

DAY FOUR -- SUN, MOON, STARS, TIMES

Sunday, October 11, 2026 -- GENESIS 1-11 series -- msg 8 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

GENESIS 1:14-19

English Standard Version (ESV)

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights—the **greater light** to rule the day and the **lesser light** to rule the night—and the **stars**. **17** And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

REVIEW:

Day One: God created light and separated light from darkness.

Day Two: God separated the waters from the expanse, made the sky.

Day Three: God separated land and sea, made vegetation.

Day Four: God separated the day from the night. (time)

Other repeated statements in Genesis 1 so far:

And God said...	God's sovereign <u>command</u>
Let there be...	God's creative <u>decree</u>
And it was so.	The <u>certainty</u> of His will
God made...	God's direct creative <u>action</u>
God separated...	God's <u>purposeful ordering</u>
God called...	God's <u>authority</u> to name
God saw that it was good.	God's <u>perfection</u>

We have seen God create light, separate the waters, establish the land and seas, and cover the earth with vegetation. Now, on Day Four, God inspires Moses to direct our attention upward—to the heavens.

KEY OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT:

1. Notice God's MAIN ACTIONS of Day Four.

Vs 14 — God COMMANDS: “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens...”

Vs 15 — God DECLARES THEIR PURPOSE: “to give light upon the earth.”

Vs 16 — God MAKES: “the two great lights... and the stars.”

Vs 17 — God PLACES: “God set them in the expanse of the heavens.”

Vs 18 — God ASSIGNS THEIR RULE: “to rule over the day and over the night.”

Vs 18–19 — God EVALUATES and COMPLETES: “God saw that it was good.”

DAYS 1–3 — God FORMS

Day 1 — Light and darkness

Day 2 — Sky and waters

Day 3 — Land and vegetation

DAYS 4–6 — God FILLS

Day 4 — Sun, moon, stars

Day 5 — Birds and sea creatures

Day 6 — Animals and mankind

2. God creates the SUN, MOON and STARS. vs 16

16 *And God made the two great lights—the **greater light** to rule the day and the **lesser light** to rule the night—and the stars.”*

Consider our SUN:

- Approximately 93 million miles from Earth.
- Approximately 865,000 miles in diameter.
- About 109 Earths could fit across its diameter.
- About 1,300,000 Earths could fit inside the sun.
- Contains approximately 99.86% of the mass of our solar system.
- Its light takes approximately 8 minutes to reach Earth.

Consider the STARS:

- Our Milky Way contains an estimated 400 billion stars.
- The universe contains hundreds of billions of galaxies.
- Number of stars in the observable universe 10^{22} to 10^{24}
- A Red Supergiant Star: **UY Scuti** is 900-1,100 solar radii in size.
 - Diameter is 864 million miles across
 - 1,000 of our suns could fit across its diameter
 - 1 billion of our suns could fit inside UY Scuti

Notice the astounding statement at the end of vs 16.

No elaborate explanation. No struggle. No competing deity.

and the stars in Hebrew *wā'ēt hakkôkābîm* or אֶת הַכּוֹכָבִים:

PSALM 33:6

*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*

ISAIAH 40:21-26

²¹ *Do you not know? Do you not hear?*

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,*

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

²³ *who brings princes to nothing,*

and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁵ *To whom then will you compare Me,
that I should be like Him? says the Holy One.*

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:

who created these?

*He who brings out **their host** by number,*

calling them all by name;

by the greatness of His might

and because He is strong in power,

not one is missing.

PSALM 147:4-5

He determines the number of the stars;

He gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

His understanding is beyond measure.”

3. God appoints the heavenly lights to serve His PURPOSES

14 *And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,
and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon
the earth.*

A. To SEPARATE Day from Night.

- Day One light and darkness are separated (but without the sun)
- Now the sun and moon regulate that distinction.
- God is progressively establishing the measurement of TIME.
(‘In the beginning’, ‘first day’, ‘evening and morning’, etc)

B. To ESTABLISH Signs, Seasons, Days, Years.

- The sun’s daily movement helps mark the day.
- The moon’s phases provide a natural basis for months.
- The Earth’s annual revolution around the sun provides the year.
- The recurring positions of the sun mark the seasons.

God is establishing ordered rhythms by which human life will be lived.

(Imagine no day and night. Imagine no change.)

From planting to harvest to birthdays to anniversaries to feasts and remembrances,
the calendar and seasons play a huge role in life experience and maturing.

C. To give LIGHT upon the earth. vs 15 and 17

- All this builds on DAY THREE (Land & Vegetation).
- God is preparing the earth for animals and people.
- Again, imagine no moon. Never light at night – for most of history.

4. God creates the heavenly bodies to RULE — but never to be WORSHIPED.

16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to **rule the day** and the lesser light to **rule the night**—and the **stars**. **17** And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18 to rule over the day and over the night**, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

God does not lead Moses to use the common names of the sun and moon of the pagans around them. The sun and moon were worshipped as deities.

God makes extremely clear that He created them.

God makes clear that He created them with purposes.

God gives them a functional rule, **not** a divine rule.

DEUTERONOMY 4:15-20 Moses Gives Warnings Against Idolatry

¹⁵ “Therefore **watch yourselves** very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, ¹⁶ **beware** lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, ¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. ¹⁹ And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. ²⁰ But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

JEREMIAH 10:2

Do not learn the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them.

Throughout the scriptures, God fully condemns ASTROLOGY.

The stars are not divine authorities determining your personality, destiny or future.

Astrology is occult worship (means ‘hidden’ or ‘secret’).

APPLICATION / MEDITATION:

God’s creation of the heavens can enhance your relationship with Him:

LOOK UP -- AND WORSHIP HIM.

LOOK UP -- AND TRUST HIM.

LOOK UP -- AND OBEY HIM.

PSALM 8:1, 3-5

- 1 O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens.
- 3 When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
- 4 what is man that You are mindful of him,
and the son of man that You care for him?
- 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

**SEE GOD’S
GLORY AND
GRACE!**