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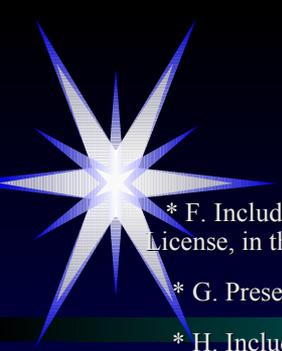
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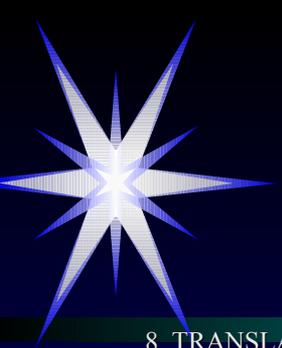
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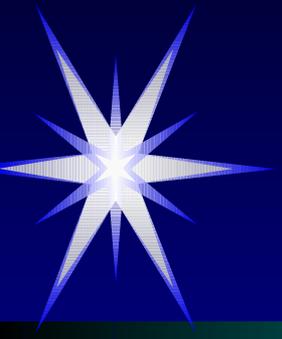
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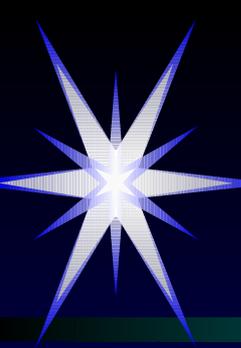
# God's Glory in Genesis 1

Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.  
Westminster Theological Seminary



# A. The Trinity in Creation

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# Sovereignty over Creation

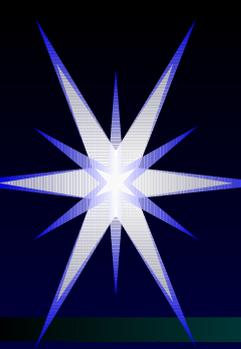
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Foundation



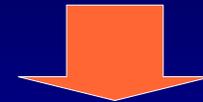


# The Trinity in Creation

The Father  
as Speaker

The Son  
as Word

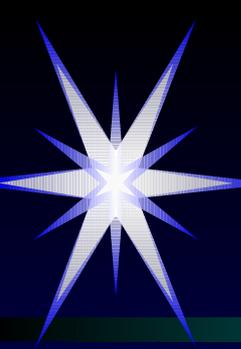
The Spirit  
present



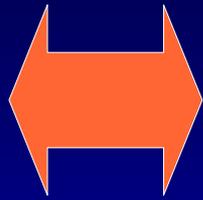
Creation

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Ps.  
33:6)

... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the  
face of the waters. (Gen. 1:2)



# Personal versus Impersonal



personal care

affection

beauty

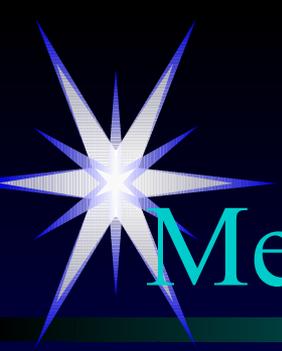
indifference

insignificance

chaos

Grim

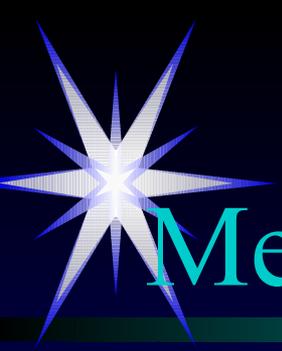




# Mediator in Creation

He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col. 1:15-17)

creation



# Mediator in Re-creation

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col. 1:18-20)

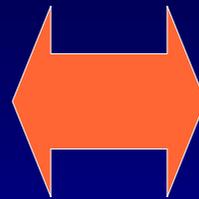
creation



re-creation



# Personal Creation and Redemption

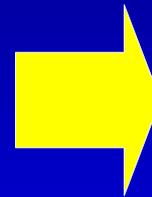


personal care

affection

beauty

**In Christ**



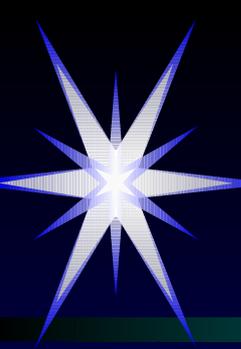
creation

redemption



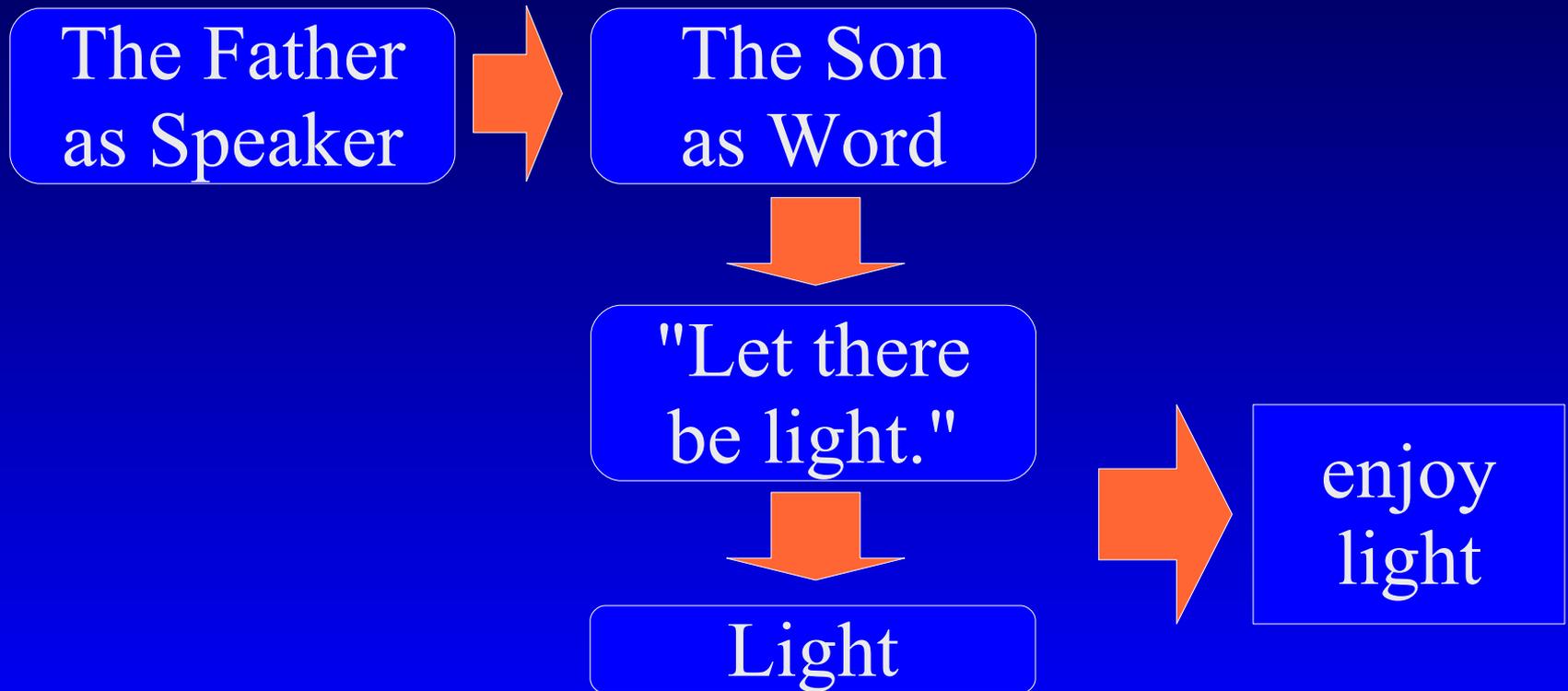
# B. God's Glory in the Created World

Day 1



# Speaking to Create Light

And God said, "Let there be light,"  
and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

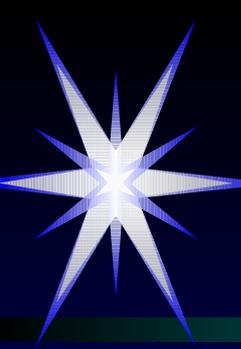




# Character of Light

And God said, "Let there be light,"  
and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

In him [the Son] was life, and the life  
was the light of men. The light shines  
in the darkness, and the darkness has  
not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)



# Pattern Reflected

The Father  
as Original



The Son  
as Light

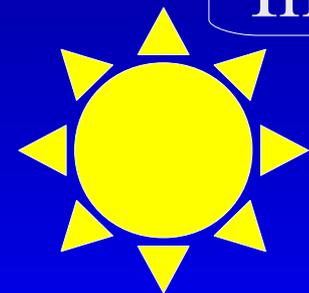
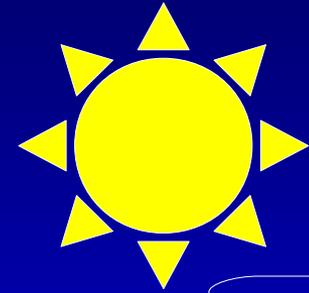
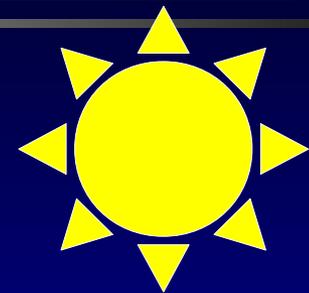


created light



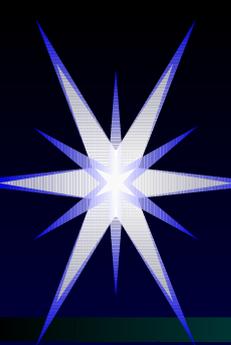
moral light

"God is light,  
and in him is  
no darkness at  
all." (1 John  
1:5)



Image



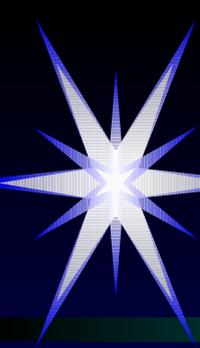


# Redemptive Light

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For the 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)





# Contrast of Light

And God separated the light from the darkness. (Gen. 1:4)

creation

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

re-creation



# Separation

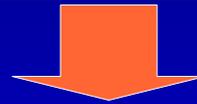
The Father  
as Planner



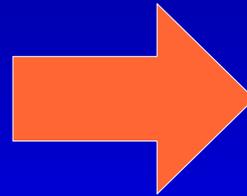
The Son  
as Word and Orderer



Specific word  
defining and ordering



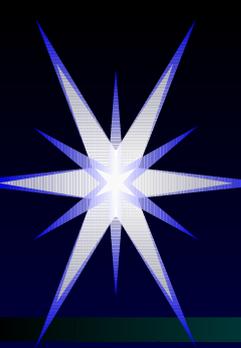
undifferen-  
tiated



ordered

"without form and  
void" (Gen. 1:2)

"separated"  
(Gen. 1:4)



# Redemptive Light in Contrast

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only 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)





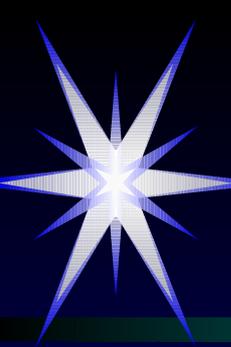
# Benefits Light for Us

- ▶ See and locate
- ▶ Find your way (John 8:12)
- ▶ Enjoy colors, artistry
- ▶ Rest at night
- ▶ Heat
- ▶ An emblem of spiritual light.

Yes!

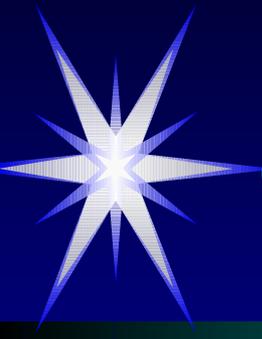






# Moral Separation

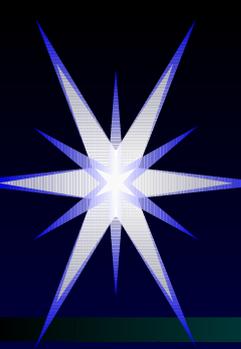
And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deed should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God. (John 3:19-21)



# C. Separation of Waters

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Day 2

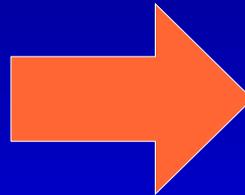


# Separation of Waters

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." (Gen. 1:6)

undifferentiated water

"the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:2)



ordered waters

"under" and "above" (Gen. 1:7)



# Separation

The Father  
as Planner



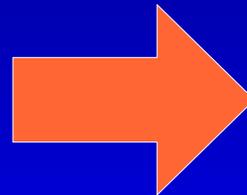
The Son  
as Word and Orderer



Specific word  
defining and ordering



undifferen-  
tiated



ordered

"without form and  
void" (Gen. 1:2)

"separated"  
(Gen. 1:7)



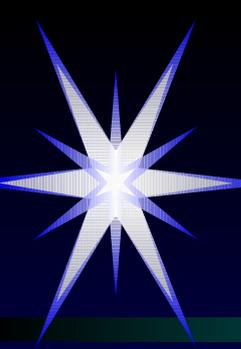
# Structure of Waters

Waters above the expanse (Gen. 1:7)

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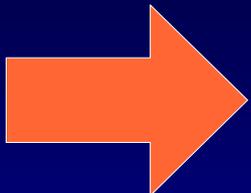
Expanse: "firmament," "heaven" (Gen. 1:8)

Waters under the expanse (Gen. 1:7, 9)



# Meaning of "Heaven"

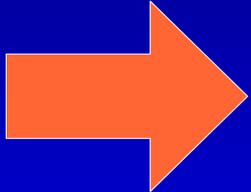
"heaven"



God's dwelling

2

"And listen in heaven  
your dwelling place ..."  
(1 Kings 8:30)

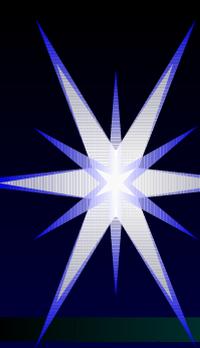


sky



1

"birds of the heavens"  
(Gen. 1:26, 28, 30)



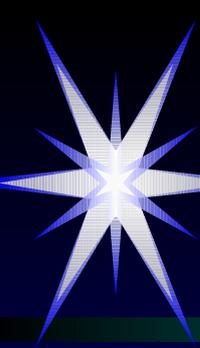
# "Heaven" – the Sky

"the heavens poured down rain" (Ps. 68:8)

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven ..." (Is. 55:20)

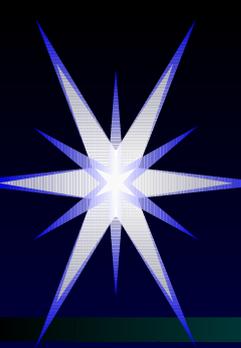
... the heavens dropped,  
yes, the clouds dropped water. (Judges 5:4)

And in a little while the heavens grew black  
with clouds and wind, and there was a great  
rain. (1 Kings 18:45)



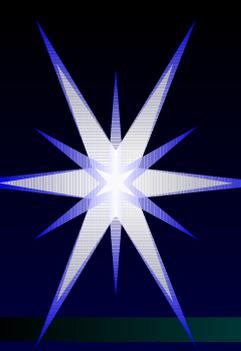
# Waters above the Heavens

- ▶ The heavens can refer to the sky that you see.
  - ▶ Either blue (clear) or black (night) or
  - ▶ Clouds (1 Kings 18:45 black)
- ▶ Waters above come down as rain.
- ▶ God has made the whole structure, as provision for rain.
- ▶ " ... for he [God] did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness. (Acts 14:17)



# Blessings through the Son

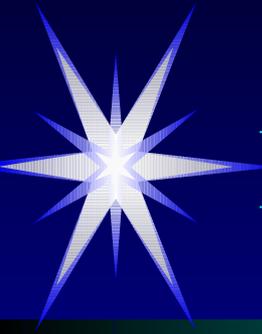
- ▶ Separations of waters are created by the Word
- ▶ Separations maintained by the Word
- ▶ Blessings undeserved are given by the Word, as a benefit of redemption



# Benefits of Waters

- We are in between; cannot live in water.
- Water below will have fish.
- Water above waters the earth.
- Watering brings fruitfulness.
  - By the blessing of Christ.
- Christ is the source of the spiritual water of eternal life (John 4:14)

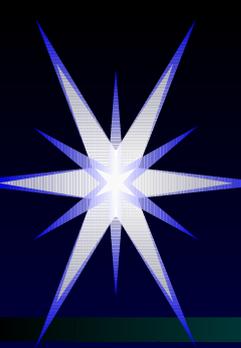




# D. Plants: Life

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Day 3

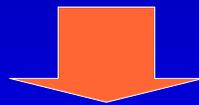


# God Creating Plants

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth."

And it was so. (Gen. 1:11)

plants, trees



tree of life

Gen. 2:9; 3:22



# Life in Christ

In him [The Son] was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)

creation life

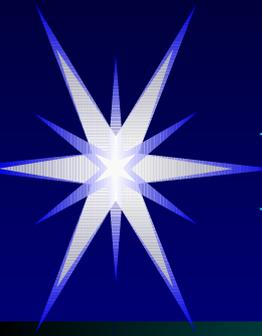


re-creation life









# E. Heavenly Lights

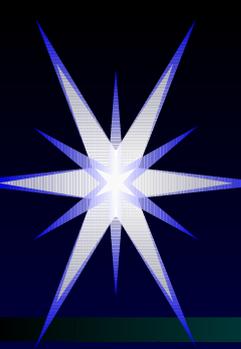
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Day 4



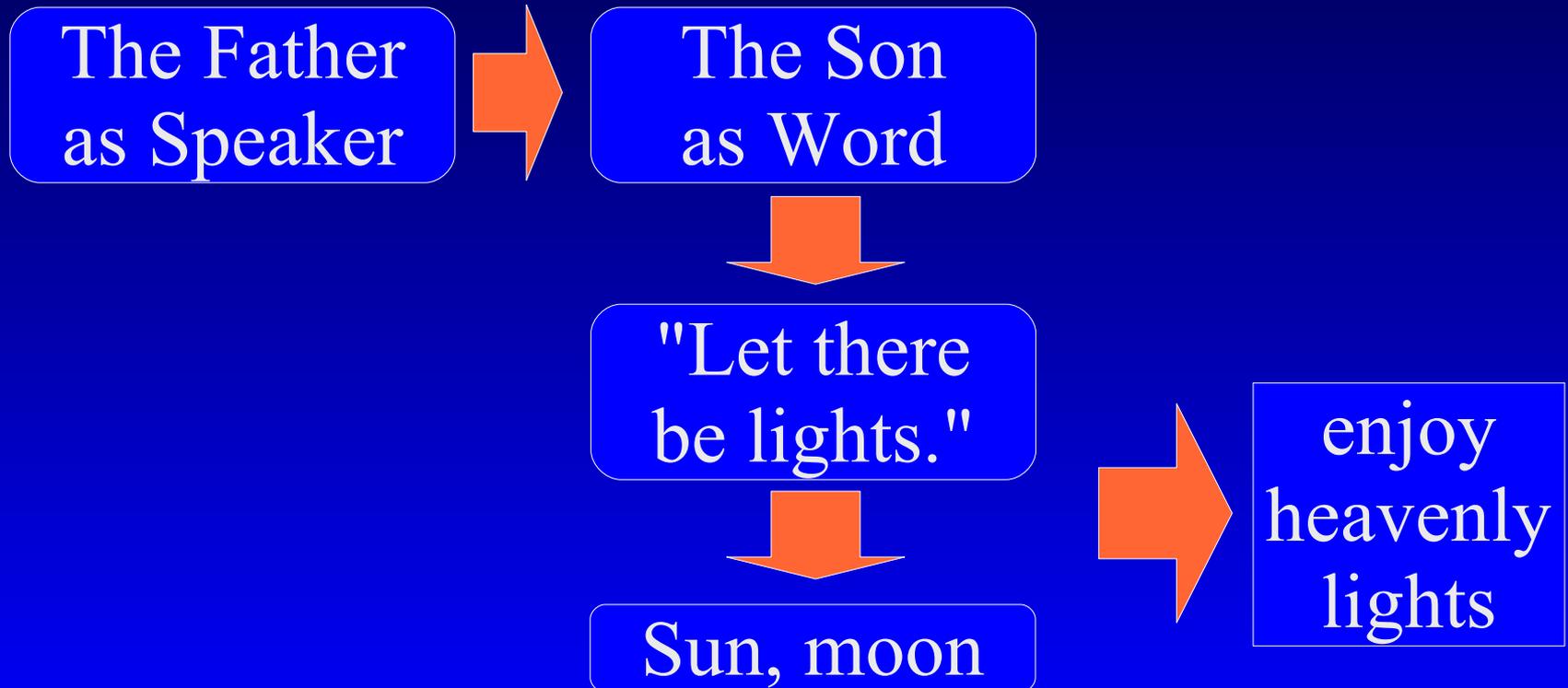
# Function of Lights

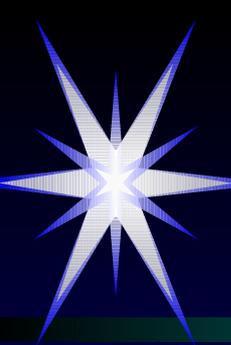
And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.  
(Gen. 1:14-15)



# Speaking Lights

And God said, "Let there be lights ..." (Gen. 1:14)





# The Glory of God

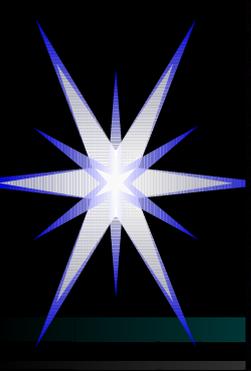
The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.  
– Psalm 19:1-2

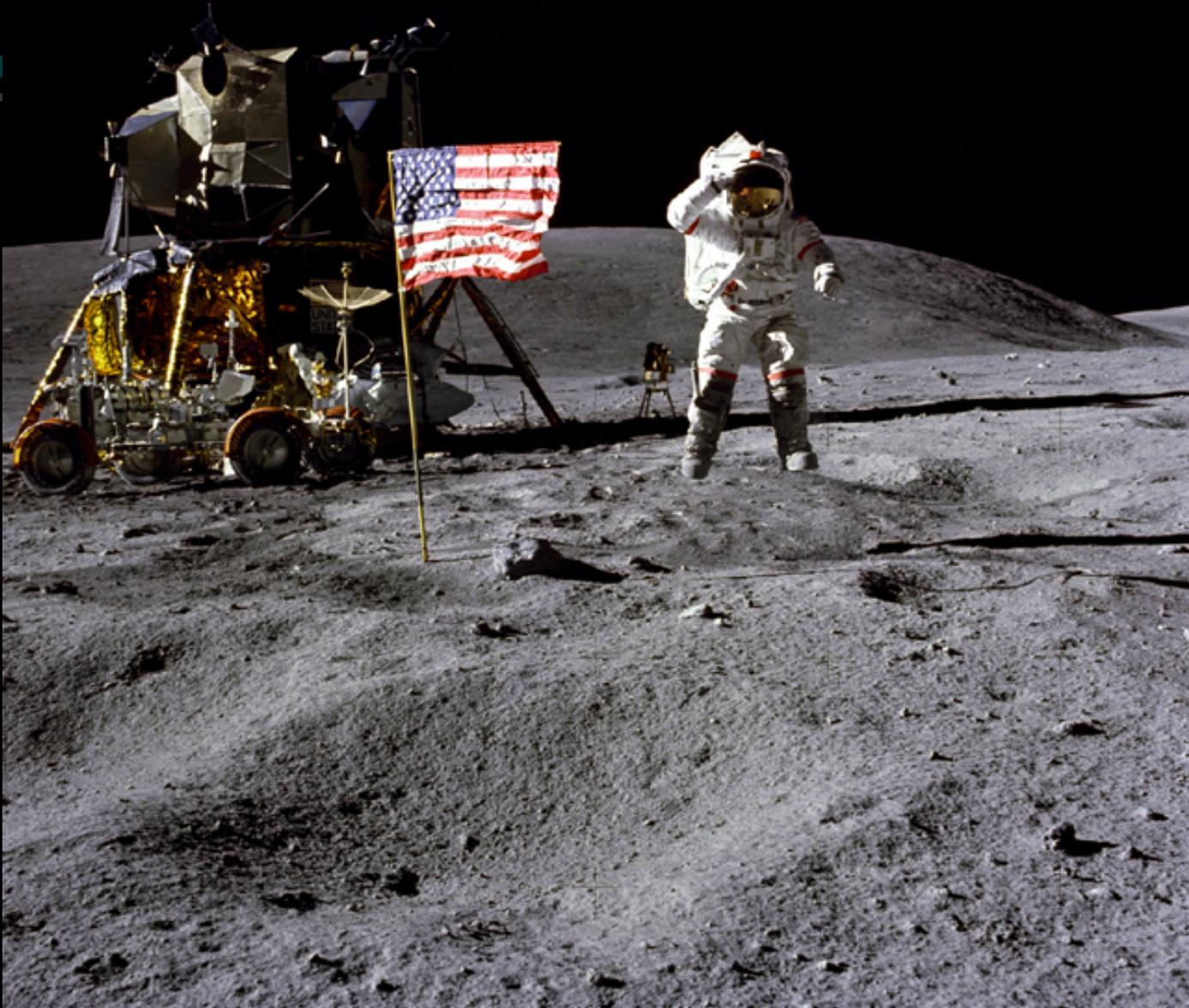
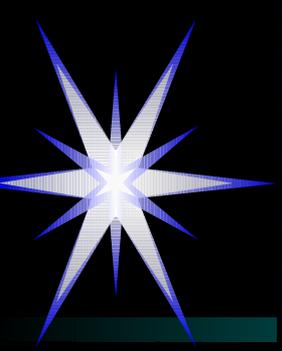
The sun of righteousness shall rise with  
healing in its wings. (Mal. 4:2)

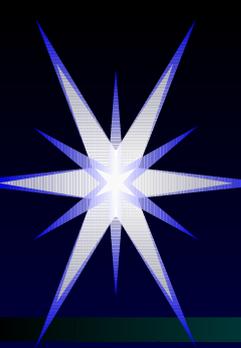






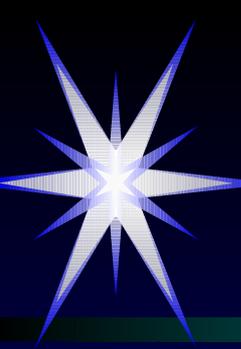




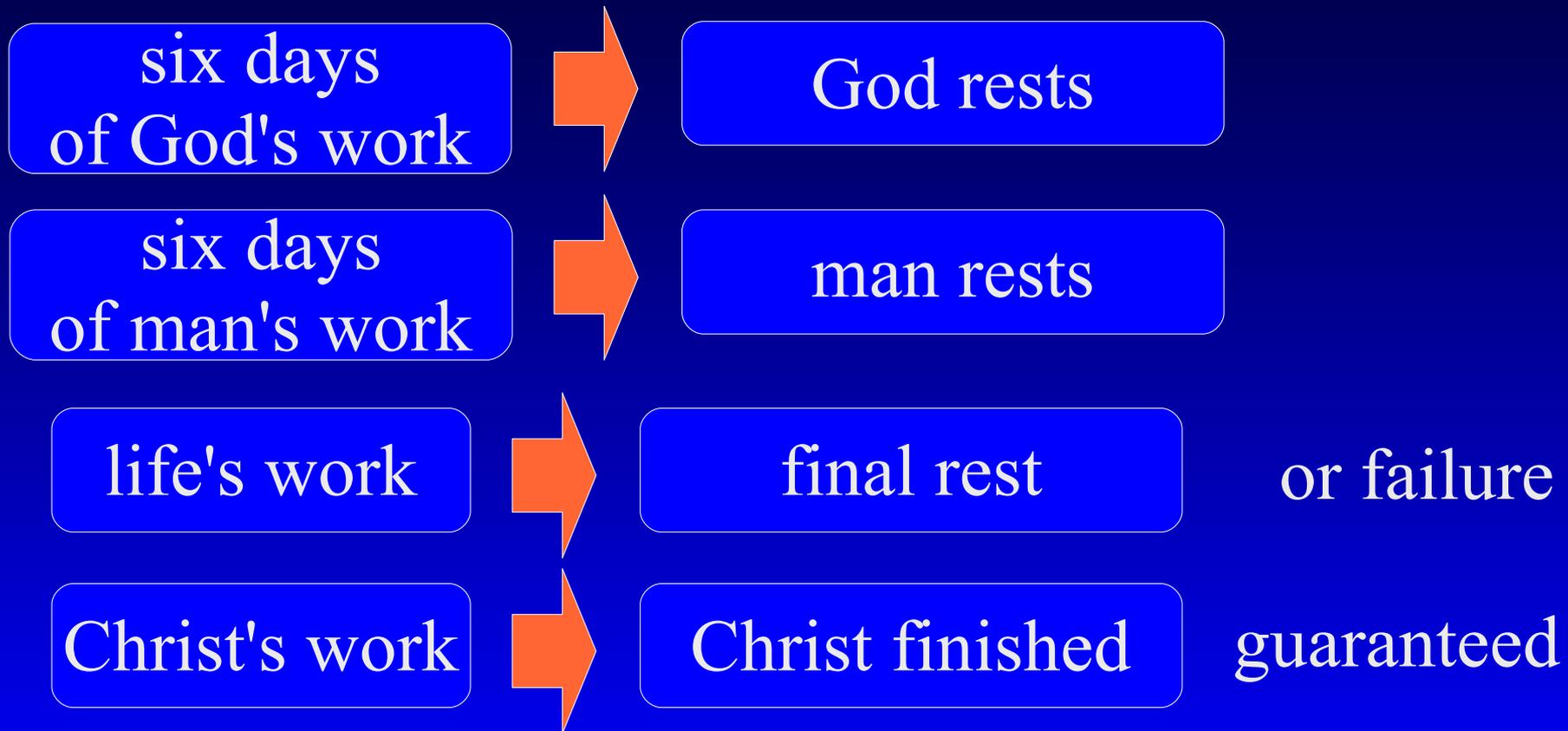


# Functions of Heavenly Lights

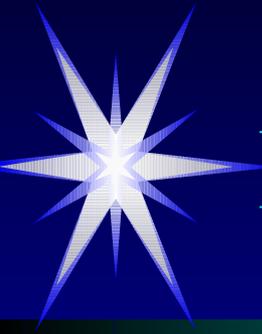
- Separate light and dark
- For signs and seasons
  - days, months, seasons, years
- To give light on the earth



# Time-Keeping and Hope

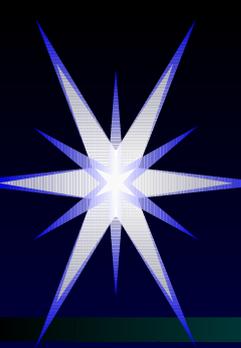


John 19:30



# F. Fish and Birds

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# God's Care (Psalm 104:24-27)

O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom have you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Here is the sea, great and wide,  
which teems with creatures innumerable,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.  
These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.



# Care for Birds

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? – Matt. 6:25-27



# Life in Christ

In him [The Son] was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)

creation life



re-creation life

creation care



re-creation care