
— God's Creation Series —

GOD'S WONDERFUL WORKS

T H E C R E A T I O N I N S I X D A Y S

Eric D. Bristley & Edward J. Shewan

C H R I S T I A N L I B E R T Y P R E S S



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— Preface —

Young students need to learn how God made the earth and heavens in six days. The book that follows will help children to better understand that the things that they observe in creation were made by God alone.

When young people study the world God made, they will discover how often nature sings of the majesty and power of the Creator. The works of creation continually testify to the greatness of the Lord and inspire true students of science to explore the world with diligence.

The Bible reminds each creature that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all true knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). In this regard, it is vital that young students acknowledge the work of their Creator as they seek to gain a knowledge of the world around them. Great joy and wisdom will flow to all those who are committed to glorifying Christ through a study of the created order.

*Michael J. McHugh
Arlington Heights, IL*

DAY 4



God Made the Sun, Moon, and Stars

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

— Genesis 1:14–19 —



The Sun Rules the Day

On the fourth day of creation, God created lights in the sky to separate the day from the night. One of these is the **sun**, which is a big, bright ball that shines on the earth during the day. The sun gives us light so that we can see. The sun also gives light to help make plants grow.

The sun is very big. It is larger than a million earths put together. Why, then, does the sun look so small? Because it is very far away. How does a big airplane look when it is flying high in the sky? It looks small, like a toy airplane. In the same way, the sun looks small because it is about 93 million miles away from the earth!

When it is daytime, the sun gives us light, but you cannot see the sun shine all the time. It only shines on one half of the earth at a time. When the sun shines on our part, it is day; and when it is night, the sun is shining on the other part.



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Activity

For this activity, all you need is a flashlight. Pretend that the flashlight is the sun. As you shine it on different objects, you will see dark places, or shadows, behind each object. Why do the shadows appear? This is what the sun does when it shines on the earth. A shadow appears when the sunlight is blocked by an object.

WARNING! *The sun is very bright. You should NEVER look directly at the sun; it could hurt your eyes.*



The Moon Rules the Night

God also put lights in the sky to rule the night. At night, it is often dark outside, but if there are no clouds, you may see the **moon** and **stars**. The moon is very bright, and the stars may even twinkle, but where did the sun go? The sun is still shining, but it is shining on the other side of the earth. It also shines on the moon and makes it very bright. This means it is daytime on the moon. One day on the moon is equal to 30 days on the earth!

The moon is very different from the earth. The moon is smaller, and it does not have any air or water. Could you live very long on the moon without them? No, you need air and water to live. It also is very hot on the sunny side of the moon and very cold on the dark side of the moon!



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Activity

If you have a globe, place it at one end of a table and a stack of books at the other end. Darken the room. Place a flashlight on the stack of books. Shine the flashlight directly on the globe. Does the light create a shadow? Yes, the globe blocks the light of the flashlight just as the earth blocks the light of the sun.

Now set a grapefruit on a tall glass near one side of the globe. Sit facing the dark side of the globe with the grapefruit to one side. Do you see the flashlight? No, but you see light from the flashlight shining on one side of the grapefruit. This is the same way the moon gets its light from the sun.



God Made the Stars

On a clear night, if you look up into the sky you can see the stars. These stars are huge suns that God placed very far away from Earth. You cannot see all of them with your eyes; but with the help of a telescope, you can see many more. Do you know what a telescope is? It is a long, round tube with a piece of glass at each end of the tube. It makes distant objects, including the stars, look bigger and much closer.

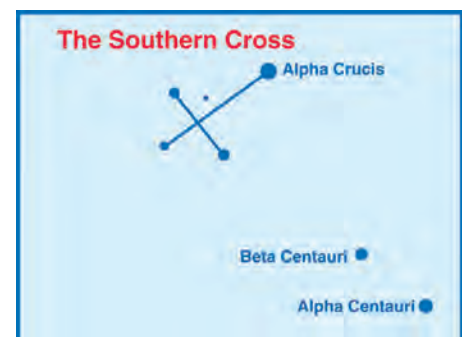
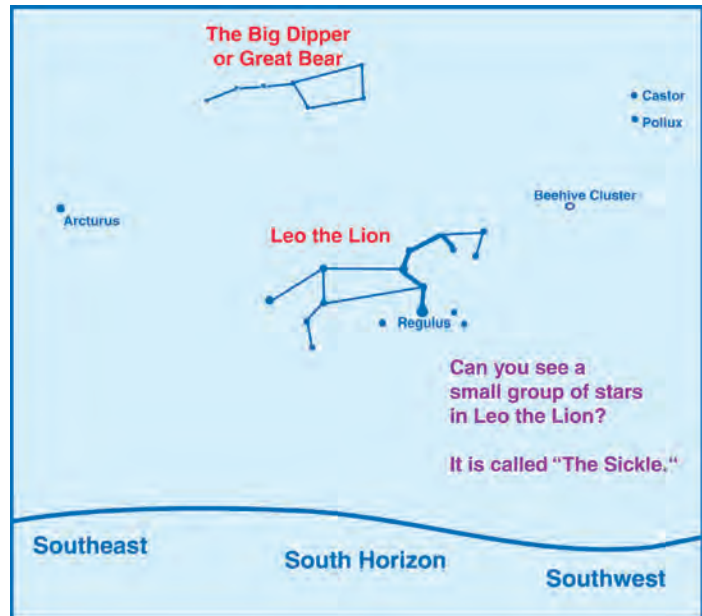
God has put some of the stars into groups. The Bible says that God gave names to each group of stars. Some look like animals—the Great Bear, Lion, and Big Dog. Some look like people—the Herdsman, Twins, and a mighty hunter called Orion (Job 9:9, 38:31). There are two groups of stars that look like big soup spoons—the Big and Little Dippers.

If you live in Australia, southern Africa, or South America, you can see a beautiful group of stars called the Southern Cross. It can be seen every day of the year from these continents.

Activity

If you have a telescope, go outside at night and look up in the sky. What do you see? Try to find some of the star groups that you studied. If you have a book on stars from the library, it will help you to find them.

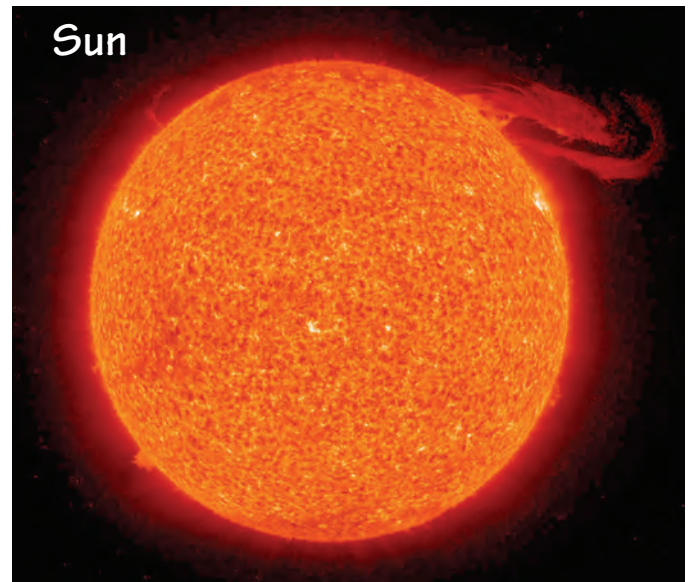
Do you know what these groups of stars are called? They are called **constellations**. This big word means that these stars are set together in the sky. They usually look like an object, animal, or person.



Lights in the Sky

Since God had already created the light, why did He make the lights in the sky? One reason is that God is the Ruler of the heavens and the earth. He wants us and all His creatures to learn that we must obey His will. Even the heavens must obey His commands (Genesis 1:14).

Another reason God made the lights in the sky is to show us His glory. The Bible says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

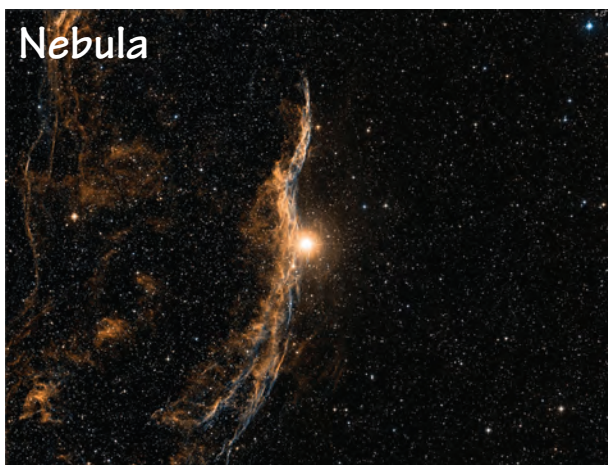


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Do you remember what the word “firmament” means? It is the atmosphere above the earth. Beyond the firmament is space, which reaches high into the sky and goes far beyond the earth, moon, and sun. Space is so large that it is hard to think of how big it really is!



Digitized Sky Survey CC BY-SA 4.0

We must praise God for His greatness and power, which He has painted across the sky. When we look at the sky at night, we see how small and helpless we truly are. God created the heavens above to declare His glory. Stop and pray to our great God and Creator. Thank Him for all He has made for us to enjoy. Ask Him to help you understand the signs and seasons that are set by the sun, moon, and stars.

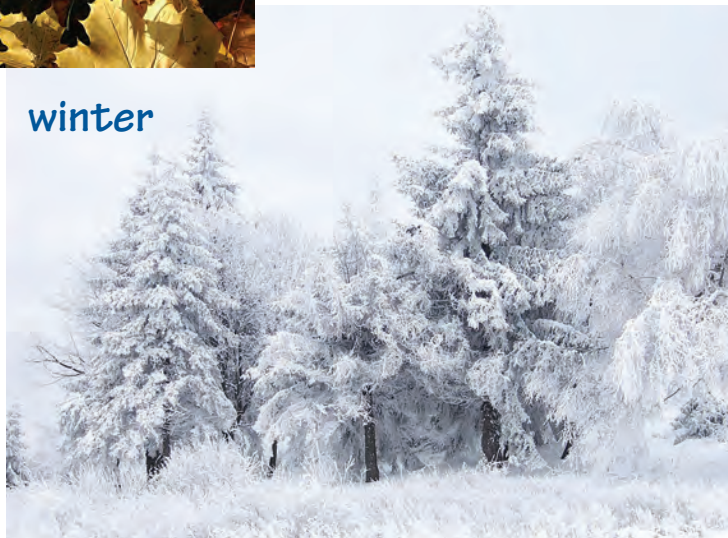
Signs and Seasons

God made the sun, moon, and stars as signs. These signs tell how long each day is. They also rule the seasons. They determine when it will be summer, when the sun shines more, or when it will be winter, when the sun shines less.

God also made these signs to set the length of each year. A year is divided into four **seasons**. Each season lasts about ninety days, or three months. God has a special purpose for each season. Learn the name of each season—*spring, summer, fall, and winter*.



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Spring

Spring comes after the cold winter season. The days get warmer and continue to get longer. The earth comes alive after its long winter “nap.” God sends rain to help the herbs (plants with soft stems) and trees (plants with hard stems) to grow new leaves and flowers.



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Around March 21 in the Northern Hemisphere, spring begins. Spring begins in the Southern Hemisphere around September 22. This is the day when the daytime is equal to the nighttime. The days then continue to get longer and warmer until the beginning of summer.



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Spring is the time to plant flowers or a small tree. If you have a garden, help your mom and dad plant some vegetables. Within a few months, they will be ready to eat.



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Summer

During the summer, the earth is tilted toward the sun more than during the winter. Since the beams of sunlight shine directly on the earth, the earth is warmed up. People like to be outdoors during the summertime. This season of hot, sunny days begins around June 22 in the Northern Hemisphere. Around December 22, the summer begins in the Southern Hemisphere.

God made the summer for a special reason. Plants grow fast in the summer months. Living things need lots of sunshine and water to grow well. If God did not provide summer, the plants would not grow and we would have no food.



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Activity

What you need:

- bean seeds
- water
- potting soil
- two clear plastic cups

What to do:

Do this activity to learn why the summer sun is so important. Fill both cups half full with potting soil. Do not push down on the soil. Push a few seeds just under the surface of the soil; then add some water. Put one cup in the sunlight, and put the other cup in a dark part of your home. Continue to water both when needed. Check them after one week. Which plant looks green and healthy?

Which one grew faster? Why?

Fall

Fall is the season when the leaves change color; some turn dark brown, bright yellow, or deep red. Do you know why they change color? In the trees, the sap—which is made up of water and food—stops flowing to their leaves and they dry up. The dried food that is stored in the leaves gives them their color. Then the leaves drop to the ground.

The fruits of plants also ripen at this time. We can gather the vegetables from our gardens,

just as the first Pilgrims did many years ago. This season is a busy time because food needs to be picked and stored before the cold wintertime begins. This is called the time of **harvest**.

The fall season begins around September 22 in the Northern Hemisphere. Around March 21, fall begins in the Southern Hemisphere. As fall settles in, the earth begins to grow colder and darker. This happens because the earth begins to tilt away from the sun.

The sun does not shine as strongly as it did during the summertime. The herbs dry up and die, and many trees lose their leaves and begin their winter rest.



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Winter

Winter is a time for God's creation to rest and repair. Many animals sleep all during the winter. The trees and herb plants also rest and wait for spring to come.

During the winter, the earth is tilted farthest away from the sun. This is why the days of winter are cold and snowy. In the Northern Hemisphere, the winter begins around December 22, which is the shortest day of the year. Around June 22, winter begins in the Southern Hemisphere. After this time, the days become longer.

Winter is a time for cold weather. God sends the snow to cover the earth. This protects most of the plants from the cold, cold weather. Winter is also a time to enjoy the snow and many winter sports.



Blue Jay

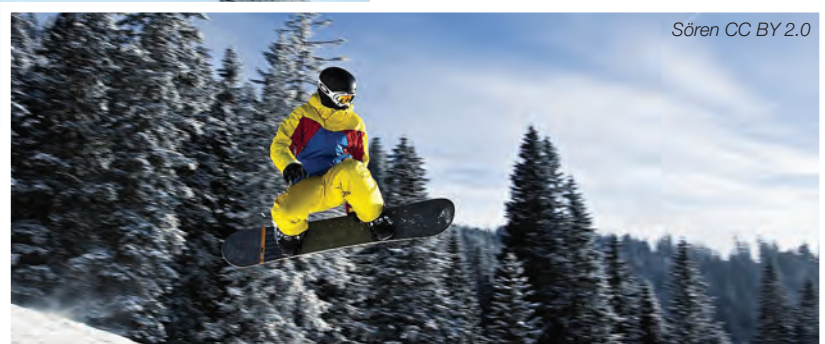
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Sören CC BY 2.0

God Rules Over the Seasons

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

God created each season for a special reason. The spring brings new life to the earth, and the herbs and trees begin to grow after the winter rest. The summer brings the warm sunshine, which helps the plants to grow and make many wonderful things to eat. Then comes the harvest with the fall, when the plants begin to die or fall asleep. Finally, the winter lets all of creation rest until spring comes once again.



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Activity

What you need:

- pictures from magazines, etc.
- poster board
- glue or rubber cement



- scissors
- black marker

What to do:

Divide the poster board into four columns or squares with a black marker. Print the name of a season in each section. Go through many old magazines and cut out pictures that remind you of the four seasons. After collecting your pictures, glue them on the poster board in the appropriate sections.

Looking Back

True or False: (Circle the correct answer.)

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. God gave us four seasons. | True | False |
| 2. Each season lasts one year. | True | False |
| 3. Our seasons are spring, summer, fall, and winter. | True | False |
| 4. Spring is very hot and dry. | True | False |
| 5. Summer is dark and cool. | True | False |
| 6. Fall is the time for raking leaves and picking fruit. | True | False |
| 7. Winter is hot and sunny. | True | False |

Matching

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| big ball of light | stars |
| small ball of light | sun |
| huge "suns" | moon |



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Fill in the Blank

1. God made the sun, moon, and stars as _____.
2. A year is divided into four _____.
3. In the Northern Hemisphere, March 21 is about when _____ begins.
4. The _____ sun helps plants to grow.
5. _____ change color in the _____ as the sap stops flowing.
6. The shortest day of the year comes around _____ 22 in the Southern Hemisphere.
7. God _____ over the seasons.