the week of creation, God will *resolve* these 3 “issues”...



Genesis 1

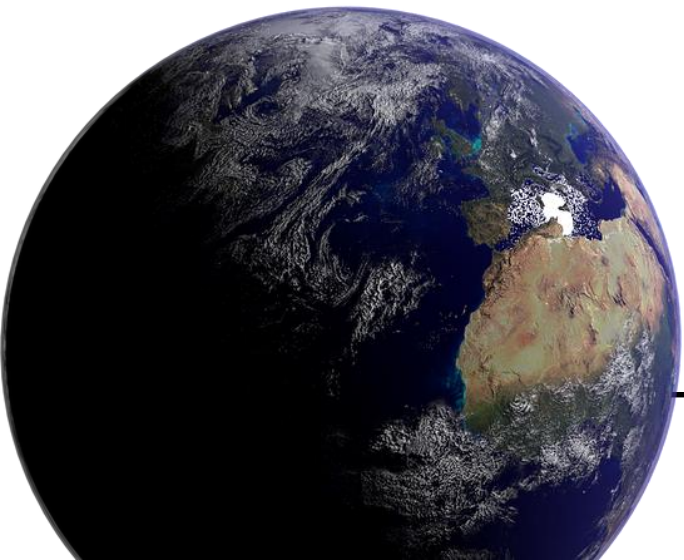
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- ♦ the first time we “meet” God in the Bible is as SPIRIT
 - Consider this same practice by God at other times in Bible history:
 - Exodus 3:1-6: appearing to Moses in the burning bush (“fire”)
 - Exodus 13:21-22: guiding Israel out of Egypt (pillar of “cloud [smoke]”, “fire”)
 - Exodus 19:9, 16: appearing to Israel at Sinai (“thick cloud”, “thunderings, lightnings”)



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

“Take careful heed to yourselves, for *you saw no form* when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. But *the Lord* has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people...”

[Deuteronomy 4:15-20]



Genesis 1

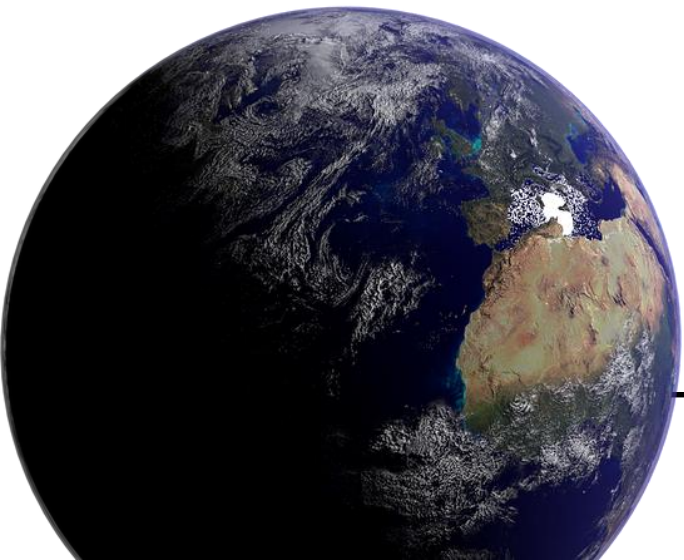
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 - Moses’ warning to Israel concerning the *spirit* nature of God [Dt 4:15ff]
 - John 4:23-24: Jesus, correcting the religious error of the Samaritan woman explained to her the *spiritual* nature of God



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

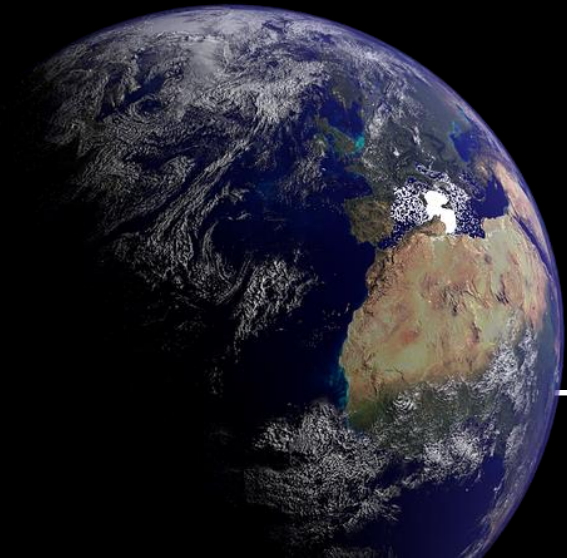
“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for *the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*”

[John 4:23-24]



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

According to both Moses and Jesus,
understanding God's Spirit Nature is imperative to proper worship!!

**This is true
because...**

God does not think like man thinks

“For *my thoughts are not your thoughts*, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And *my thoughts than your thoughts.*”
[Isaiah 55:8-9]



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Genesis 1

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God does not think like man thinks

God does not act like man acts

“God is not a man, *that He should lie...*”

[Numbers 23:19]

“...Far be it from God *to do wickedness*, And from the Almighty *to commit iniquity.*”

[Job 34:10]

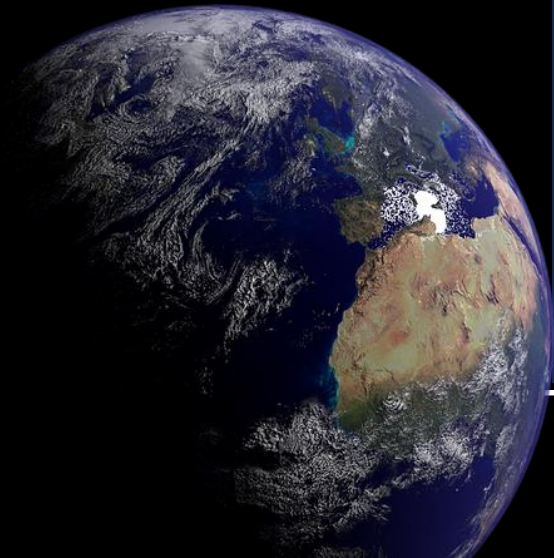
“You are of *purser eyes* than to behold evil...”

[Habakkuk 1:13]

“...*friendship* with the world is *enmity* with God...”

[James 4:4]

Genesis 1



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God does not think like man thinks

God does not act like man acts

God does not change as man does

“For I am the Lord, *I do not change...*” [Malachi 3:6]

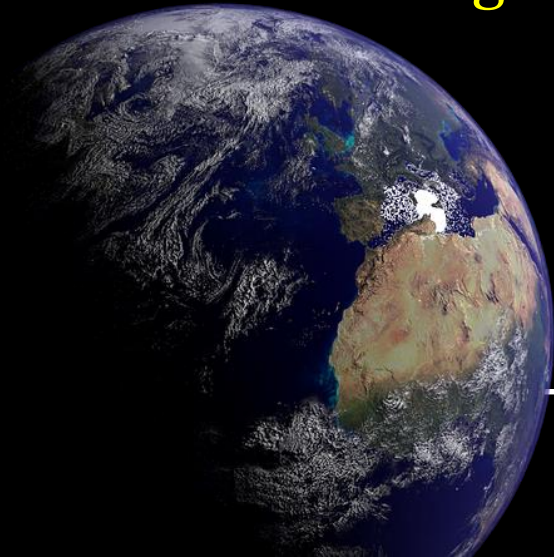
“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without
wavering, for *He who promised is faithful.*”

[Hebrews 10:23]

“*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and
forever.*”

[Hebrews 13:8]

Genesis 1



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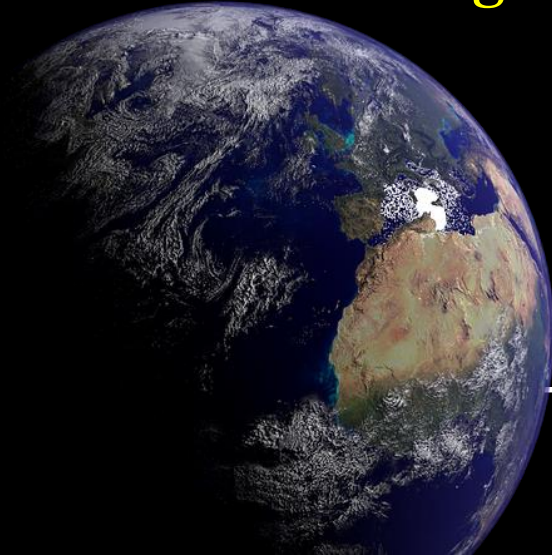
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The error of religion is to have changed “the glory of the **incorruptible (Eternal, Spirit) God** into an image made like **corruptible (physical, temporal)** man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **...and** worshiped and served **the creature** rather than the **Creator...**” [Rom 1:23-25]

We must learn from God what true worship is!

Genesis 1



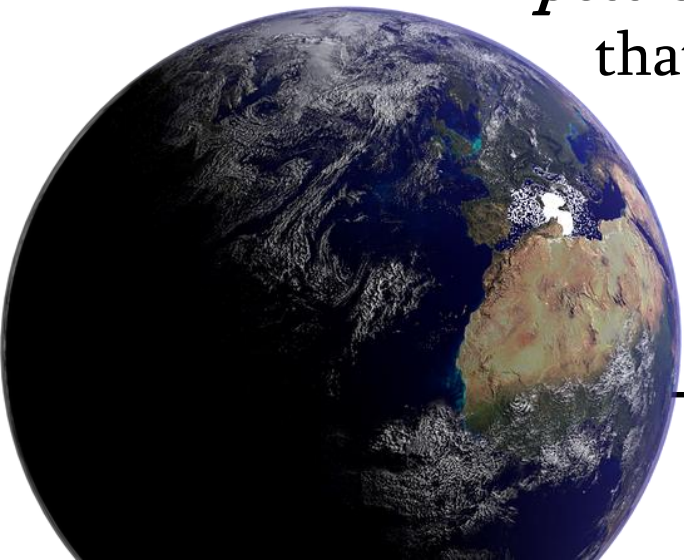
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“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

- ♦ the first time we “meet” God in the Bible is as SPIRIT
 - Consider this same practice by God at other times in Bible history
 - cp 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; we can only know the Spirit’s will if HE reveals it!
 - this truth is spoken of in Deuteronomy 29:29 and Romans 10:17
 - thus it is *impossible* to please Him apart from hearing and responding to HIS word; that is, acting “*by faith*” [cp Hebrews 11:6]



Genesis 1

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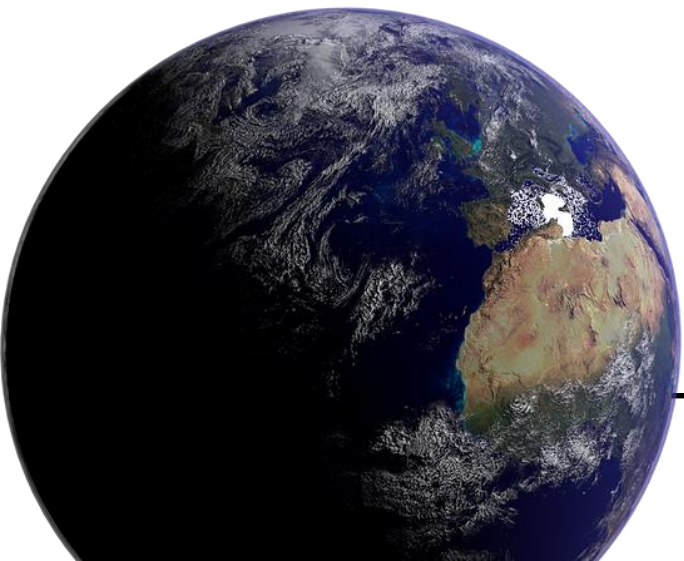
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“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

- ♦ God’s creative power resides in His word [cp Hebrews 1:1-3]
 - cp what Paul told the Ephesian elders the word has the power to do [Acts 20:32]



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“Then God said...”

Consider the **real power** residing in God’s word

“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth... He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” [Psalm 33:6, 9]

“...upholding all things by the word of His power” [Hebrews 1:3 (of Jesus)]

“...the worlds were framed by the word of God” [Hebrews 11:3]

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...” [Romans 1:16]

“Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth.” [John 17:17]

If we really believe this,
we will not **add to or remove from** His word!!

Genesis 1



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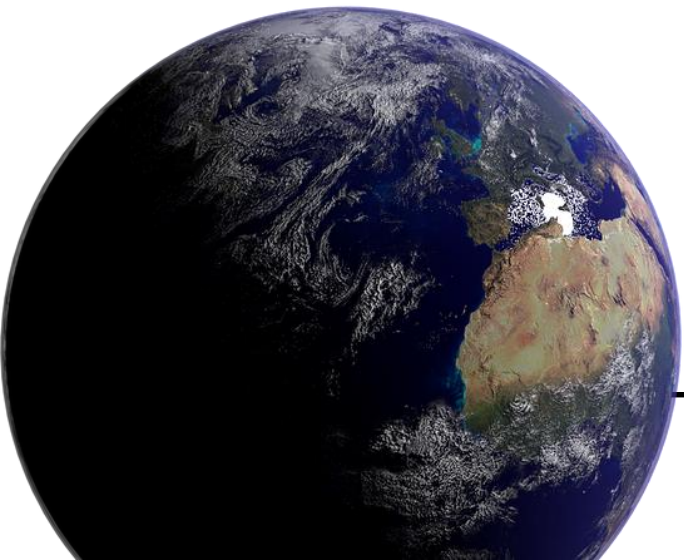
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- ◆ God’s creative power resides in His word [cp Hebrews 1:1-3]
- ◆ With the creation of light, God resolves one of the “issues” from verse 2
- we will see in Genesis 1-4 that it is *always God* who resolves problems that arise



Genesis 1

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“God saw...it was *good*” [v4]

♦ God declares His creation “good” **7 times** [Genesis 1:4, 9, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31]

♦ His final analysis: “indeed it was *very good*” [Genesis 1:31]

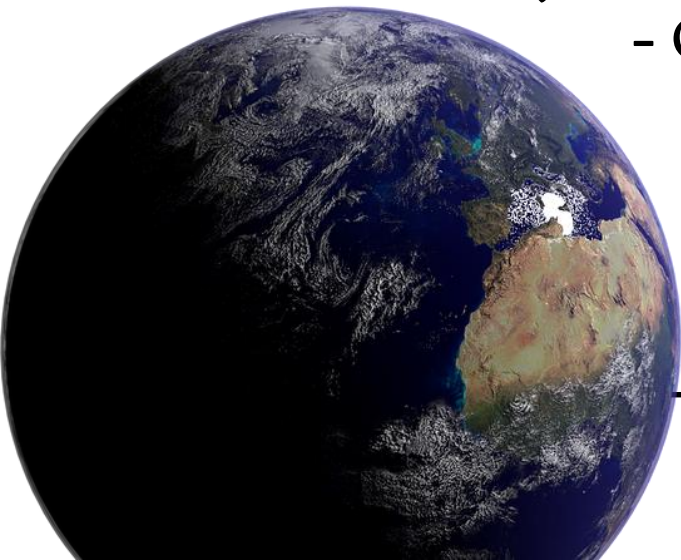
- God’s nature is such that He can *only do* what is GOOD!

• “Far be it from God to do wickedness” [Job 34:10; cp Gn 18:25]

• with God there is “...no shadow of turning” [James 1:17]

• we must allow *God* to define what is “good”!

- if something God does seems *not* good, it is *my view* that must change



Genesis 1

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Genesis 1:1-5

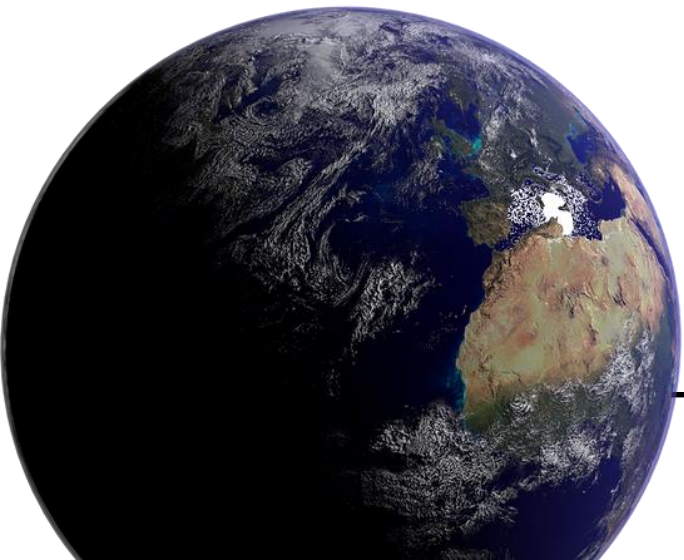
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- ♦ “dividing” or “separating” [NASB] is the base concept behind *holiness*
- cp the work of the priests [Lv 10:10; “distinguish” is “divide” here; cp also Lv 11:44-47]



Genesis 1

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Genesis 1:1-5

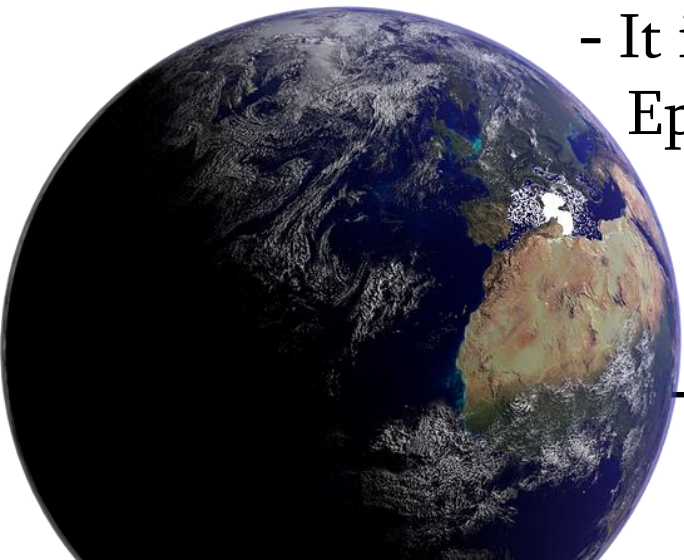
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- ♦ “dividing” or “separating” [NASB] is the base concept behind *holiness*
- ♦ God “divides” **7 times** during creation [Gn 1:4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 21(24); 2:3]
 - It is God’s nature to make things holy, to “sanctify” [cp John 17:17-19; Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:15-16 (quoting Leviticus 19:2); etc]



Genesis 1

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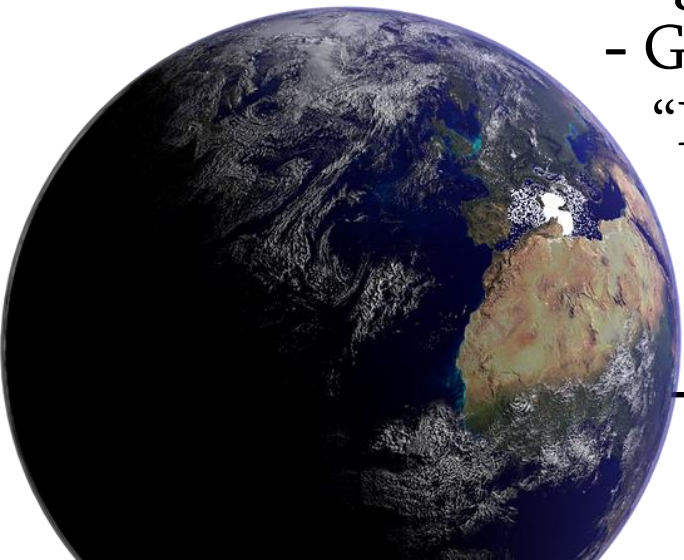
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“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

- ♦ God “names” things, determines roles and purposes [cp Eph 3:14-15; Php 2:8-11]
 - God “names” **7 things** in creation [“Day”/“Night” (v5), “Heaven” (v8), “Earth”/“Seas” (v10), “male”/“female” (v27)]



Genesis 1

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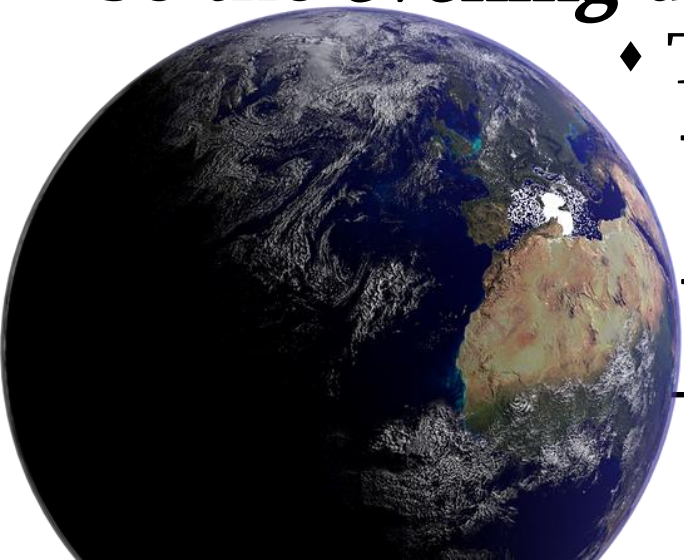
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“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

“So the *evening* and the *morning* were the first day” [v5]

- ◆ The language used here is not mythic, but as *historical* fact
 - cp “Creation myths” (epic poems) of other religions; Hindu, Native American, Chinese, etc are often taught in mythical/epic formats
 - no reason from context to see the language as symbolic; in fact, it is written with an emphasis that indicates it is meant literally



Genesis 1

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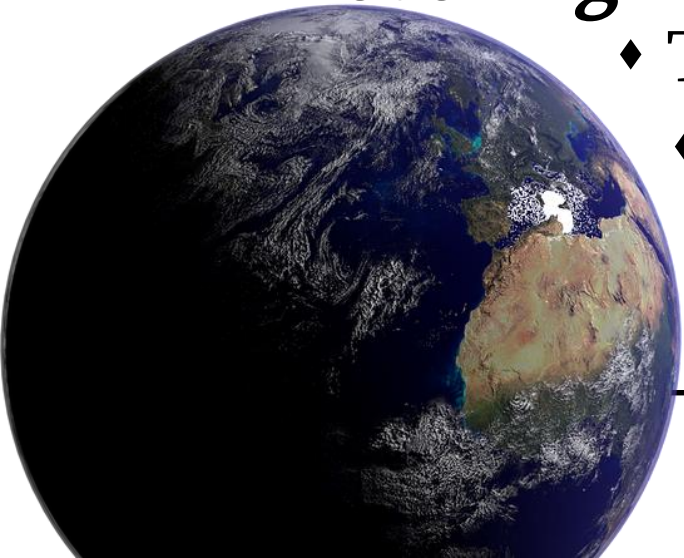
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- ◆ The language used here is not mythic, but as *historical* fact
- ◆ The eternal God (*outside* of time) created Day and Night, evening and morning; *time* begins here for all creation



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- Despite ‘scientific’ allegations, creation is not the result of random forces operating mysteriously over billions of years. Rather, it is the result of the intelligent and creative force of God working during six 24-hour days
- all that began on this “first day” is moving toward a “last day” in which the Lord will “judge the world in righteousness” [John 12:48; Acts 17:31]

Genesis 1

The Nature of God

Consider what we have learned of God's nature from **just one day** of creation

- ✓ God is **ETERNAL** (a uniquely Divine trait) [1:1]
- ✓ God is **SPIRIT** (He is not physical, He is not like man) [1:2]
- ✓ God's creative power resides in **HIS WORD** [1:3]
- ✓ God is **GOOD** (it is impossible for Him to think or to act by evil) [1:4]
- ✓ God is **HOLY** (He is separate from creation; His nature is to sanctify) [1:4]

God's first creation was Light to dispel the Darkness...

The creation must have physical light for life and vision. In Christ, the new creation gains *spiritual* life and vision by His "light":

- John 1:4, 9: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... That was the true Light which gives light to every man..."
- John 9:5: "...I am the light of the world." [cp Revelation 21:23]

Would you
allow the Light
of God to give
you TRUE life?

Genesis 1