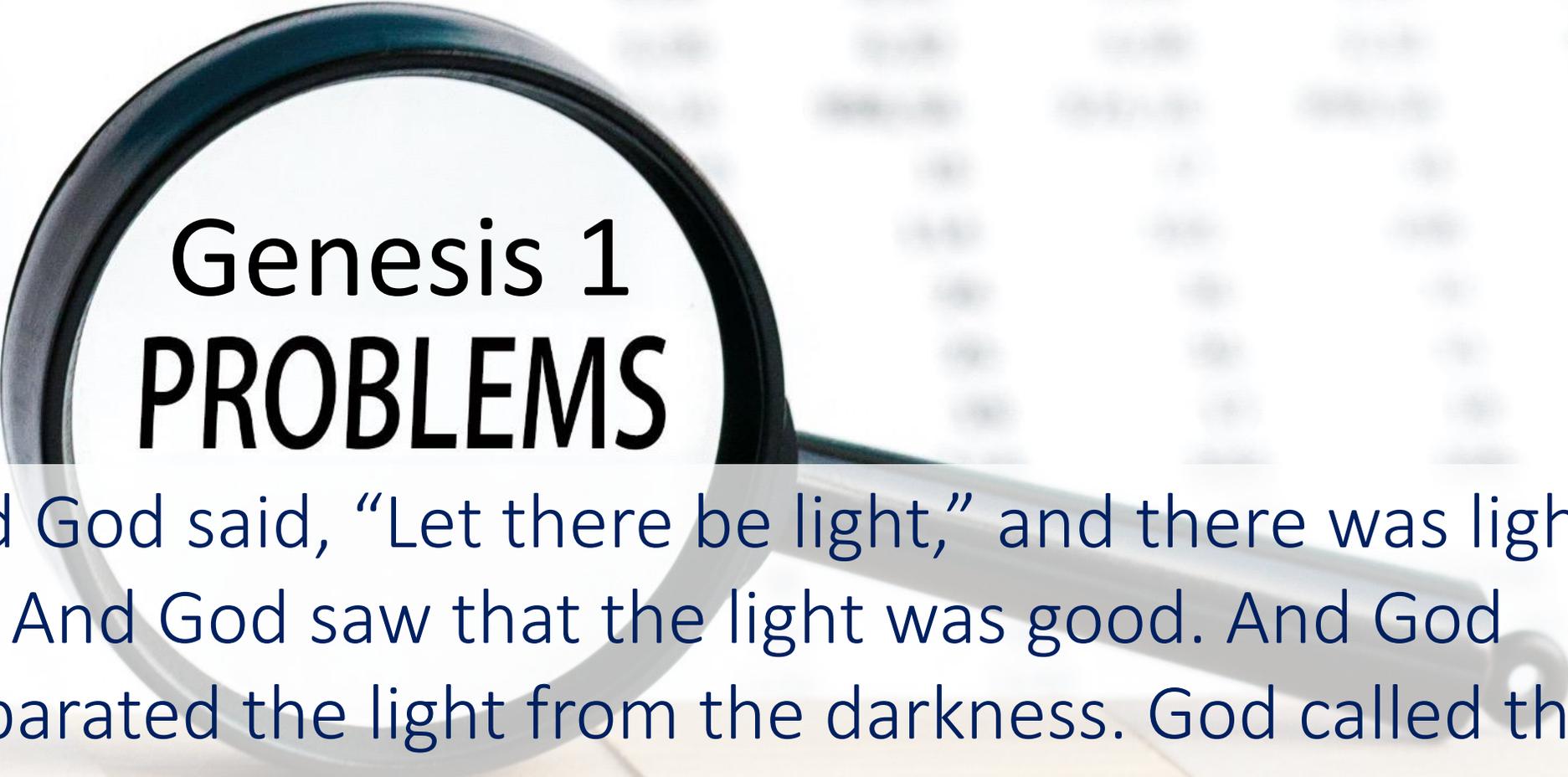


# Genesis



Day and night before the sun?

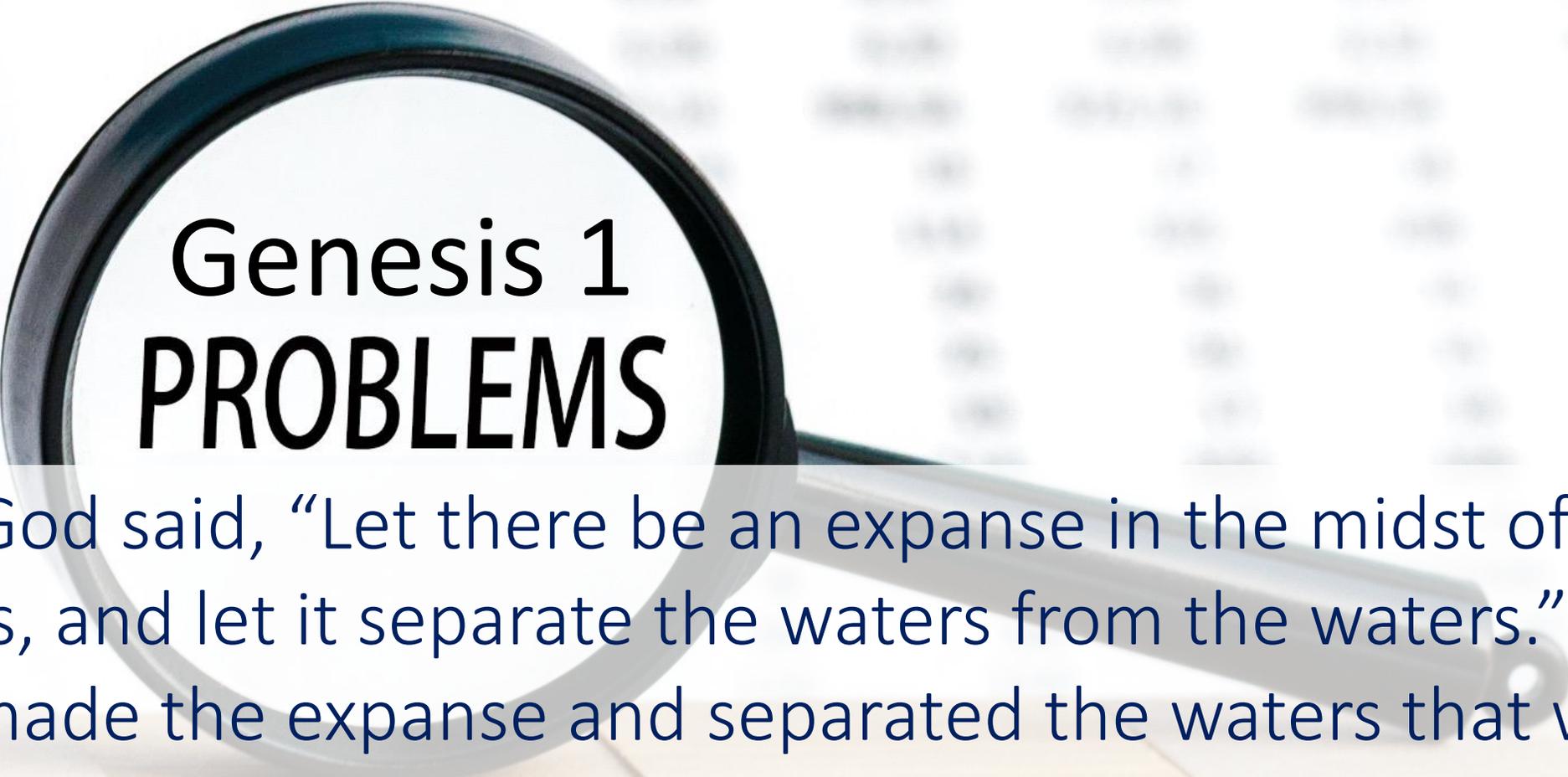


## Genesis 1 **PROBLEMS**

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

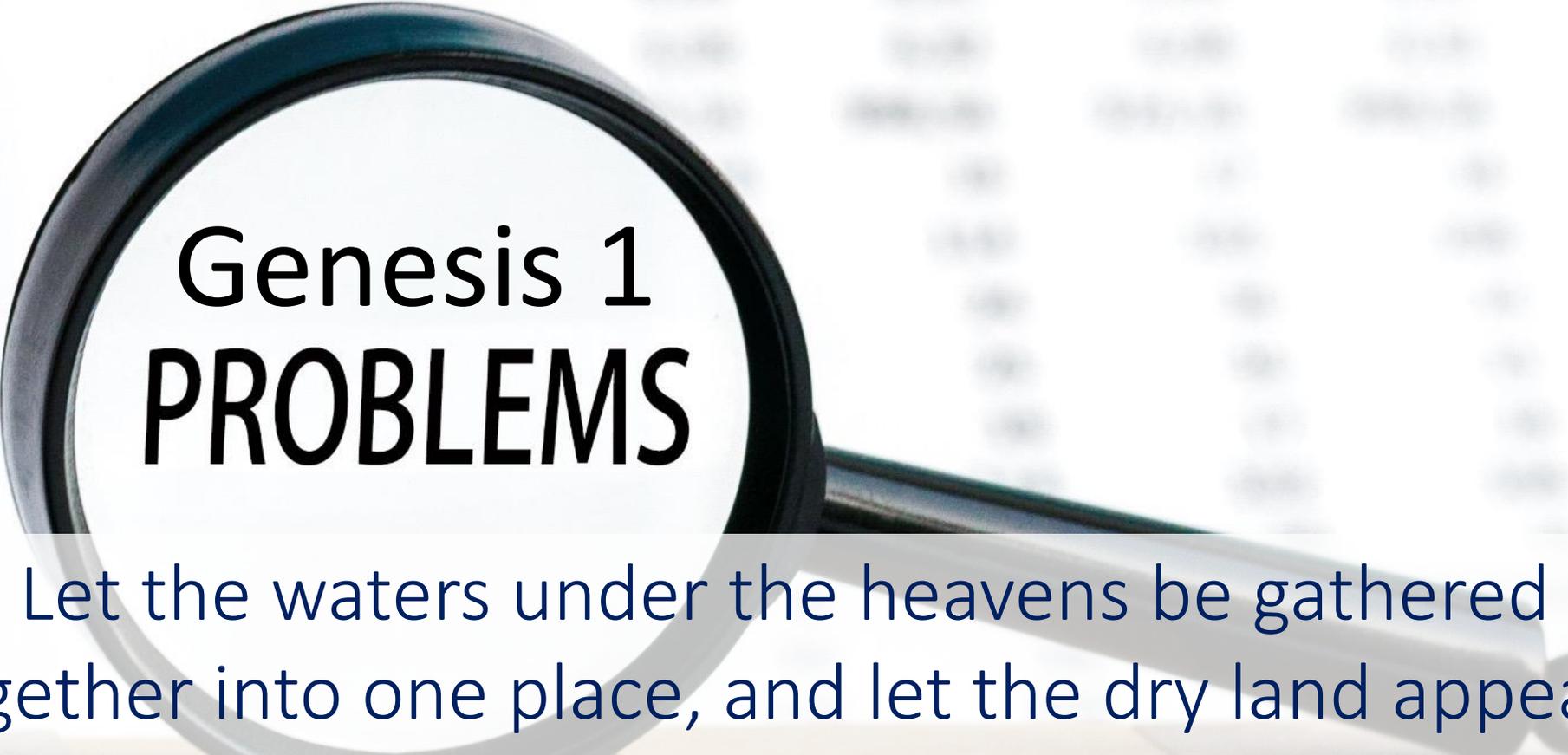
Waters in the heavens?



## Genesis 1 **PROBLEMS**

And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven.

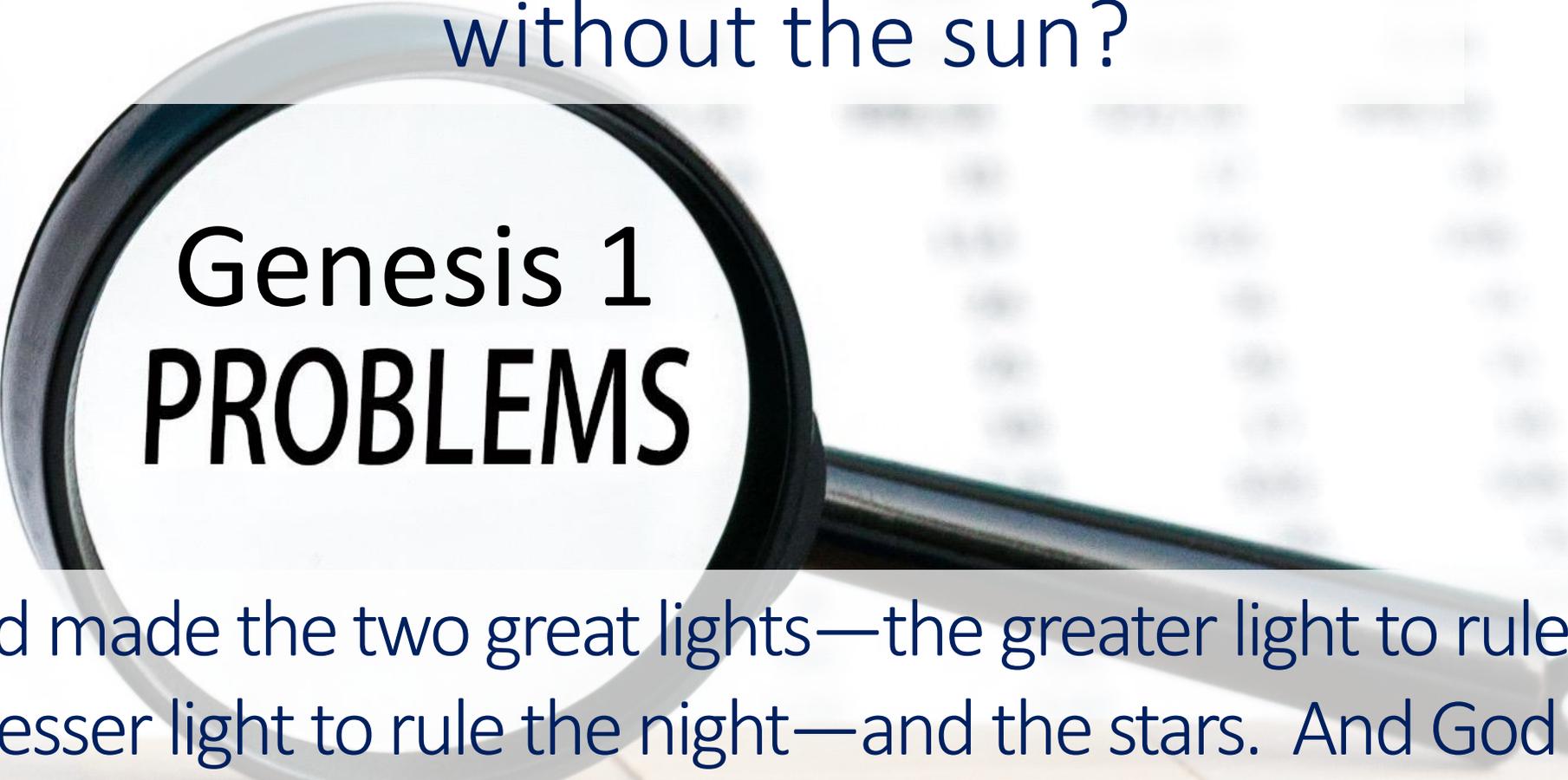
Waters gathered in one place?



## Genesis 1 **PROBLEMS**

Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.

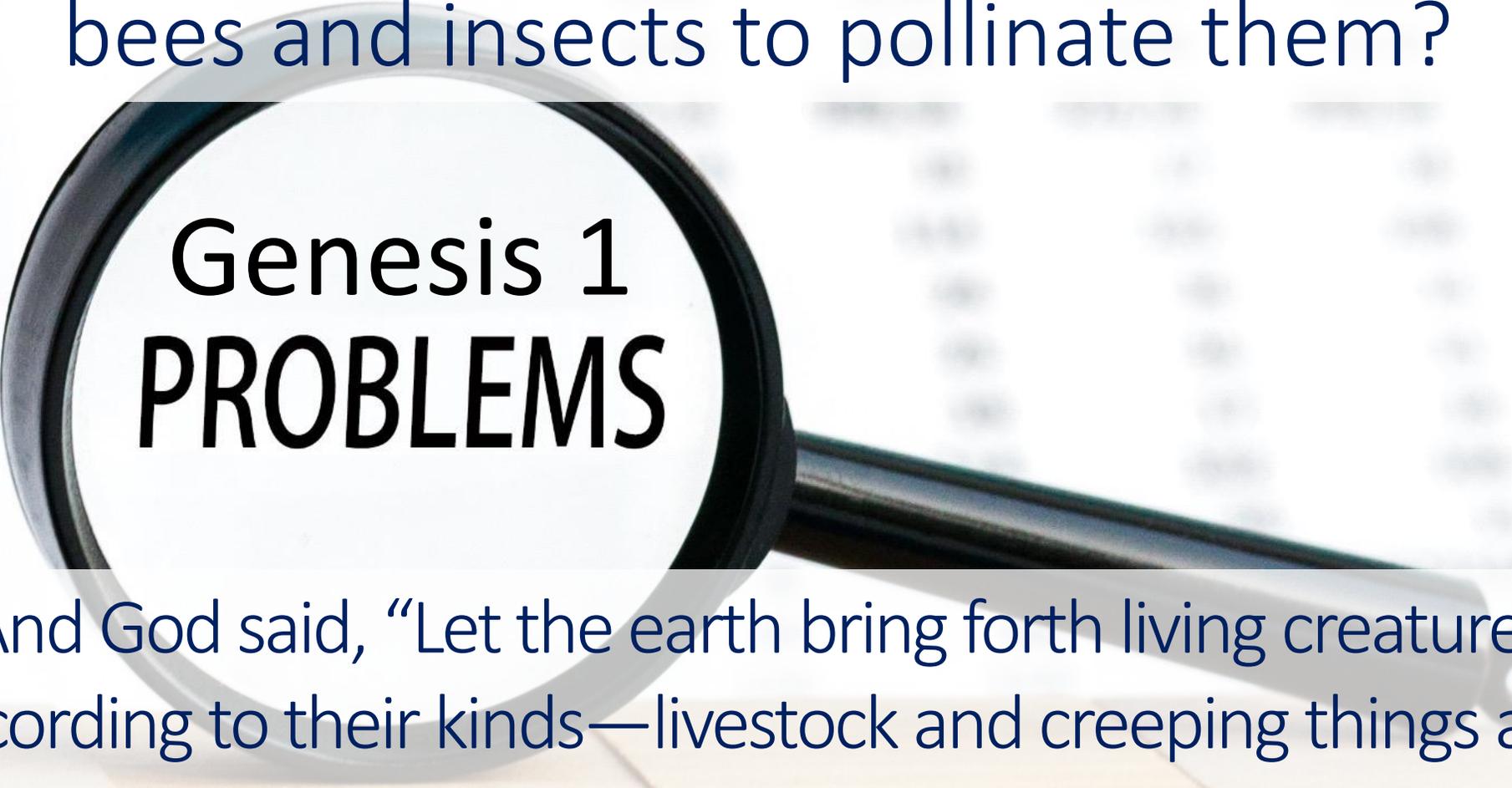
How was gravity working  
without the sun?



**Genesis 1**  
**PROBLEMS**

And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth

How were plants bringing forth fruit without bees and insects to pollinate them?



## Genesis 1 **PROBLEMS**

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.



HEBREW  
&  
Theology



PROBLEMS

# Genesis



# Genesis Creation (1)



# Genesis Introduction



**AUTHORSHIP**



**Translation  
and context**



**DIFFICULTIES**



# Translation and context



# Translation and context

The challenge and thrill of  
understanding what was first written



**Cosmos and  
Moses**



# Cosmos and Moses

How did Moses understand the cosmos and what was his working vocabulary and science?



**Fresh Look**



# Fresh Look

A fresh look at Genesis 1 in context



# Translation and context

The challenge and thrill of  
understanding what was first written

# The Bible is God's Revelation



בראשית

GENESIS.

Genesis was written *for* us

But it was written *to* ancient Israel

Written in  
Ancient Hebrew

Ancient  
Vocabulary

Ancient  
Understanding

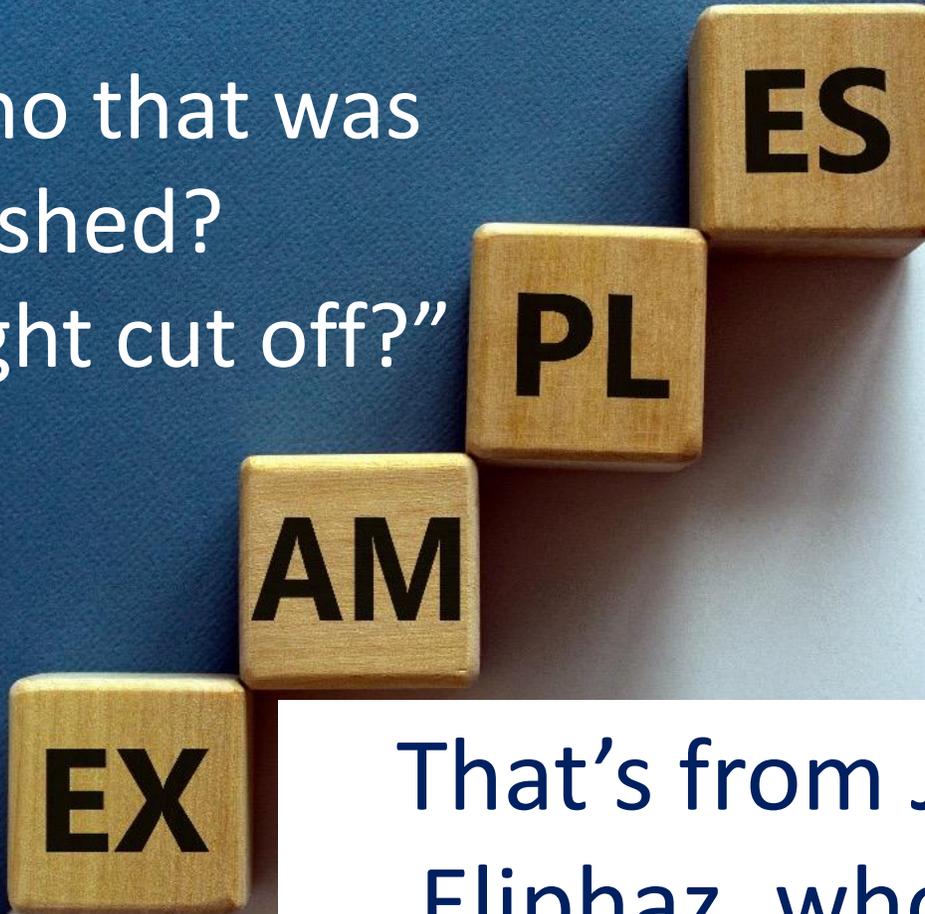
We treasure God's word when  
we read it in context



“There is no innocent suffering”

Job 4:7 “Remember: who that was  
innocent ever perished?

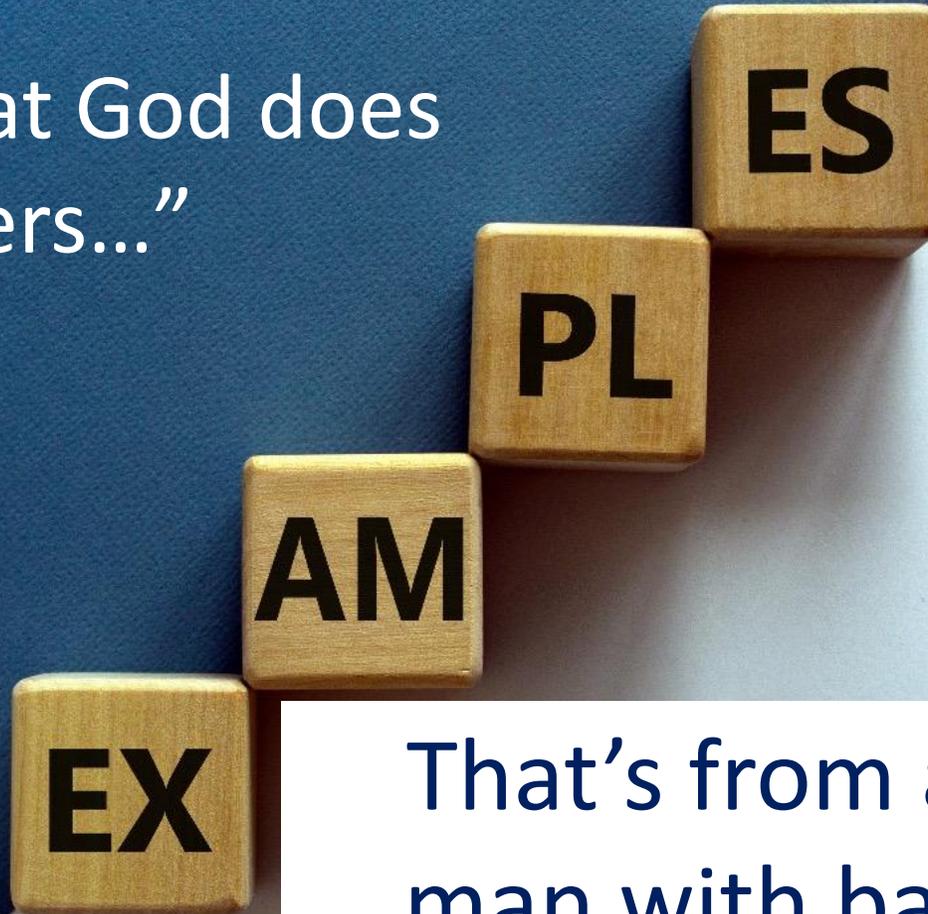
Or where were the upright cut off?”



That's from Job's friend  
Eliphaz, who generally  
knew next to nothing!

“There is no innocent suffering”

John 9:31 “We know that God does not listen to sinners...”

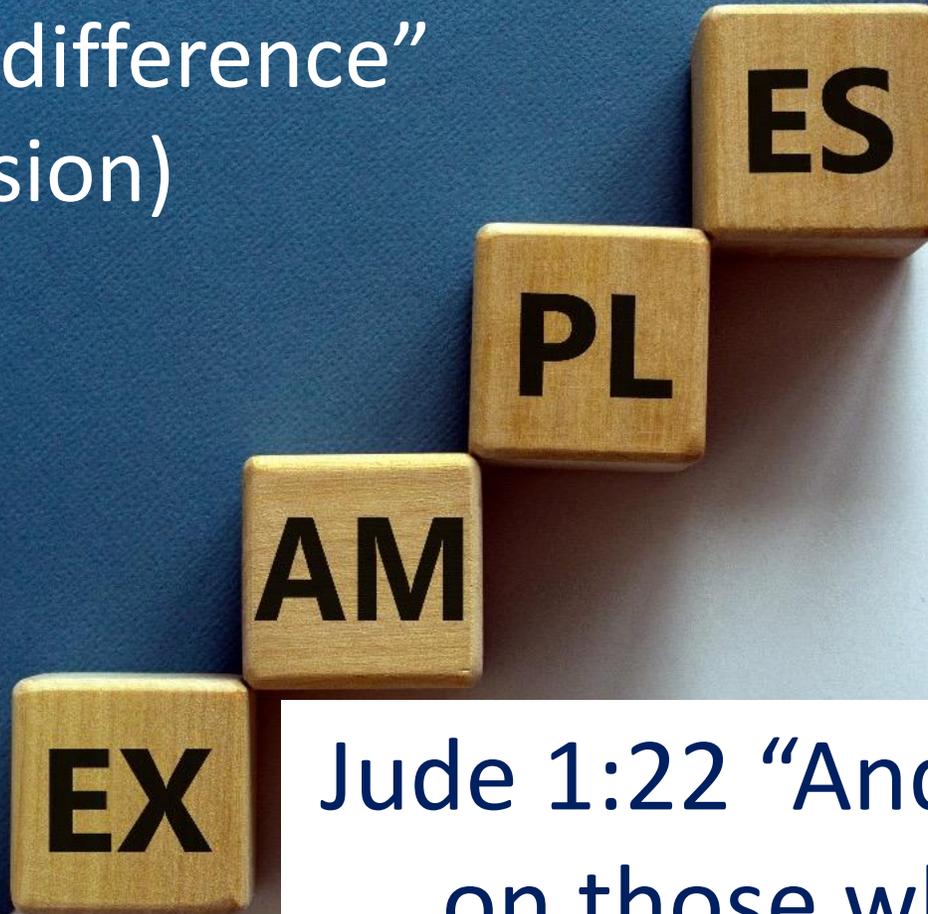


That's from an ex-blind man with bad theology

We treasure God's word when  
we read it in good translation



Jude 1:22 “And of some have  
compassion, making a difference”  
(King James Version)



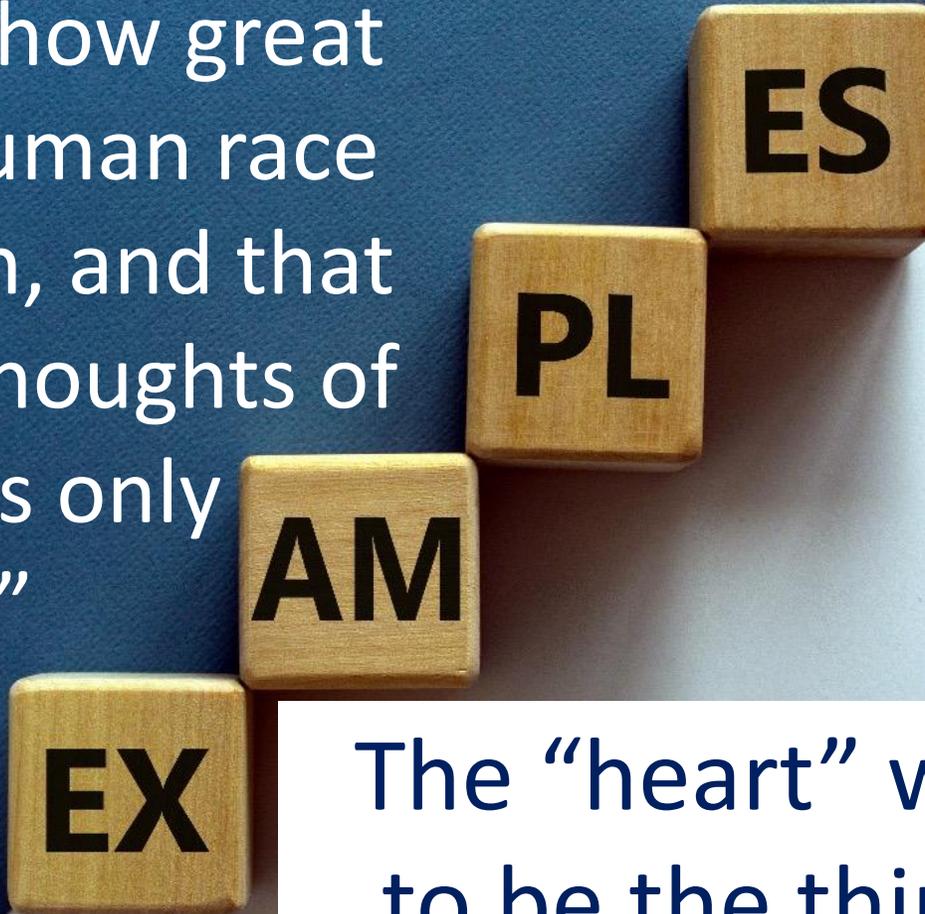
Jude 1:22 “And have mercy  
on those who doubt”  
(English Standard Version)

We treasure God's word when  
we read it in cultural context



Hebrew *lev* (לֵב) heart/mind

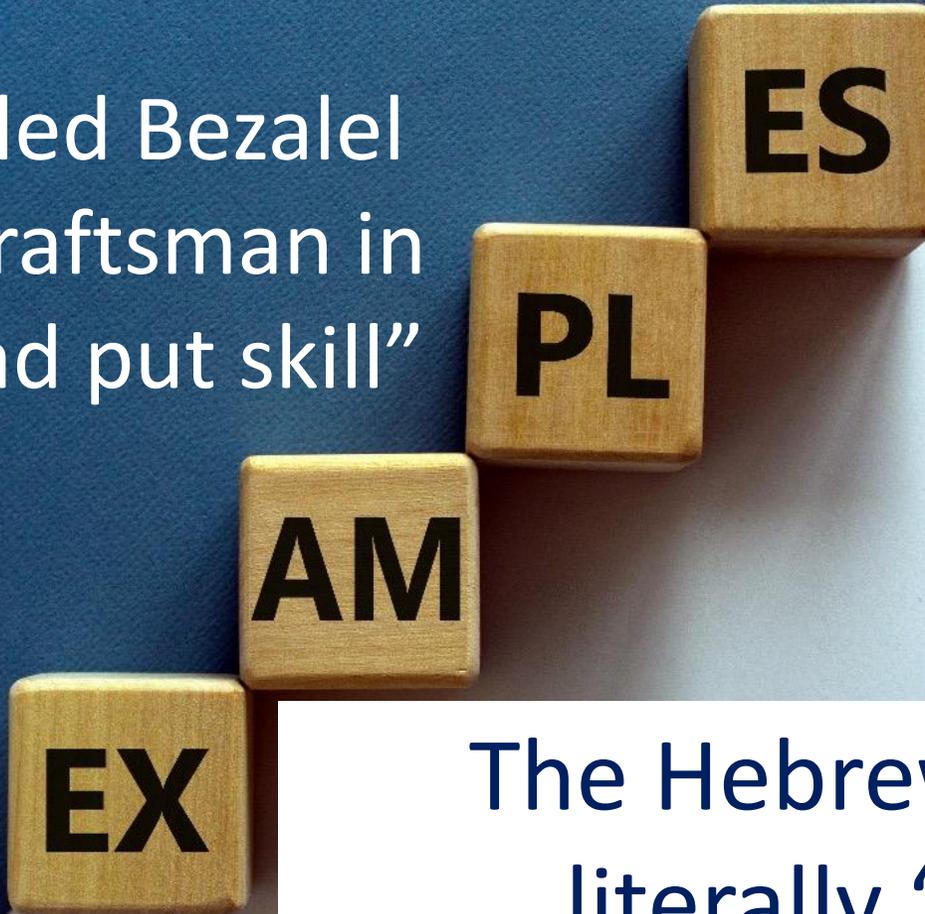
Gen. 6:5 “The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time”



The “heart” was believed to be the thinking organ

Hebrew *lev* (לב) heart/mind

Ex. 36:2 “And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill”



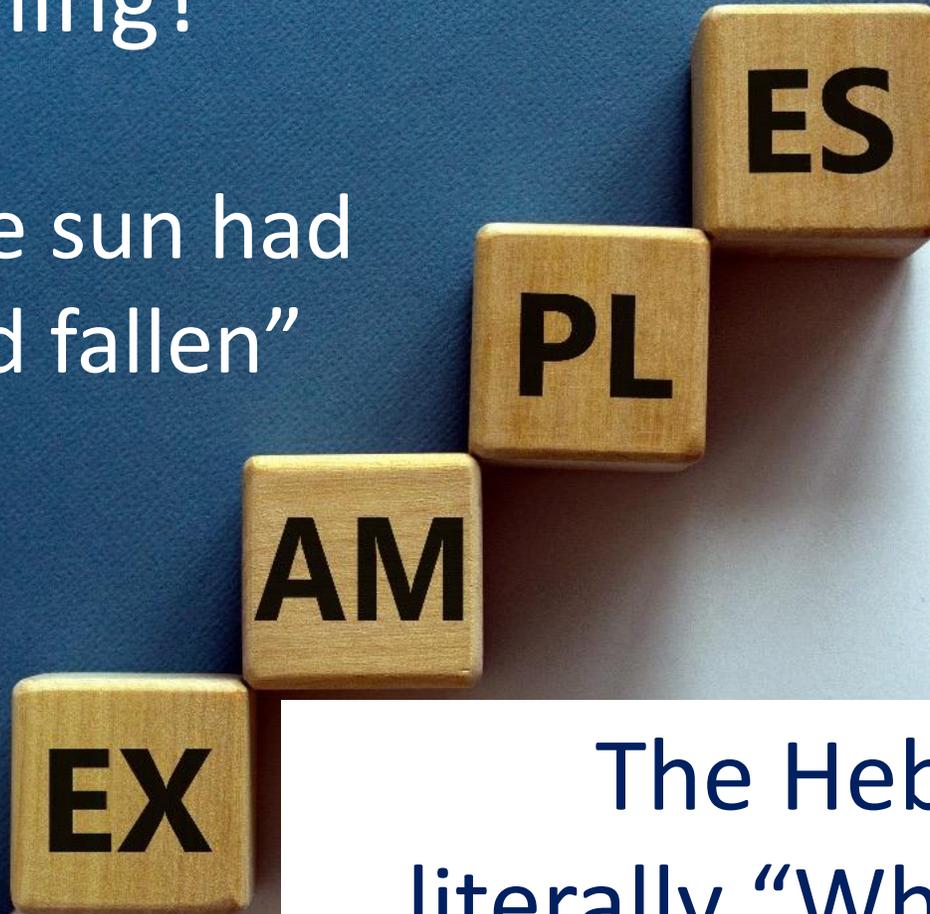
The Hebrew word is  
literally “heart”

We treasure God's word when  
we read it in cosmic  
understanding



Does sun go home at night and  
leave in the morning?

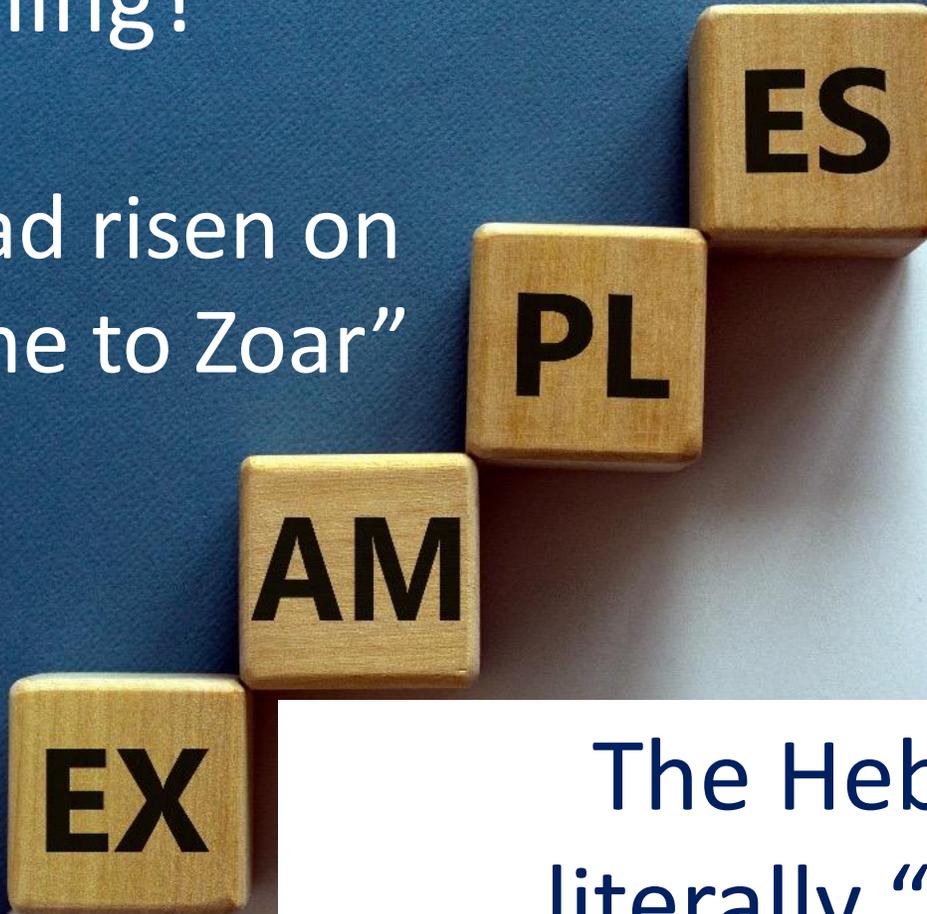
Gen. 15:17 “When the sun had  
set and darkness had fallen”



The Hebrew is  
literally “When the sun  
had come in” (*bo'* - בא)

Does sun go home at night and  
leave in the morning?

Gen. 19:23 “The sun had risen on  
the earth when Lot came to Zoar”

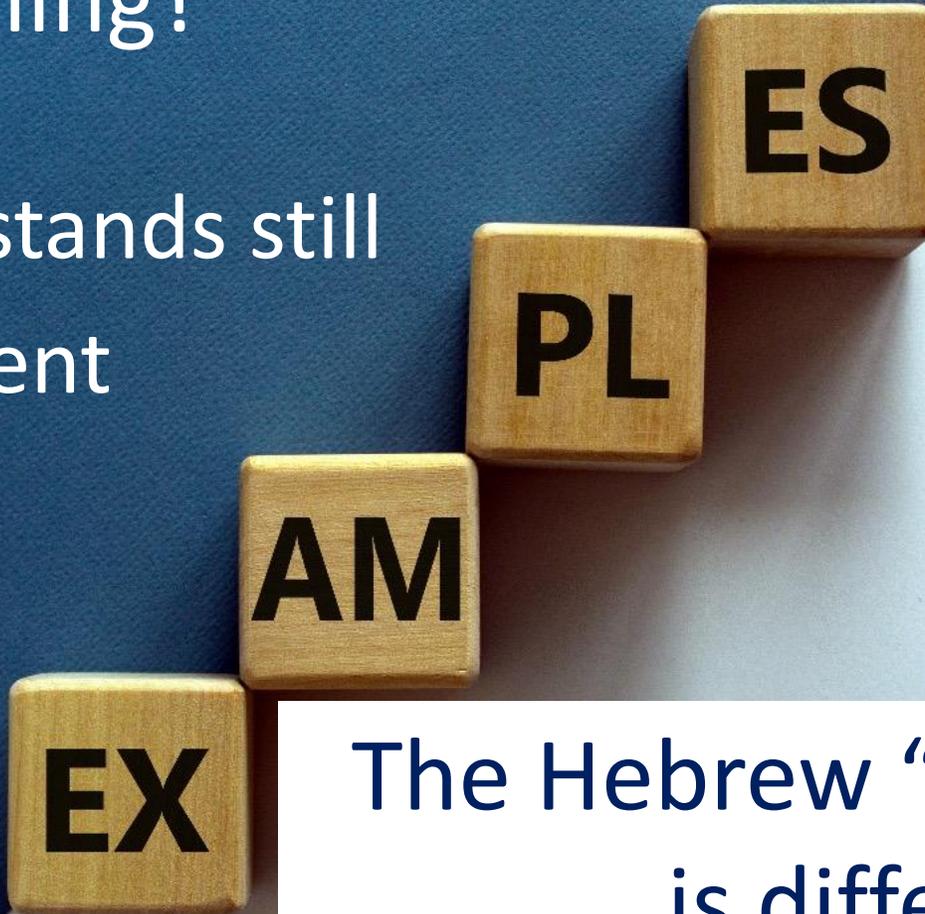


The Hebrew is  
literally “the sun  
had gone out” (*yatza'* - יָצָא)

Does sun go home at night and  
leave in the morning?

Joshua 10:12 The sun stands still

Psalm 19:4 God set a tent  
for the sun



The Hebrew “cosmology”  
is different



# Translation and context

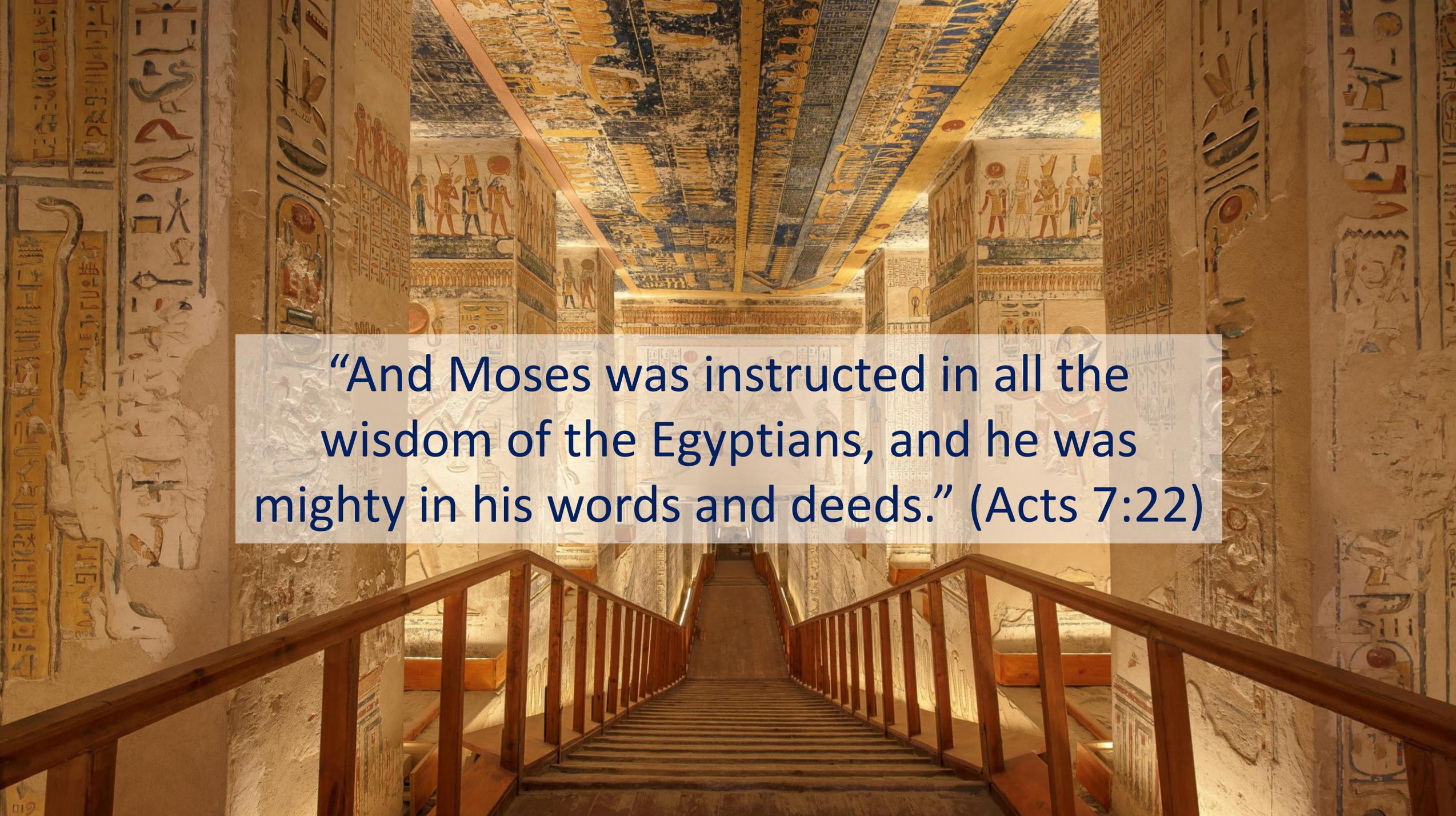
The challenge and thrill of  
understanding what was first written



# Cosmos and Moses

How did Moses understand the cosmos and what was his working vocabulary and science?



A photograph of an ancient Egyptian tomb. The walls are covered in hieroglyphs and painted reliefs. A long, narrow staircase with wooden railings leads up the center of the tomb. The ceiling is decorated with blue and gold patterns. The lighting is warm and focused on the central path.

“And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.” (Acts 7:22)



“Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ (Acts 7:2-3)

The ancients used common sense  
with what they visually observed



Egypt

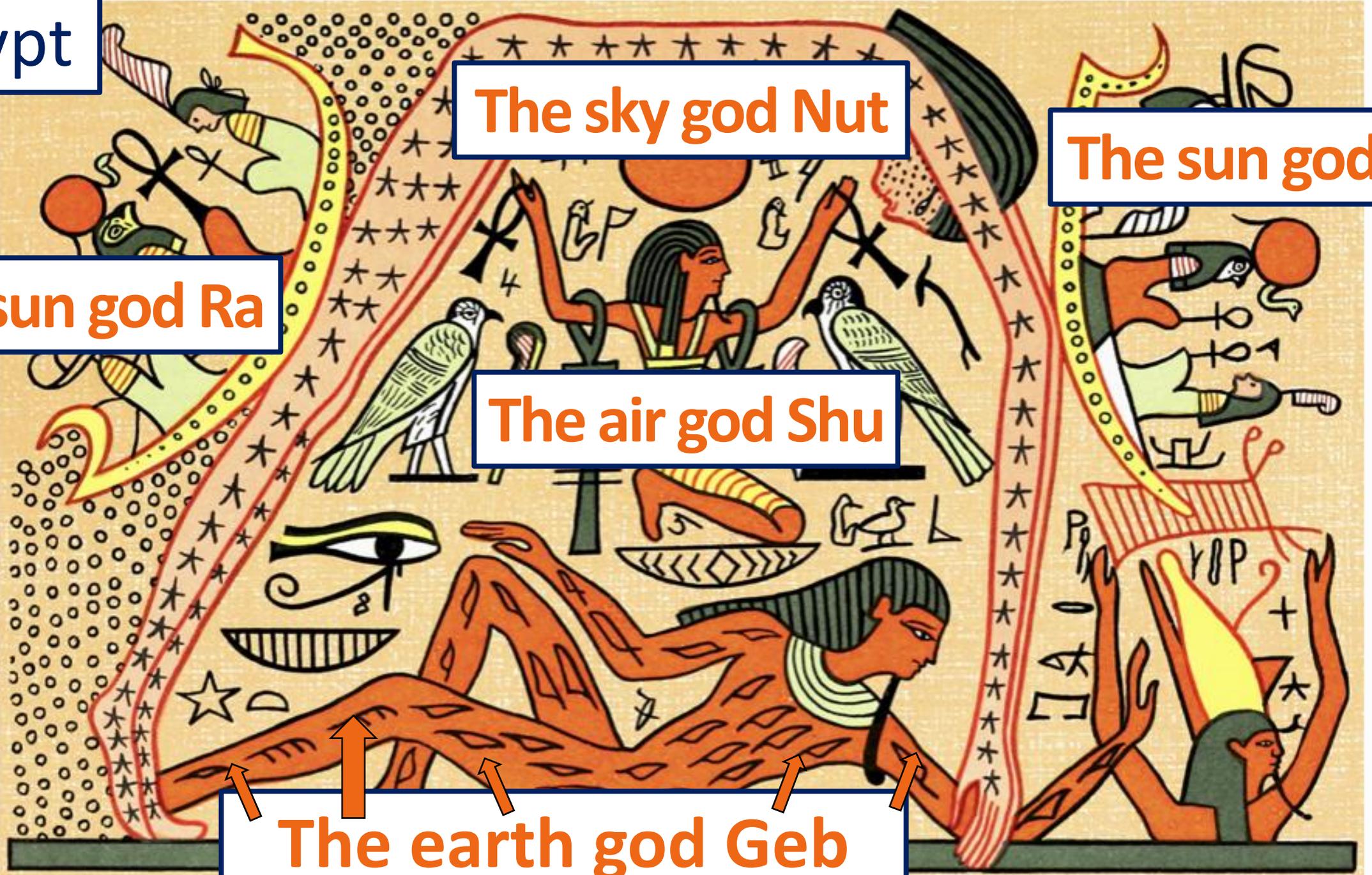
The sky god Nut

The sun god Ra

The sun god Ra

The air god Shu

The earth god Geb

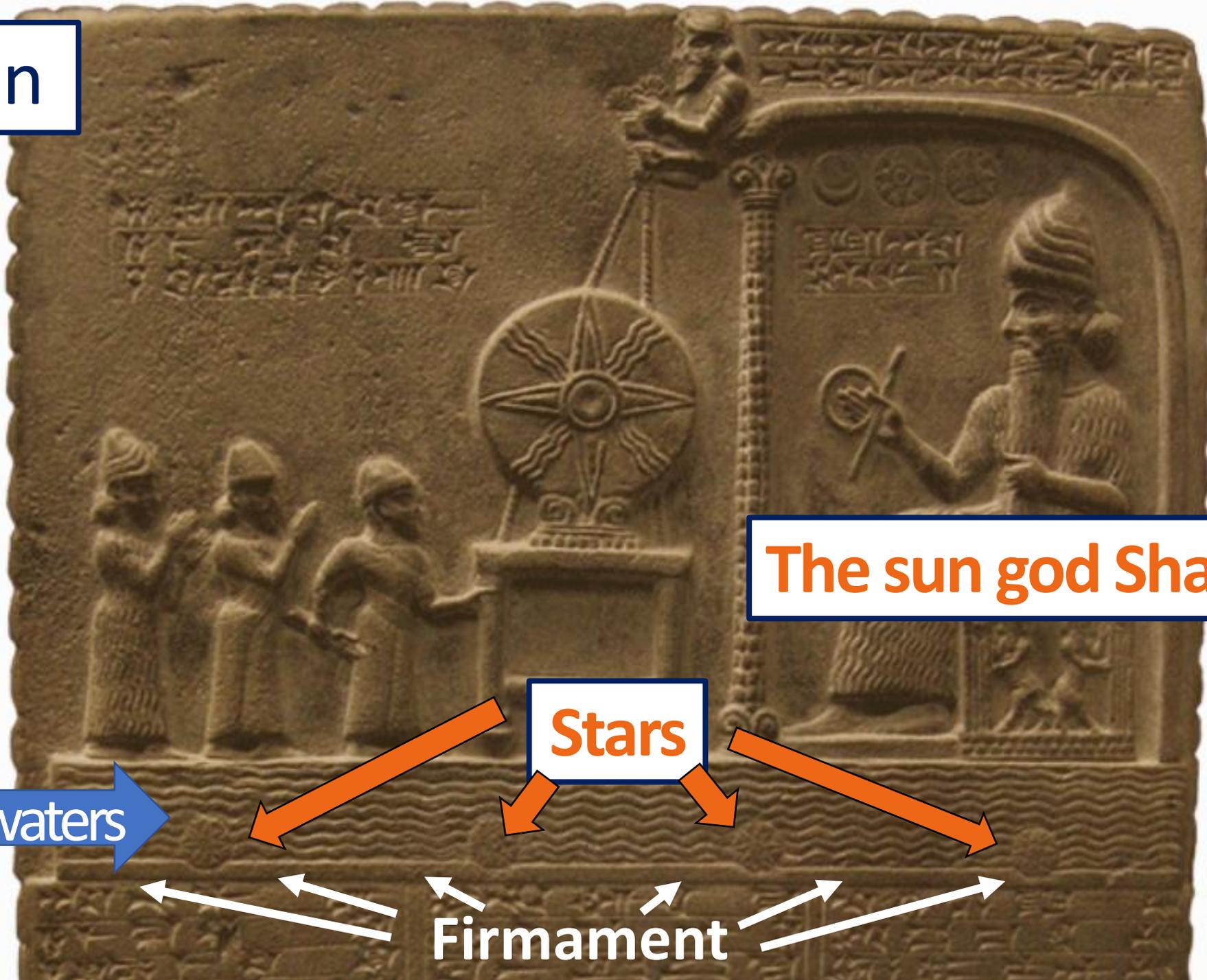




Babylonian tablet with  
the sun god Shamash



Babylon



The sun god Shamash

Stars

Heavenly waters

Firmament





# Fresh Look

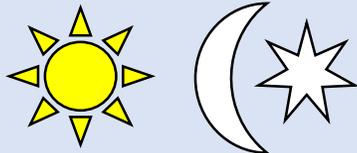
A fresh look at Genesis 1 in context

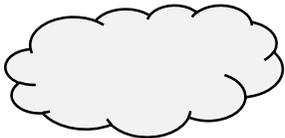
“The earth was without **form** and **void**”

## Forming

## Filling

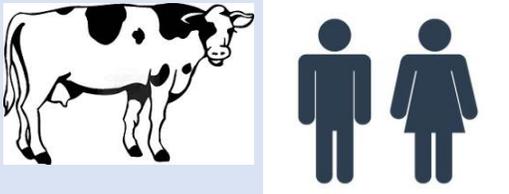
1  Light/darkness

4  Sun; moon/stars

2  Heavens separate from waters

5  Fish – sea; birds - heavens

3  Land

6  Animals, bugs, people



**COME  
BACK**

# Homework

Read CAREFULLY Genesis  
1:1-2:3. Think about evolution  
and creation?



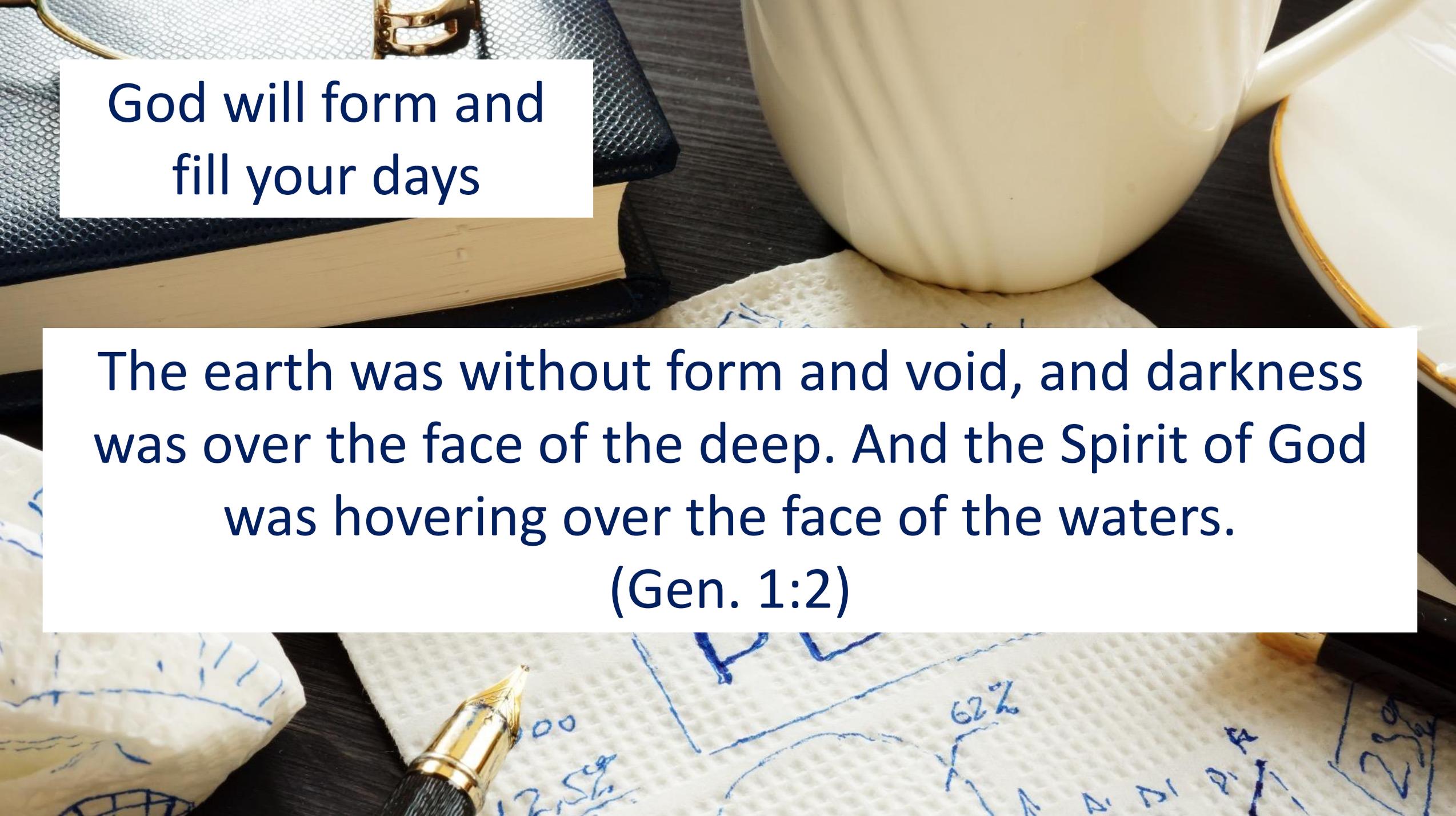


**T  
A  
K  
E**  
**A  
W  
A  
Y**



# God is Speaking!

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. (Isa. 45:18)



God will form and  
fill your days

The earth was without form and void, and darkness  
was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God  
was hovering over the face of the waters.

(Gen. 1:2)

Don't go in reverse!



They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good. I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. (Jer. 4:22-25)

# Genesis

