



Creation Command 5: we now have time

Genesis 1:14 And God said, “*Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.*”

Then it hit me! What did God create in his first command? He created light within the darkness. God also gave names to these two things: night and day. So, why is he creating night and day in command five. It’s already set up isn’t it? Again, then it hit me. God is creating time. In the beginning, God put light into the darkness and separated it. It’s like we bring a flashlight into a dark basement. Darkness is felt all around us. We stay in the light. Now in command five God is creating a new thing: time!

I have a small issue with speech. Some people can hear something and let it pass. It’s just talk to them. I tend to listen and take words literally. Not every word spoken but many. I hear a pastor call on us to change the world and I’m out the door waving the God flag. He says slow down, I was just rallying the troupes for passion, not action. I feel God created the night and day and we take him literally. Yet, what if he had created photons, neutrons, and things like that. What if he gave light a place to exist?

In comes command number 5. God is taking that light and giving it a place to exist. In our next command 6, we will see God giving light a function and purpose. Yet, there is an in-between step called time. I know it does not say that God created time, but you can plainly see that he is setting it up. Titus 1:2 “*In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies,*

promised before the ages began.” God somehow and somehow has always been here. Yet, he has chosen to put time limits on parts of his creation. To create days, weeks, and seasons.

Welcome to creation command number 5.

Let’s go through this command. It’s one verse so it seems harmless. I love the fact that the Bible makes reference to what has already been done. God does not just make a dome or expanse. No, instead he is going to use it and fill it. In this creation account we need to slow down and see that God is creating one step at a time. First is light. Not the sun or the stars. Just light. We create a ball. The ball concept is a placeholder for a baseball and a volleyball. Yet, they are both a ball. What will God do with this light?

If you understand God then you would know that he is radiant light. In the book called Revelation, heaven is lit up by God and not the sun. God’s creation of light is more or less the declaration that the light (God) is here. We take a ball and put it in a game. Then we call it soccer. God takes the light and gives it context within time. Again, we have the word separate. Darkness and light can exist in the same basement. How do we measure time in the dark? God gave definition to the light and called it day. He gave a place for darkness in the night. The two shall not be in the same place except where they pass: morning and evening.

I love the rest of this verse. Let it be set up for signs. In Hebrew this can be described as an omen, warning, banner, or mark. We see an eclipse, comet, and northern lights. All of these events mark a place in time. A flash of lightning or a meteor show all display light in its strength. I remember my first Van Halen concert directly because of the massive VH symbol that was lit up with (thousand watt) bulbs more or less. My first fireworks display. The explosion of a nuclear bomb. Light plays a role in our lives.

God then gives meaning to light by using it to pass time. To make a day turn into a night. To have that function moves us through years and centuries. The Bible is genius. Light is the driver and the template in how we will measure time. I love this funny saying “many moons ago.” Others say “seasons ago.” Yet, each of these things is separated by a light clock of night and day. I believe that animals have no concept of time. Yet, we do. To make it more interesting, God has given us time in creation. He could have left out day and night, but he didn't. All through the Bible has God saying He is the beginning and the end. That He is the God of past fathers. I do feel that this lonely verse is one of the most pivotal verses we have in the Bible.

How to make the eternal God? Make points in time. To make Him the God of Adam. The God of preacher Charles Spurgeon. God is the creator of me and the 69 years of night and day that my mother had. We measure our existence by light. We call it time spent seeing the light come up and go down. We also know that God was there in the beginning when time began for Adam and Eve. When it began for you and me. In many ways this creation command number 5 is the measurable beginning point for creation. Just as to the atheist is the Big Bang Theory. Within both of these things light was involved to set forth time.