

For Note-Takers: Underline any words or phrases which stand out to you. Circle words or phrases that you have a question about.

1. God spoke as He opened the fourth day of His Creation and there were immediately Heavenly lights to make a formal separation between the day and the night. These lights would mark the passing of time in signs and seasons, in days and years. Rather than confuse the length of the six days of His Creation, these would only more clearly establish that God had done His work in six actual days.
2. God established the moon to mark the different seasons, which would happen under His command, in His providence. The sun would set always at the time that God desired. The beasts of the forest, not yet created, will creep about in the darkness of night according to God’s desires. The young lions will roar in askance to God for the food that He provided them. In the morning God will command the rise of the sun and the lions will go to sleep. And man does his work according to the rising and the setting of the sun which God created and established.
3. God spoke to Job and asked him if He could bind the stars. He asked Job if he could lead forth the stars in their season, or guide them and their children. God asked if Job knew the ordinances of the Heavens or could establish their rule on the Earth. God demonstrates His glory and power in the stars of the sky. Nothing that any of us can do will have any effect on God’s binding, guiding, ordinances, or rule in the stars of the Heavens. The stars demonstrate that we are completely powerless to change God’s providential rule of our lives.
4. Because God spoke the Sun was set in the sky to give light to the Earth, rising and setting each day so that it might measure the 24 hours of the day that God had established. The moon, also, provided light through the work of the Sun. The sun, the moon, and the stars would help to separate the light and the darkness that God had already created. And God took note of how it was good. There was no sin or death.
5. We are to give thanks and praise to the Lord for all of His Creation because in His Creation He speaks His great love. He spoke His great love as He did great wonders in Creation. He spoke His great love when, by His understanding, He made the Heavens. He spoke His great love as He spread out the Earth above the waters. He spoke His great love as He made the heavenly lights. He spoke His great love as He made the sun to rule over the day and the moon and stars to rule over the night. God speaks with steadfast enduring love and the universe obeys His command.
6. With love God foretold through Jeremiah that soon the days would come when He would make a New Covenant with His people Israel which is not like the Old Covenant of the Law. His people had broken their agreement with Him many times and been adulterous in their relationship with God as their spiritual husband. With love, God would make the New Covenant, which would put God’s Law within the hearts of His people so that they would forever be His people. This would happen through the work of Jesus His Son, the Christ, the Messiah, who is also God Himself.

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7. In the New Covenant, the new agreement between God and Israel, His people would no longer have to strive in their own strength to obey Him. Salvation has always been by faith in the promise of God’s future salvation, but until the work of Jesus their Messiah Israel had continued to reject that salvation. With His love, God would clean the sins and idols from His people Israel. With steadfast enduring love He would give them a new heart and a new spirit, replacing their hearts of stone with living flesh. Through the love of His Son Jesus Christ He would give them His Holy Spirit who would cause them to obey His Law from the heart.
8. Now, in the New Covenant, everyone would know God personally and their sins would be forgiven. With God’s spoken love, as long as the sun and the moon and the stars will continue to give their light, and as long as the sea and the waves continue in their roaring, God will never reject Israel as His people. The loving promise of Creation would be the promise of the New Covenant. Only if the fixed order of God’s Creation would depart before Him would Israel cease to be His chosen people. Only if the Heavens could be measured and the foundations of the Earth explored would God reject Israel, even though because of their sin they deserved to be rejected by God. He has great enduring love in Christ for Israel, His people.
9. God speaks for the first time on the fifth day and immediately there came into being swarms of living creatures in the waters on the Earth. Birds also began to fly above the Earth across the sky. There were at once many different kinds of living sea creatures that moved within the waters. And there were many different kinds of winged birds. All of God’s Creation up to this point was good, meaning there was no sin or death present in any of it. So none of the living things in these first six days ever died.
10. God speaks a second and final time on the fifth day, giving a blessing to the creatures of the sea and sky. Only by His provision did they spread to fill the waters in the seas and the air in the skies. God spoke and they received His blessing to be fruitful over all the Earth. It is only by God’s power that any living thing can procreate. He is sovereign and in control over not just the initial creation of a living thing, but every multiplication of everything and everyone.

Application #1

Just as God shows His covenant faithfulness and mercy by speaking and causing His sun to rise each day, so we should demonstrate His love even to our enemies with faithfulness and mercy by praying for them and seeking their salvation through speaking the Gospel.

Application #2

Just as God made the Heaven and the Earth and the Sea and all that is in them, so He gives us His witness in Creation by satisfying our hearts with food and gladness. This satisfaction we find in Creation is meant to point us to His power and wisdom and glory, which should drive us to turn from vain practices and trust in the living God through the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ.

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Genesis 1:14-23

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

¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Psalm 104:19-23

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. ²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about. ²¹ The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. ²² When the sun rises, they steal away and lie down in their dens. ²³ Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening.

Job 38:31-33

³¹ [God asked Job,] “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? ³² Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

Psalm 136:1-9

136 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁷ to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁸ the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures

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forever; ⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Jeremiah 31:31-33

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And God said, “Only if this fixed order of the sun for light by day and the moon and the stars for light by night departs from before me, only then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.”

(Paraphrase of Jeremiah 31:35-36 - God’s New Covenant with Israel)

Ezekiel 36:25-27

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new

spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31:34-37

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” ³⁵ Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the Lord of hosts is his name: ³⁶ “If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the Lord, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever.” ³⁷ Thus says the Lord: “If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the Lord.”

Matthew 5:44-45

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Acts 14:15-17

¹⁵ “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you

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should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”