


“The Nature of God”

a study of Genesis 1

part two:
“A God of Order”
Genesis
1:6-25



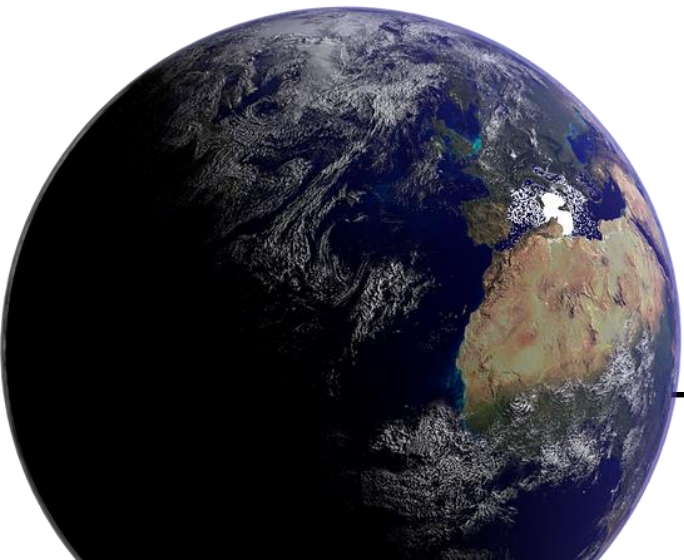
WELCOME! We are grateful you are here,
and we are excited to share God’s word with you!
Friday, February 21, 2020 – 8:30 pm

←———— The Nature of God —————→

Genesis 1:6-13

“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

- ♦ God *speaks*, God “*divides*”, and God *names* again
 - “...God called the firmament **Heaven**” [v8]



Genesis 1

The Nature of God

The "Heavens"

The Bible speaks of three "heavens":

"Heaven" [Gn 1:6]



- the blue sky, covered by clouds and filled with an atmosphere to sustain the breath of terrestrial beings
- the dwelling-place of birds: cp Genesis 1:6-8, 20; see also Psalm 8:8; etc



Genesis 1

The Nature of God

The "Heavens"

The Bible speaks of three "heavens":

"Heaven" [Gn 1:6]



The "heavens":



- the rest of the physical universe that lies beyond earth's atmosphere; outer space
- the 'home' of the planets and the stars:
cp Genesis 1:14-16; Psalm 19:1; etc



Genesis 1

The Nature of God

The "Heavens"

The Bible speaks of three "heavens":

"Heaven" [Gn 1:6]

The "heavens":

The "third heaven"
or "heaven of heavens":



**All of the heavens were made by God:
Deuteronomy 10:14**

- God's "dwelling-place":
see Rev 4:1; 12:7-9; and
cp 2 Corinthians 12:2-4;
1 Kings 8:27; Neh 9:6



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

Genesis 1:6-13

“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

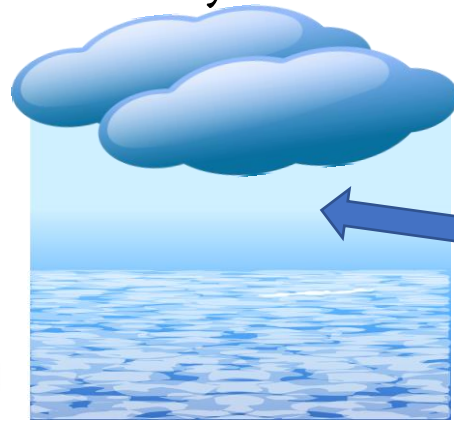
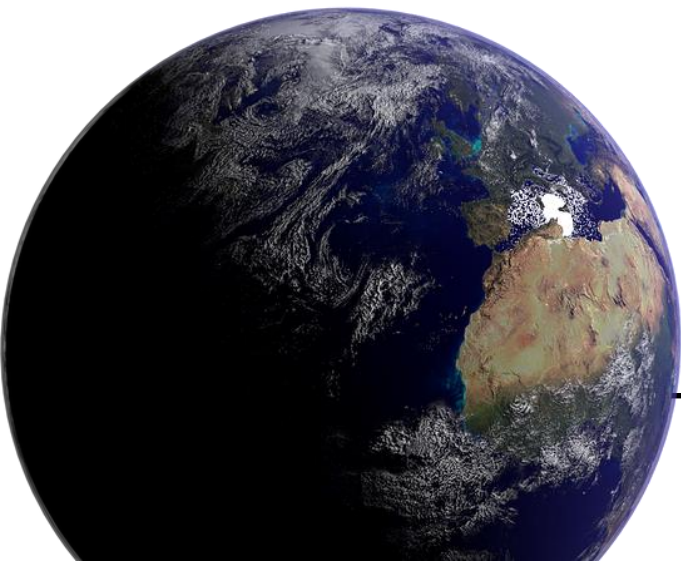
♦ God speaks, God “divides”, and God names again

- “...God called the firmament **Heaven**” [v8]

• this firmament would “divide the waters from the waters” [v6]

• a division of waters “**under** the firmament” from waters “**above** the firmament” [v7]

- this is the creation of the water cycle, an atmosphere; a covering layer of clouds separated from an enormous ocean by means of *the sky* [cp 2 Peter 3:5-7]



“waters...above the firmament”

“Heaven” = *sky, atmosphere*

“waters...under the firmament”

Genesis 1

←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

Genesis 1:6-13

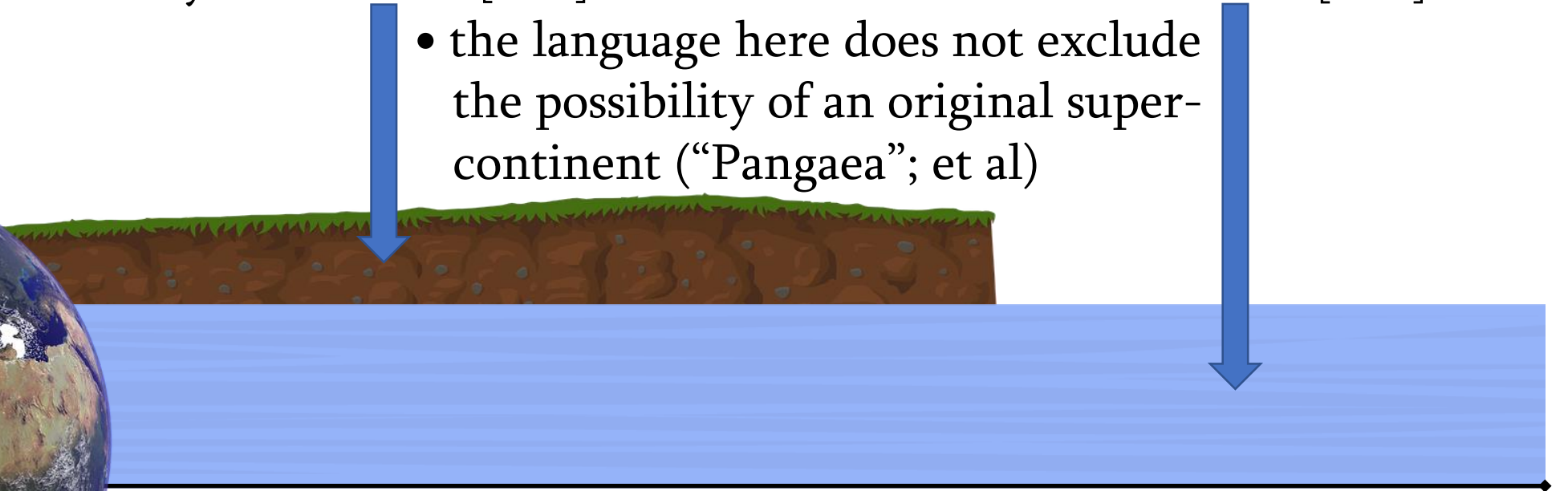
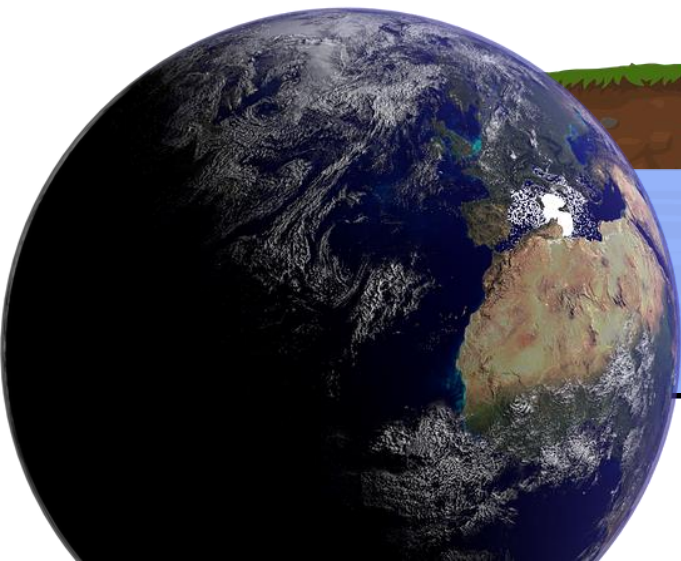
“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

“Let the waters...be gathered together into one place...” [v9]

“...and let the dry land appear” [v9]

- “And God called the dry land **Earth**” [v10] “and...the waters He called **Seas**” [v10]

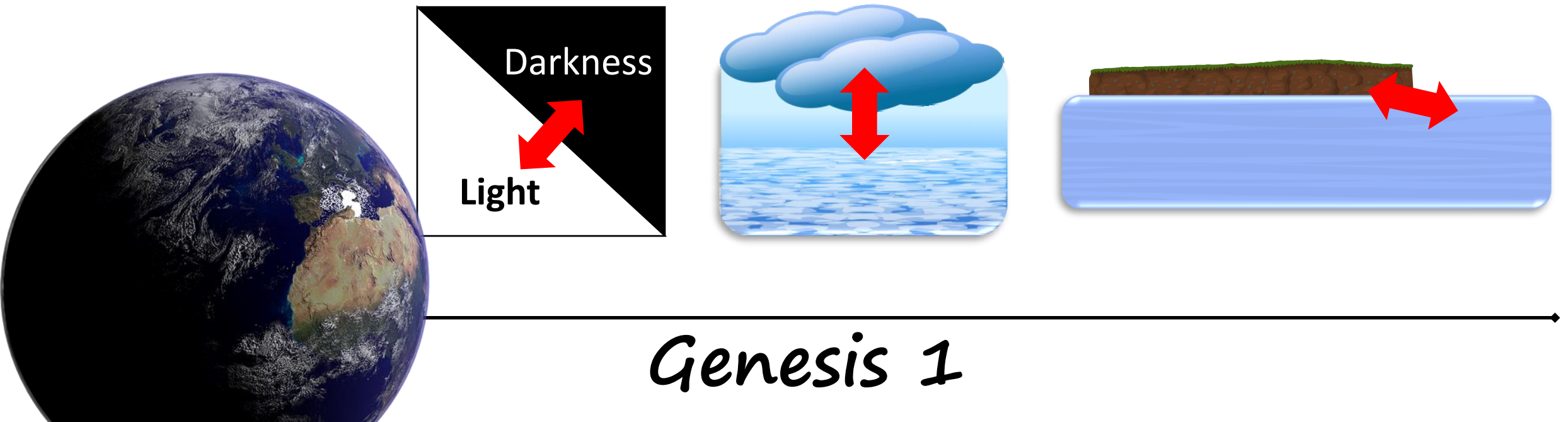
- the language here does not exclude the possibility of an original super-continent (“Pangaea”; et al)



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

When God divides light (“Day”) from darkness (“Night”) [1:4-5], and the waters below from the waters above the firmament [1:6-7], and the Seas from the dry land of Earth [1:9-10], He shows He is a God of order; His powerful word ordains things, placing *form* where before there was only chaos...



← The Nature of God →

A God of Order

The commandments of the Creator give order to (**ordain, organize**) the creation

“And the LORD God **commanded** (Hb ‘tsavah’; **order, divinely ordain**) the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...’” Genesis 2:16-17

“You shall observe My judgments and keep My **ordinances**, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 18:4

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given **orders** to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also...”

1 Corinthians 16:1

“Let all things be done decently and in **order**.”

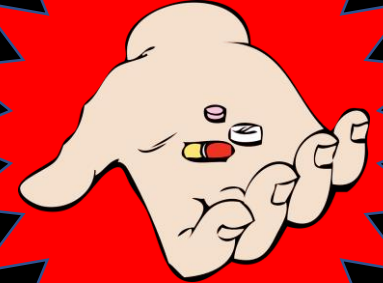
1 Corinthians 14:40



Genesis 1

The Nature of God

A God of Order



If God's word is so powerful and is meant to bring *order*, then why do we see so much ***DISORDER?***



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

A God of Order

The commandments of the Creator give order to (**ordain, organize**) the creation
Disorder is the result of **disobedience** to the Creator's **orders**

“**Because** you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which **I commanded you ...cursed** is the ground **for your sake**” Genesis 3:17

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire** before the LORD, **which He had not commanded them**... **fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died**” Leviticus 10:1-2

Multiply this
by 7.3 billion people
on earth today (or by
all who have ever lived
and sinned!) It would
be just what we see:

chaos!

...we command you, brethren...that you **withdraw from**
...brother who walks **disorderly**...” 2 Thessalonians 3:6

...and Gomorrah... having given themselves over to
...**immorality**... are set forth as **an example, suffering**
...**recompense of eternal fire....**” Jude 7

Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

Genesis 1:6-13

“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

“Let the waters...be gathered together into one place...” [v7]

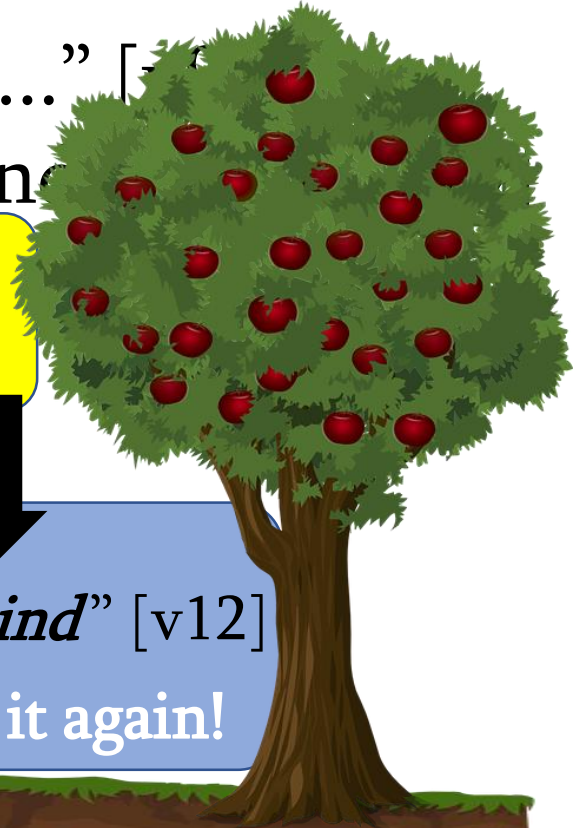
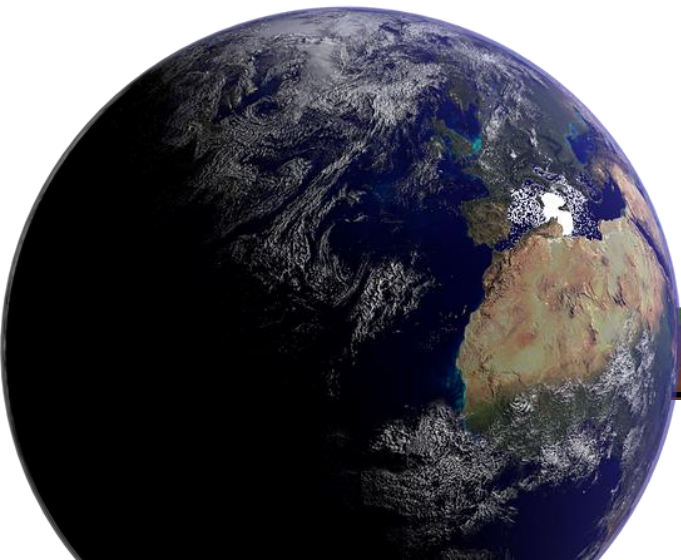
“...and let the dry land

“Let the earth bring forth grass,
the herb that yields seed,
and the fruit tree that yields fruit...” [v11]

The God of order establishes
a **natural law** to govern the
reproduction of plant species

- “...whose seed is in itself
according to its kind” [v12]

A law so efficient we will see it again!

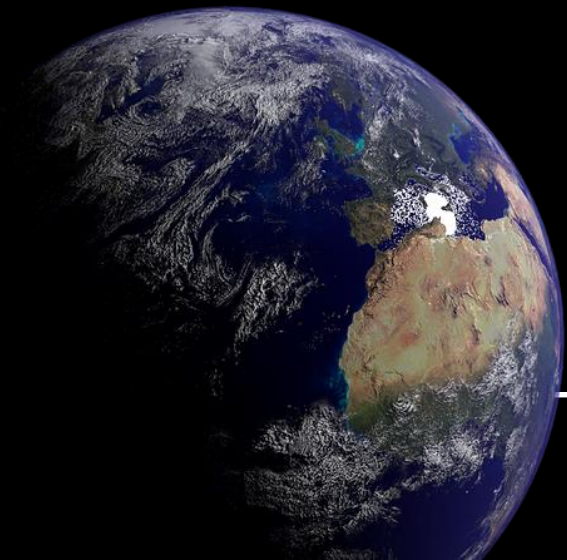


Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

Consider what we learn of God's nature from His account of the 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 is a GOD OF ORDER (disobedience to his word brings disorder) [1:6-9]*



→
Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

Genesis 1:14-19

“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...” [v14]

♦ “...to *divide* the day from the night” [v14] “...let them be for *signs*” [v14]

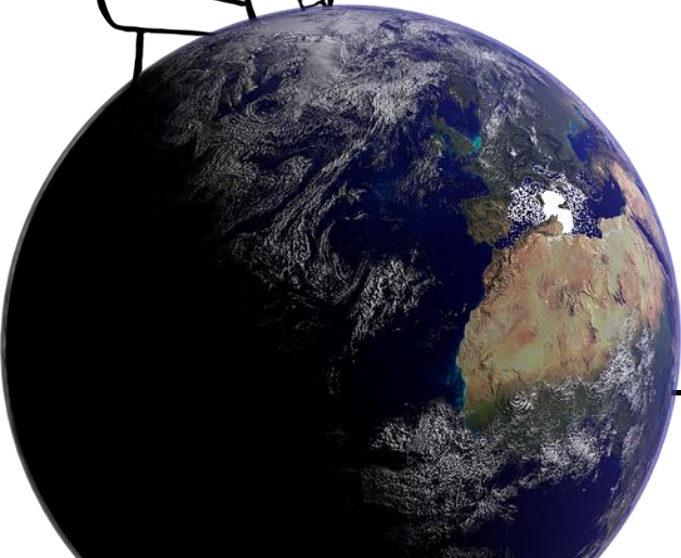
- didn't God *already do* this? [vv4-5]
? - who needs signs and is
able to understand them?



SIGN (noun):

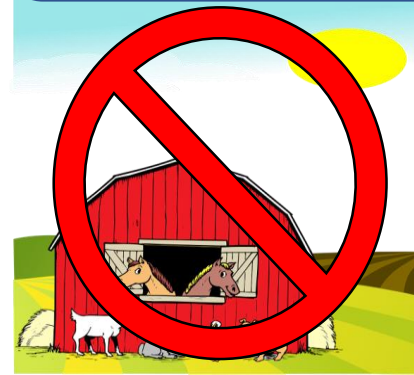
1. a token; *indication*.
2. any object, action, event, pattern, etc., that *conveys a meaning*.

[Dictionary.com]



Plants?

Animals?



God?



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“...let them be for signs”

Sometimes the Lord **literally** uses heavenly bodies as indicators

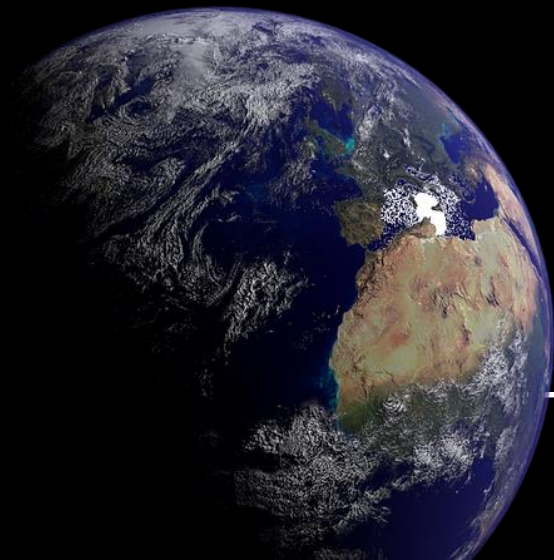
“The **heavens** declare the glory of God; And the **firmament** shows His handiwork. ...In them He has set a tabernacle for **the sun**...” Psalm 19:1, 4 (*heavens = God exists*)

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen **His star** in the East and have come to worship Him.’” Matthew 2:1-2
(*an actual heavenly body indicated where the Christ was born*)

“Now **from the sixth hour until the ninth hour** there was **darkness over all the land**.” Matthew 27:45 (*some special heavenly event [not an eclipse!] indicated God’s wrath over sin*)

cp also Joshua’s “long day” [Joshua 10:11-14]; Hezekiah’s request that the sun go backward “ten degrees” [2 Kg 20:1-11; Isaiah 38:7-8] (*God’s power over creation is clearly indicated*)

Genesis 1



← The Nature of God →

Genesis 1:14-19

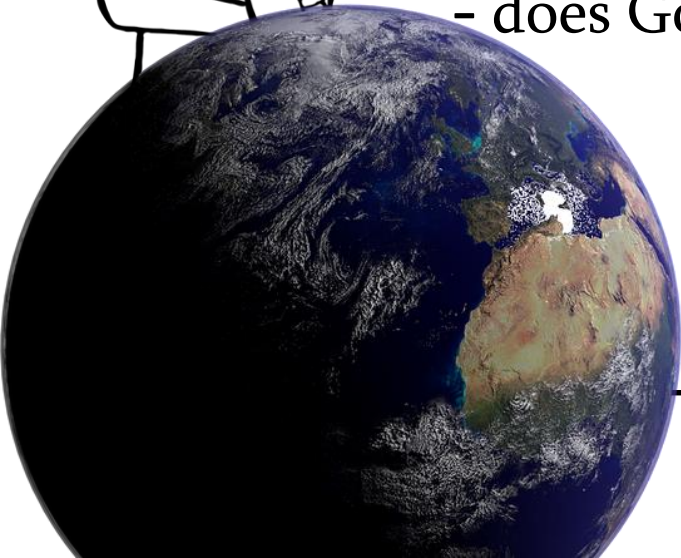
“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...” [v14]

- ♦ “...to *divide* the day from the night” [v14] “...let them be for *signs*” [v14]
- ♦ “...let them be for *signs*” [v14]
- ♦ “...let them be for lights” [v15, 17]



- didn't God *already do* this? [vv4-5]
- ? - who needs signs and is able to understand them?
- does the *eternal* God need to mark passing of time?
- does God need the light to see?

God made these things (and all things!) thinking of man (me and you!) *before* there was ever any man on the earth!



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

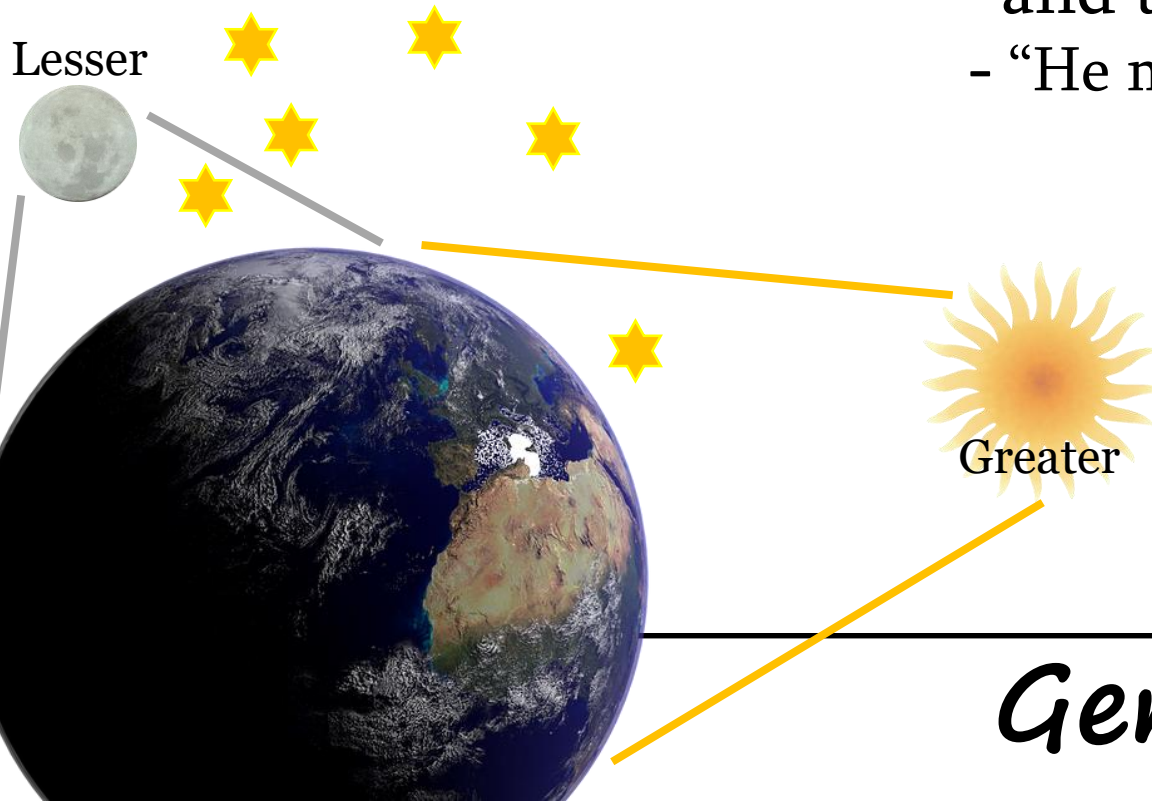
Genesis 1:14-19

“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...” [v14]

♦ “...to *divide* the day from the night” [v14] “...let them be for *signs*” [v14]

♦ “God made two great lights: the greater light *to rule* the day,
and the lesser light *to rule* the night” [v16, 18]

- “He made the stars also” [v16]



The two “great lights” **‘rule’** in two ways:

1. they “**give light** on the earth”, making life and work possible [cp John 9:4];
2. they “**divide** the light from...darkness” to establish the presence of the kingdom (*rule*) of God [cp Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9; etc]

Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“...let them be for signs”

Sometimes the Lord **literally** uses heavenly bodies as indicators

At other times the Lord uses heavenly bodies **figuratively**

“How you have fallen from heaven, O **star of the morning** (latin, ‘lucifer’), son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations.” Isaiah 14:12 (*king of Babylon [v4] pictured figuratively as a star falling*)

“...I will show wonders **in the heavens** and in the earth. **The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood**, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.” Joel 2:30-31 (*a figure of judgment; the heavenly ‘rulers’ humbled by the presence of God; cp Joel 2:10; 3:15; Isaiah 13:10*)

“The city had **no need of the sun or of the moon to shine** in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.” Rev 21:23 (*“New Jerusalem” figuratively governed by the light of God; cp the use of “outer darkness” in Matt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30*)



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

Genesis 1:20-25

“Let the waters **abound** with an **abundance** of living creatures” [v20]

◆ God decrees a **filling** of the earth, an **abundance** of creatures [vv21-22]

◆ “...God **blessed** them, saying, ‘Be **fruitful** and **multiply**...’” [v22]

After creating **light** to dissipate the **darkness** [v3, vv15-18], and after organizing (**ordering**) His creation [vv6-10], God then **fills** the emptiness (**void**) on *the earth* [vv11-12; plants], in *the heavens* [vv14-18; sun, moon, and stars], in *the sea* [vv20-22], in *the sky* [vv20-22; birds], and also over the face of *all the earth* [vv24-25; creeping things, beasts, cattle]. He has **resolved** the three pending issues present in Genesis 1:2!

- God’s law for production and reproduction of seed “according to its kind” is so efficient it is **repeated 7 times** here during the creation of the distinct (“*separate*”) animal species! [vv21, 24-25]



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“...according to its kind”

The Bible's creation account **does not allow for the general theory of evolution**

♦ This feels like a difficult declaration these days because “science” is so sure of itself!

- if we speak up about these things, we are ridiculed as “science deniers” or worse!

- there are a few things we would do well to remember about science:

① real science depends on the process of **observation**

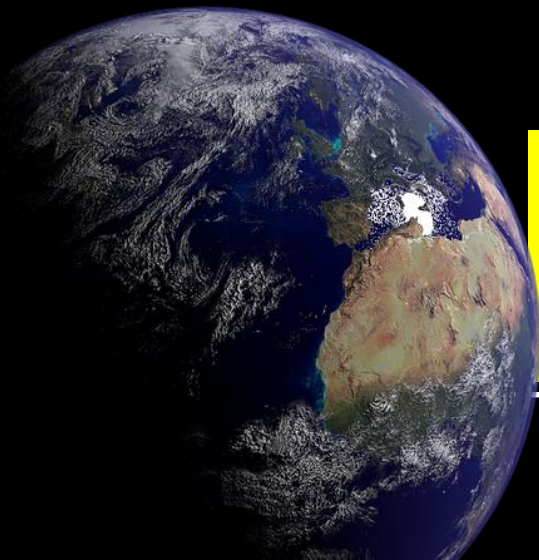
- science has not created the world, but merely **observes** it; God claims to speak from His position as Creator. Man is **limited!**

- the observer's ‘position’, his ‘vision’ (Darwin had no microscope), his biases and preconceived ideas might falsify his conclusions

The scientific method

a method of procedure that has characterized natural science since the 17th century, consisting in **systematic observation**, measurement, and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses. [Dictionary.com]

Genesis 1

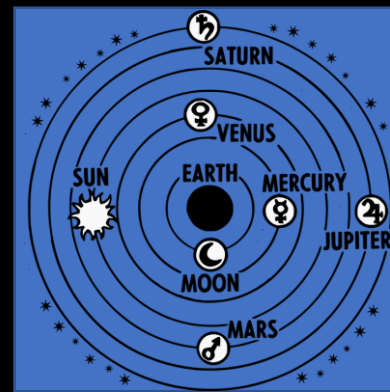
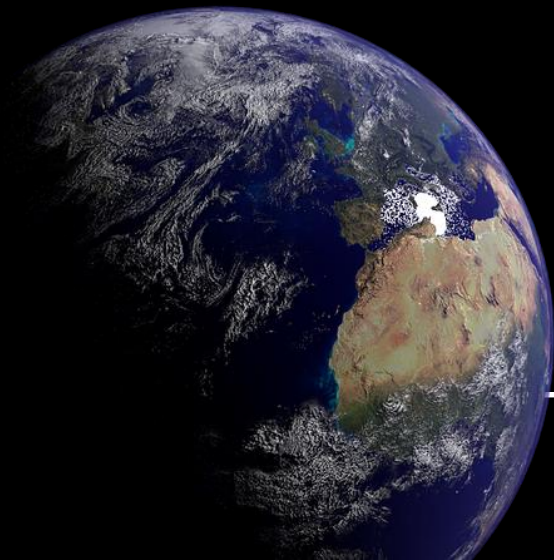


← The Nature of God →

“...according to its kind”

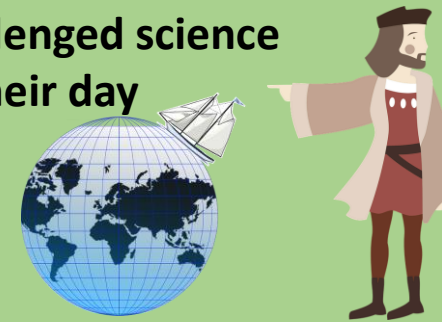
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 - if we speak up about these things, we are ridiculed as “science deniers” or worse!
 - there are a few things we would do well to remember about science:
 - ① real science depends on the process of **observation**
 - ② science has **often** been wrong
 - give it 200 years; much of what we believe will be seen as error!

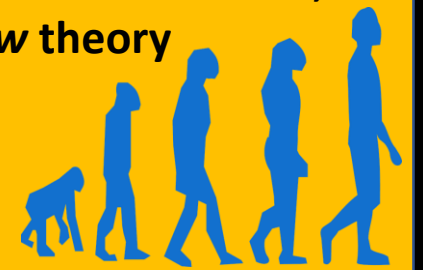


Geocentrism
reigned till
late 1500s

Columbus and others
challenged science
of their day



200 years ago no one
believed evolution; a
new theory



Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“...according to its kind”

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- there are a few things we would do well to remember about science:

① real science depends on the process of **observation**

② science has **often** been wrong

③ we need not **fear** real science, but **embrace** it

- the more we **observe** what God has made, the more we should come to know and love Him and the beauty of His intelligence

- Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, Albert Einstein, and others saw observational science as a way to draw near to the Creator

- science and the Bible are not an either/or proposition!



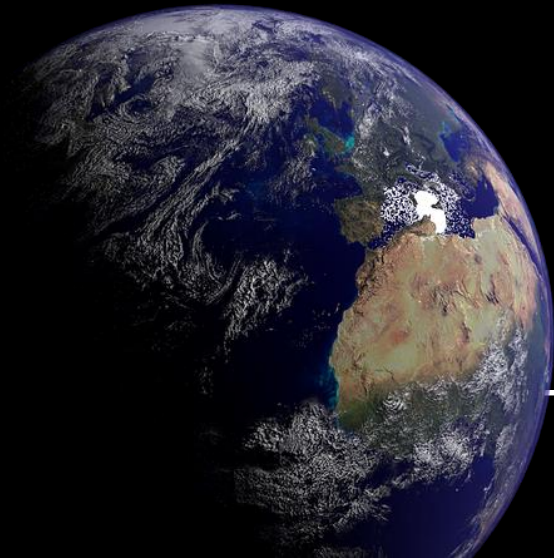
Genesis 1

← The Nature of God →

“...according to its kind”

The Bible’s creation account **does not allow for the general theory of evolution**

- ◆ This feels like a difficult declaration these days because “science” is so sure of itself!
 - if we speak up about these things, we are ridiculed as “science deniers” or worse!
 - there are a few things we would do well to remember about science:
 - since science cannot prove or disprove the existence of God, any “science” that on principle rejects the possibility of God is foolishness [cp Rom 1:19-23]
- ◆ The Bible register offers the most plausible explanations for those things that science observes; and, while science cannot prove or disprove God, the facts of revelation [miracles, fulfilled prophecies, etc] can!
 - God does not expect us to believe based on “science” but on “faith” – cp Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17



Genesis 1

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- ✓ God is **HOLY** (He is separate from creation; His nature is to sanctify) [1:4]
- ✓ God is a **GOD OF ORDER** (disobedience to his word brings disorder) [1:6-9]
- ✓ God is a **GOD WHO PLANS** (He made the physical creation for man before man ever existed) [1:14; cp Eph 1:4; etc]
- ✓ God is **LORD** (He governs His creation by fixed laws) [1:11, 21, 24; only God has the power to break the fixed laws - the definition of miracle (cp John 3:2)]



Genesis 1