

God-Made – Genesis 1 – Week 4 – Genesis 1:14-19

Genesis 1:14-19: *And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault 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 vault 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.*

INTRO to Series: Genesis 1 describes God’s work of speaking and forming all of creation, including our own existence. As we revisit the story of creation in Genesis and beyond, we will discover countless ways the Bible points us to the wonder of God’s good creation, made by His powerful word. We’ll also discuss each week some helpful practices to help us pull away from the intense draw of our technology and media and find space again for the goodness of God.

INTRO to **Genesis 1:14-19:** As we move into the fourth day of Creation, we see God continuing His work of forming, ordering, and bringing life into the universe through the light of His glory, goodness, and truth.

-The biblical word Genesis means “beginning.” Chapter 1 is the universe’s “origin story!”

***Key Thought – Week 4: God reveals Himself in all of creation through **clarity**, **beauty**, and **design**.

Screens/Tech/Media Tip #4: Learn to use your “do not disturb” features and how to silence notifications from the apps on your device. Consider silencing anything that isn’t a real person trying to reach you—which means no more alerts, banners, badges, or buzzes. BONUS Tip: Physically log out of your most distracting apps and accounts so that you have to type in a password each time you use them. Make accessing them more inconvenient and even annoying, so you’ll use them less often.

I. God reveals Himself in all of creation through **clarity**. (vs. 14-15)

-Light is a key theme of Scripture, from beginning to end. The light of God’s holiness fills all of creation and illuminates all everything that exists (**Genesis 1:1-5**). The light of God’s Word is a lamp unto our feet to guide us on the right paths (**Psalms 119:105**). And the light of God’s salvation delivers us from the darkness of sin and death, so that we might be made alive in Him and live in the light, as He is in the light (**Psalms 27:1**).

-Think about all the ways light is used throughout Scripture – life, holiness, righteousness, justice, truth, purity, joy, salvation, and God’s presence!

II. God reveals Himself in all of creation through beauty. (vs. 16)

-Genesis 1 does not use the actual words for “sun” and “moon,” but rather calls them both simply *hamma-oir*, or “luminaries” –one greater and one lesser.

-While many other ancient religions and cultures worshiped the sun and moon as gods, the Lord makes clear in Genesis that He created these great heavenly lights and they obey His commands! (see **Job 38:31-33** below)

-The stars fill the once empty skies, but they are not eternal and have no authority in the universe. Instead, they too are created and serve at God’s command.

-The stars also display the beauty of God’s creation in ways beyond our imagination—may we see them as God intended with wonder that leads us to worship Him!

III. God reveals Himself in all of creation through design. (vs. 17-19)

-God created the sun, moon, and stars and designed them to regulate the “life rhythms of the universe”—which includes the alternating cycle of day and night on the earth.

-God had created light on the first day – but now as the sun, moon, and stars are set in place, they play a unique role to that of the divine light of God’s glory – “they signify time and distinguish days, seasons, and years from one another. In this sense, they ‘rule’ days and nights by controlling light and darkness and by heating and cooling land and seas.” (Kathleen M. O’Connor)

-“The heavens declare the glory of God,” as Scripture says, for He alone is truly “the Lord of heaven and earth.” (See **Psalms 19, Isaiah 40:25-26, and Acts 17:24-28a** below).

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Job 38:31-33: *“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades?*

Can you loosen Orion’s belt?

³² *Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons
or lead out the Bear with its cubs?*

³³ *Do you know the laws of the heavens?
Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?”*

Psalms 19:1-6: For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

² *Day after day they pour forth speech;*

night after night they reveal knowledge.
³ *They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.*
⁴ *Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.*
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
⁵ *It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*
⁶ *It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.*

Isaiah 40:25-26: *"To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.*
²⁶ *Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing."*

Acts 17:24-28a: *"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of
heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not
served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone
life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they
should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and
the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps
reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we
live and move and have our being.'*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-Habitable Zone – The earth is located in a unique spot in our galaxy that is safe enough for a planet to sustain life. If we were too close to the center, our solar system could not sustain life or could get sucked into a black hole. If we were too close to the edge, the formation of stars and supernovas could literally blow us into oblivion.

-Local Bubble – A huge, mostly empty region of space around our solar system. It's filled with very hot, thin gas and has far fewer stars and clouds than typical parts of the Milky Way. Because there's less gas and dust around us, we can observe distant stars and galaxies more easily. God placed us in a clearer patch of the galaxy.