

GENESIS 1-3  
Message 10

INTRO: Genesis 1:14-19 (read). We have spent a fair bit of time on the first four days of creation. In our last message we looked at the creation of these lights in general, and this morning we want to look at the creation of these lights specifically. We find that in 15-16. That is the creation of the astro sphere. After the fourth day, the inanimate creation is complete; four days for the inanimate creation. On the fifth and sixth day God will create the animal world and mankind, living beings that can move about on their own. The finishing of the creation of light will prepare this world for animate beings.

Now I read last week that science tells us that light is made up of three rays, or groups of wave lengths. I understand that these three rays are distinct from each other and all three must be present in order for there to be light. Each ray has its own separate function. The first ray originates, the second ray formulates or illuminates or manifests, and the third ray consummates. The first ray is invisible. It can't be seen or felt. The second ray is seen and felt. The third ray is not seen but is felt as heat. It consummates. I was thinking of heat as I was doing this message. I was reminded of a physics professor who called on one of his students to list some of the characteristics of heat and cold. This student explained that things expand when they heat up and contract in the cold. Now the professor was a good professor and he wanted some illustration of this. So the student said, "Well, that is simple" and we know this up north here, you see, in the summer the days are long and in the winter they are short! Well, we are looking at the creation of light in verses 16-19.

2. The creation of lights in particular (1:16-19)

a. Creation of these lights (1:16)

So we were looking at the creation of the lights. It tells us in this verse that God made two great lights. These refer to the sun and the moon. Let me ask a little trivia question: Is the sun a planet or a star? Yes, it's a star. The sun is a star. A star, I

understand, is a self gravitating glowing mass that doesn't move about like the planets do. The sun is 93 million miles away. How many light minutes is it away? Eight light minutes. Now light travels a little more than 11 million miles a minute. Now they can measure light so precisely that they thought they had it down to a science until a while ago they found they were out just a little bit.

Now the heat of the sun is 27 million degrees fahrenheit. Imagine this morning a fire at Tompkins Landing, at the river that you could feel the heat of here at the church. How hot would it have to be? Now imagine a fire at Whitehorse, in the Yukon. How hot would it have to be for us to feel it here? Well, think of one in Germany. How hot would it have to be for us to feel it here. Well, that is small yet. Think of one 25,000 miles away, that you could feel the heat of here. How hot would it have to be? Well, that is small yet. Think of 100,000 miles away. How hot would it have to be. That is still small. How about 1 million miles away. How hot would it have to be? That is still very small. The sun is 93 million miles away and we feel the heat here. Imagine the consummation of those wave lengths. Isn't that fantastic?

Our sun itself is mind boggling. Notice again that the description of creation is from a practical point of view, not a scientific point. We often speak in practical terms not scientific. When we speak of the sunrise we are not very scientific. We're talking practical. And creation is explained from a practical standpoint of view. Now we are told that God created two great lights. The sun is a relatively small star. There are stars that are much larger. Dr. Harold Willmington writes that if the sun were hollow it could hold 1 million 300 earths. The star Antares could hold 64 million suns. So the sun is still small. There is a certain star in the cluster of Hercules which could contain 100 million Antares stars. I am not sure. Does anyone know

the name of that star? Is it Epsilon. The star Epsilon could hold 27 billion of our suns. So the sun is not that big in comparison. I do not know the accuracy of all those things but if they are anywhere near, it is phenomenal. We have a telescope at our house. And you can turn it on the moon and see the craters and the cracks on the moon. When you turn that telescope to the stars, it doesn't hardly make any difference at all. It makes a big difference on the moon because it is relatively close. But it hardly makes any difference on the stars because they are so far away. You see, this is explained in practical terms. The sun is the greater light. When you look at the sun, does it look bigger than the moon? It is about the same size to look at. But it calls it the greater light here. Why? Well, you can call something greater for various reasons. There are some people much greater than I, but they're smaller than I am. I think that is what we have here. For then God made two lights, the greater light to rule the day. It is greater in perspective of importance. You turn off the light of the moon, how much difference does it make? Turn off the light of the sun. How much difference does that make? Yes, its greater. The greater light was to rule the day.

Now the purpose of this greater light is given in our text as to rule the day. And it does. It rules the day. There are so many areas in which it rules the day. You see, when the sun appears, the moon loses its luster. It is the greater light. Now Let us make an application out of that this morning. The sun is the light source of the earth. Look at 1:15. The purpose of this light is to give light on the earth. Now this teaches us a deep spiritual lesson. As the earth needs light to give life, so the world needs light to have life. Now, what is the difference between the earth and the world? Yes, the world is mankind and the earth is the physical mass. God so loved the world, not the earth. God didn't so love the earth that He sent His Son to die. He so loved the

world, That is you and I. That is people. God so loved the world. Now if you hide the sun from the physical earth and everything just wilts and die. Hide the spiritual sun and everything becomes corrupt. As the earth needs the sun to give light and life, so the world needs the light of the Son of God for life.

Turn to John 8:12 (read). We are not talking visible light. We are talking about spiritual light. And without this light we walk in darkness (John 8:5, read). Now Jesus is not here any longer physically. And remember that the earth and the world are not the same. And the earth is the physical planet and needs the sun. And we, the world need the Son of God in order to live. Hide the sun from the earth and darkness reigns. Hide the Son of God from this world and darkness reigns. Go to some place where the Son of God is not known and see how darkness rules. Watch some of these ungodly nations where they worship idols. I talked to a young missionary from Nepal, and He said the darkness is so deep you can feel it. I heard of a native doing missionary work among the natives and sometimes when they went into these reserves, the darkness was so heavy they could feel it. Hide the Son of God from this world and evil reigns.

I have watched with interest our politicians, educators and scientists and our psychologists, in all of their great boasts of answers to man's need, darkness reigns. They haven't got it. Apart from the Son of God we do not have the light needed for life. I have watched the church influenced by the world in their high knowledge, and darkness enters the Church. You see, it is Jesus Christ who is the light of the world. We are no more capable of being the light to this world without Jesus Christ than we are capable of existing on this earth without the sun. A light force that generates physical light is absolutely essential to life on this earth. A light source that generates spiritual life is absolutely essential to our spiritual life.

Now we want to look for a moment back in genesis at the lesser light (1:16). The lesser light was to rule the night. The moon, though it is not technically a planet, we call it a planet. It is actually a satellite, I understand. It is called a planet because of its size and importance. Now the word planet comes from the Greek word planeetes, meaning wanderers. The stars stay in one place but the planets wander. They move. We know that from the moon and other planets. Planets revolve around other bodies in the heavens.

We saw in our last message the difference between the solar, sun year; and lunar or moon year. We saw the significance of this in prophecy in the Bible. Now the lesser light is to rule the night. Its prime time is night time. Let me take an application from the moon to our life here in this world. Turn to John 9:5 (read). Today Jesus is not in this world, physically, visibly as He was. Jesus went back to heaven. Turn to Philippians 2:14-16 (read). The word for light is phoster. It means a luminary. You see, we are not the light. According to this text we are luminaries. A luminary reflects light. You see, we are not the light. We are luminaries. Like the moon to the sun, so are we to this world. Jesus Christ left this earth. We are left here as luminaries. Unless our light shines, this world will never come to know Christ. You see, it is night time and we are the light of the world. You know what happens to a luminary when it has dark spots on it? The light reflects dimly when it has dark spots. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "You are the light of the world." Do you know what our light is? Turn to Matthew 5:14-16. What is our light? It is our life. How we live, the things we do, our actions, that is our light. So, this past week, and the people you dealt with; the people you were with, were you light? Did they see God? Your work and your actions. Did they see God? Our life in the home. Our life in the business world. Who do they get to see. Jesus

said, "If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness." If I live in sin as a Christian, how great is that darkness? What chance does the world have when they see us?

Some year the mayor of Toronto launched a light the night campagne. The idea was for residents to leave their lights on over night in order to discourage crime. A similar program was run in California. And according to the article I read, reports show that crime was reduced fantastically. Well, we know when crime wants to happen. We know from Quesnel where we lived, one of the crime capitals of B.C. You didn't want to be at the 7 Eleven alone at night. Night time was the dangerous time, not day time. The light and the darkness, here we have it. The children's song says, "This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine." That is an adult song isn't it? That is a song we should live and practice in our life. It is theologically accurate.

Well, we want to notice in our text one other area of light (1:16). The last part says simply, "He made the stars also." Talking about the sun and moon as the greater lights. And now the stars which are a million times bigger than either of these, of these He says, "And He made the stars also." God talks about these two lights, and then about the millions of stars. Did you know the stars are numberless so far? The bigger the scopes they make, the more stars they find. They don't have any idea how many are out there. God knew this way back. In the text the stars are mentioned in such a way as to indicate their significance to mankind. With regard to a practical explanation of creation, we read, "He made the stars also." There are literally zillions of stars literally millions of times bigger than the sun, and He says of them all, "He made the stars also."

Consider for a moment the distance involved in the astro sphere. I quote from Dr. Harold

Willmington again. He says, "Let us say for a moment that the thickness of a paper represents the distance from earth to the sun. (93. mill. miles). To reach the nearest star (41/2 light years away), you would need a stack of paper 71 feet high. To cover the diameter of the our milky way, which is 100,000 light years across, would require a stack of paper 310 miles high. To reach the edge of the now known universe, would take a stack of paper 31 million miles high." Amazingly, while man thought he could number the stars and that they were some 1200 in number (a great teacher, Ptolomy dogmatically declared the stars to be 1056. That was somewhere around Christ's time. Do you know what God said to Abraham, back in Genesis? I am going to increase your seed like the sand of the seashore. How much is that? Who would like to count that? Then he says, "...like the stars of the heavens." 1056? I tell you God was a scientist from the beginning. He knows all of these things.

Let us draw an application from the stars this morning. First, it is not the size of things that makes them important. Someone has said it is not the size of the dog in the fight that counts, it's the size of the fight in the dog. You see, you may think you are really somebody. It is not the size of things that makes them significant to us. Do you know what makes them significant to us? It is how useful they are to us. How useful is the star Antares to us? How about the sun? So it is not the matter of size. Epsilon really is not that important. It's not even mentioned in the Bible. It has no practical value to us. But hide the sun for a week, and we start to complain.

But let's draw another application from this, from the fact that of the number of the stars. I was going to look up a verse this morning. I neglected it. But it says though the stars are numberless, God calls them all by name. I wonder this morning; has life dealt you a

heavy blow. Maybe your life is not easy. Maybe you think, "I just don't make any difference whatsoever." Maybe you feel your life is pointless. I want you to know this morning, no matter who you are or where you are, God knows you all by name. He loves everyone of us. That is a tremendous truth to remember.

b. Placement of these lights (1:17-19)

There is something else in our text we want to note before we close. "Then God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, He made the stars also." God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth. God set these lights in the firmament of the heavens. The word translated set is the Hebrew word *natan* from which we get the name Nathan. It is to give or a gift. It can also be used to put or place or set. God set them in their place. Isn't it amazing why the earth stays where it does? Why doesn't it spin off and maybe get a little too close to the sun and scorch everybody? Why doesn't it spin off and go a little too far away and freeze everybody. Why? Why does it stay where it is? Why does it revolve and always follow a planned pattern so that we can determine things, knowing exactly where it will be next.?

What is it. In this text it says, "God set them there." Ask our evolutionist and see if they have the answer to these questions. I'll tell you, I have the answer. God through His Word, said the Psalmist, has made me wiser than my teachers. God set them there. God said, "Stay there. I don't want you to move." Now I've looked through the scope and have wished for a scope to look at the sun. I understand that the sun rotates. They can tell because it has sun spots. And they rotate. But I have looked at the moon a good many times. Do you know what I see? I always see exactly the same face. It never turns the other side to earth. Man did not know what the moon looked like on the other side until they went



up there with space ships. Every time I turn my scope to the moon that one diamond shaped outcropping is always in the same place. See, God set them there. He said that is the way it will be and that is why they stay where they are. God set them there.

Now notice in verses 17-18, God set them in the firmament of the heavens to rule over the day and over the night and to divide the light from the darkness and it was so. When you look at these verses you find that He first speaks of one thing and later He goes back to the same thing (Explain figure of speech, chiasmus). If you practice you can pick it out for yourself.

Chiasmus here.

Understanding this can be important to Bible interpretation. Sometimes there is one of these members that one cannot figure out the meaning of unless you find its mate over here and see what it means.

CONCL: So we conclude day 4 of creation. God saw, according to our text, everything that He had made and He said, "It is good!" And so we recall what good is, anything that lines up with the will and character of God. That is why I cannot call you good and you cannot call me good. Jesus said there is none good but one and that is God. But there is another item here that we are familiar with. Look at it in verse 19, "So the evening and the morning were the fourth day." I get a little perturbed at commentators some times. An old order preacher said once, many years ago, that commentators are just common taters. Yes, sometimes they say, "Well, the NT talks about body soul and spirit, but that is Platonic thinking. It lines up with Plato's thinking." Nonsense. Then they tell me, the expression the evening and the morning, that is Hebrew thinking. That is nonsense too. It is not Hebrew thinking. God began creation in the evening. That is why it is the evening and the morning.

So in just four days God has created all of the inanimate creation. What He has created thus far is the heavens and the earth, light, the firmament, the oceans, the dry land, vegetation, and the sun, moon and stars. Everything is now

ready to place animate beings on earth. Take one of these away you couldn't place animate beings on earth. It wouldn't be existible. So in just two more days, God will finish creation.