

north terrace | church of  
**CHRIST**

ntchurch.com  
3701 North Terrace  
Chattanooga, TN 37411  
(423) 624-5759

*Worship with us Sunday at 9:15am and Wednesday at 7:00pm (Eastern)*



# “The Nature of God”

## a study of Genesis 1

*prepared by Carl D. Ballard (carldbballard@hotmail.com)*

**WELCOME!** We are grateful you are here,  
and we are excited to share God’s word with you!

**Thursday, April 14, 2021 – 7:00 pm**

# ←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

Genesis 1:1-5

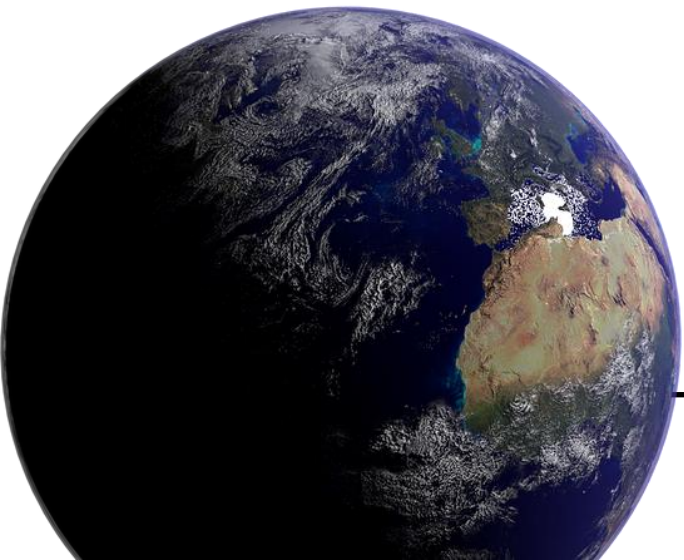
*“God is Spirit”*

If God created “In the beginning” [v1], then what existed before?

♦ God is ETERNAL

- Distinction between ETERNAL and IMMORTAL

*ONLY GOD!!!*



*Genesis 1*

# The Nature of God

## Eternal vs Immortal



### TIMELINE

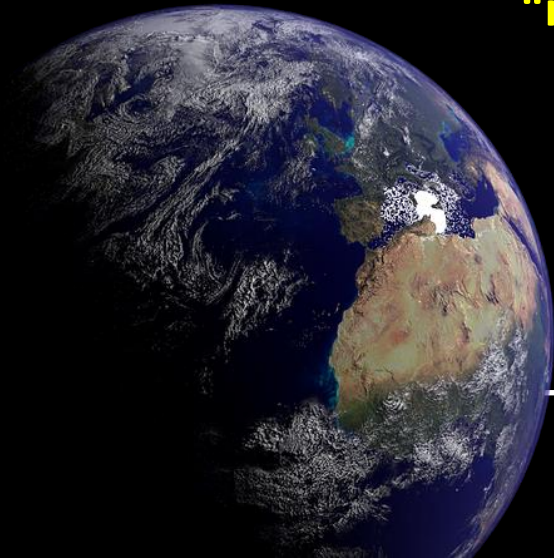
"in the beginning"  
[Genesis 1:1]

"Then comes the end"  
[1 Corinthians 15:24]

"...in the last day"  
[John 12:48]

"the elements will melt..."  
[2 Peter 3:10-12]

Genesis 1



# The Nature of God

## Eternal vs Immortal

### ETERNAL Being

*ETERNAL Being: is not born and cannot die, and thus is not limited by TIME; the eternal nature is unique to Divinity (GOD)*

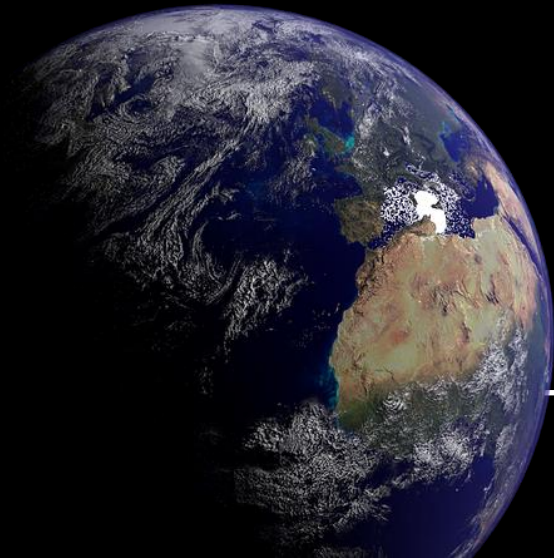
*IMMORTAL beings: are born into TIME, but cannot die; in some form they live beyond the line that is TIME*

### TIMELINE



*MORTAL beings: are born, die, and cease to exist along the line that is TIME*

Genesis 1

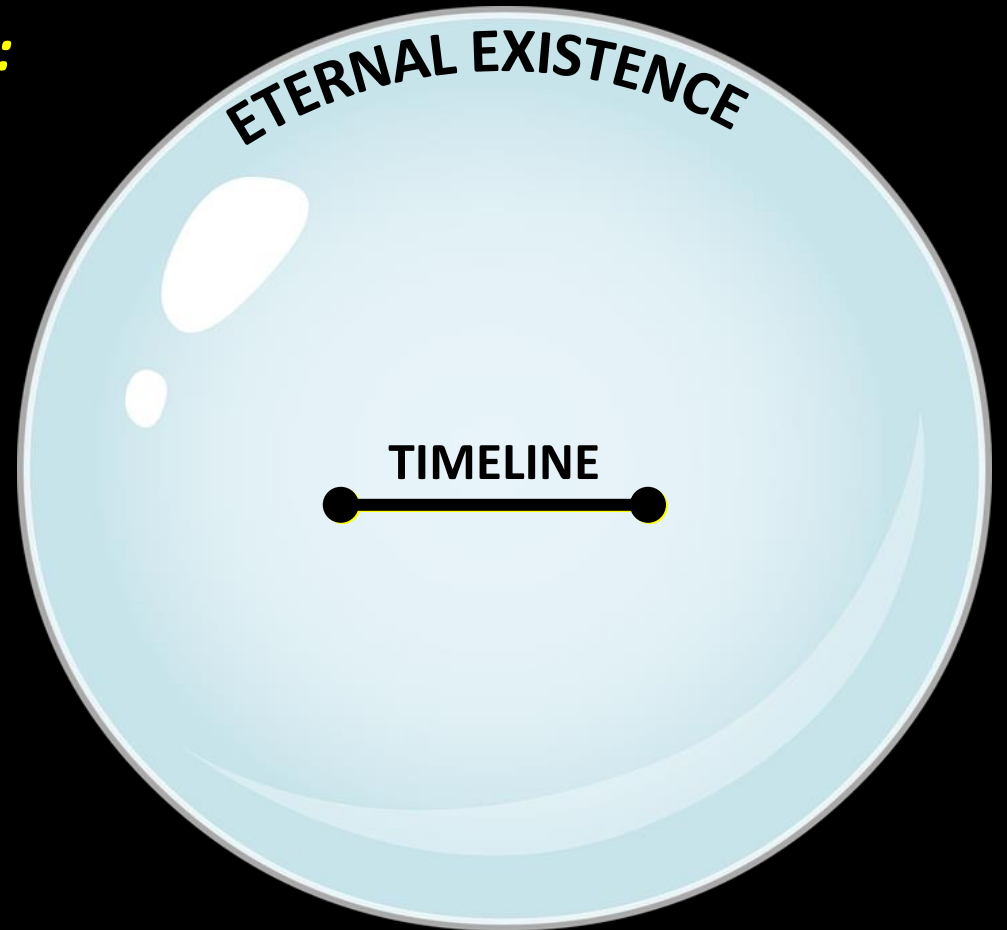


# The Nature of God

## Eternal vs Immortal

### SOME QUALITIES OF THE DIVINE ETERNAL NATURE:

**OMNIPRESENCE** – no physical body, so not limited by space; capable of being anywhere at any time, or perhaps all places at all times



Genesis 1

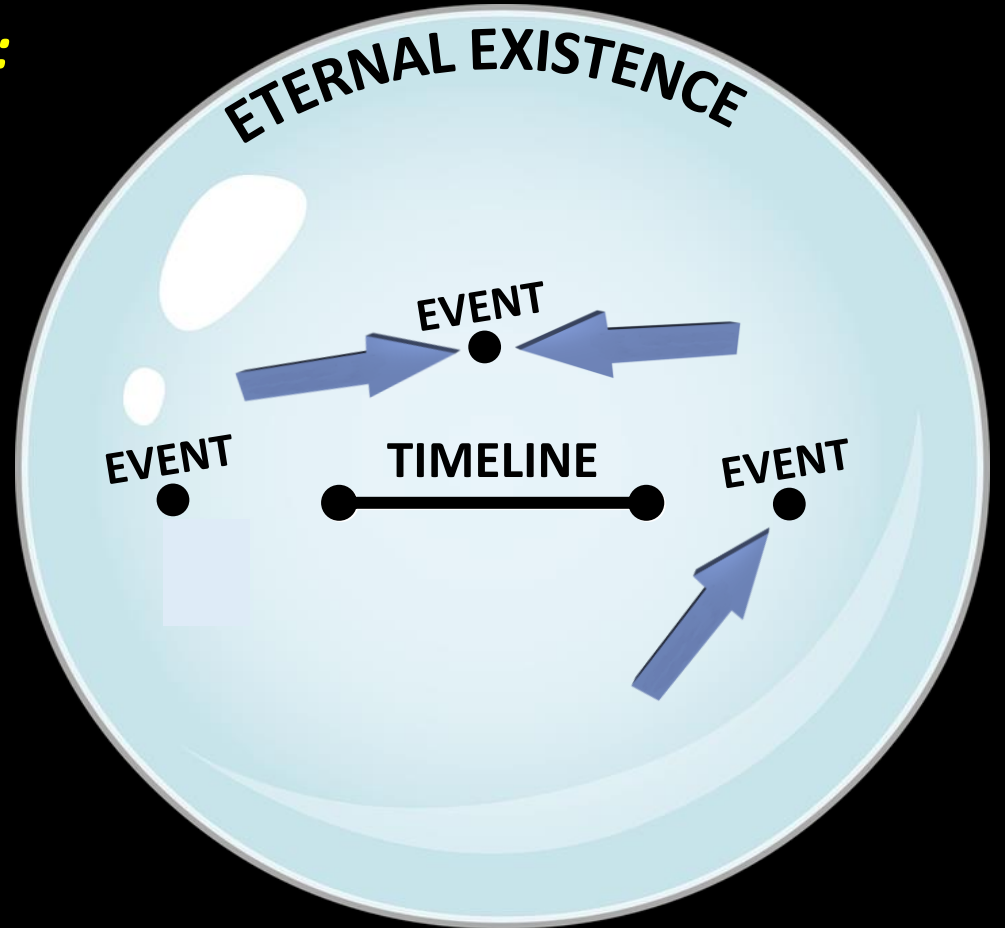
# The Nature of God

## Eternal vs Immortal

### SOME QUALITIES OF THE DIVINE ETERNAL NATURE:

**OMNIPRESENCE** – no physical body, so not limited by space; capable of being anywhere at any time, or perhaps all places at all times

**OMNISCIENCE** – no physical body, so not limited by time; capable of knowing everything about any event before, after, or along the line of TIME



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

If God created “In the beginning” [v1], then what existed before?

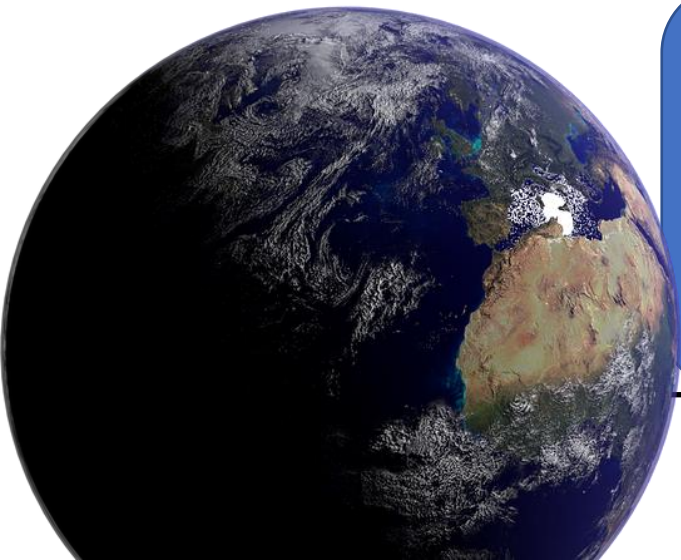
### ♦ God is ETERNAL

- Distinction between ETERNAL and IMMORTAL
- God’s eternal nature (His “eternal power and Godhead”) is “understood by the things that are made...” [Romans 1:20]
- this is the “argument from design”: the Creator necessarily exists *before* His creation!
- cp John’s “argument” for the deity of Jesus [John chapter 1]

ONLY GOD!!!

- The Word (Jesus) was “in the beginning with God” [John 1:1, 2]
- He was “with God, and...was God” [John 1:1]
- “*All things* were made through Him...” [John 1:3]

If He is from “the beginning” (eternal!) and is the Creator, then He is God!



## Genesis 1

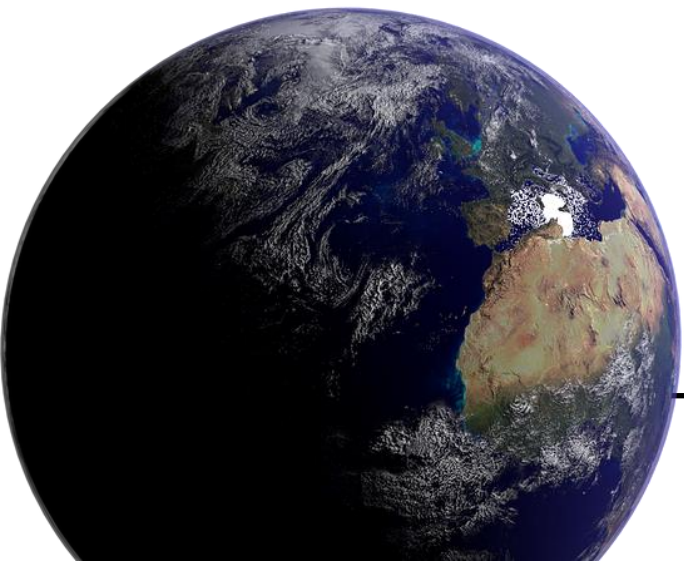
# ←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

Genesis 1:1-5

*“God is Spirit”*

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

- ◆ “...the *worlds* were framed by the word of God” [Hebrews 11:3]
  - Both visible and invisible, physical and spiritual, terrestrial and celestial
  - “Heavens and the earth” describes the whole created universe [cp “*all things*” John 1:3]



*Genesis 1*



# ←———— The Nature of God —————→

Genesis 1:1-5

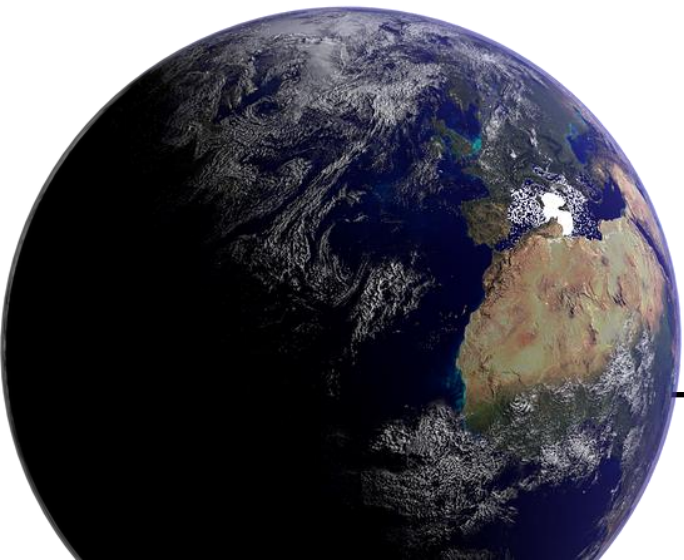
“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2]

- ◆ “...without form” (“without order”, “place of chaos”)
- ◆ “...and void” (“empty”)
- ◆ “...darkness was on the face of the deep” (“deep darkness”, “a dark abyss”)

During the week of creation, God will *resolve* these 3 “issues”...



Genesis 1

# ←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

## Genesis 1:1-5

*“God is Spirit”*

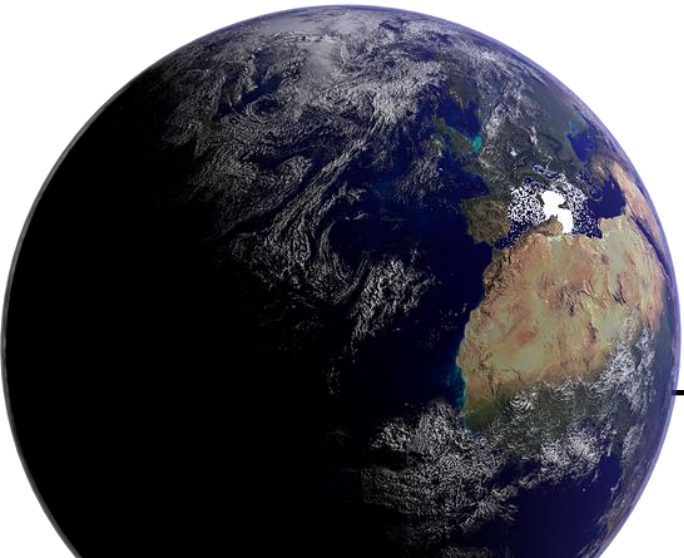
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

♦ the first time we “meet” God in the Bible is as SPIRIT

- Consider this same practice by God at other times in Bible history:

- Exodus 3:1-6: appearing to Moses in the burning bush (“fire”)
- Exodus 13:21-22: guiding Israel out of Egypt (pillar of “cloud [smoke]”, “fire”)
- Exodus 19:9, 16: appearing to Israel at Sinai (“thick cloud”, “thunderings, lightnings”)



*Genesis 1*

# ← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

“Take careful heed to yourselves, for *you saw no form* when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. But *the Lord* has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people...”

[Deuteronomy 4:15-20]



---

Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

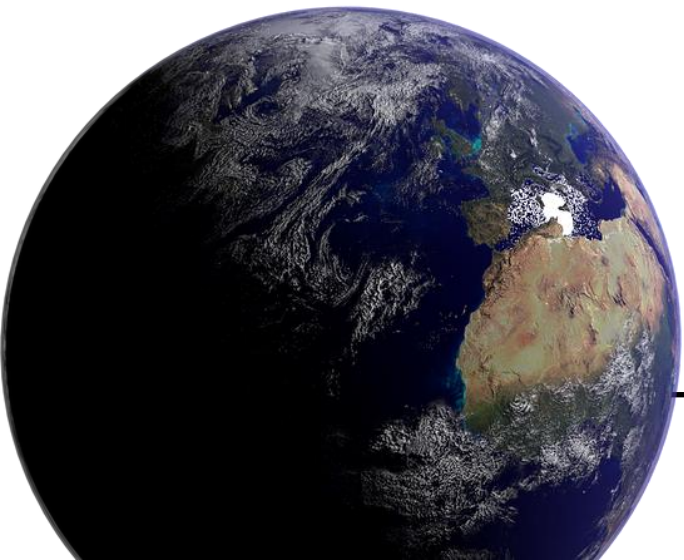
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

♦ the first time we “meet” God in the Bible is as SPIRIT

- Consider this same practice by God at other times in Bible history:

- Exodus 3:1-6: appearing to Moses in the burning bush (“fire”)
- Exodus 13:21-22: guiding Israel out of Egypt (pillar of “cloud [smoke]”, “fire”)
- Exodus 19:9, 16: appearing to Israel at Sinai (“thick cloud”, “thunderings, lightnings”)
  - Moses’ warning to Israel concerning the *spirit* nature of God [Dt 4:15ff]
- John 4:23-24: Jesus, correcting the religious error of the Samaritan woman explained to her the *spiritual* nature of God



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

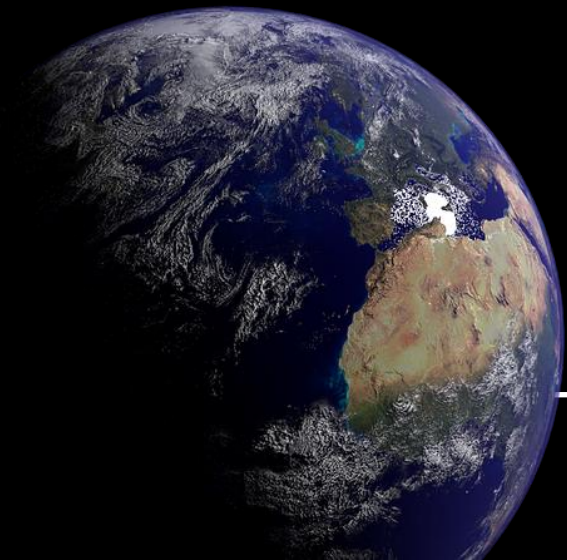
“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for *the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*”

[John 4:23-24]



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

According to both Moses and Jesus,  
**understanding God's Spirit Nature** is imperative to **proper worship!!**

**This is true  
because...**

God does not think like man thinks

“For *my thoughts are not your thoughts*, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And *my thoughts than your thoughts.*”  
[Isaiah 55:8-9]



→  
Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

According to both Moses and Jesus,  
**understanding God's Spirit Nature** is imperative to **proper worship!!**

**This is true  
because...**

God does not think like man thinks

God does not act like man acts

“God is not a man, *that He should lie...*”

[Numbers 23:19]

“...Far be it from God *to do wickedness*, And from the Almighty *to commit iniquity.*”

[Job 34:10]

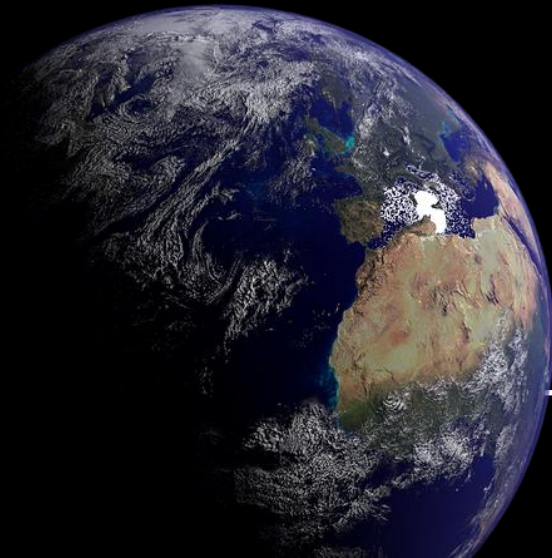
“You are of *purser eyes* than to behold evil...”

[Habakkuk 1:13]

“...*friendship* with the world is *enmity* with God...”

[James 4:4]

Genesis 1



# ← The Nature of God →

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God

Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

According to both Moses and Jesus,  
**understanding God's Spirit Nature** is imperative to **proper worship!!**

**This is true  
because...**

God does not think like man thinks

God does not act like man acts

God does not change as man does

“For I am the Lord, *I do not change...*” [Malachi 3:6]

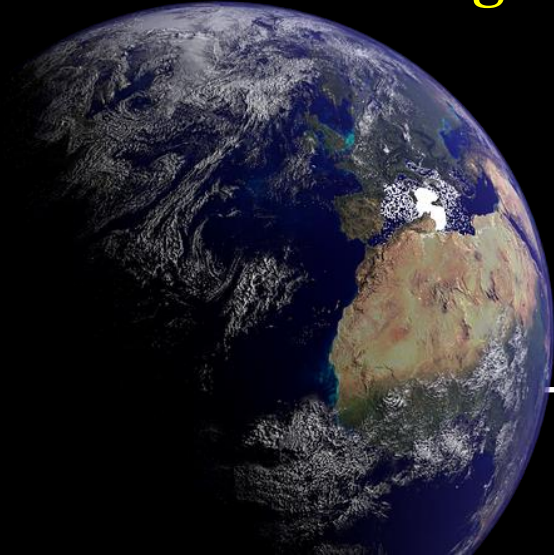
“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without  
wavering, for *He who promised is faithful.*”

[Hebrews 10:23]

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and  
forever.”

[Hebrews 13:8]

Genesis 1





# The Nature of God

“God is Spirit”

Moses warned Israel regarding the **spiritual** nature of God  
Jesus corrected the religious error of the Samaritan woman

According to both Moses and Jesus,  
**understanding God's Spirit Nature** is imperative to **proper worship!!**

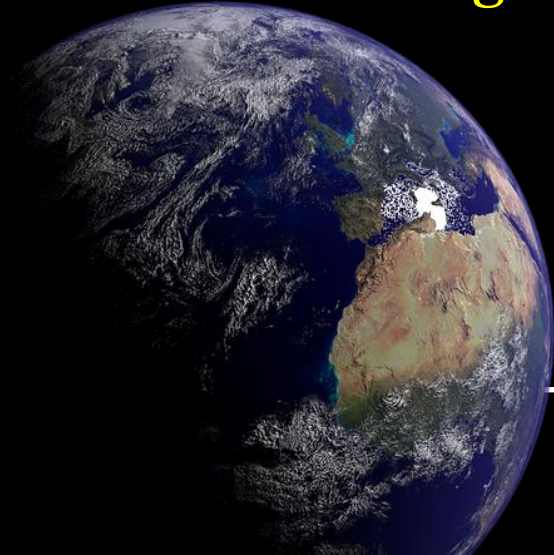
**This is true  
because...**

God does not think like man thinks  
God does not act like man acts  
God does not change as man does

The error of religion is to have changed “the glory of the **incorruptible (Eternal, Spirit) God** into an image made like **corruptible (physical, temporal)** man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **...and** worshiped and served **the creature** rather than the **Creator...**” [Rom 1:23-25]

**We must learn from God what true worship is!**

Genesis 1



# ←———— The Nature of God —————→

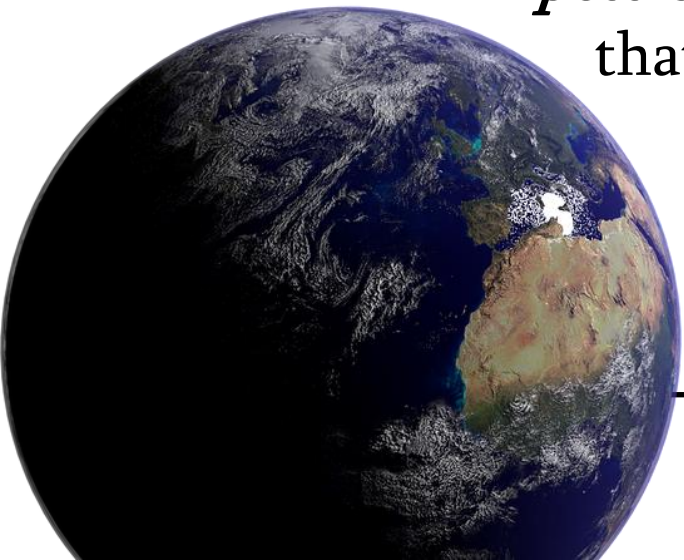
Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

- ♦ the first time we “meet” God in the Bible is as SPIRIT
  - Consider this same practice by God at other times in Bible history
  - cp 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; we can only know the Spirit’s will if HE reveals it!
    - this truth is spoken of in Deuteronomy 29:29 and Romans 10:17
    - thus it is *impossible* to please Him apart from hearing and responding to HIS word; that is, acting “*by faith*” [cp Hebrews 11:6]



Genesis 1

# ←———— *The Nature of God* —————→

Genesis 1:1-5

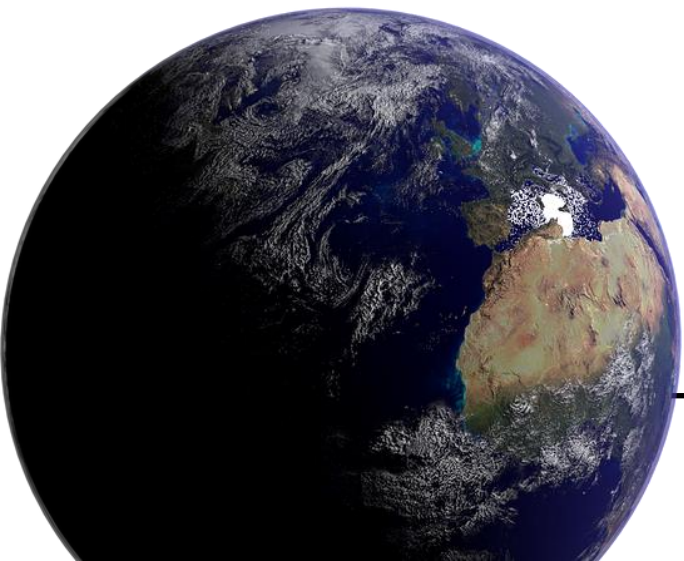
*“God is Spirit”*

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

- ♦ God’s creative power resides in His word [cp Hebrews 1:1-3]
  - cp what Paul told the Ephesian elders the word has the power to do [Acts 20:32]



*Genesis 1*

# ← The Nature of God →

“Then God said...”

Consider the **real power** residing in God’s word

“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth... He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” [Psalm 33:6, 9]

“...upholding all things by the word of His power” [Hebrews 1:3 (of Jesus)]

“...the worlds were framed by the word of God” [Hebrews 11:3]

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...” [Romans 1:16]

“Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth.” [John 17:17]

If we really believe this,  
we will not **add to or remove from** His word!!

Genesis 1



# ←———— The Nature of God —————→

## Genesis 1:1-5

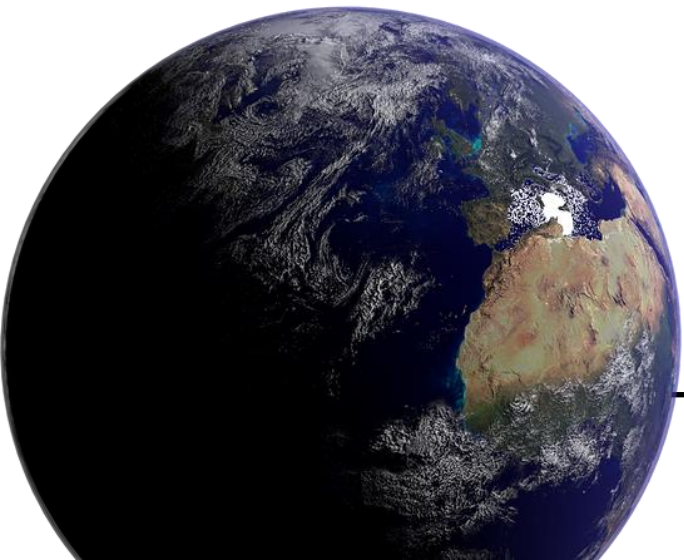
“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

- ♦ God’s creative power resides in His word [cp Hebrews 1:1-3]
- ♦ With the creation of light, God resolves one of the “issues” from verse 2  
- we will see in Genesis 1-4 that it is *always God* who resolves problems that arise



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4]

♦ God declares His creation “good” **7 times** [Genesis 1:4, 9, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31]

♦ His final analysis: “indeed it was *very good*” [Genesis 1:31]

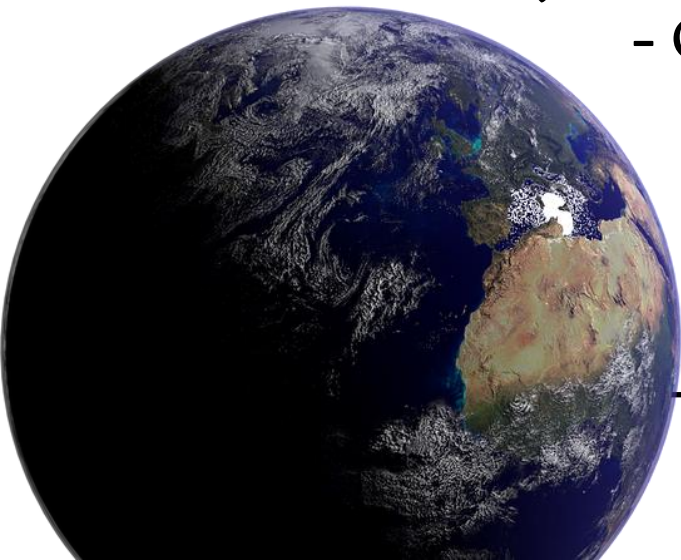
- God’s nature is such that He can *only do* what is GOOD!

• “Far be it from God to do wickedness” [Job 34:10; cp Gn 18:25]

• with God there is “...no shadow of turning” [James 1:17]

• we must allow *God* to define what is “good”!

- if something God does seems *not* good, it is *my view* that must change



---

## Genesis 1

# ←———— The Nature of God —————→

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

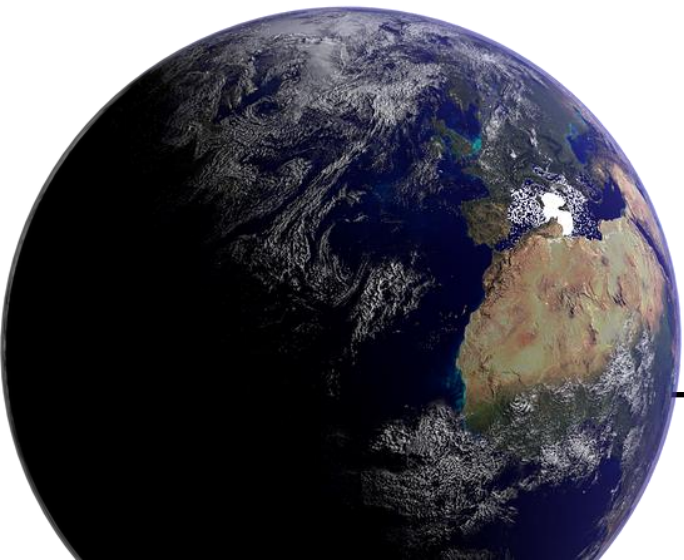
“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

♦ “dividing” or “separating” [NASB] is the base concept behind *holiness*

- cp the work of the priests [Lv 10:10; “distinguish” is “divide” here; cp also Lv 11:44-47]



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

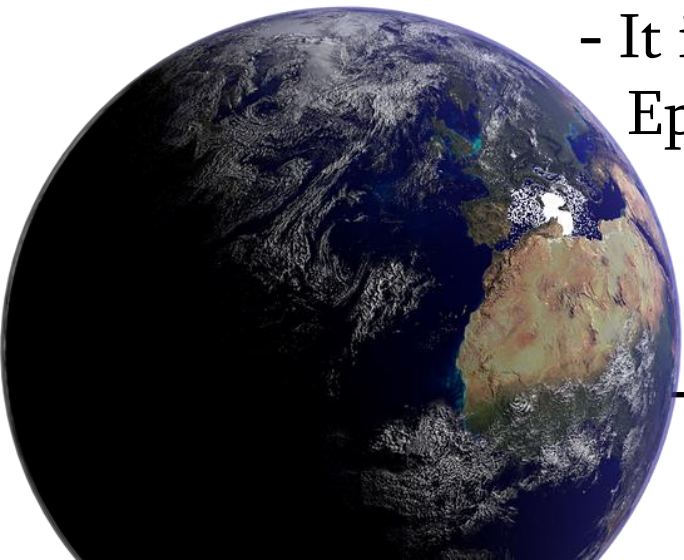
“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

♦ “dividing” or “separating” [NASB] is the base concept behind *holiness*

♦ God “divides” **7 times** during creation [Gn 1:4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 21(24); 2:3]

- It is God’s nature to make things holy, to “sanctify” [cp John 17:17-19; Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:15-16 (quoting Leviticus 19:2); etc]



Genesis 1



# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

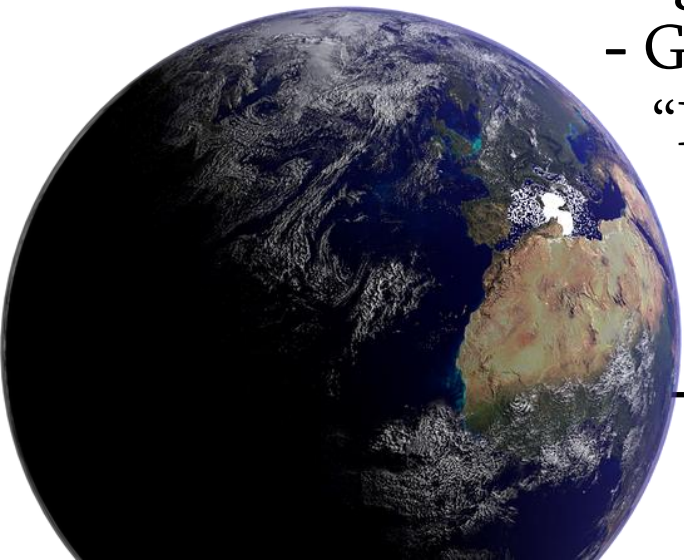
“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

- ♦ God “names” things, determines roles and purposes [cp Eph 3:14-15; Php 2:8-11]
  - God “names” **7 things** in creation [“Day”/“Night” (v5), “Heaven” (v8), “Earth”/“Seas” (v10), “male”/“female” (v27)]



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

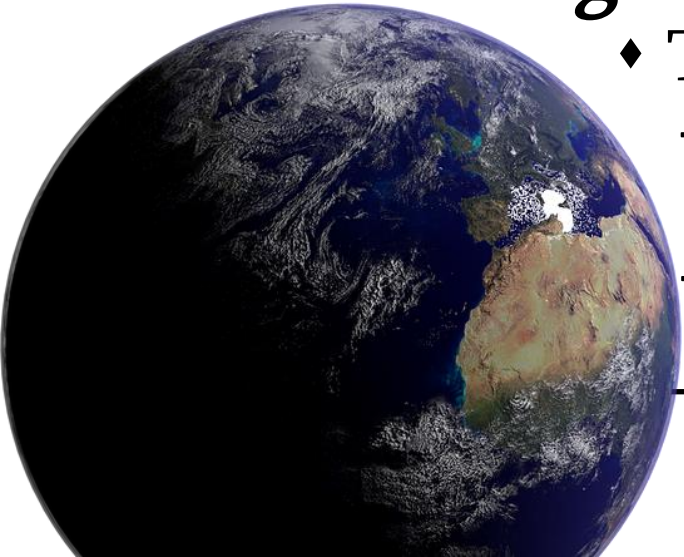
“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

“So the *evening* and the *morning* were the first day” [v5]

- ◆ The language used here is not mythic, but as *historical* fact
  - cp “Creation myths” (epic poems) of other religions; Hindu, Native American, Chinese, etc are often taught in mythical/epic formats
  - no reason from context to see the language as symbolic; in fact, it is written with an emphasis that indicates it is meant literally



Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]

“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

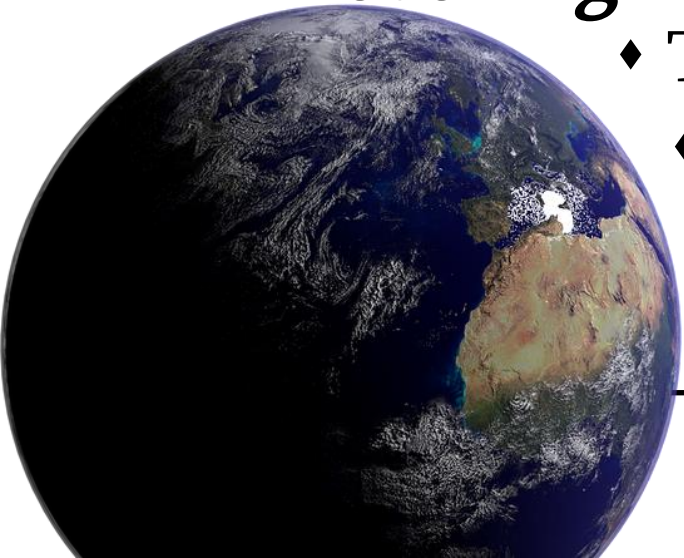
“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

“So the *evening* and the *morning* were the first day” [v5]

- ◆ The language used here is not mythic, but as *historical* fact
- ◆ The eternal God (*outside* of time) created Day and Night, evening and morning; *time* begins here for all creation



---

Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

## Genesis 1:1-5

“God is Spirit”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” [v1]


“The earth was...” [v2] “And the Spirit of God...” [v2]

“Then God *said*...” [v3]

“God saw...it was *good*” [v4] “...and God *divided*...” [v4]

“God *called* the light Day, and the darkness He called Night” [v5]

“So the *evening* and the *morning* were the first day” [v5]



- Despite ‘scientific’ allegations, creation is not the result of random forces operating mysteriously over billions of years. Rather, it is the result of the intelligent and creative force of God working during six 24-hour days  
- all that began on this “first day” is moving toward a “last day” in which the Lord will “judge the world in righteousness” [John 12:48; Acts 17:31]

## Genesis 1

# ← The Nature of God →

Consider what we have learned of God's nature from **just one day** of 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]



→  
Genesis 1

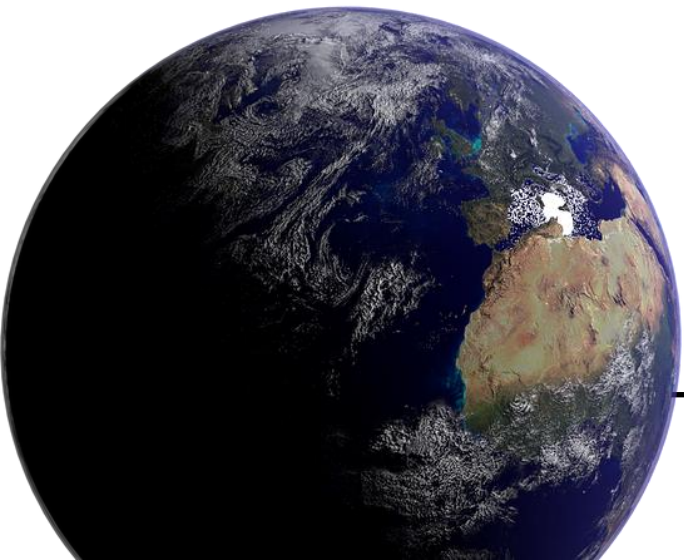
# ←———— The Nature of God —————→

Genesis 1:6-13

“A God of Order”

“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

“A God of Order”

“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

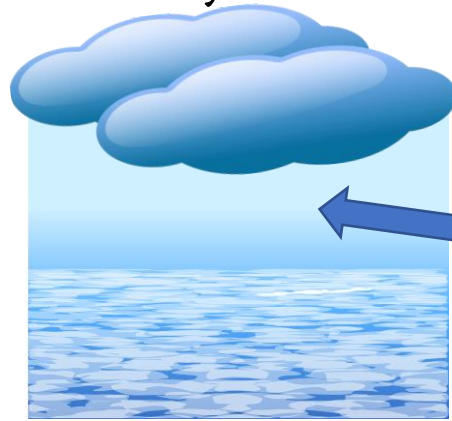
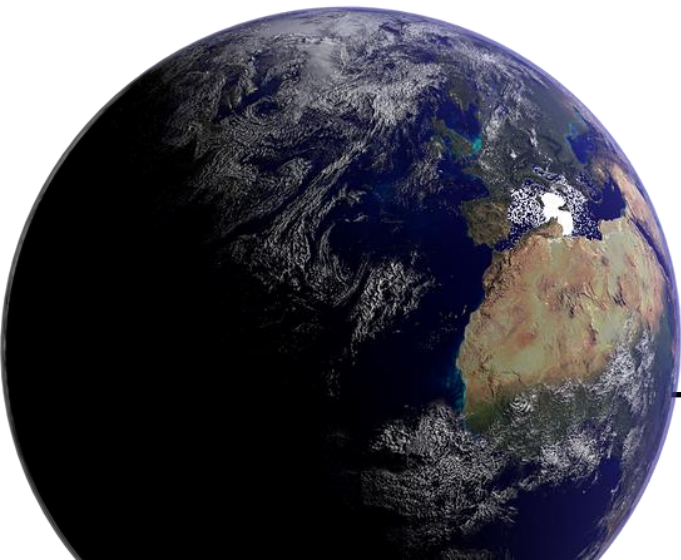
♦ God speaks, God “divides”, and God names again

- “...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

**“A God of Order”**

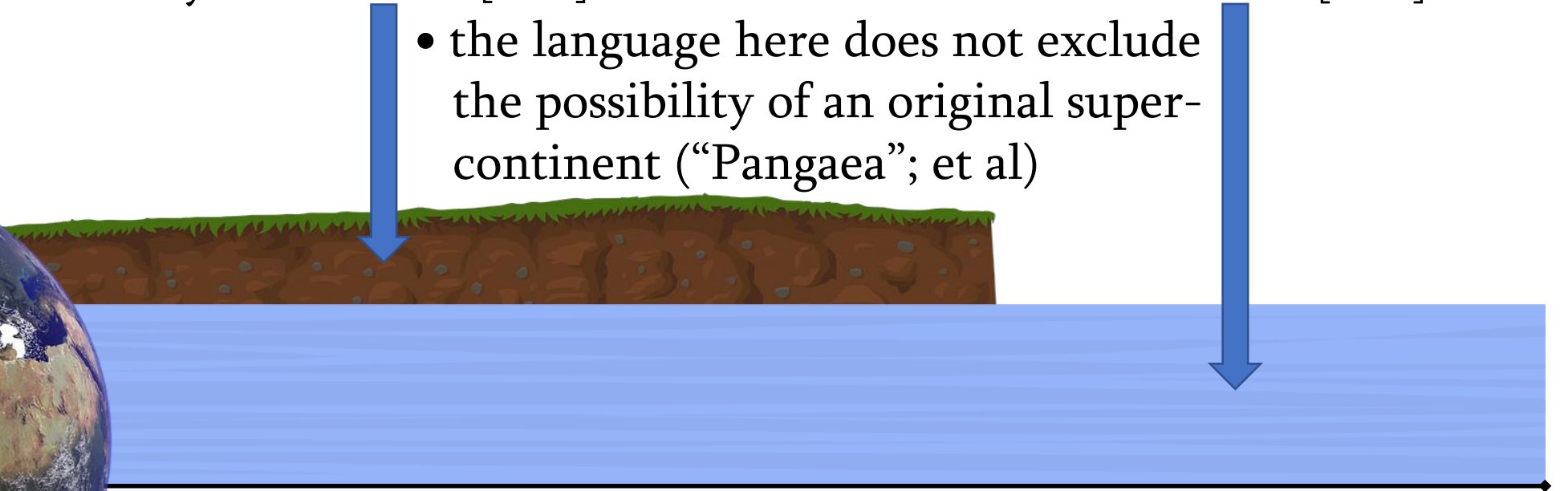
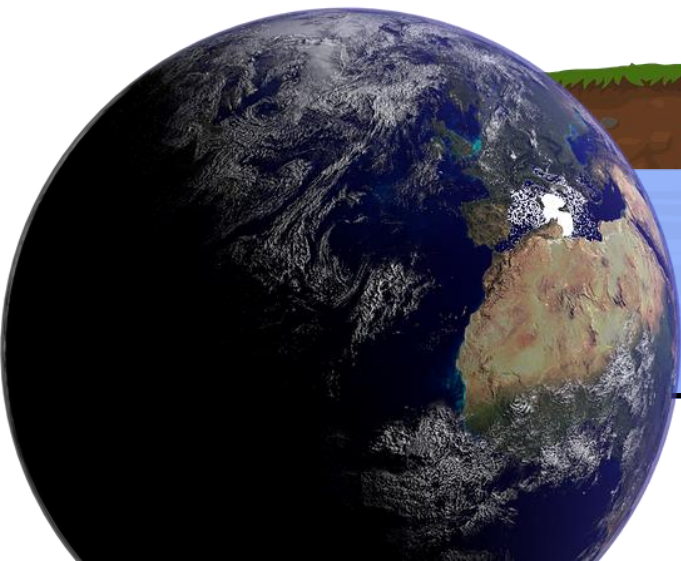
“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

“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]

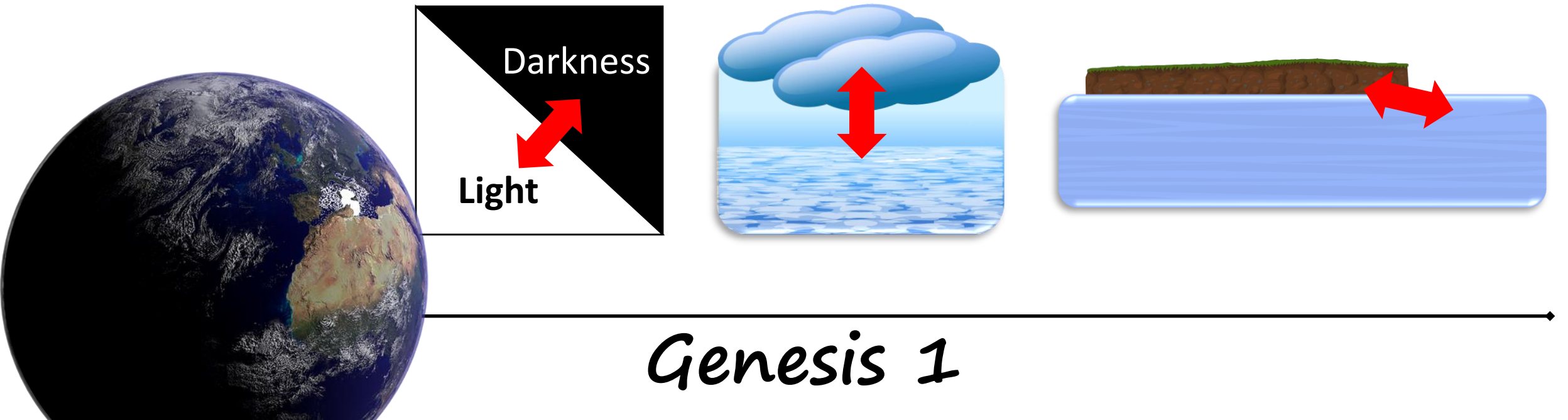
- the language here does not exclude the possibility of an original super-continent (“Pangaea”; et al)



*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

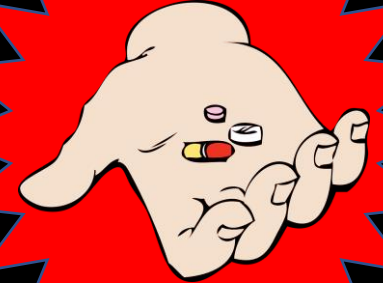


---

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. **So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.**” Leviticus 10:1-2

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

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



---

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

**“A God of Order”**

“Let there be a firmament...” [v6]

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

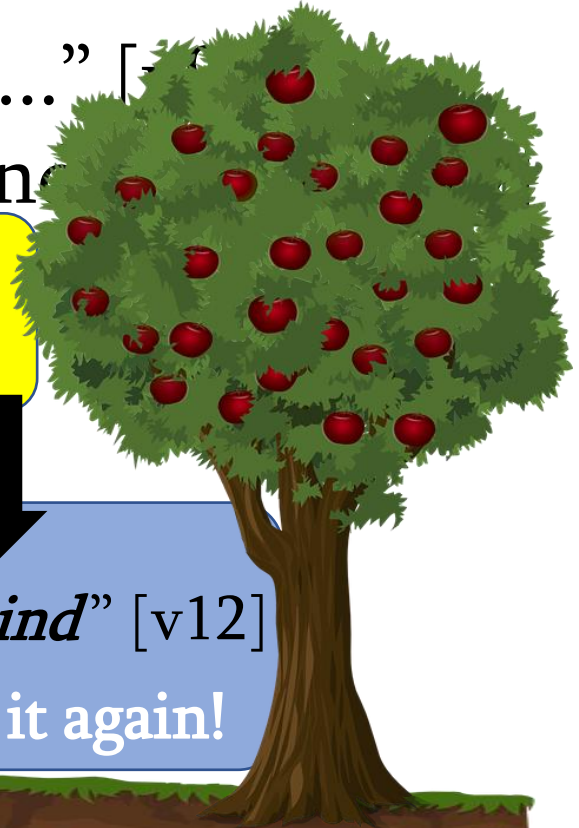
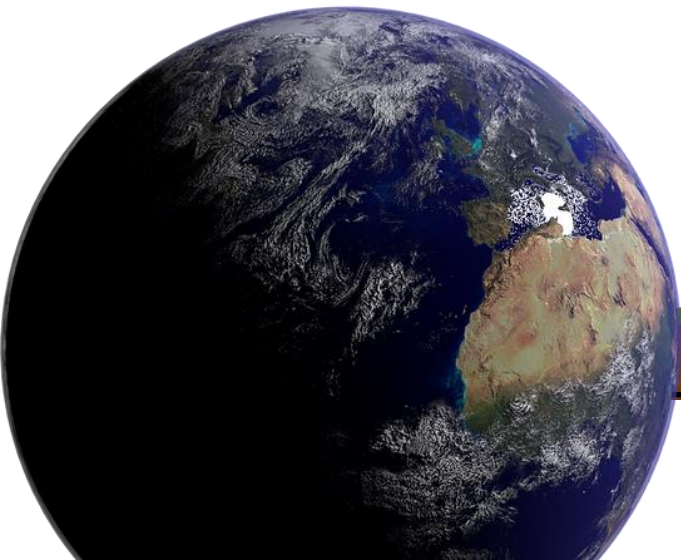
“...and let the dry land

“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 →

Genesis 1:14-19

**“A God of Order”**

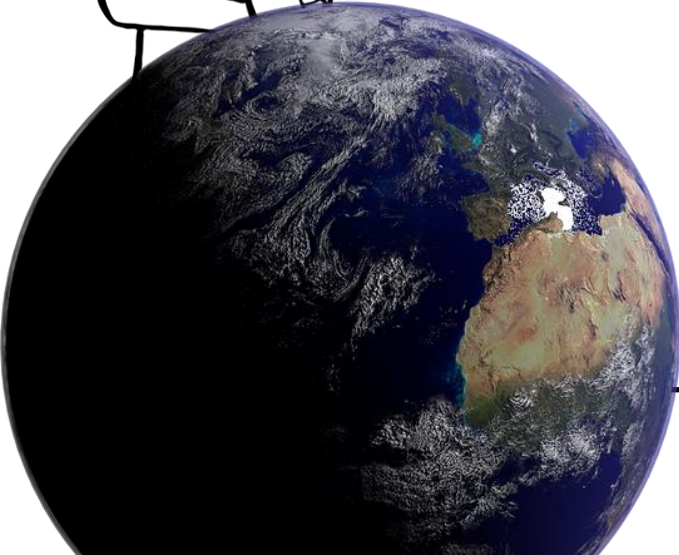
“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...” [v14]

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



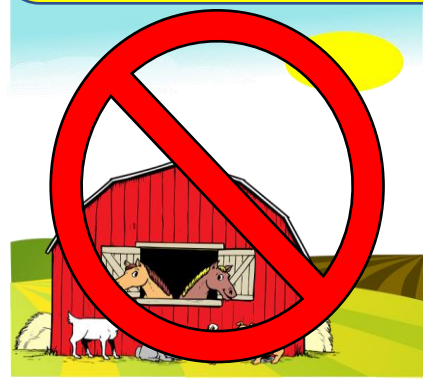
- didn't God *already do* this? [vv4-5]  
? - who needs signs and is able to understand them?

**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*)

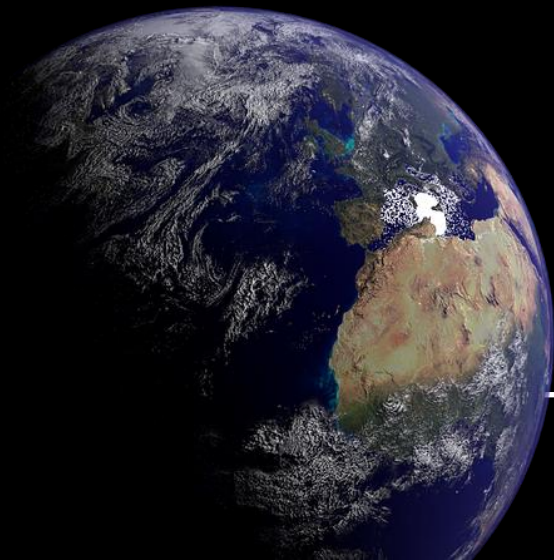
“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen **His star** in the East and have come to worship Him.’” Matthew 2:1-2  
(*an actual heavenly body indicated where the Christ was born*)

“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

### “A God of Order”

“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?

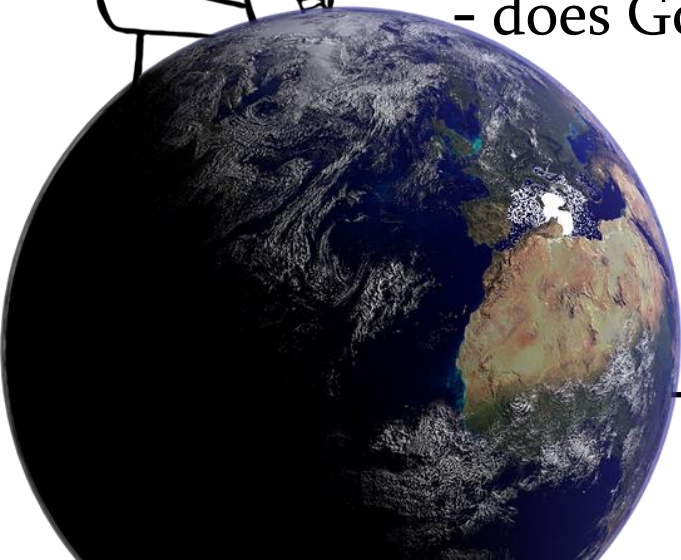
- does the *eternal* God need to mark passing of time?

- does God need the light to see?

♦ “seasons...days and years” [v14]

♦ “...let them be for lights” [v15, 17]

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

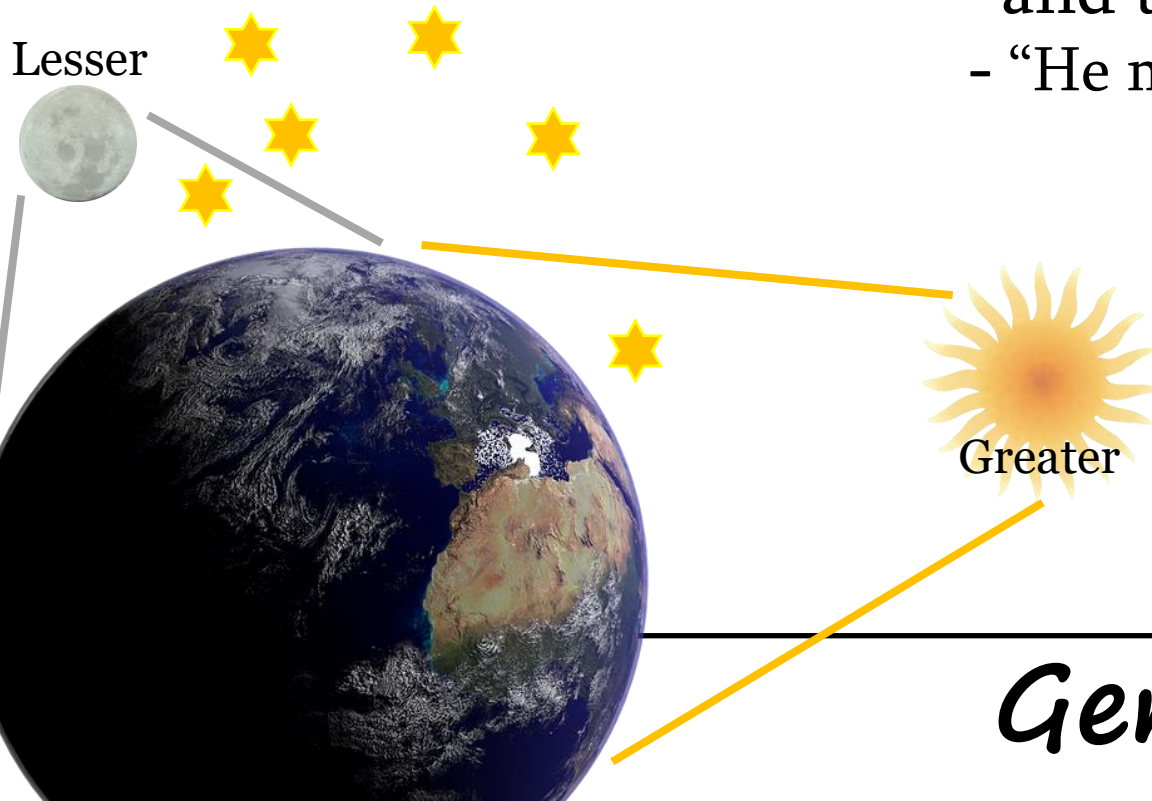
### “A God of Order”

“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

“A God of Order”

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

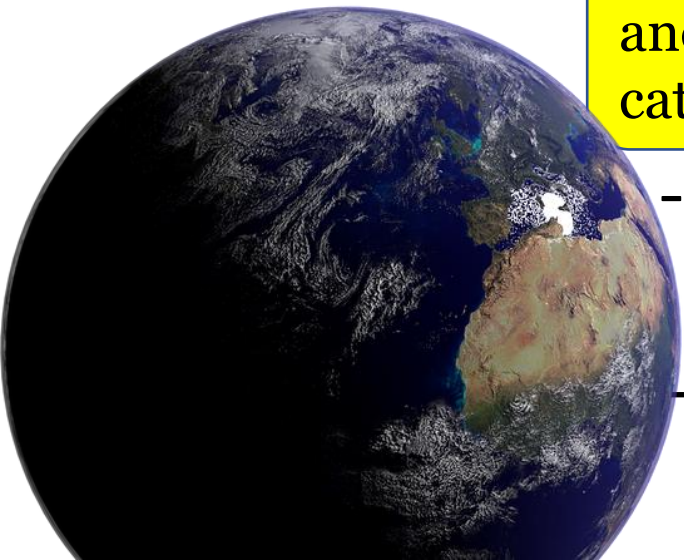
◆ God decrees a **filling** of the earth, an **abundance** of creatures [vv21-22]

◆ “...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**

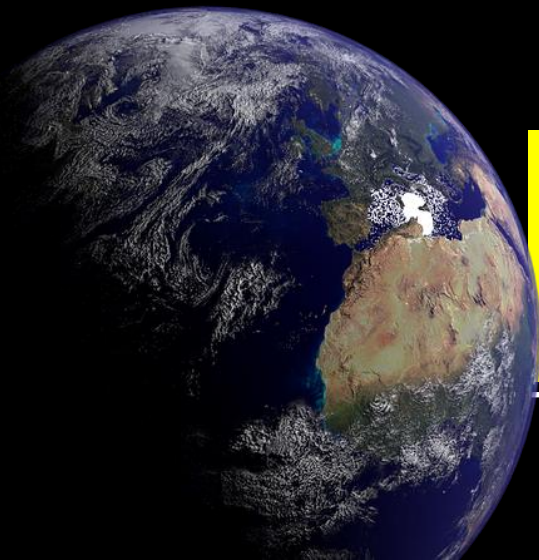
- science has not created the world, but merely **observes** it; God claims to speak from His position as Creator. Man is **limited!**

- 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



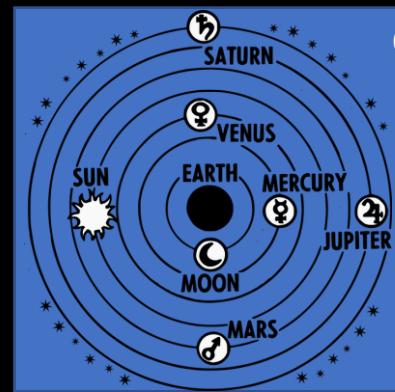
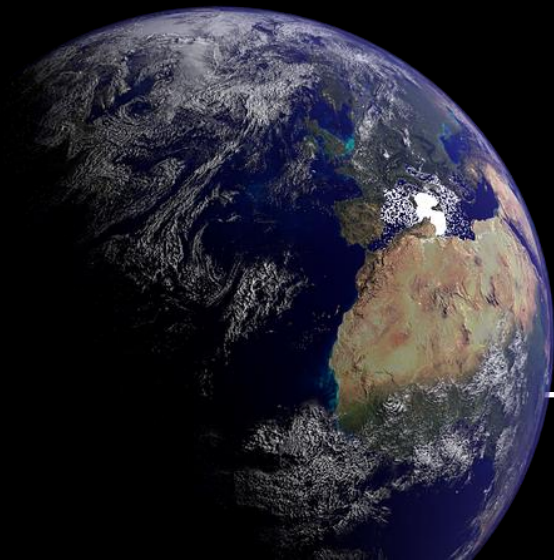


# ← The Nature of God →

“...according to its kind”

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**
    - ② science has **often** been wrong
      - give it 200 years; much of what we believe will be seen as error!

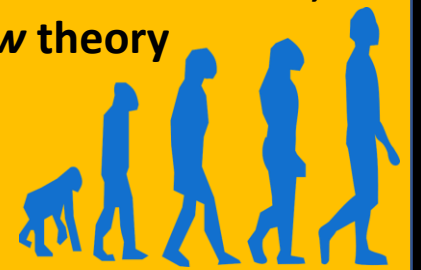


Geocentrism  
reigned till  
late 1500s

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”

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**

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

# ← 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]
- ✓ 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