

CREATION

In the beginning...

בראשית

(Genesis)

Sources

Rational Bible: Genesis, Dennis Prager

Victor Hamilton, citations

Nahum Sarna, Jewish Publication
Society

Sefaria.org (Bible translation)

Key Points

A vibrant, multi-colored galaxy cluster or nebula. The central region is a bright, dense core of blue and purple light. Surrounding this core are several distinct, glowing structures in various colors, including orange, red, and yellow. The background is a deep black space filled with numerous small, white and blue stars, creating a rich, starry field.

“How vs Why” to “Knowledge vs Wisdom”



Key Points

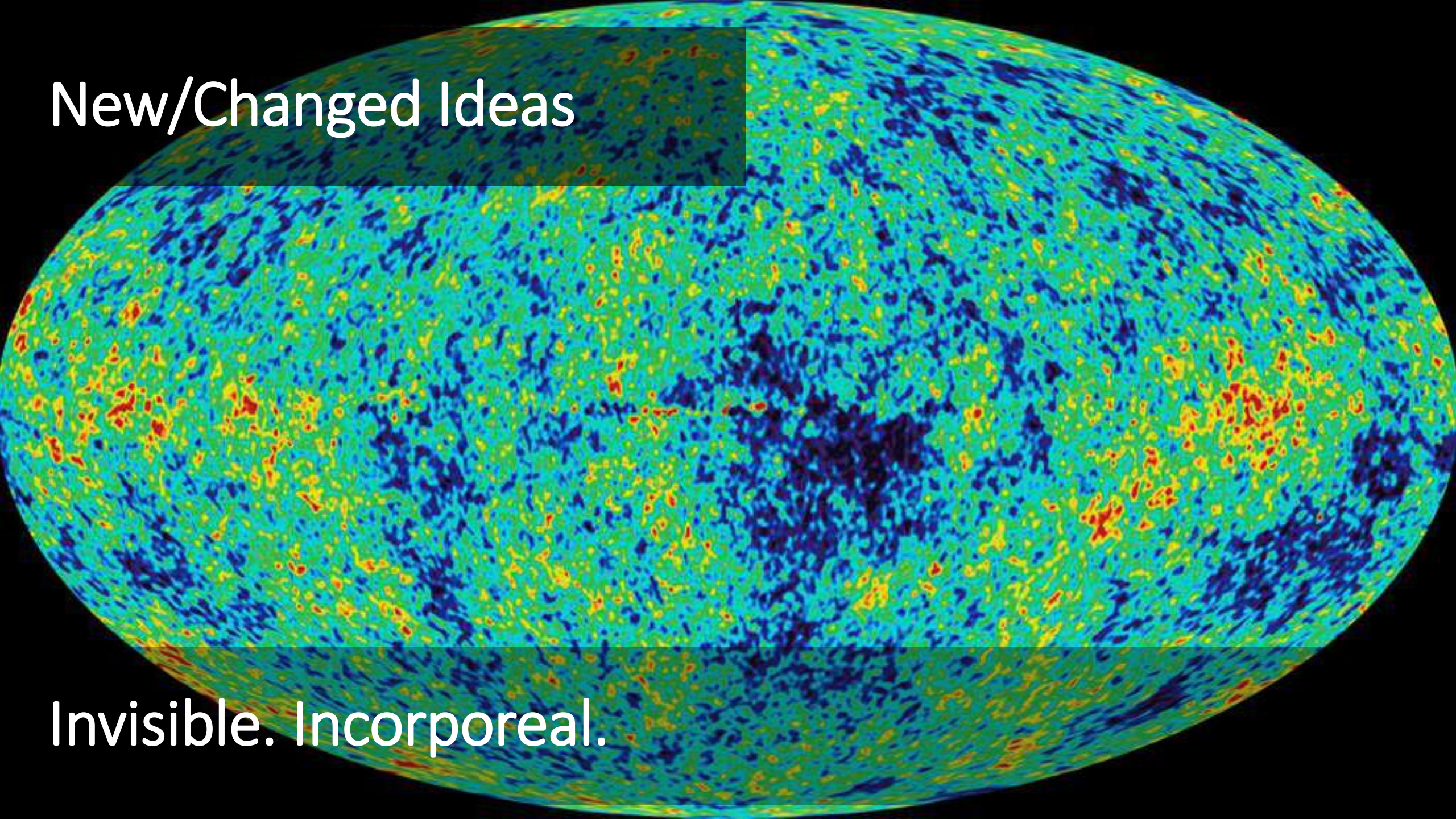
Wisdom and Goodness

So very different than previous thinking/literature



New/Changed Ideas

One Universal God



New/Changed Ideas

Invisible. Incorporeal.

A vibrant, multi-colored nebula in space, featuring glowing clouds in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. The background is a deep blue with numerous stars and star trails, suggesting a long-exposure photograph of a celestial event.

New/Changed Ideas

God is moral



New/Changed Ideas

God is beyond nature

New/Changed Ideas



God loves and wants to be loved



New/Changed Ideas

Universal human rights



New/Changed Ideas

We continue fighting for these ideals to this day

God written? Does it matter?



One tends to obey God more than a human

A close-up, artistic rendering of a black hole. The central black hole is a dark, oval-shaped void. It is surrounded by a bright, glowing accretion disk that transitions from white and yellow near the center to orange and red further out. The background is a dark, starry space with several small, bright stars scattered across the field.

God written? Does it matter?

One tends to pass it on/down more if from God

God written? Does it matter?

How else would you know what God wants?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Creator of all – there is meaning





Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

No birth of God. One Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

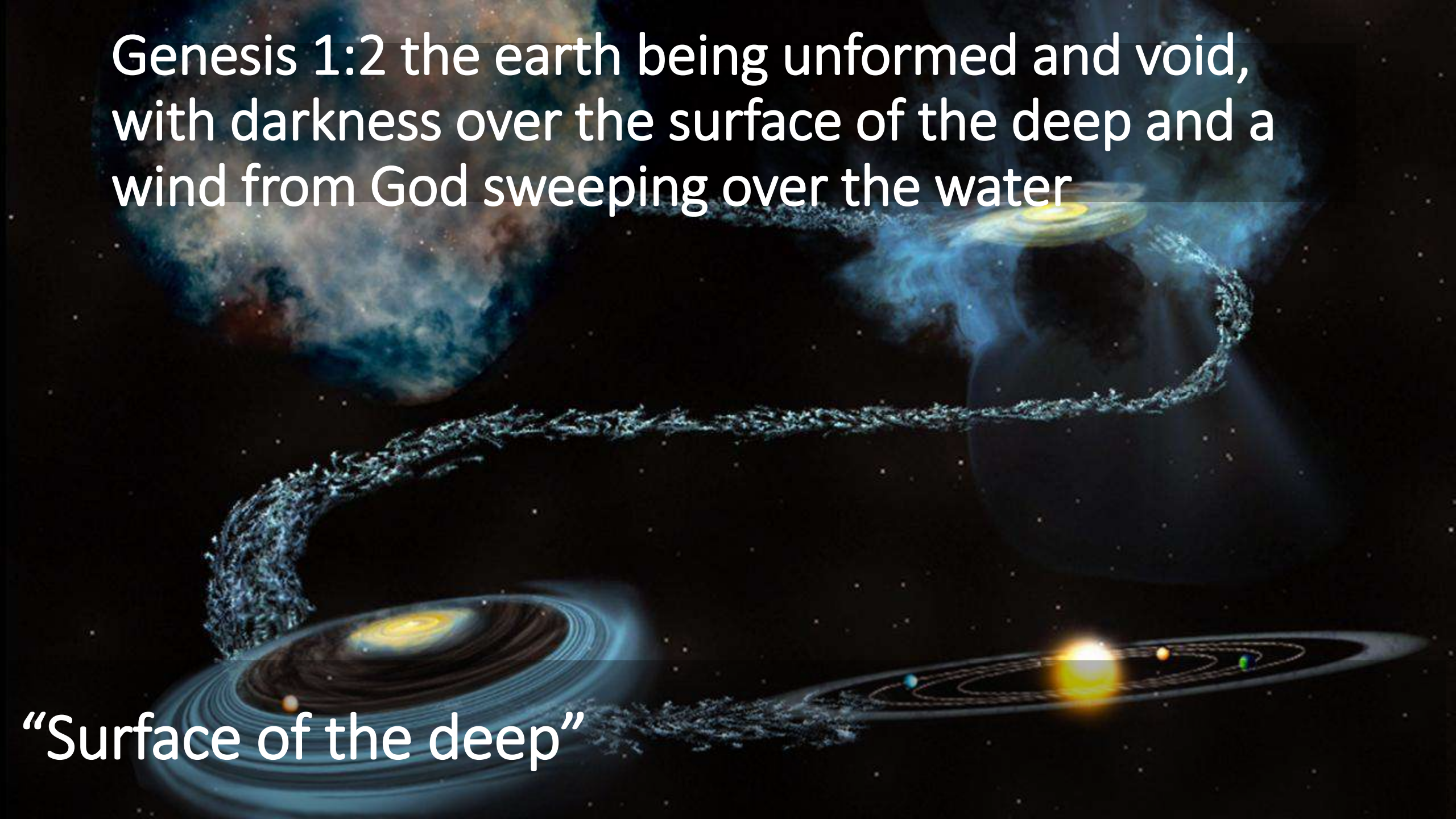


From nothing. Everything had a beginning, even time

Genesis 1:2 the earth being unformed and void,
with darkness over the surface of the deep and a
wind from God sweeping over the water

Natural state is disorder. God ordered.

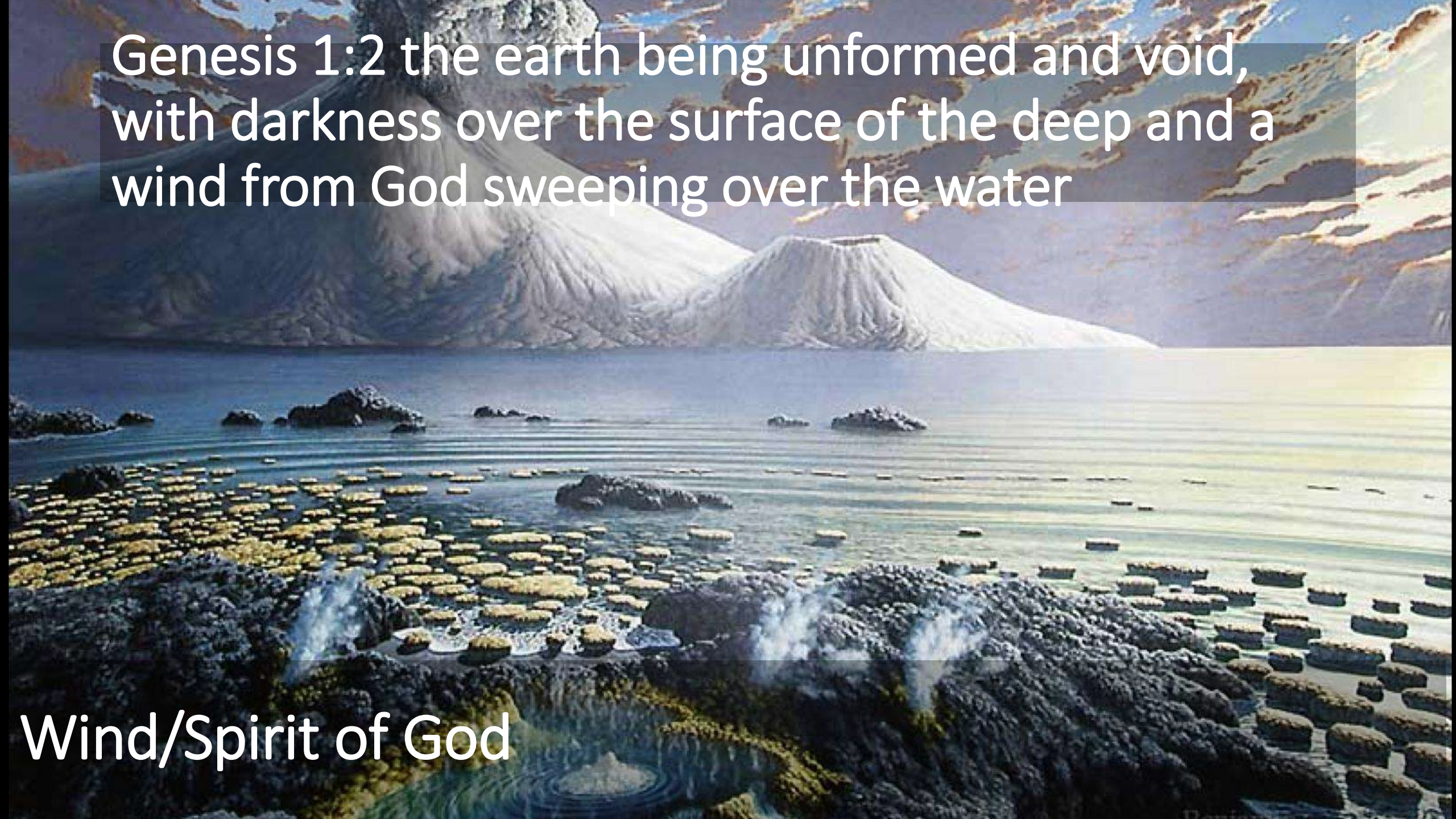
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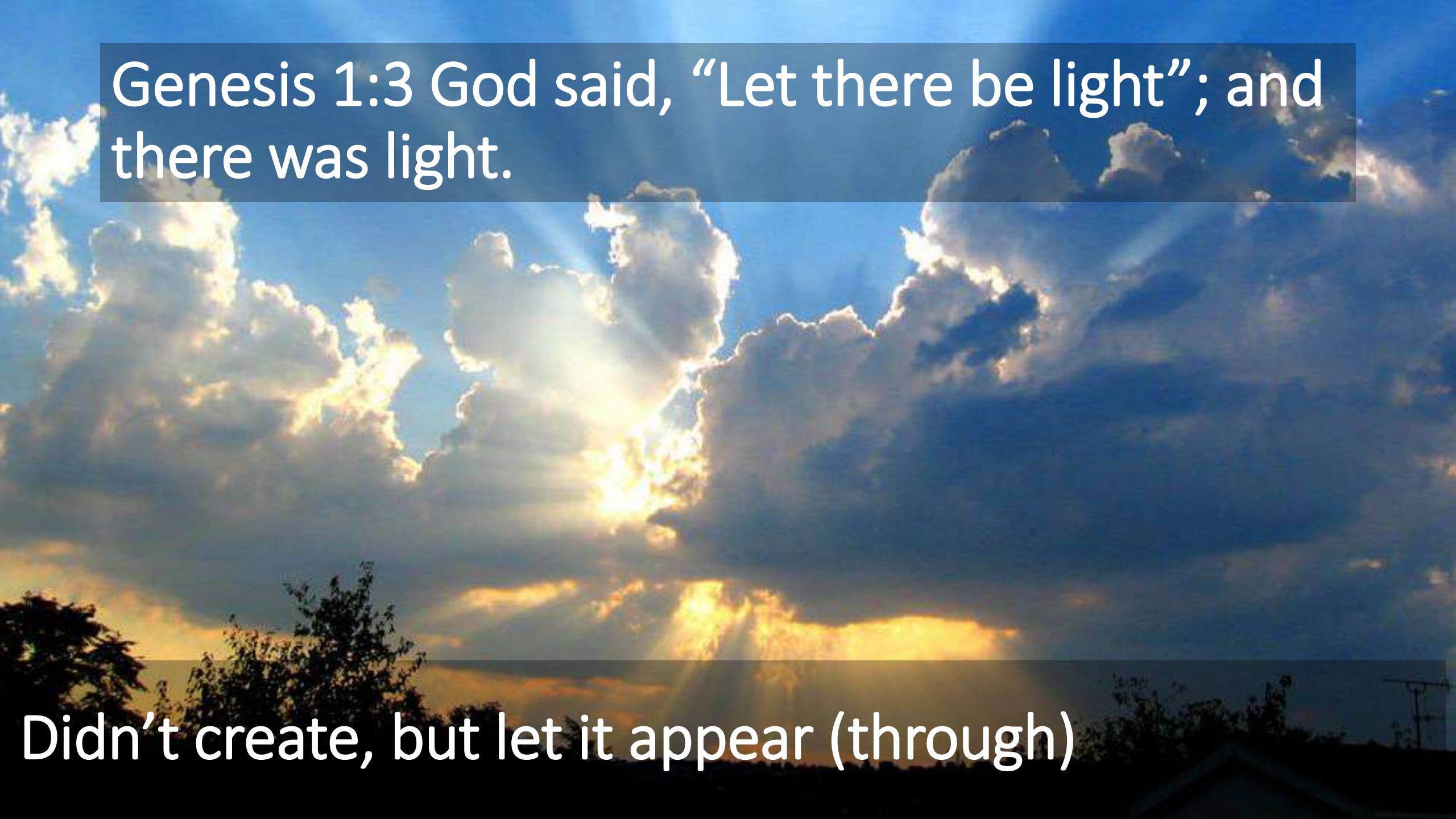


“Surface of the deep”

Genesis 1:2 the earth being unformed and void,
with darkness over the surface of the deep and a
wind from God sweeping over the water

Wind/Spirit of God





Genesis 1:3 God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Didn't create, but let it appear (through)

Genesis 1:3 God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.



Simply God's will; no battles, no sex, no other deities

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and casting long, dark shadows. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the vibrant colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the clouds. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Genesis 1:4 God saw that the light was good, and
God separated the light from the darkness.

It was good. Source of hope/optimism.

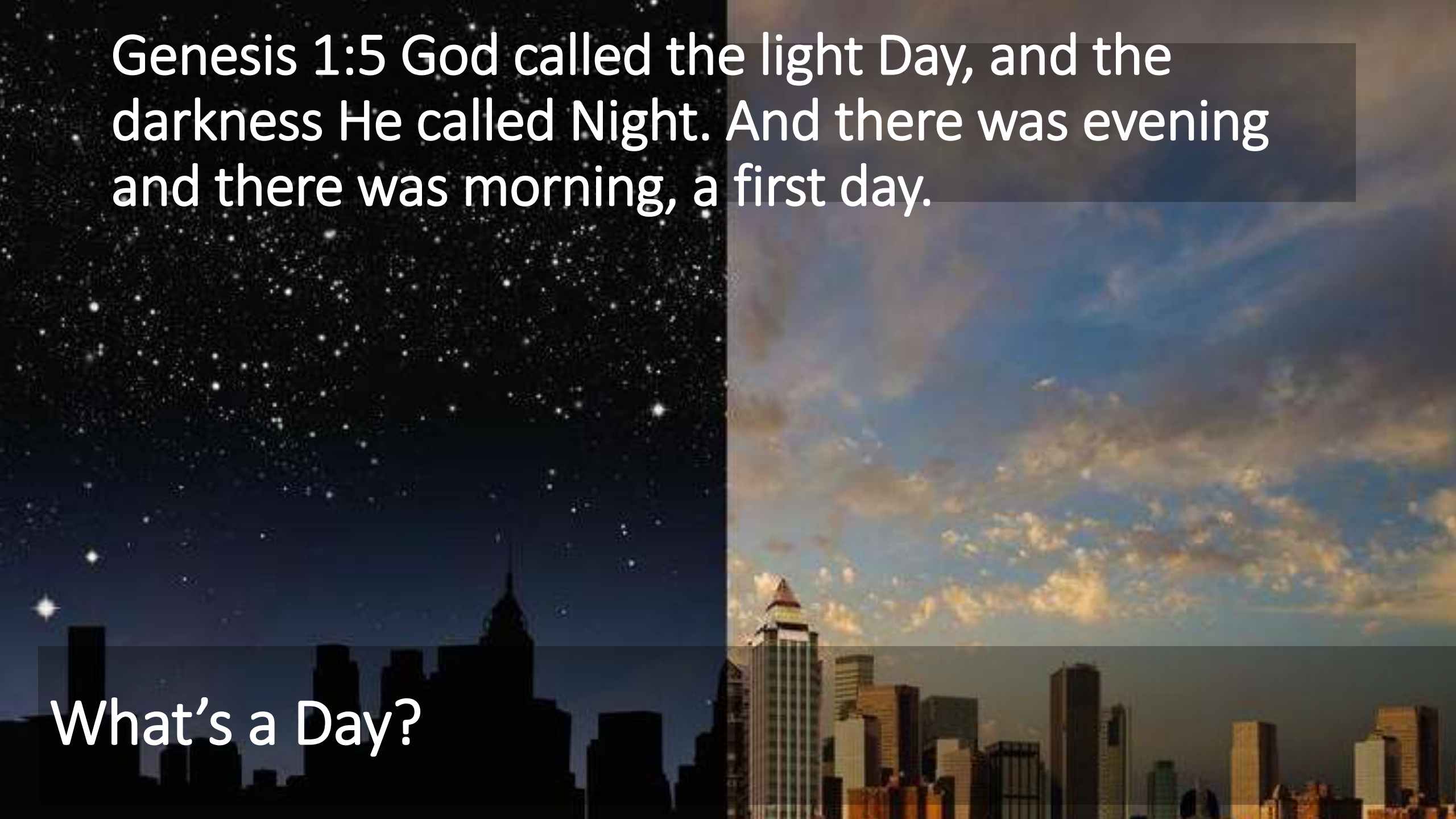


Genesis 1:4 God saw that the light was good, and
God separated the light from the darkness.

Separated: order from chaos. Hebrew day begins at
sunset. 7th Day is Holy (only ritual Commandment).

Genesis 1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

What's a Day?

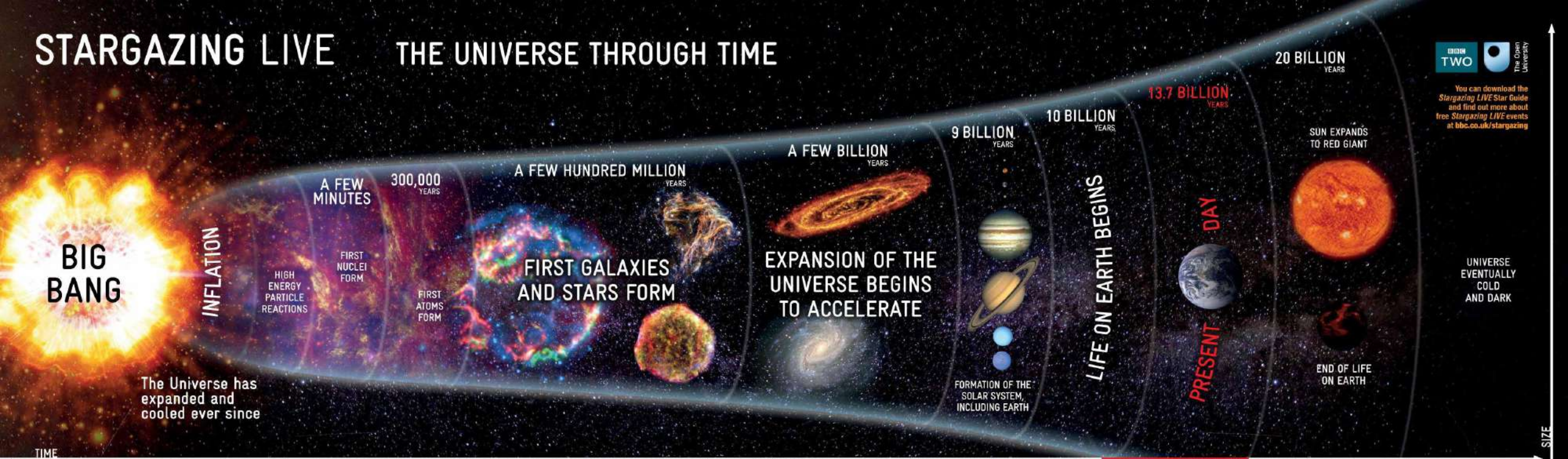


STARGAZING LIVE

THE UNIVERSE THROUGH TIME



You can download the *Stargazing LIVE* Star Guide and find out more about free *Stargazing LIVE* events at bbc.co.uk/stargazing



The Universe has expanded and cooled ever since

TIME

SIZE

UNOBSERVABLE UNIVERSE (PAST)

POTENTIALLY OBSERVABLE UNIVERSE (PAST)

<p>THE BEGINNING The Universe begins 13.7 billion years ago with an event known as the Big Bang. Both time and space are created in this event.</p>	<p>FRACTION OF A SECOND Rapid expansion occurs during a billionth of a billionth of a second – the visible Universe is the size of a grapefruit.</p>	<p>1 SECOND The Large Hadron Collider at CERN is recreating the conditions that prevailed a fraction of a second after the Big Bang.</p>	<p>100 – 1000 SECONDS Nuclei of hydrogen, helium, lithium and other light elements form.</p>	<p>300,000 YEARS We can detect radiation from the early formation of the Universe back as far as this point. Before this, the Universe is opaque: it's as if a veil has been pulled over it.</p>	<p>A FEW HUNDRED MILLION YEARS Matter clumps together under its own gravity forming the first protogalaxies and within them, the first stars. Stars are nuclear furnaces in which heavier elements such as carbon, oxygen, silicon and iron are formed. Massive stars exploding as supernovae create even heavier elements. Such explosions send material into space ready to be incorporated into future generations of stars and planets.</p>	<p>A FEW BILLION YEARS Initially, the expansion of the Universe decelerated – but a few billion years after the Big Bang, the expansion began to accelerate. The acceleration is caused by a mysterious force known as 'dark energy', the nature of which is completely unknown.</p>	<p>9 BILLION YEARS The Sun, along with its eight planets, and all the asteroids, comets and Kuiper Belt objects, such as Pluto, form from the debris left behind by earlier generations of stars.</p>	<p>10 BILLION YEARS The first life appears on Earth in the form of simple cells. Impacting comets and asteroids might have contributed organic molecules to Earth. Life spreads across the globe.</p>	<p>TODAY 13.7 BILLION YEARS This is where we are today. Using our own ingenuity, humanity is probing the depths of the Universe and trying to unravel its mysteries, from our tiny home planet, Earth. The visible Universe contains billions of galaxies, each comprising billions of stars. Within our own Galaxy, hundreds of exoplanets have been discovered orbiting other stars.</p>	<p>FUTURE 20 BILLION YEARS In a few billion years the Sun's outer layers will expand as it turns into a Red Giant star. Life on Earth will become impossible. Expansion of the Universe will continue to accelerate.</p>	<p>10¹⁰⁰ YEARS Stars no longer form; matter is trapped in black holes or dead stars. Protons decay and black holes evaporate, leaving the Universe to its ultimate fate as cold, dead, empty space, containing only radiation, which itself too will eventually disappear.</p>
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Day: 1 (65%)

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3

4-6

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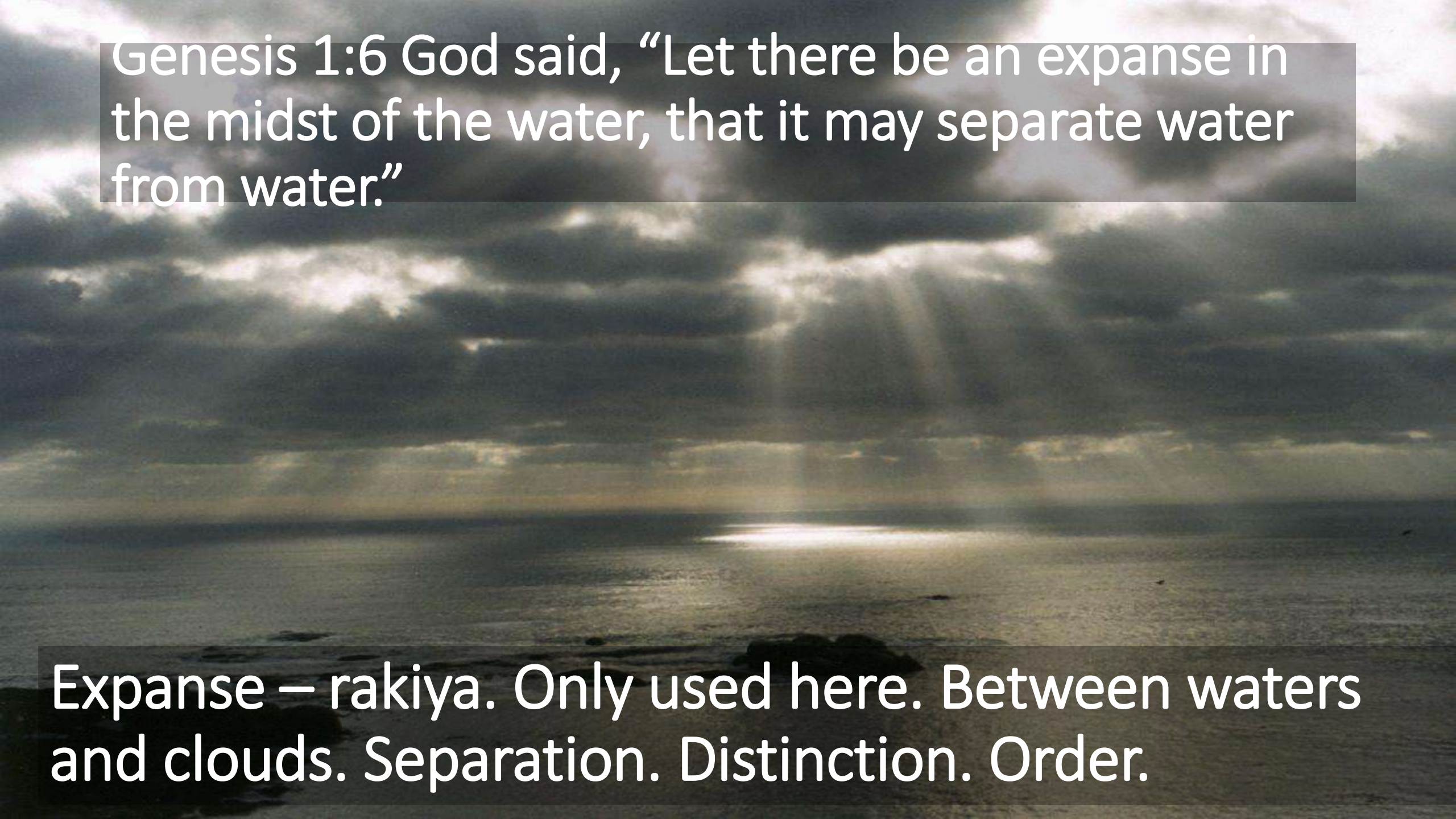
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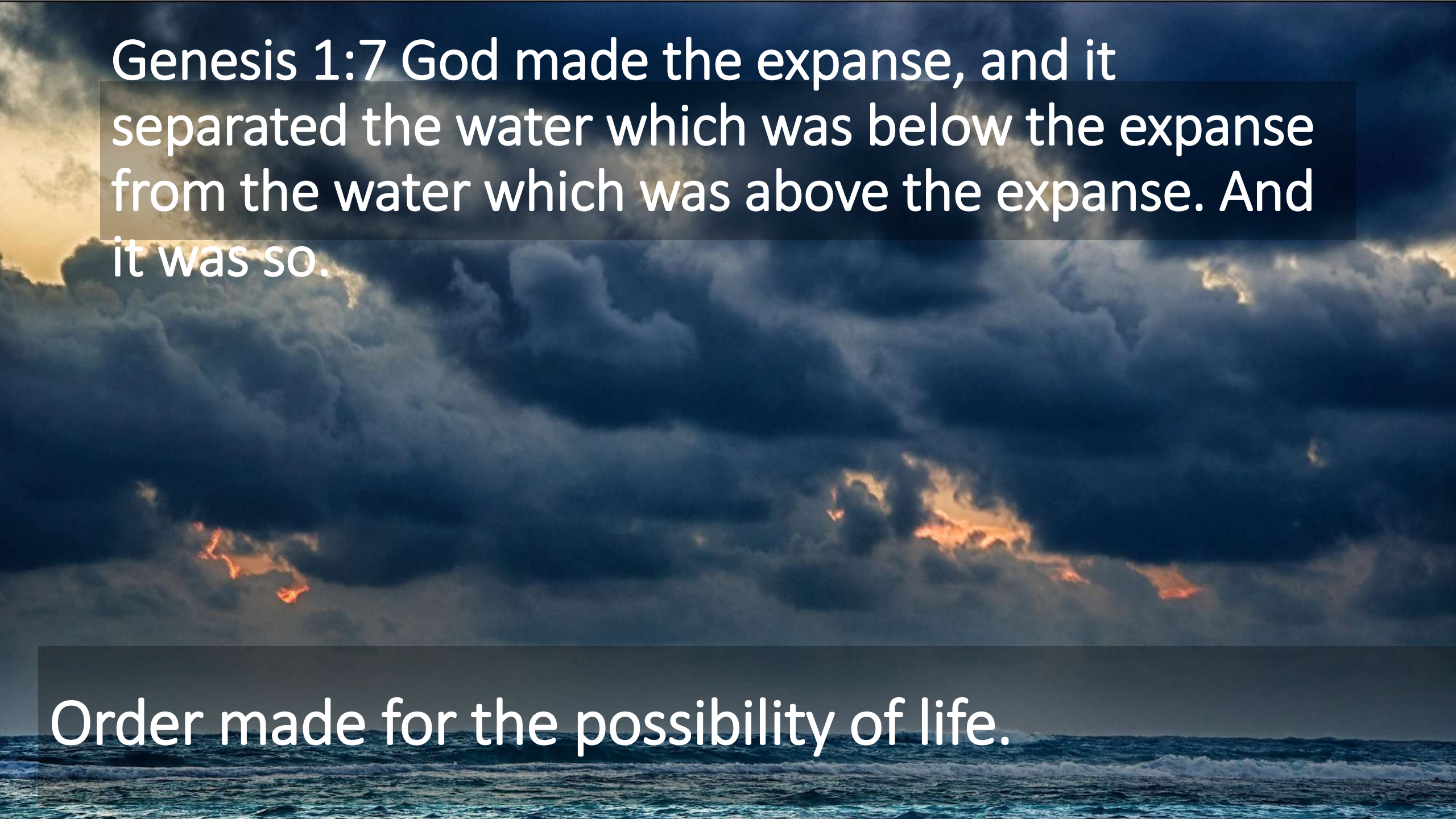
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Stargazing LIVE is a BBC and Open University co-production. Credit: Photography sourced from NASA.



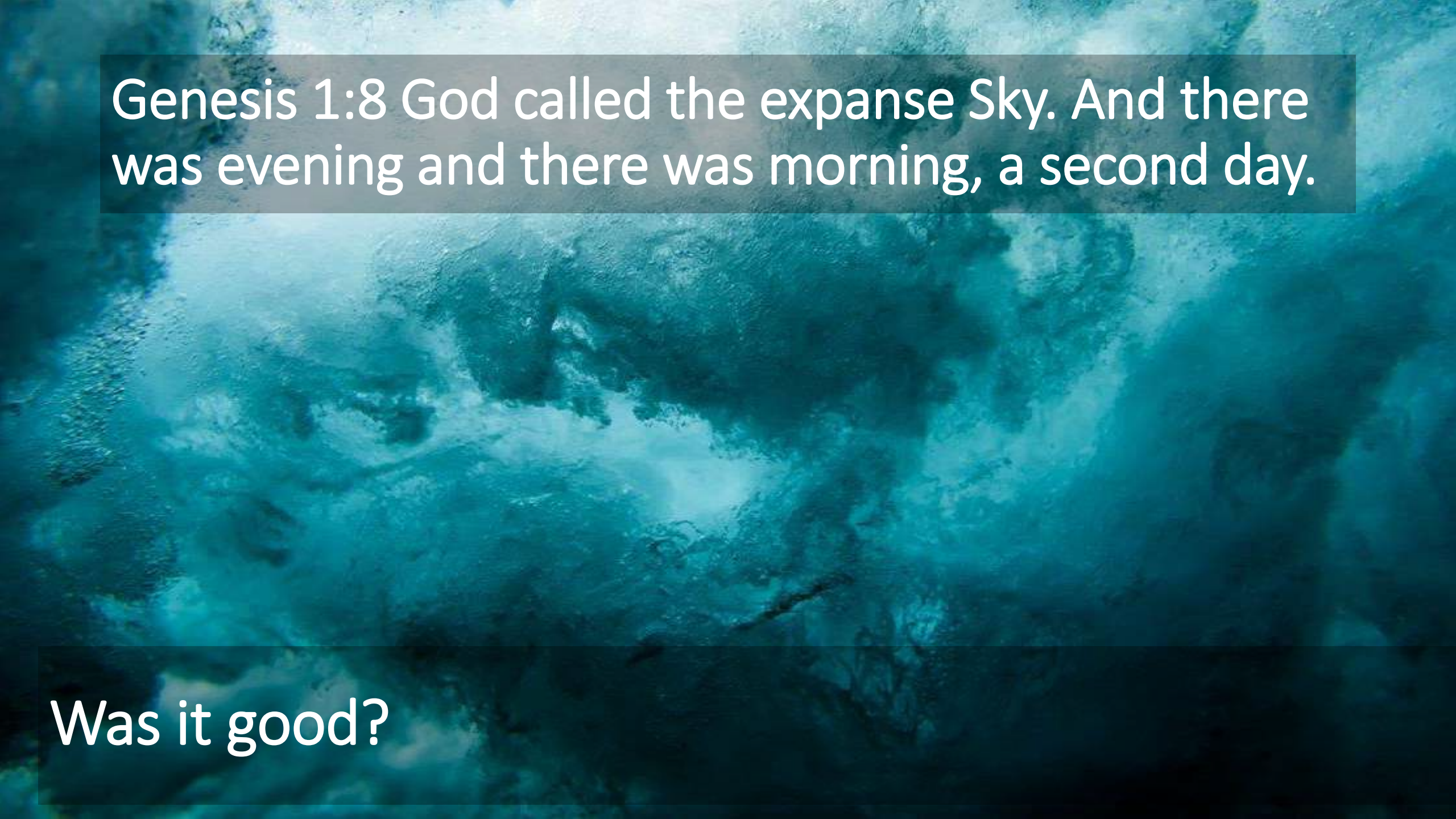
Genesis 1:6 God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water.”

Expanse – rakiya. Only used here. Between waters and clouds. Separation. Distinction. Order.



Genesis 1:7 God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse. And it was so.

Order made for the possibility of life.



Genesis 1:8 God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Was it good?

Genesis 1:9 God said, “Let the water below the sky be gathered into one area, that the dry land may appear.” And it was so.



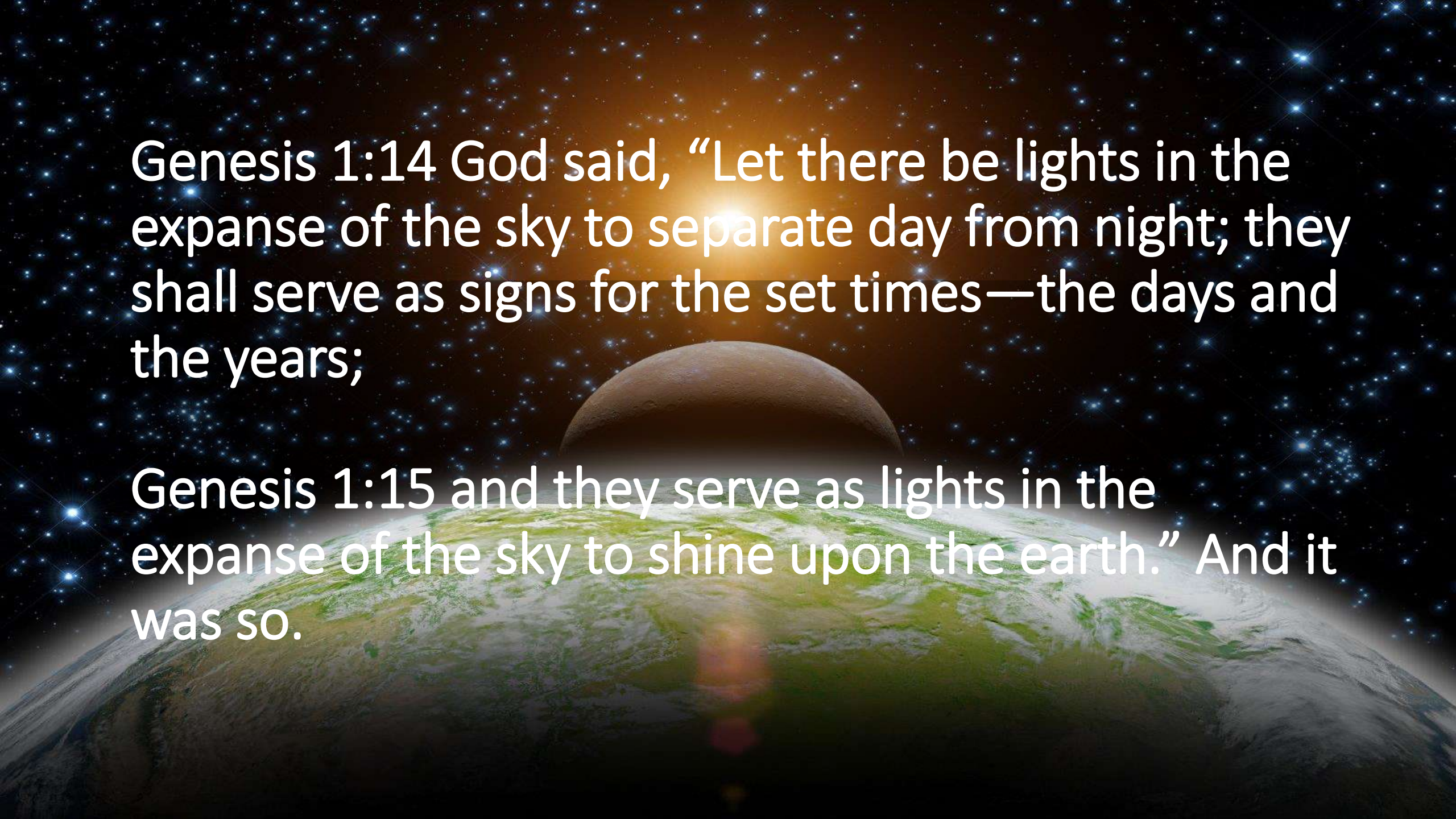
A painting of a tree with dark, dense foliage against a textured, light brown background. The tree's branches are dark and intricate, with many small leaves. The background is a mottled, earthy tone with some darker spots and lines, suggesting a natural setting. The overall style is somewhat impressionistic or painterly.

Genesis 1:10 God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of waters He called Seas. And God saw that this was good.

Genesis 1:11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

Genesis 1:12 The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that this was good.

Genesis 1:13 And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

A composite image of space. At the top center is a bright, glowing sun. Below it is a large, brown, spherical planet. The bottom half of the image shows the curved horizon of the Earth, with green landmasses and blue oceans. The background is a dark, starry sky filled with numerous small, bright stars.

Genesis 1:14 God said, “Let there be lights in the
expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they
shall serve as signs for the set times—the days and
the years;

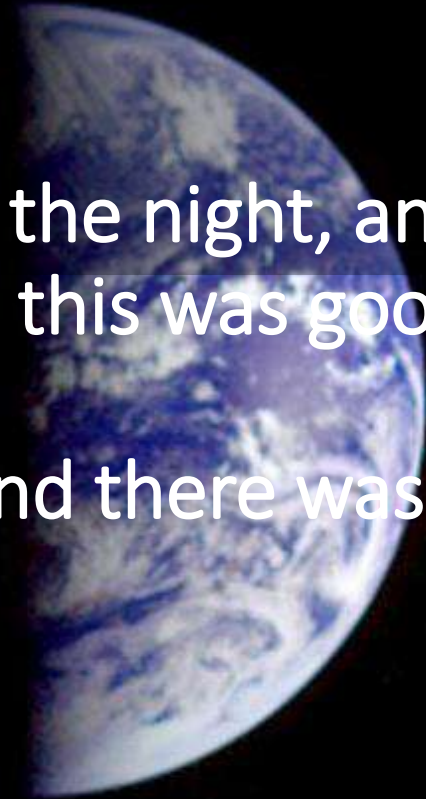
Genesis 1:15 and they serve as lights in the
expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth.” And it
was so.

Genesis 1:16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars.

Genesis 1:17 And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth,

Genesis 1:18 to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good.

Genesis 1:19 And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.





Genesis 1:20 God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and birds that fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”

Genesis 1:21 God created the great sea monsters, and all the living creatures of every kind that creep, which the waters brought forth in swarms, and all the winged birds of every kind. And God saw that this was good.

Genesis 1:22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile and increase, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

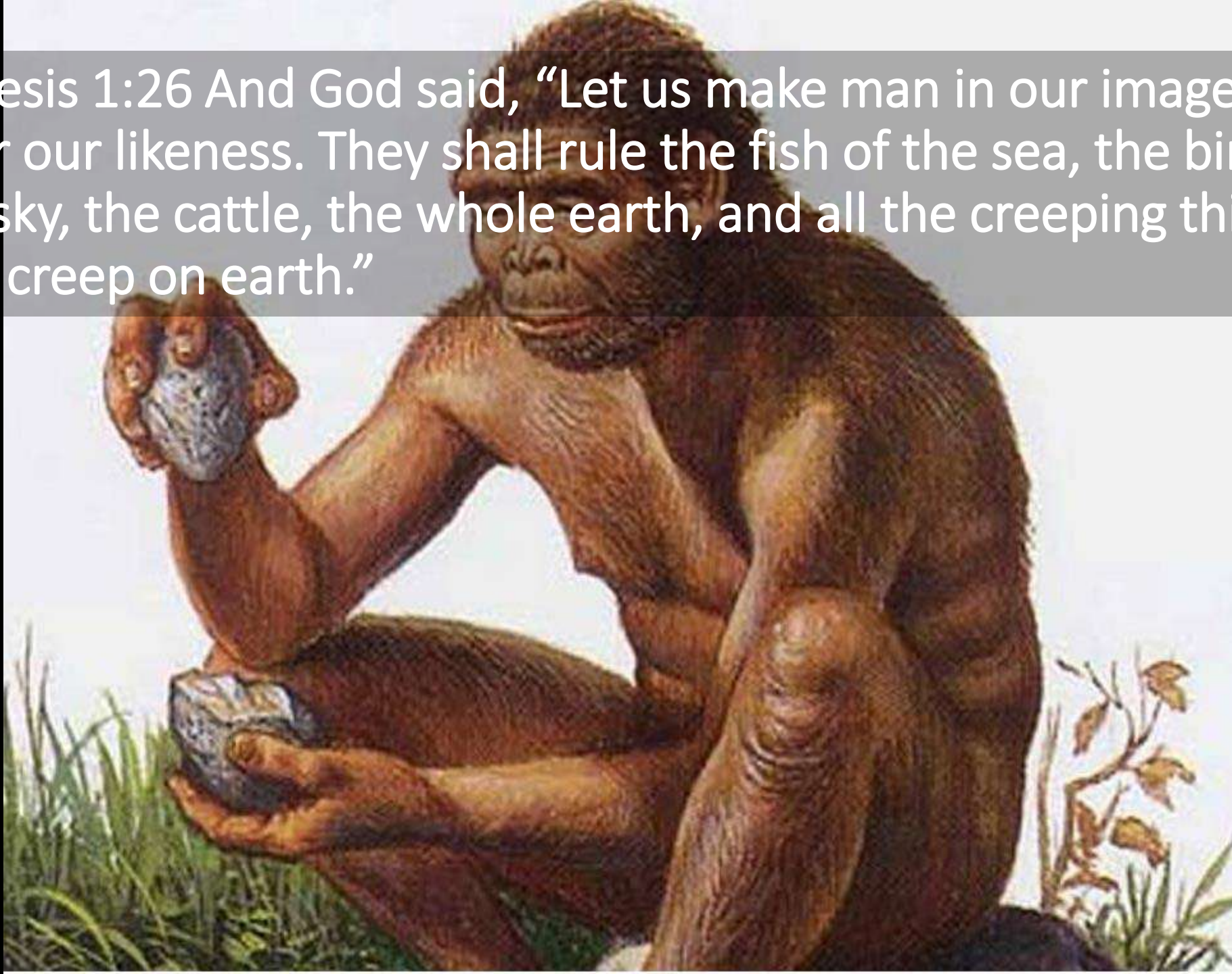
Genesis 1:23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

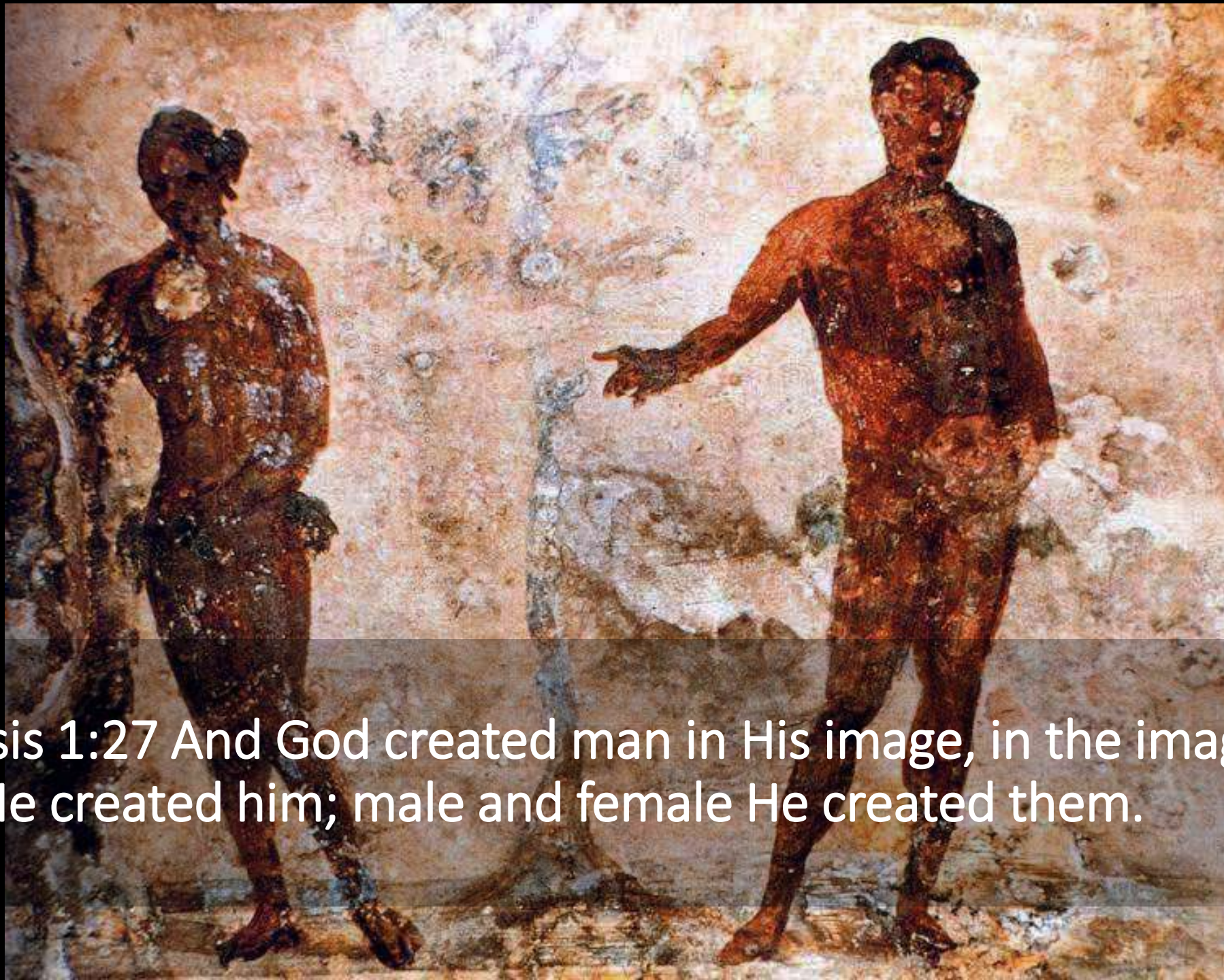
A photograph of a brown cow and two calves in a grassy field. The cow is on the left, and the two calves are on the right. The background is a blurred green field.

Genesis 1:24 God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: cattle, creeping things, and wild beasts of every kind.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:25 God made wild beasts of every kind and cattle of every kind, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. And God saw that this was good.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth."

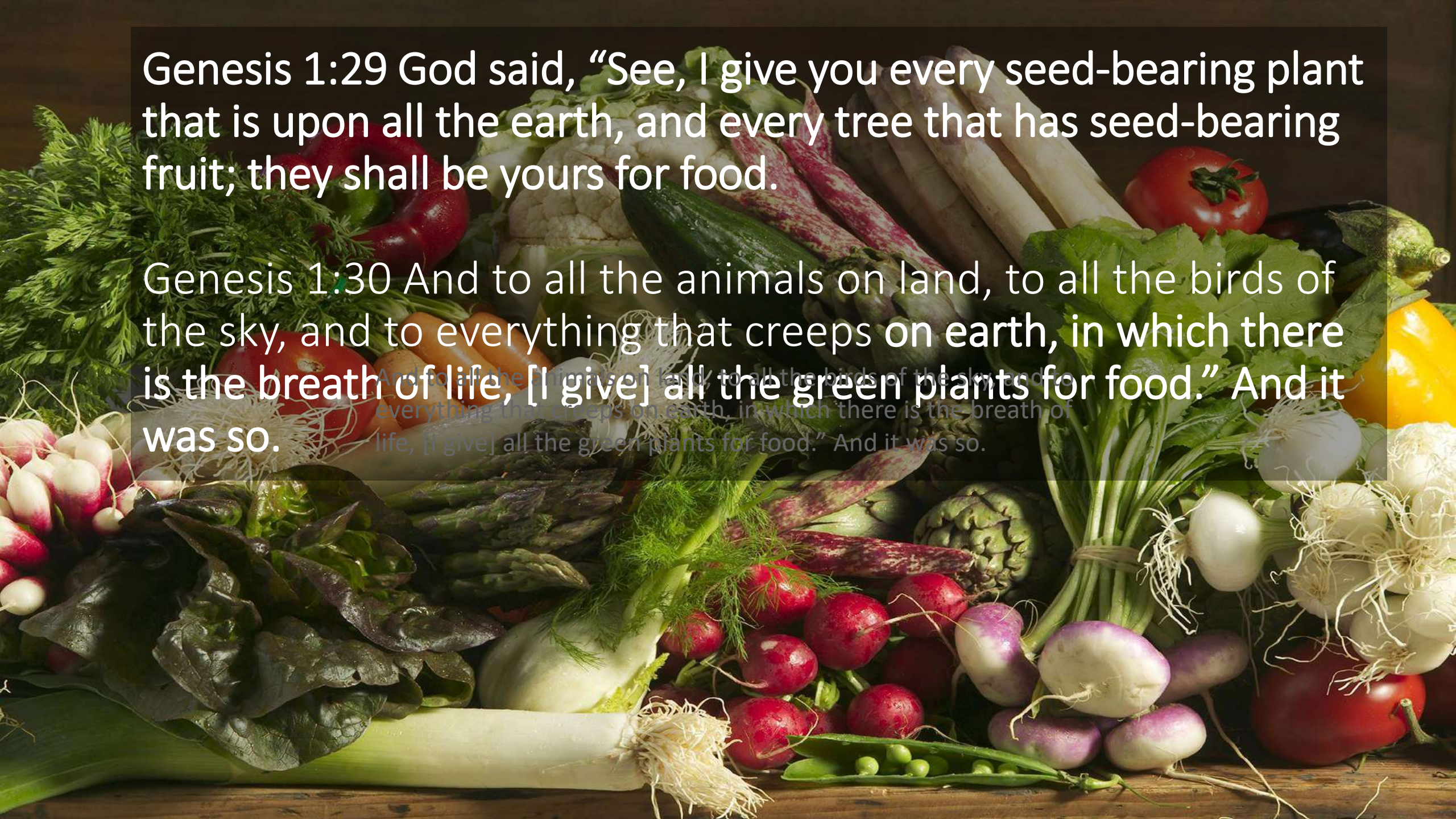




Genesis 1:27 And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on earth.”



A vibrant still life of fresh vegetables including radishes, leafy greens, tomatoes, and asparagus. The vegetables are arranged on a wooden surface, creating a rich and colorful composition. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures and colors of the produce.

Genesis 1:29 God said, “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food.

Genesis 1:30 And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, [I give] all the green plants for food.” And it was so.

And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, [I give] all the green plants for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:1 The heaven and the earth were finished, and all their array.

Genesis 2:2 On the seventh day God finished the work that He had been doing [making], and He ceased on the seventh day from all the work that He had done [made].

Genesis 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that He had done [made].

Next?

If you found this interesting and want to continue (no cost), let your church office know. Or contact me directly: Jamie.Foster@JF2.com

Garden of Eden

Noah's Ark

Abraham through Joseph

The Exodus, including the Ten Commandments