

The Light Before The Sun – Part 2

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Last week we looked at the creation story in Genesis 1, specifically about what light was created on the first day verses that created on the fourth day. I maintain that God created a fixed light source on the first day and from that source, made the heavenly bodies as we see them now on the fourth day. I do not see anything else and certainly no “spiritual” creations. That doesn’t mean there aren’t spiritual lessons to learn from the “light before the sun” story of creation.

Paul said, *“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* (2 Cor. 4:6.) Here the apostle is referring to Genesis 1:3 and he clearly understands this as a physical part of creation. But he has a point to make using the Genesis record that we would do well to consider. The statement made in this verse not only summarizes the message Paul preached, it phrases the gospel in universal terms. This begins by quoting God, “Let light shine out of darkness.” Only the light of the gospel can penetrate the darkness of unbelief in Jesus. This is the analogy Paul is trying to draw from Genesis 1:3.

Paul had earlier addressed the problem with people. He noted, *“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* (2 Cor. 4:3-4.) People are perishing because they do not believe; and they do not believe because they are blinded by the devil. The god of this age, the god behind the scenes of world events, the god whom the world unconsciously worships and pays allegiance to in everything they think and say and do has brainwashed them. Therefore, they cannot understand what the good news is saying; they do not believe it. Paul says the devil’s tool is the veil. The devil is responsible for the unbelief of men, and men and women are helpless victims in the hands of the god of this age. That veil is the delusion that we are adequate to handle life by ourselves, that independent sense of pride that says, “I don’t need any help; I can handle it by myself; I need no religious crutch; I don’t need a savior.”

But there is an answer and that is where verse 6 comes in. On the basis of Lordship, Paul goes on to say that the moment a person sees that Jesus is Lord, God’s creative power begins to operate in his life and light comes into his darkness; the veil is removed. To illustrate this, the apostle goes back to creation. The whole world lay in darkness. Nobody could do anything about it except God, who said, “Let there be light,” (Genesis 1:3). Suddenly, out of the darkness, light sprang up in obedience to the creative word of the living God. It works that way in salvation too. Before any man or woman ever becomes a Christian. God has to say again that creative word, “Let light shine out of darkness.” When he does, the darkness disappears; the light shines into the heart. And the light of the knowledge of the glory of God is seen in the face of Christ. Jesus is Lord whether anyone receives Him or not. But those who do receive Him as Lord do so because the devil’s veil has been lifted and they clearly see Jesus and they are on the road to becoming a new creation in God. That is a powerful lesson from Genesis 1:3. It may also help us understand how God “opened” the heart of Lydia to “pay attention to what was said by Paul” (Acts 16:14.)