



Brown Community Group

Be The Light: Let There Be Light - Genesis 1

December 6, 2020

I. Getting Started:

1. Have you ever done a Bible study focused specifically on Genesis 1:3, where it tells us, “and God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”
2. Have you ever thought much about it?
3. Can you imagine the world, the universe, space itself, your personal existence even, without light of any kind?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Genesis 1: The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse^[a] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” **7** And God made^[b] the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. **8** And God called the expanse Heaven.^[c] And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth,^[d] and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants^[e] yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

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,^[f] 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^[g] 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.

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. **25** And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man^(b) in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God was there, alone, in the beginning. He, being perfect, lacked nothing.

Why did He create the world? Why did He create light? the concept of light?

Light was not a reality before He created it. Even the idea of it came from God.

I suppose He could have created a blind world where all of creation swam in an ocean, smelling and tasting only. But I can suppose that wouldn't have worked, He didn't choose that format.

Light- God chose the perfect example, picture, metaphor, the perfect physical reality to show, to describe, to put a physical frame or description to His infinite, complete, pure, goodness and holiness.

LIGHT!

It shines, it brightens, it warms, it gives health, it makes us happier, it shows things formerly hidden in the dark, it keeps us from stumbling, it provides energy for everything on the earth,

Oh, the anxious yearning for the light to come!

Dawn

Clouds clear off

Clarity

Understanding

Light chases away gloom, pleasant to behold the sunlight

Heaven will be Light, not dark

Stumbling in dark house at night, NOT okay for our eternal heaven!

Children- afraid of the dark-

I need a nightlight on! Monsters under the bed, in the closet!

There are no monsters in your room!

Yes there are, Sidney said there are.

Need light! Calms fears!

Wait Until Dark (movie) Scary!

What a perfect creation! A Perfect Picture of the magnificence of God! It wasn't a "given", It was God's original idea, "and God saw that the light was good". It works, in every way. Physically and metaphorically, as a picture.

Most often, nearly always, in the Bible, "Light" is used figuratively. Is there a better way to say it?

As we realize God's amazing creativity in creating this light thing, how does it work as a picture of God and His attributes?

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

His Glory
His affect on everything
His purity
His power
His overcoming darkness (a lack or need of Him)
His existence is the only real power in the universe
(not ying and yang, no evil as power, just a lack of God, or rebellion against Him)

Some commentaries-miss the whole point! Discussing the possible physical elements, primordial gases interacting to cause a glow, the first light! (sun wasn't created yet) or maybe the light came from this or that thing? Missing it! **God created light!** It did not exist, even as a concept or possibility before this instant!

Contest story- Get your own dirt- applies here

This is God's creation, not His adaptation.

John's account of creation-

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. ⁵ And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

Jesus' life is what gives us light, direction, purpose, energy, wisdom, any shining or glowing

As far as we are told, these are the first words ever actually spoken. "Let there be light"
We don't know that God actually spoke when He did the first act of creating the heavens and the earth. He did the creating, but with no physical universe to emit sound waves into, the concept of speaking, perhaps was not a feasible reality yet. As soon as He created physicality, the universe, then speaking worked. Molecules to vibrate, resonate.(although nobody yet to hear it)

Luther said, "This was an omnipotent word". The first word, shattering the newborn created world in its vastness, silence. Let there be Light! And there was light.

John 4:16 THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT,
AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH,
UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

Jesus!- Finally! He's here!

Jesus told us (**Matthew 5:14**) You are the light of the world. Wow! How?

(Spurgeon) The Bible is not the light of the world, it is the light of the church. But the world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians"

Some will curse the light,

John 3: 19 And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light,

and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. ²¹ But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed ^{was} having been performed in God.”

These men, the disciples, were not lights because they had received extensive training with Jesus. This is early in His ministry. They are lights because they believed and were saved!

The word of God brings light, faith and gives us light! We are brought out of darkness and sin into his glorious light, so, believers are gladders of the world. (Spurgeon)

God did not choose angels, always in the light, to tell the world, but us-formerly rebels in darkness, to call the world to join us in God’s wonderful, loving, redeeming light.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The light of God, in us, shines in the darkness of this world. (can you believe how fast our world is decaying?) We are different. We have God’s light. The world may, WILL hate us. We see this today. Shine where God has placed you!

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

IV. Responding in Prayer: (from the church elders)

1. Pray for our community to have interactions with the Gospel this week. Pray that our church members would use new or differing schedules as a way to uniquely impact those around them.
2. Pray for our church leadership. Pray against burnout from overworked schedules. Pray that they would walk with the Spirit as they make decisions this week.
3. Pray for the application of the sermon this week in our church. Pray that we would be bold during the holiday season to address difficult conversations with our family, friends, and coworkers.