

The Anti-Myth

Throughout this study of Gn.1 you have heard me talk about the contrasts between the ANE creation myths and this account. Let me take a moment to talk to you about the purpose of a myth.

You need to know this, because the world will never give up its quest to convince you that the Genesis account is just another myth like all the others.

Perhaps you have wondered if the people back then really believed the myths. Did the Mesopotamians actually believe that in time and space there was an historical event in which a god was sliced in half, and that's how the sky was created?

The answer to that question is that they were not concerned about history. What they were concerned with was continuing the stability of the natural world and their society.

The ancient man looked around and saw that chaos was ever threatening to break down the structures of his life, and all he wanted to know was how could he guarantee that the orderly life achieved in the beginning by the triumph of the gods over the chaos would continue?

His solution to the dilemma was myth and ritual. By the use of the magical words of the myth accompanied by the performance of certain religious rituals he thought he could guarantee the stability of life.

As they recited the myth and performed the rituals, the primordial events recorded in the myth were reactivated. They had to keep reactivating creation in order to hold chaos at bay.

It's really very similar to the way people today use prayer. Most people pray. They don't necessarily care about God or even believe He exists. They don't know Him or care to know Him.

But they superstitiously think if they just say their prayers it will help hold off the threatening dangers that lurk out there.

Against that backdrop, Genesis one comes not as another myth or even a non-myth but as an anti-myth.

There is nothing mythical at all, and certainly nothing we could repeat in a ritual that would have any effect on God. It just reads like an historical account.

What Moses is saying is, "The creation of the world isn't in the category of a myth, there were certain actual events that took place."

The pagan myths and rituals existed to enable the people to have some influence in their struggle with the dangers of nature that could wipe out their existence if chaos got the upper hand.

Genesis one shows that for God's people that perspective is 180 degrees from the way we should look at the world. There is no threat.

Creation isn't flaring out of God's control, but rather is dependent upon His sustaining and upholding it every moment, and He doesn't have to fight against it with our help. Rather, every

single created object from the greatest to the smallest never does anything but God's bidding.

Waltke: The calm, tranquil language of this account "eliminates all elements of struggle on the cosmic level and shows that the visible universe is not an uneasy balance of forces, but it is moderated by one supreme will, which imposes itself with effortless supremacy upon all that it has made...Instead of cosmic deities locked in mortal combat, God the Creator works calmly as a craftsman in his shop. There is no more danger that He will fall before the monster of chaos than there is that the chair will devour the carpenter."

Von Rad: In giving us Genesis one God freed man from the fear of creation which gave us the freedom to research it and bring it under our dominion...Man could now stand at a distance from matter as an observer, calm and unafraid.

So Genesis one is an anti-myth that shows us that the creation is not a monster to be manipulated through ritual, but a servant completely under the domination and authority of God.

Review

For the 1st 3 days we saw God zeroing in on the area where man would live.

He started in outer space and created light.

The next day He zoomed in a little closer and made the sky to separate the water in the sea from the water in the clouds.

On day three He prepared the earth itself.

Now everything is ready for man. The world is completely habitable. Now comes day 4.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night,

and let them be

for signs

for seasons

for days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

16 God made two great lights--

the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17

God set them in the expanse of the sky

to give light on the earth, 18

to govern the day and the night, and

to separate light from darkness.

And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

After day 3 the earth is habitable, but God does not make man yet. There is more to do.

At the beginning the earth was not only TOHU (uninhabitable), but it was also BOHU (empty). It is now habitable, but it is not full.

So after having beginning from the outside and working toward the earth making it habitable for delicate man, now God begins on the outside and works inward again, this time filling up the emptiness.

And each of the last three days correspond to the first three days in order. So he begins w/ the empty sky and fills it.

We really don't need the sun for the earth to be habitable. There was already light, already day and night, already morning and evening, etc. God just makes the heavenly bodies for effect - just sprinkles them in the sky as finishing touches to fill up the emptiness.

So the heavenly bodies are not God's rivals, they are His creatures.

3 Jobs

God gives them 3 jobs:

Job #1 Separation

1. **14 to separate the day from the night (light from darkness - v.18)**

But wait a minute - God already separated light from darkness on day 1. We have been having days and nights and mornings and evenings for 3 days now.

This verse does not imply that they were not already separated. It simply gives that duty to the sun and the moon.

For 3 days now God has directly regulated the separation of light and dark. When it was time for evening, He made the light grow dimmer until it was dark. When it was time for morning, he made it get lighter. After 3 days of doing that, he delegated the job to the sun and moon and enabled them to carry out that task.

He did it without the sun and moon for three days so we would all understand that it's not the sun and moon that ultimately govern the solar system. It's God. And to make that crystal clear He ran the solar system for three days with only the earth in existence.

Job #2 Illustration

and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, better

2. **let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.**

for signs

The word **sign** here is very often used of miracles. And that may be part of this – they do come in handy for miracles. Whenever God wants to do a miracle that is unmistakable, all He has to do is manipulate the heavenly bodies, and no one can argue.

But a **sign** is more than just a miracle. The word refers to any visible symbol or picture representing something (such as the sign of circumcision)

So what are the a sign of?

In 1893 E.W. Bullinger wrote a book titled *The Witness of the Stars*. The purpose of the book was to show that the entire Gospel is depicted in the zodiac. (Virgo is the virgin Mary, the serpent is Satan, etc.)

You may have heard of this, because just recently it has been promoted by D. James Kennedy and Chuck Missler.

The idea is that the zodiac functions as a clear witness of the Gospel to those who have never heard the Gospel preached.

But if it's a witness to the Gospel, why is it that those who are most obsessed with the zodiac are the ones least likely to understand the Gospel? And when they do understand it, the first thing they do is turn their backs on astrology?

I've studied the Gospel all my life, and I've preached it and proclaimed it and taught it for years, and I can't see it in the constellations. So how would someone who has never even heard it see it there (unless they get Bullinger's book)?

But if you need Bullinger's book to be able to know about it, what good is that? We already have a book that explains the Gospel.

People always want to figure out a way that maybe the heathen are saved without having to hear the Gospel preached by a missionary. But Romans 10 is clear enough – they can't believe unless they hear someone preach the Gospel.

So what kinds of signs are they?

What do the sun and moon represent in Scripture?

1. Beauty and magnificence.

SOS 6:10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

2. Permanence - something you can absolutely count on.

Ps.72:17 May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

There are not many things as sure as the fact that the sun will rise tomorrow. When God wants to show us how certain something is, He often compares it to this.

Ps.89:35 Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness-- and I will not lie to David-- 36 that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; 37 it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky."

Every single time that sun breaks the plane of the horizon in the morning is a rebuke to our worry, because it's a reminder of God's faithfulness.

Hos.6:3 As surely as the sun rises he will appear

The heavenly bodies illustrate God's permanence and faithfulness and reliability.

God made the stars so far away that from earth they appear to be fixed, even though they are moving at great speeds.

We can count on them to always be in the exact same place in the sky all the time.

For centuries man has been able to use the stars for navigation.

So do some species of birds. In one experiment one of those birds was hatched and raised indoors, so it never saw the sky. Then they painted the ceiling of the room with a view of the stars.

But it was a view of the stars from the perspective of a place on the earth where that specie of bird had never existed. And the bird was able to orient itself for it's migration direction by means of those stars.

3. a truth that is evident to everyone. No one doesn't know about the sun.

Ps.37:6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Concerned that no one realizes you are the one in the right? Or that no one appreciates what you have done or even knows about it?

Someday God will make it as obvious as the most obvious thing there is – the sun.

4. how Jesus will lead his people out of ignorance into truth

Lk.1:77 (Jesus will) **give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."**

5. Blessing from God -

Dt.33:13 **"May the LORD bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep waters that lie below; 14 with the best the sun brings forth and the finest the moon can yield**

And they not only illustrate the *fact* of God's blessing, but also the *manner* in which God bestows favor. The sunlight just splatters all over everything. That's like God's love.

It just showers down because it is His nature. It's not dependent upon the object.

Ps.84:11 **For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.**

If there is one thing the sun is not it is skimpy. Turn to Mt.5

It doesn't just dispense benefits here and there. It's not like the moon, which gives just enough light to see by if it is full and if there are no clouds and if your eyes are adjusted. The sun floods way more light than we need.

Jesus said that is to be our example as well. **43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

When you realize that the sun is an illustration of God's blessing, then you can understand Isa.30:25 **streams of water will flow on every high mountain and every lofty hill. 26 The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.**

Isaiah was not suggesting that in the kingdom the sun would literally be 7 times as hot. It's illustrative language meaning there would be 7 times the blessings are we see now. All God's kindness to man will be multiplied by 7.

6. Something that is far beyond us - too high, too bright, too awesome, and too far away for man to ever reach.

Job 22:12 **"Is not God in the heights of heaven? And see how lofty are the highest stars!**

We need something like that that we see everyday to remind us what God is like. It gives us a way to think of God's transcendence.

Job 37:21 **Now no one can look at the sun, bright as it is in the skies after the wind has swept them clean. 22 Out of the north he comes in golden splendor; God comes in awesome majesty. 23 The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress.**

24 Therefore, men revere him,

God is greater than the sun, farther, higher, beyond, less approachable...

7. The brightness of the sun is a picture of God's glory. When Paul saw Christ on the road to Damascus, He was brighter than the sun. Several times in Scripture Jesus' face is compared to the brightness of the sun.

8. The sun is used to describe the dividing line in human perspective.

The book of Ecc describes the futility of life under the sun - if all there is is what is here under the sun, then life is absolute futility. Life is devoid of meaning.

However, if we consider God, the whole story changes. So the conclusion to the whole book is **Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God**

So the heavenly bodies were given the task of serving as signs, and **for seasons**. This is mostly the job of the moon – dividing up months (holidays, feasts, anniversaries).

and days and years

Without the sun, moon and stars, we would be in trouble when it came to calculating time. You need to know when it's time to get up, go to bed, when it's time to plant, harvest, etc.

The entire pulse and rhythm of human life is dictated by the sun, moon and stars.

Interesting: days, months and years are set by the sun and moon. What about weeks?

The Chaldeans had a 7-day week before the Jews existed, and the Romans developed on independently of the Jews. Where does it come from?

It comes from the creation week. That's why God took 7 days instead of 1 second.

If anyone did think Gn.1 was talking about some kind of figurative day rather than a literal day, I really don't understand how they could continue to think that after reading v.14. If these are not literal days, then what are the months and seasons and years that are marked by the sun and moon?

Job 3 Illumination

3. **to give light on the earth.**" They are to provide light.

Sun, Moon & Stars are only Lamps

lights This is the word for "lamps."

15 and let them be lights

This is a little odd: "Let the lights be lights."

One thing that is hard to miss is that you don't see the words "Sun" or "moon" in the account of the creation of the sun or the moon! Instead he just calls them "lamps" in the sky.

This entire ch. has been a polemic against paganism. All the gods of the nations end up being nothing but creatures created by Elohim.

So far it has been somewhat subtle, but here it becomes overt and very obvious.

The word, "Sun" and the word "moon" were both names of pagan gods. They were high gods of great importance. Above them was nothing except the stars which were considered to be supreme - to determine the destiny of every single person.

In the ancient creation myths, the sun and moon are made in the likeness or image of the gods, and are identified, to a degree, with the gods. The sun and moon are said to have personality, mind and will. (Cassuto 43)

But in this account we find they are not personalities; they are just material objects.

They are not eternal, they are created. They are not gods, they are creatures, and they are not to be served, but they are themselves to be subservient to the needs of man on the earth.

God breaks His pattern here. We expect he hear, "And God called the greater light "sun" and the lesser light He called "moon" and it was so." But there is no statement like that.

Since the words "sun" and "moon" were names of gods, He avoids even saying those words.

These, what you worship as the greatest of your gods, they are just lamps.

It is hard to appreciate how revolutionary this would be. There is no example of any writing anywhere from this time or before that speaks of the heavenly bodies this way.

So it is very deliberate how Moses belittles these gods by avoiding the names, "sun" and "moon" and just calls them lamps. A lamp has absolutely no significance beyond utility. It's only purpose is to provide a service.

So far there are how many lights in the sky? Just 2. Then He throws this in:

(He also made the stars.)

And that's it. Nothing else is said.

A human writer from that time would have given supreme significance to the stars. The ancients believed the stars controlled destiny.

And of all superstitions, that's probably the one that most prevails to this day. Horoscopes are a huge business.

And even people who are not into horoscopes tend to elevate the stars to supreme importance.

They are so big and vast and in comparison the earth is nothing but a speck of dust that happens to be going around this insignificant little star that is just one of millions in a nondescript galaxy.

I got an e-mail this week from a naturalist who gave this account of how the earth was formed: "Our solar system started off as some giant gas cloud billions of years ago - most of this gas was hydrogen... This cloud started to condense simply by its own gravitational pull...in the center, it eventually became dense enough to "ignite" nuclear fusion...This hot burning ball of gas was/is our sun. What was left in the outer portions was a disk of "junk", which began to condense at different radii to form the planets...each planet contained the elements that were left in the disk of 'junk'."

So the earth is literally just a big piece of junk.

The earth is the way it is because it's like the little pile of garbage that swirls around in the back corner of your yard.

That's a great illustration of the way naturalists tend to think about the earth in relationship to the stars. There is one sense in which to them the stars are like God, because the stars are the greatest reality in existence.

They are the highest, greatest, most transcendent, biggest, most powerful entities in existence.

There are a lot of forms the worship of stars can take. But whatever the culture, man tends to place the stars on the throne of God.

So if this were a man-made account of a creation story you would expect the stars to figure very, very prominently. Read an account of origins written by a naturalist and they will always start with a big bang and then stars.

But look at the Genesis account of the creation of all the stars in v.16.

and He made the stars.

All the vast, mind-boggling reaches of outer space are relegated to barely a parenthetical afterthought.

In fact, in the Hebrew it's even briefer than the English. It's only one word (הַכּוֹכָבִים). The "He made" is implied.

Literally it reads this way:

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs for seasons for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

16 God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night and... the stars.

The unfathomable trillions of stars and galaxies in endless space, and all they get in the creation account is one word.

The earth is the most important, then the sun and moon, and the stars are like sprinkles on a cupcake.

Sometimes creationists point out that the earth is the exact distance it needs to be from the sun to support life. Actually, the sun is just the right distance from the earth.

The earth came first. The sun is not billions of years older than the earth. The earth is 3 days older than the sun.

It was staggering for those people to hear that the God of Israel was supreme even over their highest gods, but in our day it even comes as a greater shock, because we have so much greater an understanding of the vastness of the universe.

The earth is the primary significance, the sun and moon are only significant in relationship to what they provide for the earth, and the stars are really nothing but some added decoration.

But when God makes a decoration, it's some decoration.

If you took the stars in we know of and put them in piles of a million, the Milky Way would have about 100,000 piles, and the known universe has a million times that many, and who knows what's beyond that.

Ps.147:4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

The English language has more words than any other language. The *Oxford English Dictionary* 13 vol. contains 500,000 words. Even if we used every single word in those 13 vol. we could still only name 1/2 million stars.

It would use up all our words to name 1/2 of one pile.

And they are all unique. They are different shapes and sizes and colors.

And there is a huge variety of other things out there as well: supernovas, black holes, globular clusters, comets, planets, asteroids, radiation, unknown objects, pulsars...

Pulsars are interesting things. They are believed to be so dense that if you filled the ball of a ball point pen with that matter, it would weigh 91,000 tons.

They emit pulses of radio waves that are so regular it would take a billion years for them to change one second.

About 15 are detected each year just by listening for the signals. They picked up one in 1988 believed to be from a galaxy 5 billion light-years away.

So when the Bible says that God just sprinkled the stars out there like so much glitter, that is making a strong statement about the immense power of God.

When you watch Star Wars and they travel at light speed and as they look out the front window of the ship you can see the stars that were just floating by like phone poles now become a blur.

Travel at the speed of light is a fantasy, but even if it could be done, the stars wouldn't be a blur. They wouldn't even float by like passing phone poles on the highway.

Traveling at the speed of light, if you got into a dense cluster of stars (a galaxy), even in that dense cluster it would take years between each star.

Suppose we could travel at the speed of light.

Light is very fast stuff. If a train were on a track that went all the way around the world, and it was going at the speed of light, if you fell down on the track you would get run over 8 times per second until you got up.

Suppose you could hitch up your car to a light beam and go along for the ride at the speed of light.

If the light beam left the sun at 6:00 this morning, right when your alarm went off, you would have about 8.5 minutes to get up and get ready before that beam arrived at your house (that's how long it takes to go 93 million miles at that speed).

So you hook up your tow rope to the light beam, and you are off at 6:08.

By the time your family is sitting down for morning coffee at a little before 7:00, you are flying by Jupiter.

About the time you pass Pluto you are wishing you had never gone on this trip, because you notice it's 11:00 and you have missed the entire sermon at church.

We all get up tomorrow and go to work, and work all week, and about the time everyone is getting off work on Friday afternoon, you are just leaving the solar system.

Hopefully you brought a few tapes along for the ride, because now you are just traveling through empty space. And you don't get to see anything until you pass the nearest star to our sun. That will take place in August of 2007.

So you have been sitting in your car now for almost 4.5 years.

Skip ahead another 7 years to 2014 and you are beginning to wish you had grabbed a few more tapes, because there really isn't much action out your window. You have been traveling at the speed of light for over a decade and you have only passed 20 stars.

Remember, you are in a dense cluster of stars – heading into the heart of our local galaxy.

By now the trip is getting long, the kids are asking if you are half way yet, and so you check the map and find that traveling at that mind-boggling speed, just to reach the other side of the Milky Way is going to take another 82,000 years (that's at 6 trillion miles each year).

That trip turned out to be such an ordeal – traveling at 82,000 years and weaving in and out to avoid about 100 billion stars – but now things really settle down, because now you are in really empty space.

By now you are beginning to realize that you are never going to make it around all the 50 billion galaxies that we know about, so you head for one that you remember seeing from earth – the Andromeda Galaxy. It can be seen from earth with the naked eye.

So you head in that direction, but it seems to be taking forever. When you finally arrive, you look at your watch and realize it has been 1.8 million years.

At this point this kids ask again if you are half way, and if you are headed toward the edge of the known universe you have to say, “No, we are not even 1/1000 of 1% of the way. It's going to take us another 20 billion years to get there.”

Job 26:14 says all that is **but the fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"**

All that is just the fringe – just a whisper of His power. The thunder of His power is something else entirely.

How did all that massive, inconceivable, mind-numbing, staggering universe come into existence? It all happened some time in the afternoon of day 4 when God said, “Hmmm, how about some stars?"

I hope you don't have trouble believing that. Because the universe is out there. It came into existence somehow. Either it was the God of the Bible who did it or whatever you regard as God, but someone or something brought it all into existence.

All those galaxies and billions of stars – Ps.8 says all that is just the work of His fingers. If that's the work of His fingers, what could His arm do?

To answer that just listen to what the virgin Mary said in Lk.1:51. If you want to see the work of God's fingers, look at out into the infinite universe. But if you want to know the work of His mighty arm, look at the birth of Christ and the work of redemption.

As the song says, “His most awesome work was done in the frailty of His son.”

Light From the Stars

Side note:

People have asked how the light from those distant stars could have ever gotten to earth if we understand the universe to be as young as the Bible seems to indicate it is.

But that ceases to be a problem if you just understand the principle we discovered last time about the fact that the primary issue in creation is *function*, not physical structure.

What is the function of the stars according to Genesis one? They serve as signs and markers on the earth. That's their purpose. That's why they exist.

They don't exist for their own benefit. God made them to be seen on earth.

So if that's the purpose for which God made them, would it make any sense for God to create them in such a way as to not be visible from the earth?

If their purpose was to be seen on the earth, and God made them so they couldn't be seen, He would be defeating His own purpose.

Remember, God created the stars in the RAKIA – the sky, and the sky is what you see as you look up from earth. That means the stars had to have been created visible from the earth.

“But how is that possible?”

The same way creation is possible. God can do anything. If He can make stars, He can make them visible.

How did He do it? I have no idea. He may have made the light go super fast on day 4, He may have created a beam of light between the sun and earth, He may have created some kind of time warp, it may be that the distances out there look one way from earth the distances are deceiving, or He may have just done some unexplainable miracle.

I have no idea how He did it, and frankly don't care. I just know that when God says He wants some stars in the sky, you can bet when you look up at that split second you are going to see some stars.

Is it a problem that stars were visible right after the creation of stars? No. What would be a massive problem is if they weren't.

Another interesting side note – virtually all the references to lamps in the Pentateuch are about the lamps in the Temple. This is the first hint we get at a theme that's developed more on day 7 of the cosmos being the Temple of God.

In that imagery, the Garden of Eden ends up being the Most Holy place.

Governing

In doing these Jobs, the heavenly bodies fulfilled the role of governing the night and day. **to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night.**

God placed the sun in charge of the day, and the moon in charge of the night.

They govern.

The sun and moon really dominate our lives. They dictate when we wake up, when we work, when we sleep, what kinds of work we do, what the seasons will be, what time of year it is, etc.

So they govern in that sense - they manage. They provide what is needed.

But this is not to say God is still not the one in control (deism). He governs by means of them.

Ps.114:19 **The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.**

20 You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

23 Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.

24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all;

CONCLUSION

For those of you who suffer from a lot of anxiety and worry, this should be one of the most encouraging passages in the whole Bible.

Here's why: It's obvious enough that to a very large degree the sun and moon do govern our lives. They dominate all life on earth.

We are dependent upon them to stay alive. We need them to order our lives.

And all we can do is respond to what they do. If they are set up at the angles that dictate it's going to be summer, then it's going to be summer whether we like it or not. We could demonstrate and picket and send a petition signed by everyone on earth requesting an extension of Spring, but it would have no effect.

The heavenly bodies govern our lives. We are subject to them.

Everyone knows that much. What Genesis one shows us is that God governs those things that govern you.

That is a principle that, if it applies to the sun, moon and stars, certainly it applies to anything else that effects your life.

If the IRS requires a huge tax bill from you, you don't have to fret. Because yes, a godless government agency rules you, but God rules those things that rule you.

When you go to the doctor and find out that some disease has invaded your body and now your life is going to be governed by that to a degree, how crucial it is for you to understand at that moment that God governs those things that govern you.

Even if it's something that is a product of someone's free will.

If someone decided to do something that effects your life that is out of your control, you don't have to fret, because even that is governed by God.

(We saw that in the book of Philemon, where Onesimus decided to run away from his master and to steal from him, but Philemon could look at it as something God was doing for an important, good reason – v.15.)

Maybe some of you have some character flaw that you feel governs you. You were born that way and it seems to dictate the way your life will be. But God governs the things that govern you.

Maybe you have an illness, or a psychological difficulty that rules you. Don't ever forget that God rules the things that rule you.

That's the lesson of Day 4.

17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

Sing I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Benediction: 1 Ti.6:15,16 **God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.**

1. Why are the heavenly bodies just called “**lights**” instead of their names?

Their names were names of pagan gods. By calling them “lights” God portrays them as having no significance beyond utility.

2. What is their job?

- Separation of time segments
- Illustration of truth about God
- To provide light on earth
- To govern