

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

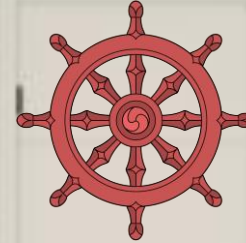
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/
Christian



Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

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Agnostics can't decide whether the evidence there is a God is sufficient when weighed against the evidence there is not a God.

Emails are a blessing and a curse!



We could seriously use a sarcasm font



Some websites should be read as satire



AMERICA'S FINEST NEWS SOURCE

Some websites should be read as satire

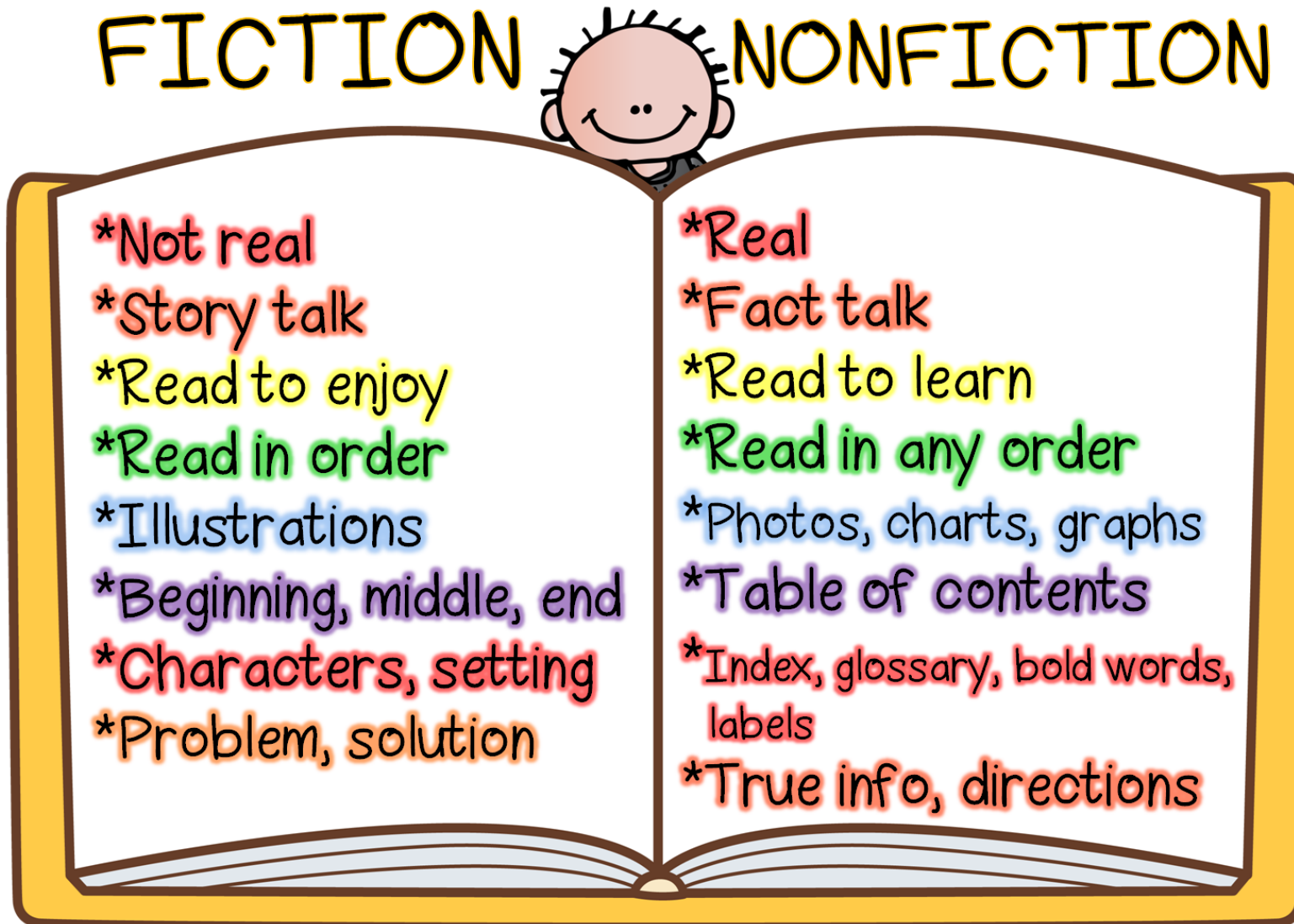


AMERICA'S FINEST NEWS SOURCE

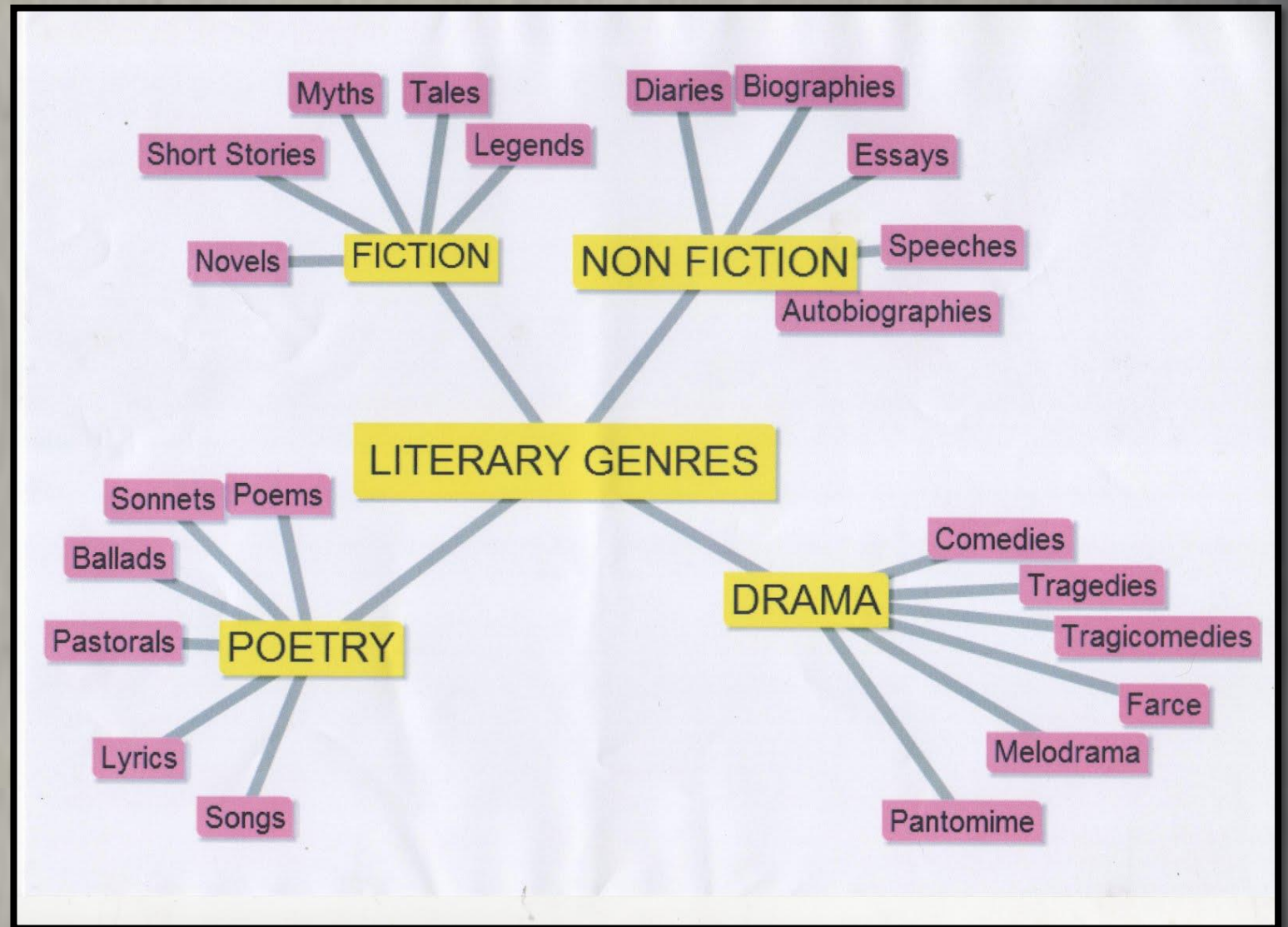


Paul Ryan Sitting Among Undecided Voters At Town Hall Debate

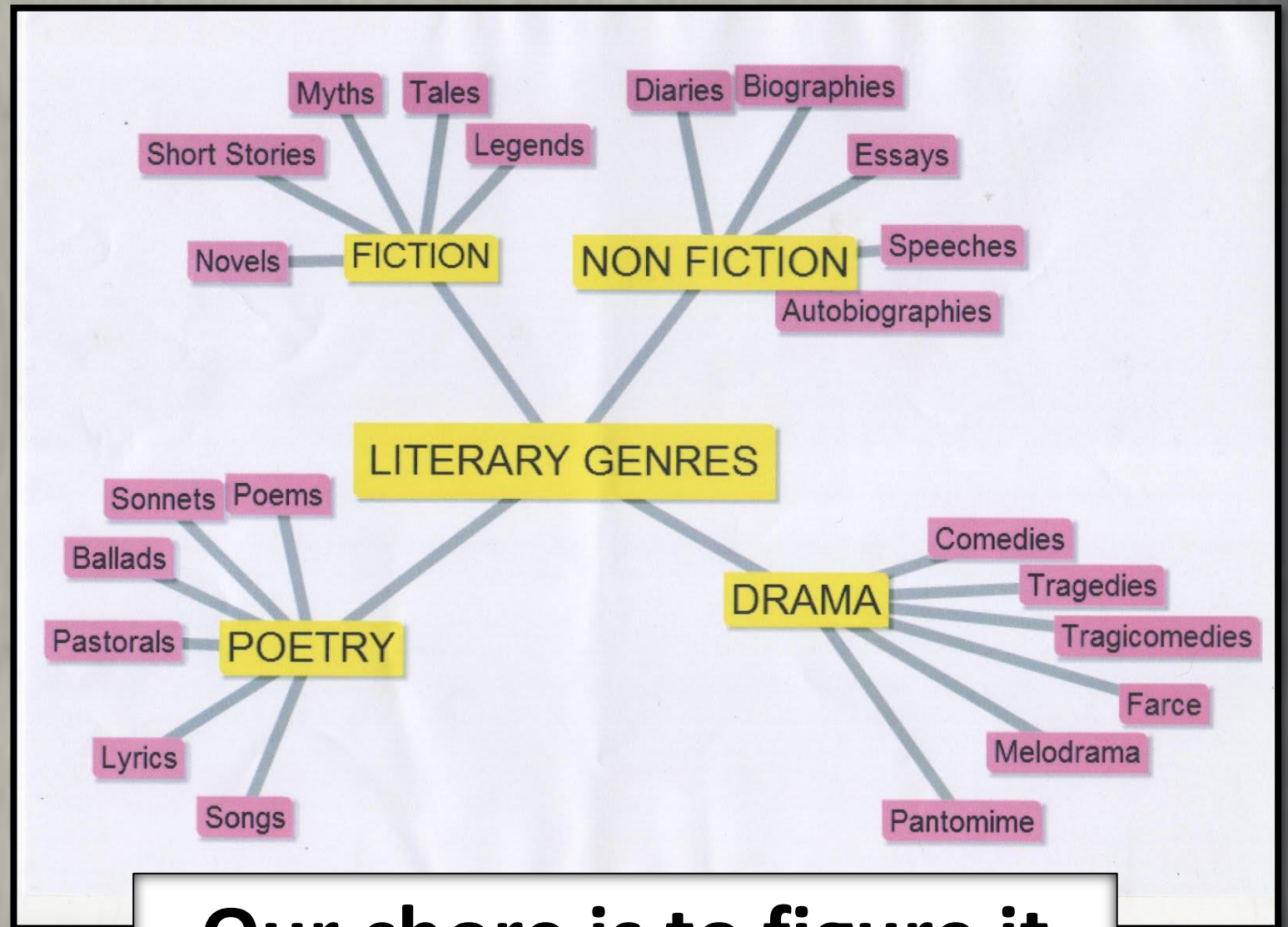
We learn early about different types of literature



**The Bible has
assorted types
of literature:
some common
today, some not**



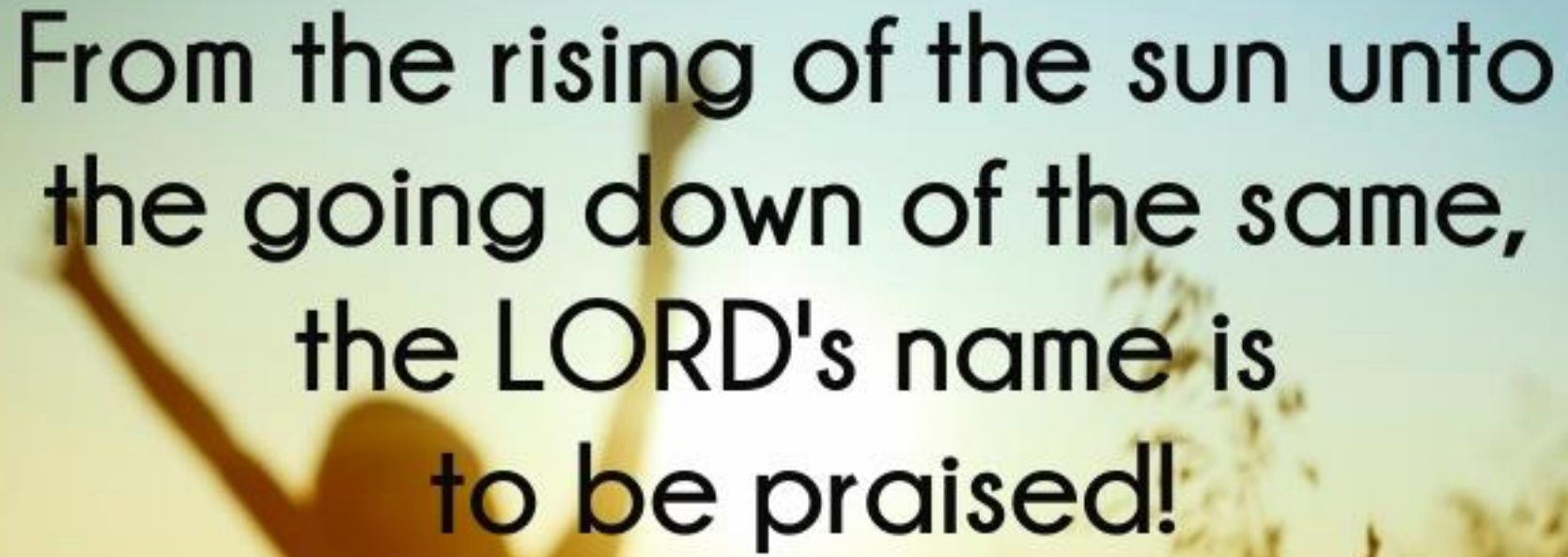
**The Bible has
assorted types
of literature:
some common
today, some not**



**Our chore is to figure it
out and read accordingly**



Example:

A person is shown from the waist up, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or worship. The background is a bright, hazy sky with a warm, golden-yellow glow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright background.

From the rising of the sun unto
the going down of the same,
the LORD's name is
to be praised!

Psalm 113:3

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

or

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

God

v.

Science

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff God
and files this petition
against defendant Science

or

The Claim: I don't believe in God because in the science vs. God debate, science wins!

God
v.
Science

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiff God
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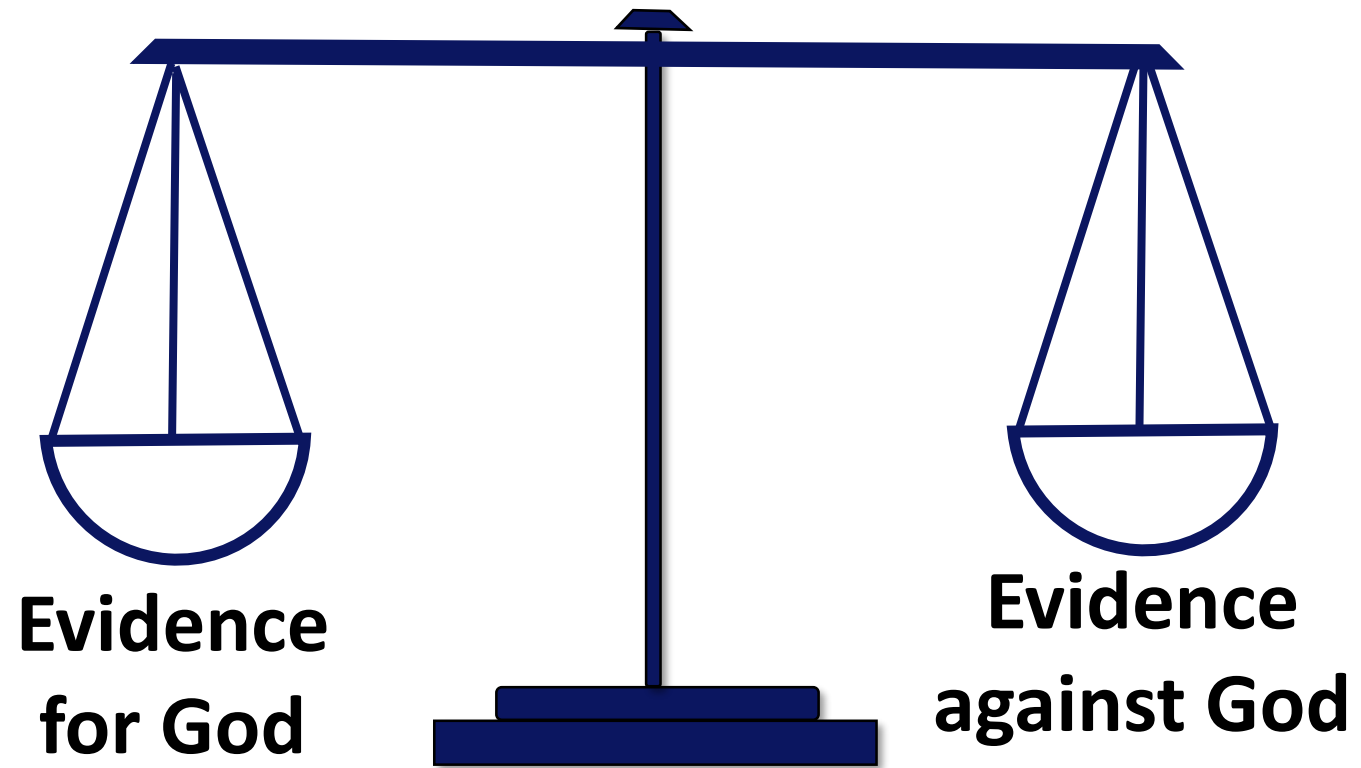
or

God and
Science
v.
Bad theology

Plaintiff's Original Petition

Comes now Plaintiffs God
and Science and file this
petition against Bad theo-

Weighing the Evidence



The evidence:

Our perceptions of reality

Positive Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
- ✗ 2. Why is there “beauty”?
- ✓ 3. Why is “justice” and “fair” important?
- ✓ 4. Why is there a basis for dignity and honor?
- ✓ 5. Why do we uniquely value humanity?
- ✓ 6. Why is there meaning and significance in life?
- ✓ 7. Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

Negative Perceptions

- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
- ✓ 2. Why can't we see God?
- ✓ 3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

The evidence:

Our perceptions of reality

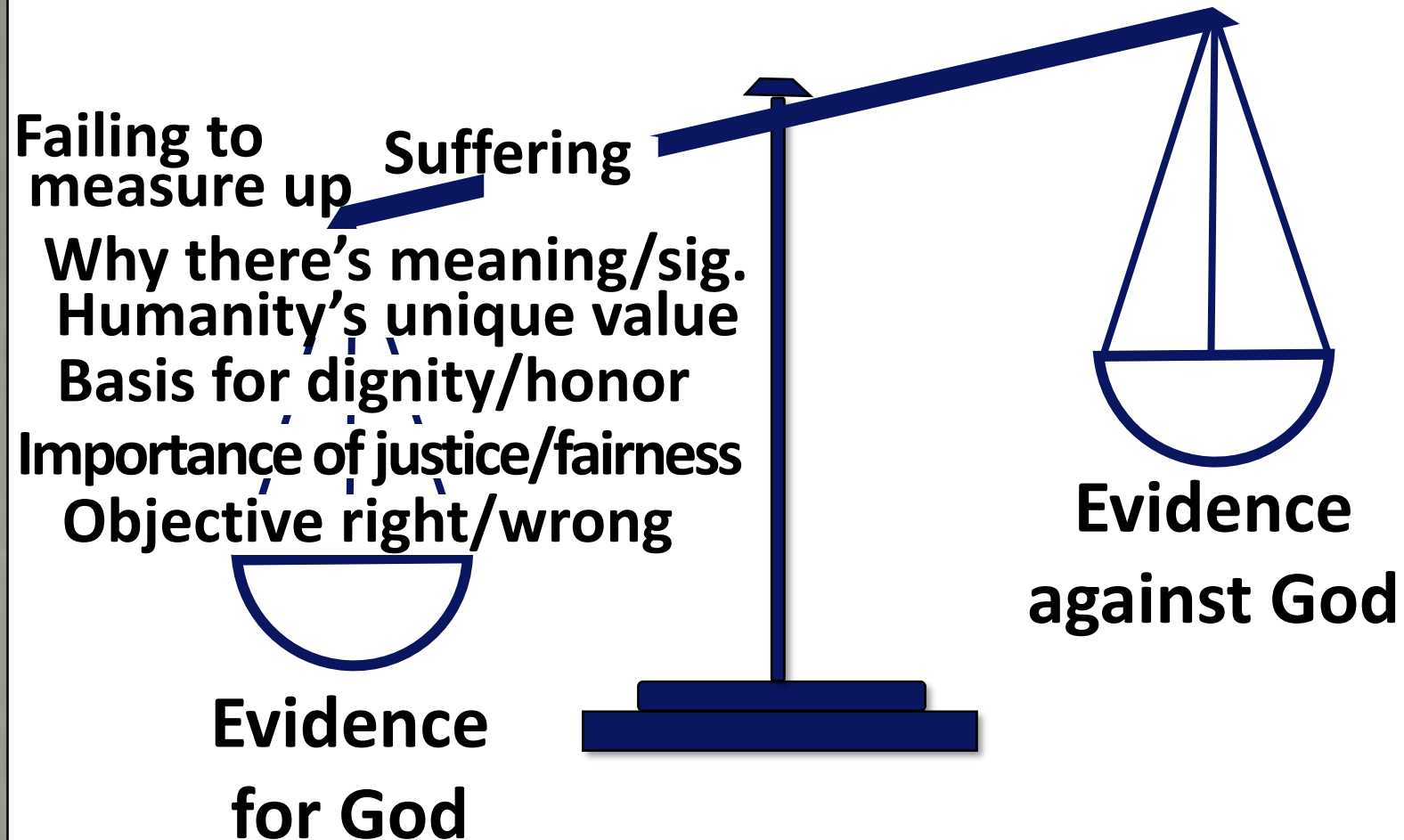
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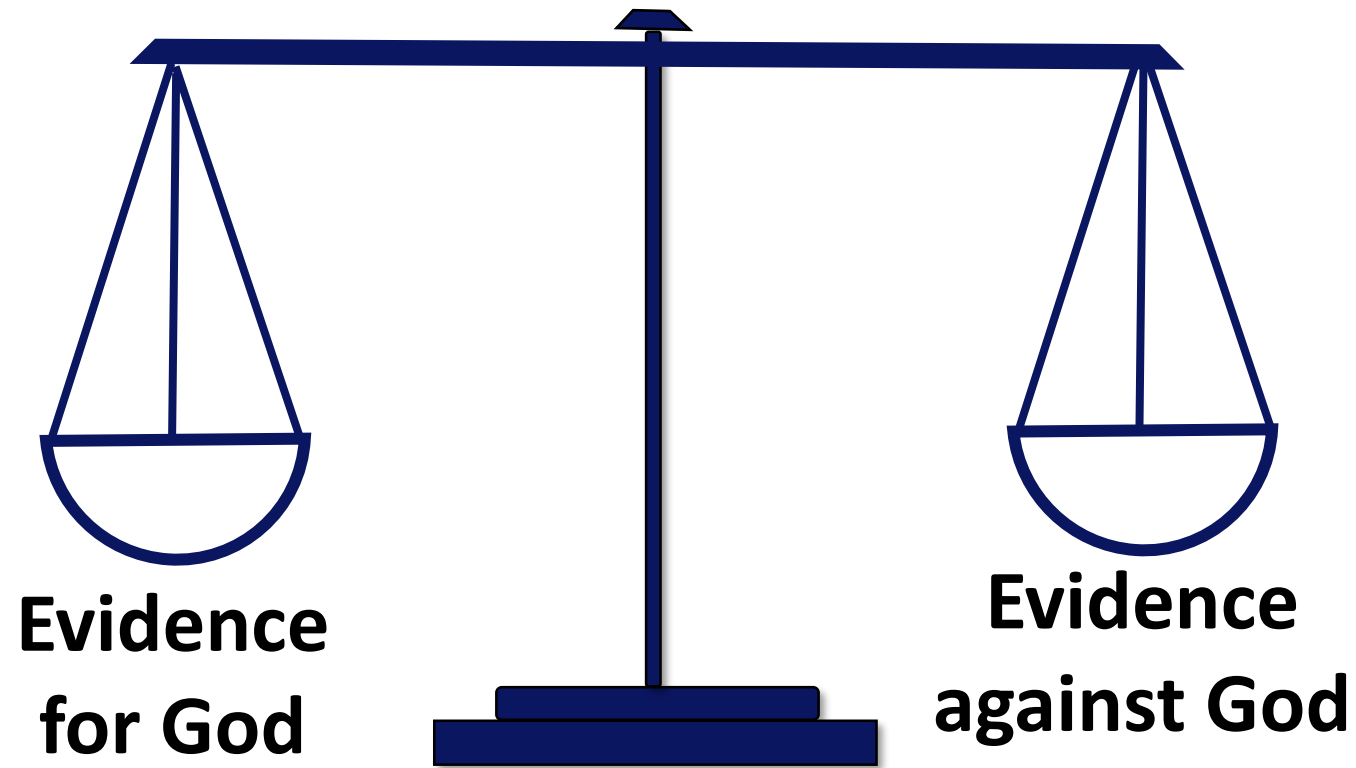
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- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
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Weighing the Evidence



How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

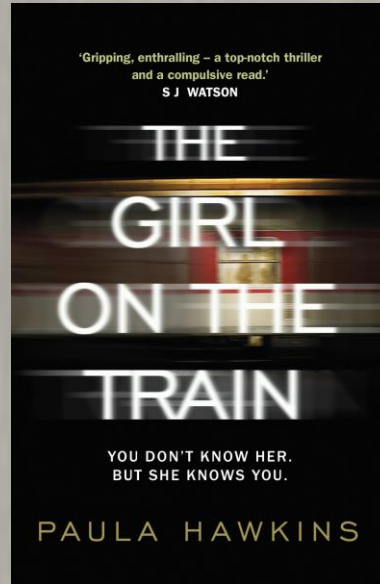


The importance of context

**What the
Bible is **not**:**

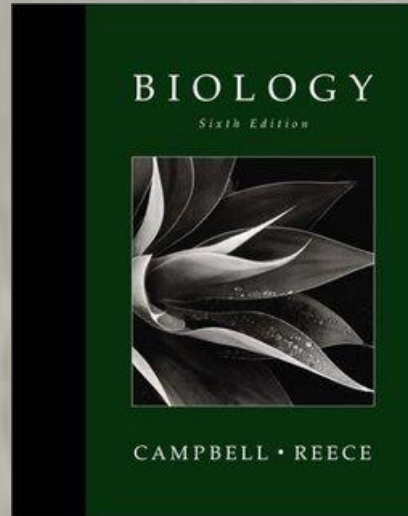
What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel



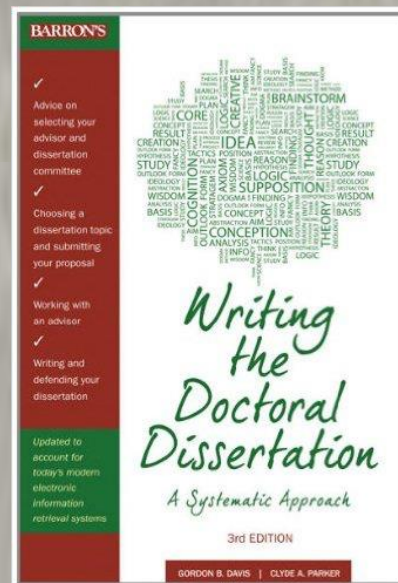
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- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook



What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook
- A doctoral dissertation



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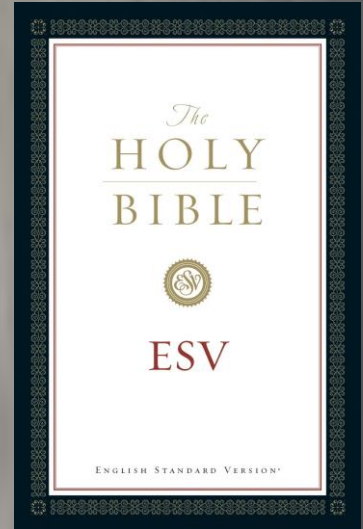
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What the Bible **is**:

What the Bible is **not**:

- A 21st century novel
- A modern textbook
- A doctoral dissertation

What the Bible **is**:



Many writing types
(poetry, narrative, etc.)
spanning over a thousand
years and set into distinct
historical, cultural and
geographical contexts.

The importance of context

**We must consider the
historical linguistic, and cultural context
of each portion of writing**

What does Genesis say about science: Creation or Evolution???



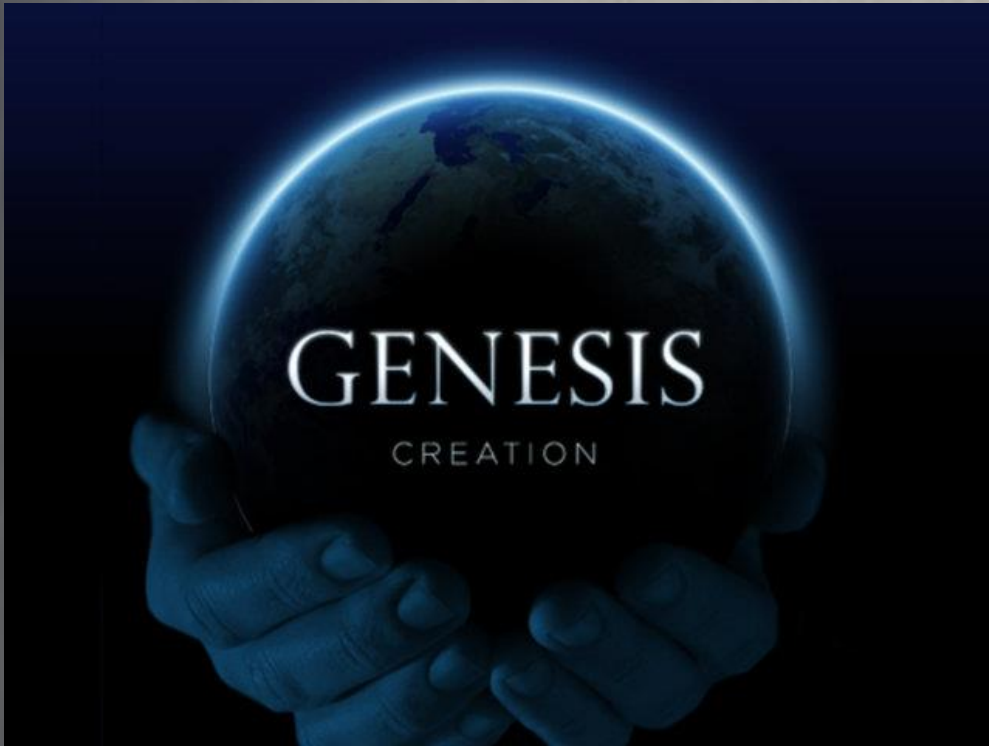
What does Genesis say about science: Creation or Evolution???

It **depends** on how you
read Genesis!

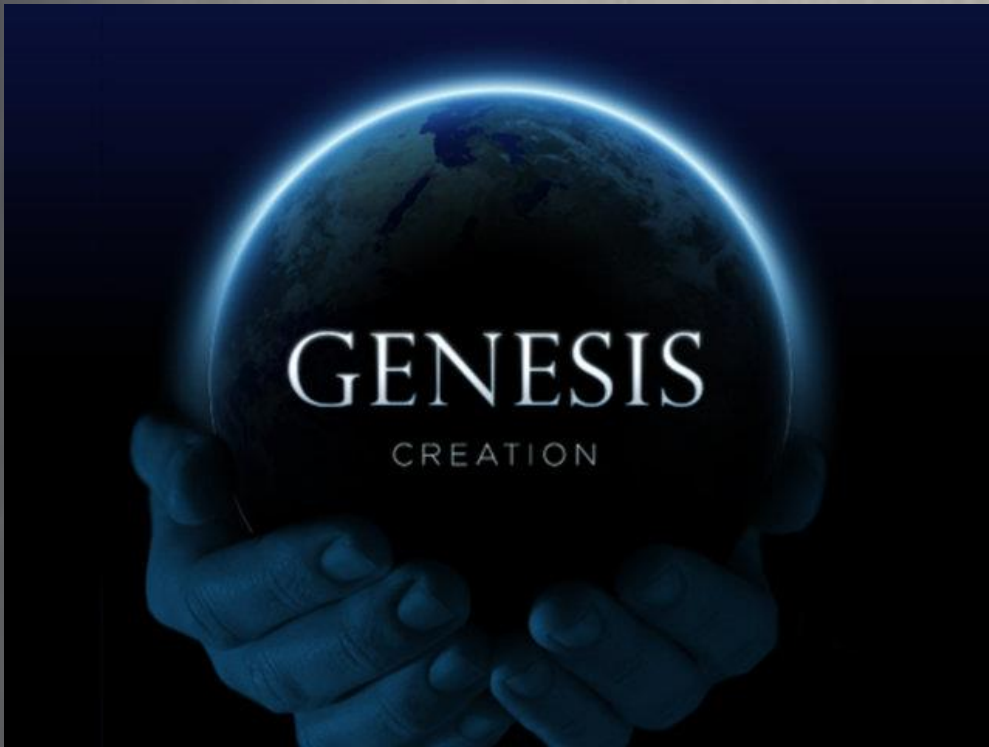


It **depends** on how
you read Genesis!

Genesis 1-2:3 reads very differently
than the rest of Genesis



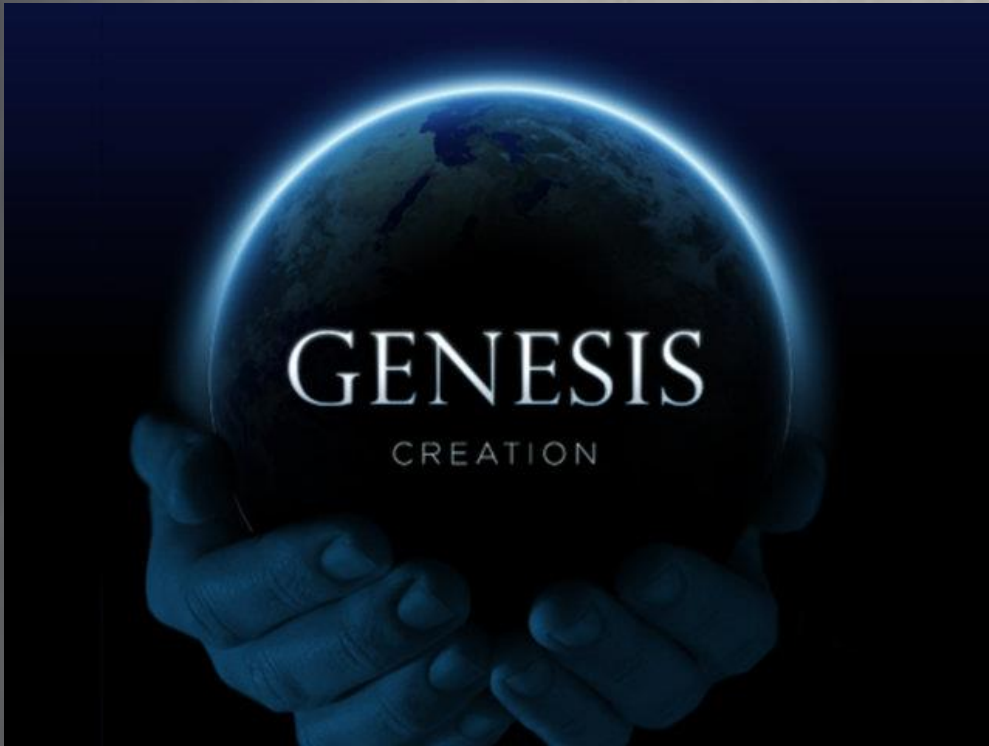
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“Exalted prose”

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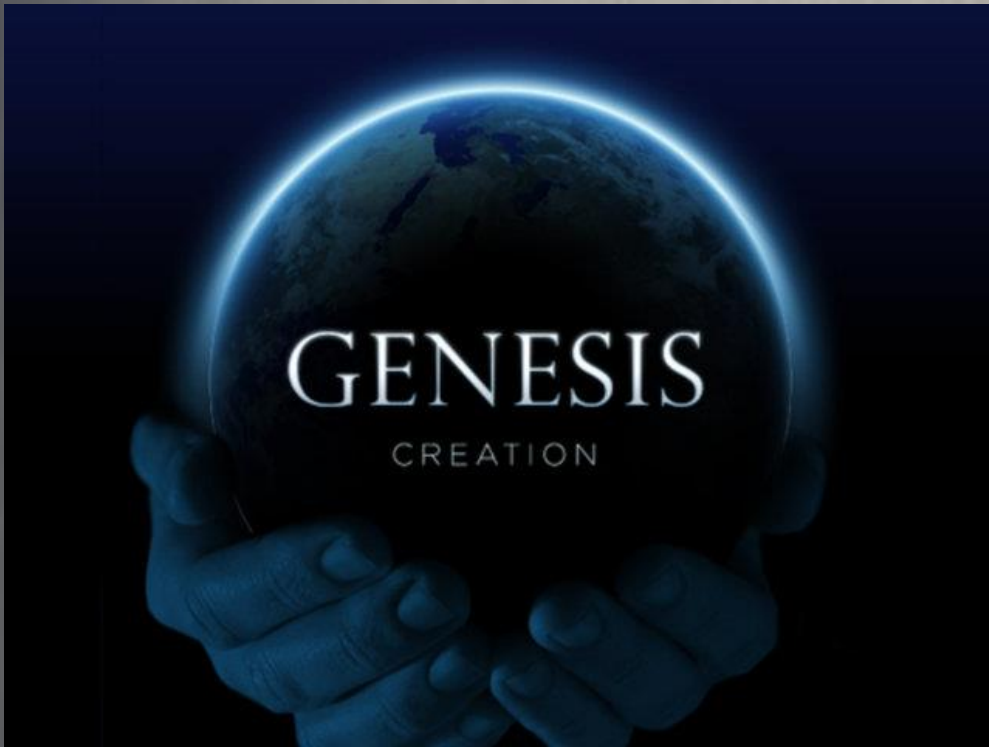


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“Exalted prose”

“Poetic repetition”

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Genesis 1-2:3 reads very differently
than the rest of Genesis

“Exalted prose”

“Poetic repetition”

Unique internal
structure

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

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3 Days **Forming**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

3 Days **Filling**

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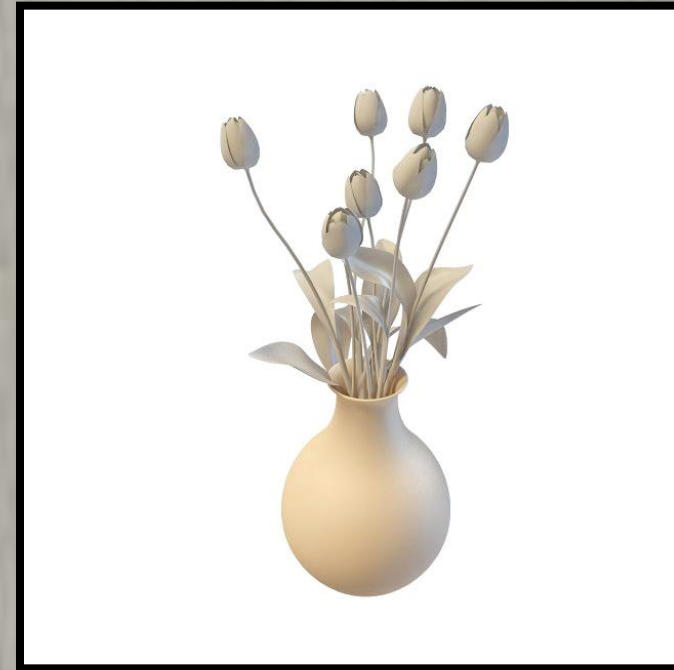


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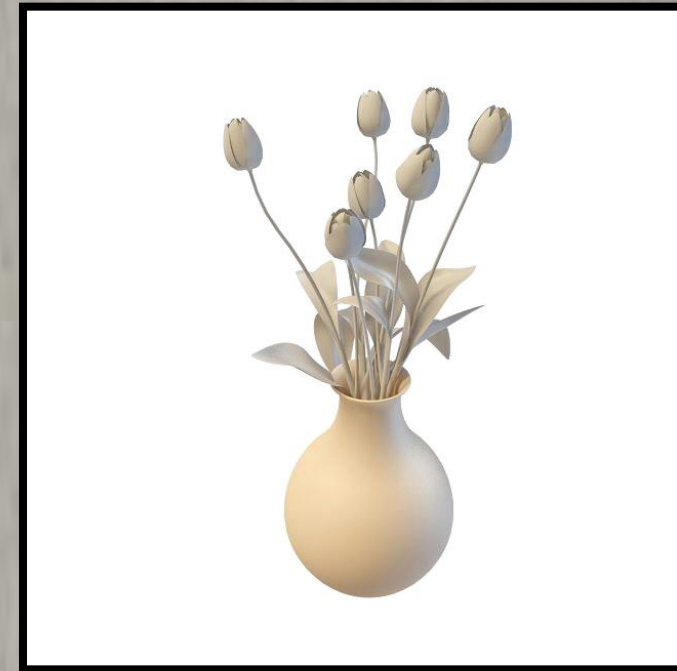


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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

1 - Light & darkness

2 - Heavens & water



3 Days **Filling**



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

1 - Light & darkness

2 - Heavens & water

3 - Earth & vegetation



3 Days **Filling**



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

1 - Light & darkness

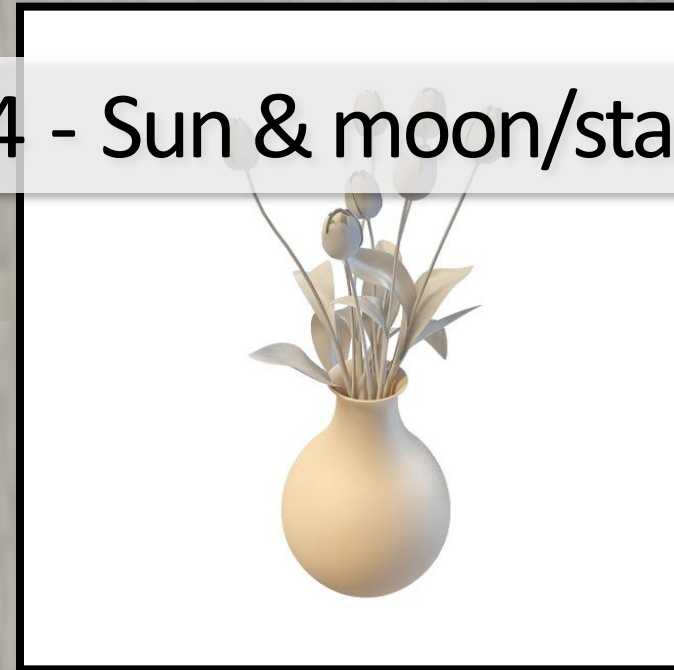
2 - Heavens & water

3 - Earth & vegetation



3 Days **Filling**

4 - Sun & moon/stars



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

1 - Light & darkness

2 - Heavens & water

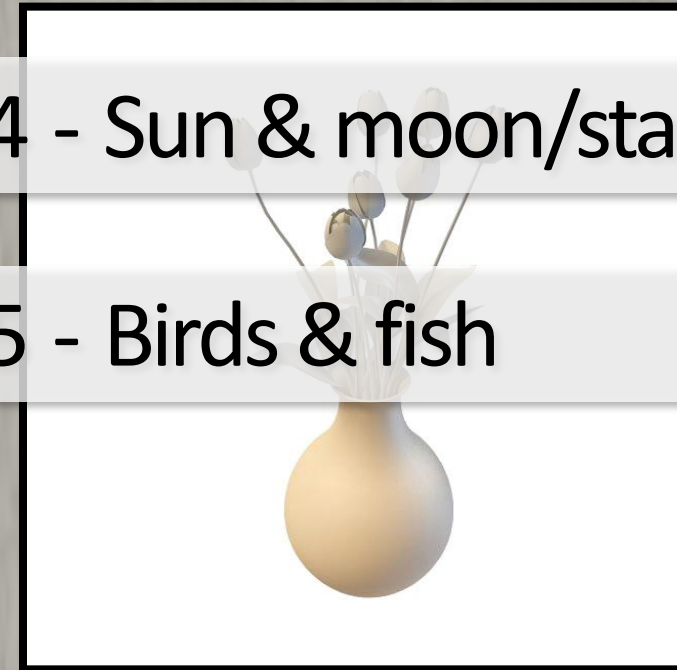
3 - Earth & vegetation



3 Days **Filling**

4 - Sun & moon/stars

5 - Birds & fish



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form** and **void**

3 Days **Forming**

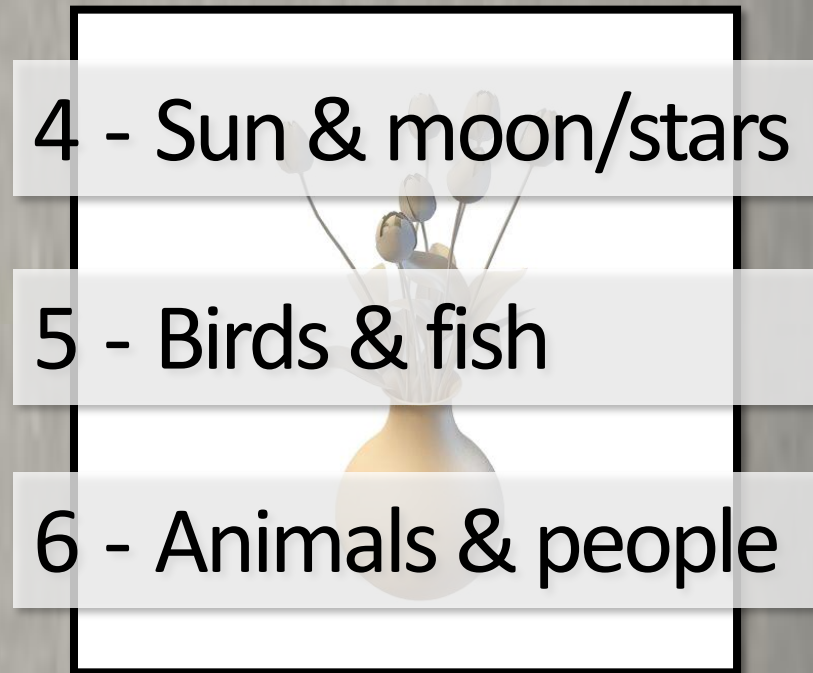


1 - Light & darkness

2 - Heavens & water

3 - Earth & vegetation

3 Days **Filling**



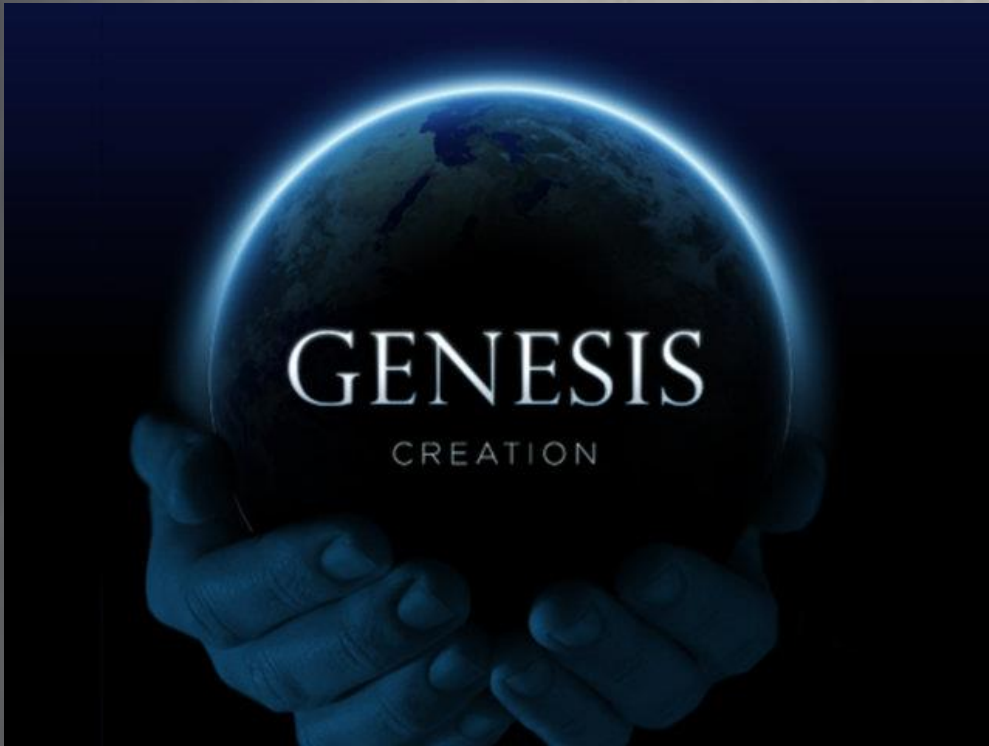
4 - Sun & moon/stars

5 - Birds & fish

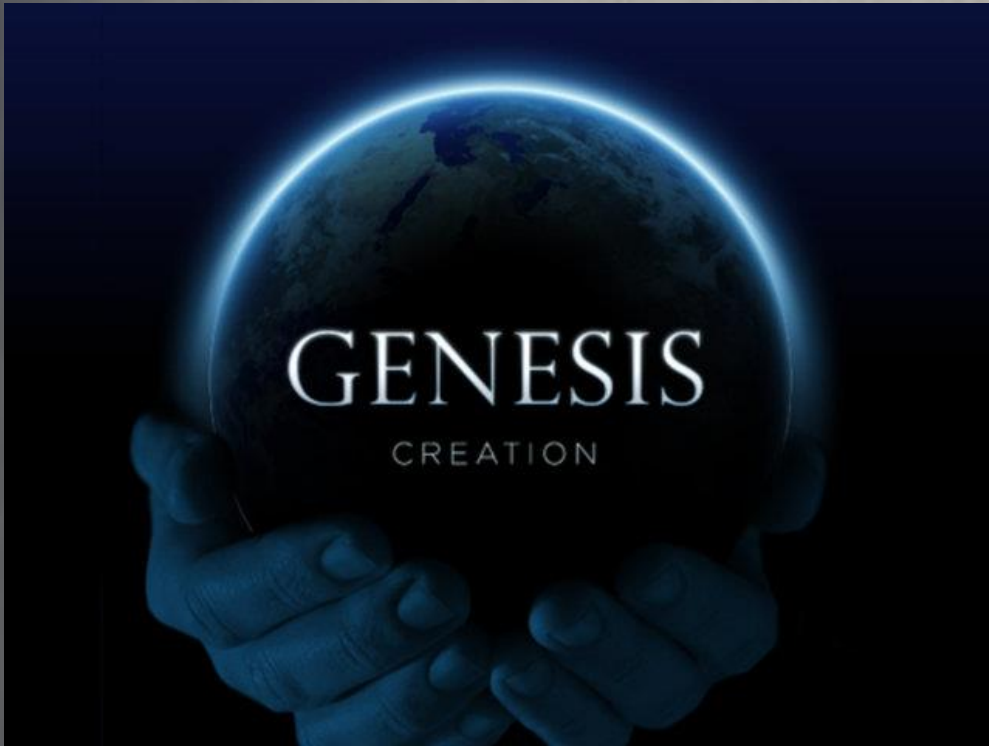
6 - Animals & people

It **depends** on how
you read Genesis!

Genesis 1-2:3 reads very differently
than the rest of Genesis



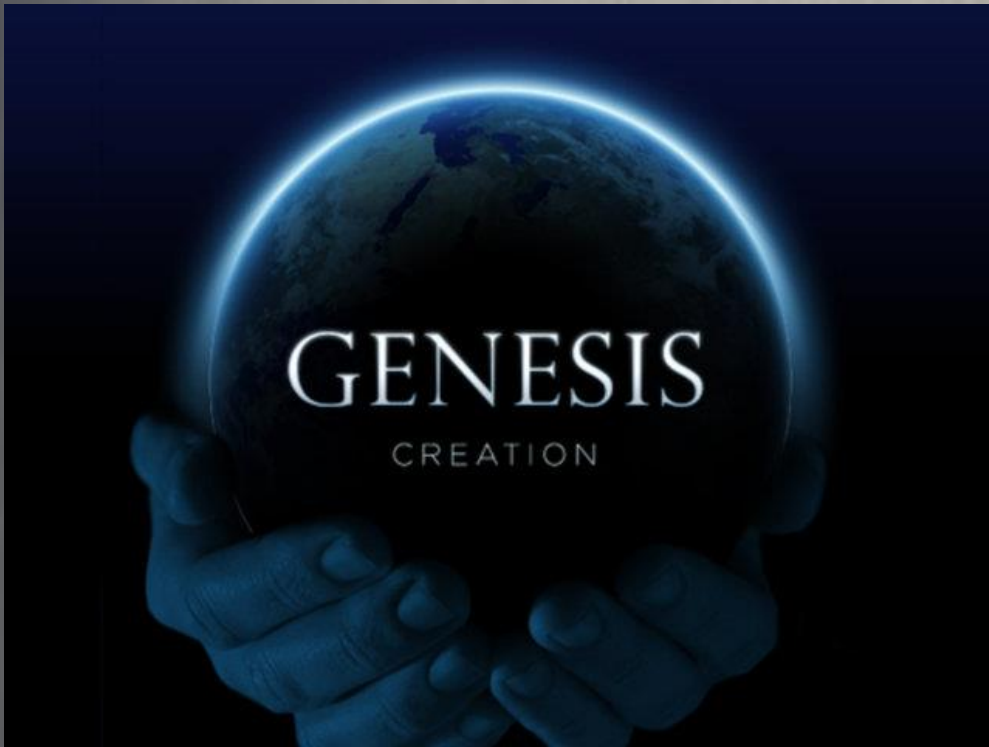
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“Literal”?

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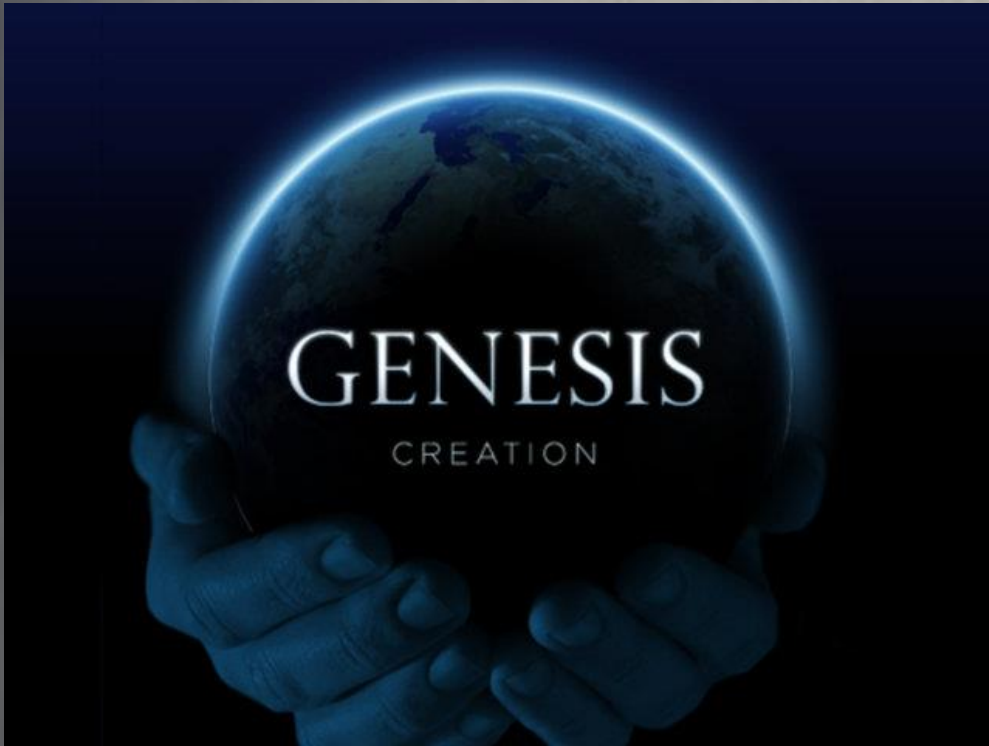


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“Literal”?

Artistic numbering?

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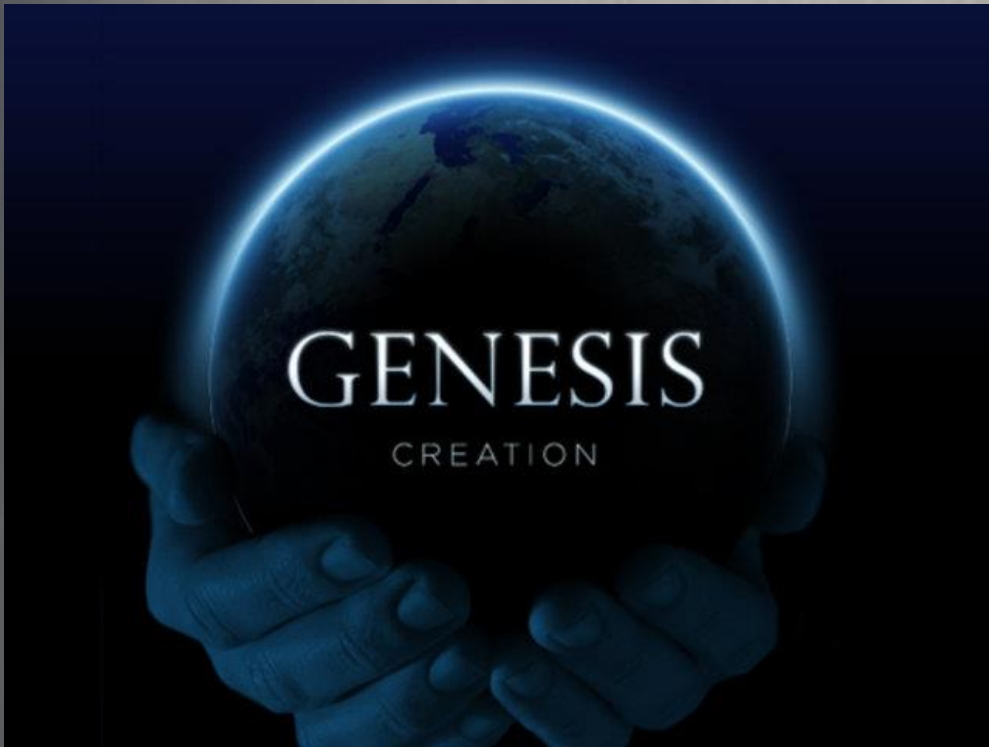
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“Literal”?

Artistic numbering?

Day vs. age

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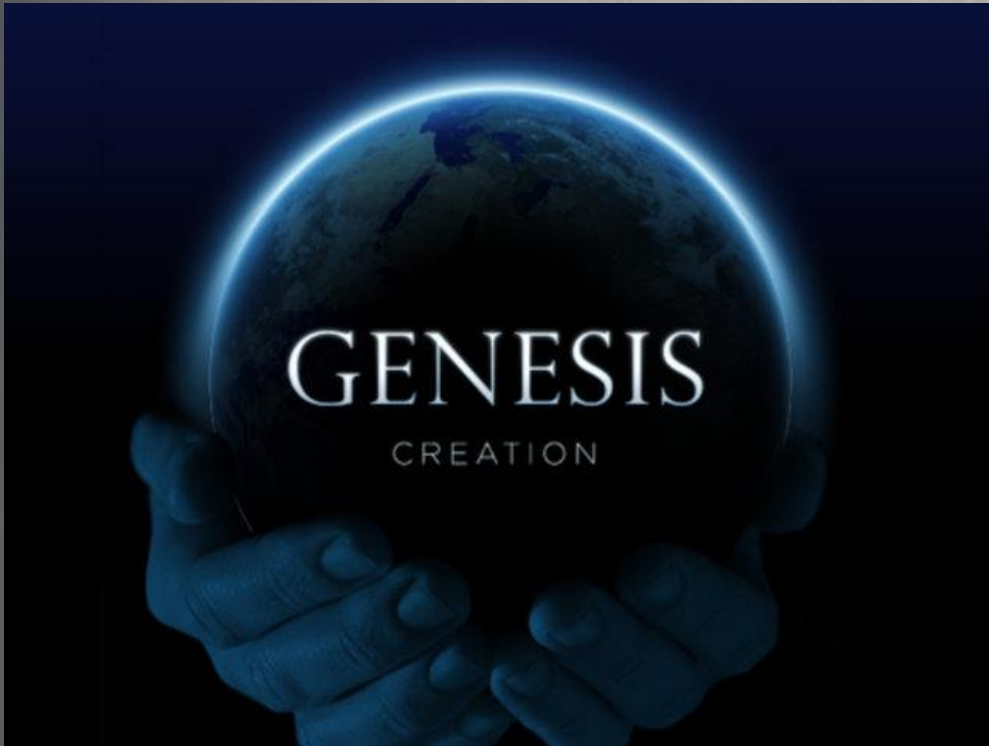
“Literal”?

If so, how literal?

Artistic numbering?

Day vs. age

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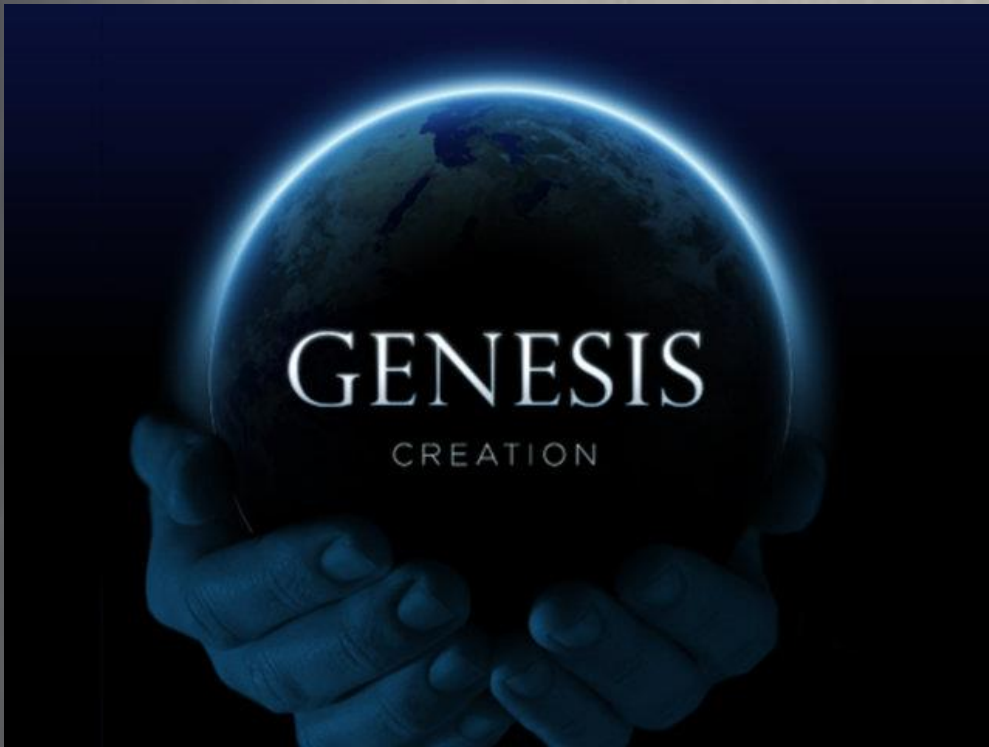


Genesis 1-2:3 reads very differently
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“Literal”?

“Allegorical”?

It **depends** on how
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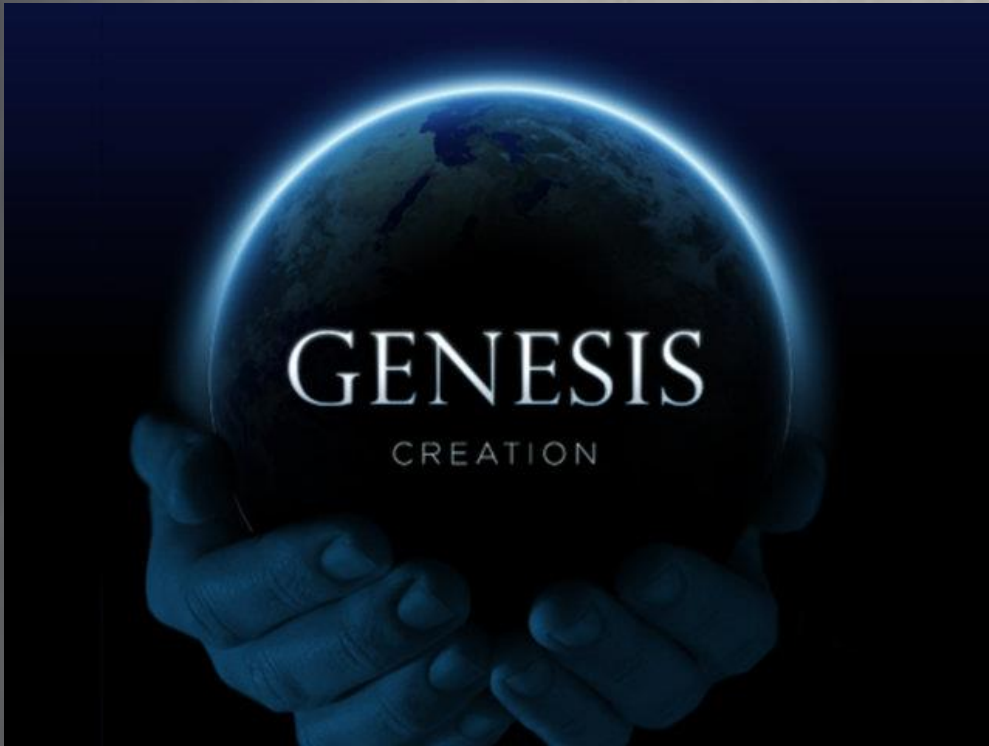
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“Literal”?

“Allegorical”?

A poetic picture?

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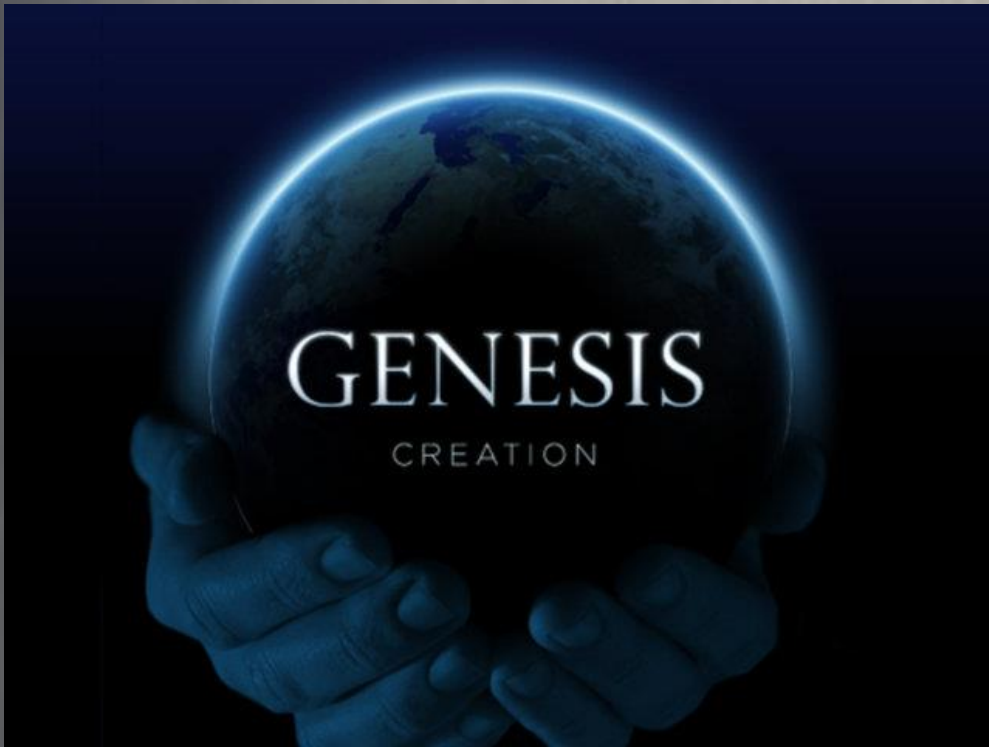


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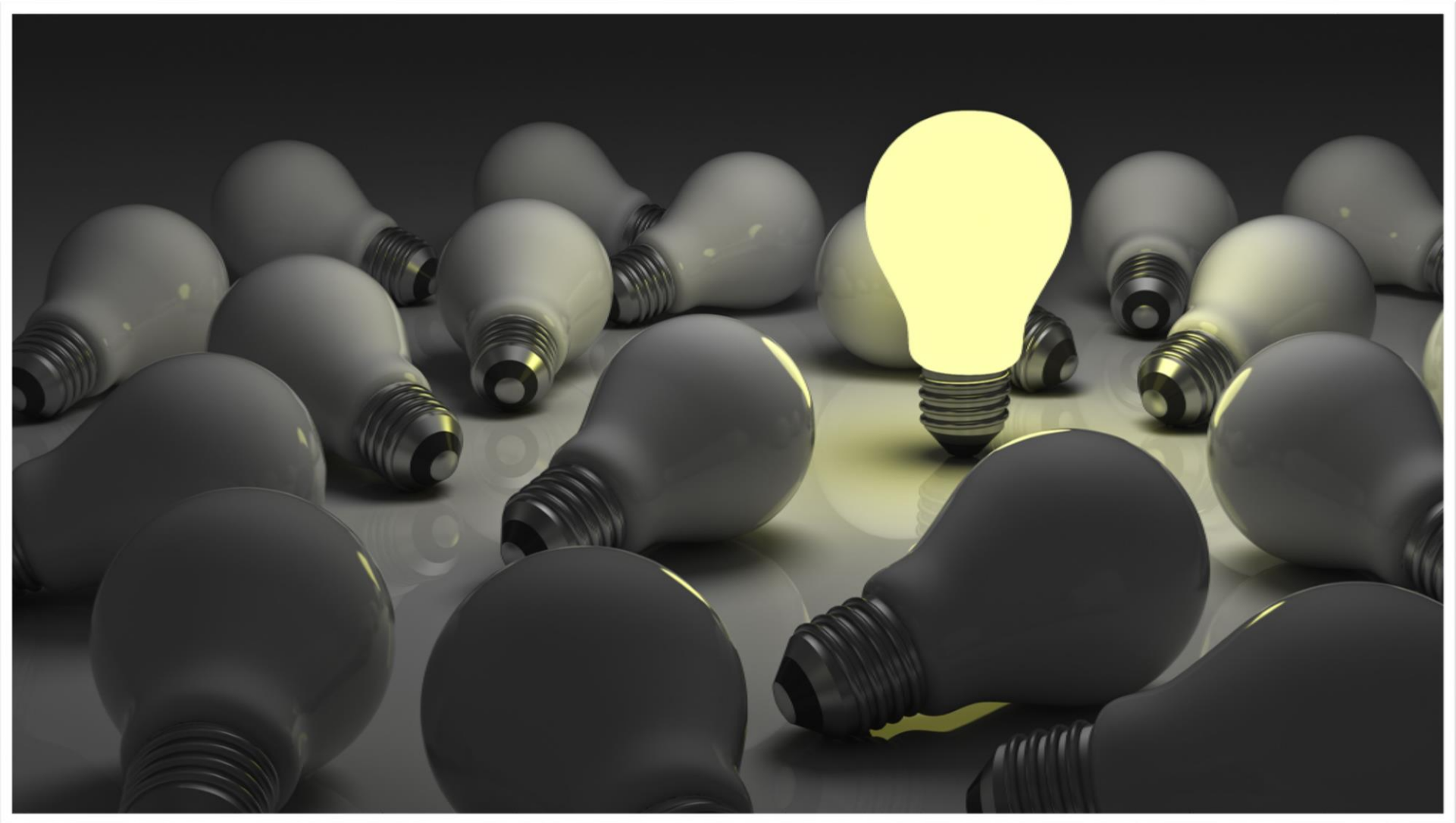
Genesis 1-2:3 reads very differently
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“Literal”?

“Allegorical”?

“Historical context”?

Israel is **incredibly different** from all neighbors!



Israel is **incredibly different** from all neighbors!



Differences:
God, nature, and humanity

Differences in God:



Israel

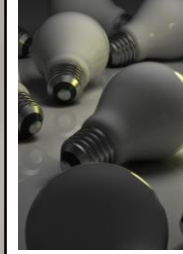
One

Above creation

Outside space and time

God's not a sexual being

God's not limited



Neighbors

Many

Part of creation

In space and time

Gods are sexual

Gods share human limitations

Difference
in nature
(function)



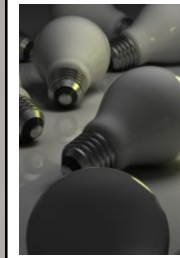
**Nature is made with people in mind. Food stuffs,
light, seasons, etc. People have dominion and
live to God's purposes within this creation.**

Differences in Humanity:



Israel

**All people in God's
image to be in
relationship as they
live to his purposes.**



Neighbors

**The king in God's
image with the people
to do as the king
commands.**



What does Paul say of
God and science?



What does Paul say of God and science?

Rom. 1:19-20

what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made



What does Paul say of
God and science?



What does Paul say of
God and science?

- **God is a cause and effect God**



What does Paul say of
God and science?

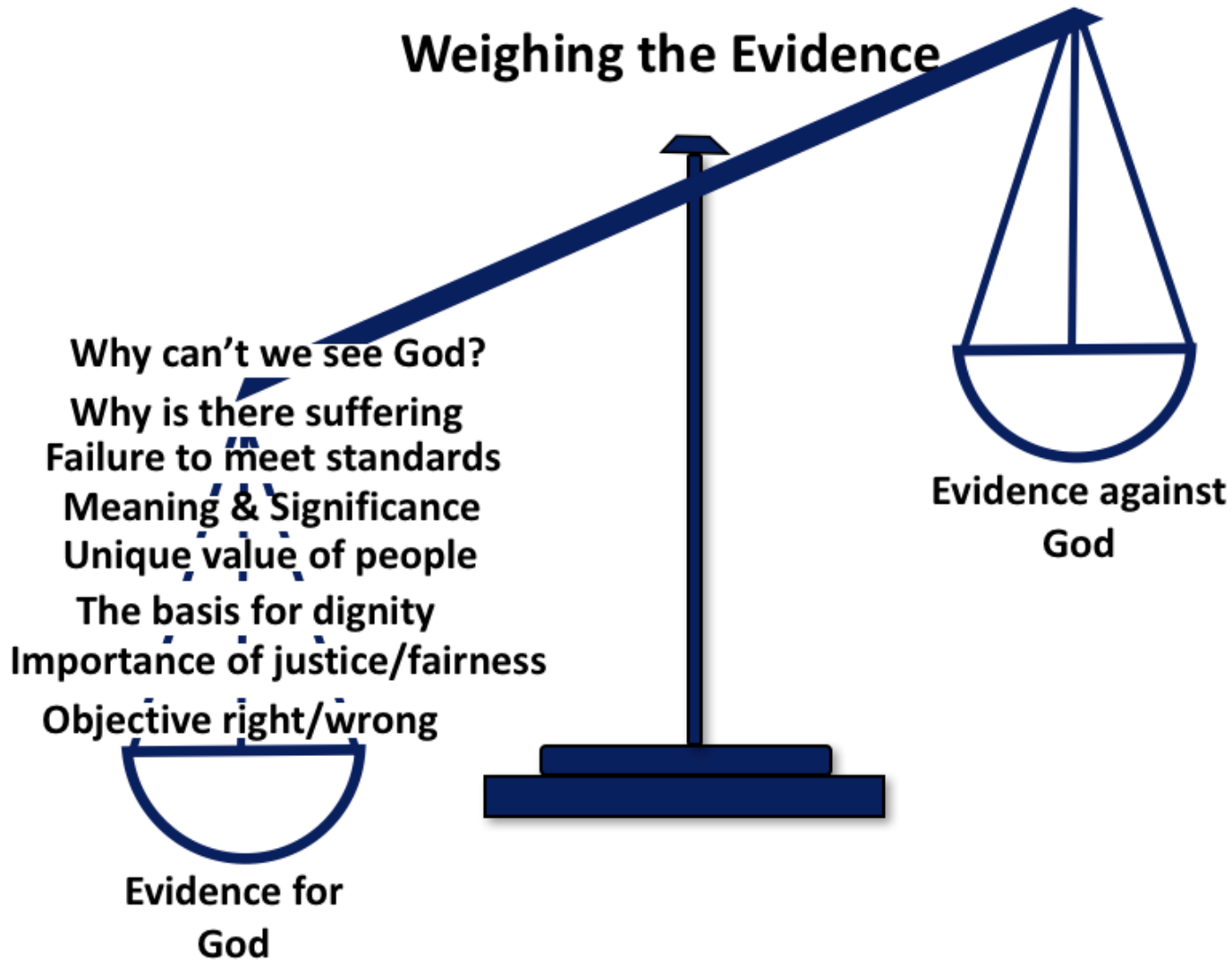
- **God is a cause and effect God**
- **God is consistent and reliable**



What does Paul say of God and science?

- **God is a cause and effect God**
- **God is consistent and reliable**
- **God is moral and just**

Weighing the Evidence



Evidence to be considered and weighed:

❖ Perceptions of reality

- ✓ 1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
- ✗ 2. Why is there "beauty"?
- ✓ 3. Why is "justice" and "fair" important?
- ✓ 4. Why is there a basis for dignity and honor?
- ✓ 5. Why do we uniquely value humanity?
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❖ Negative perceptions and questions

- ✓ 1. Why is there suffering?
- ✓ 2. Why can't we see God?
- ✗ 3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
- ✓ 4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

Points for home



Points for home



*“In the beginning, God...”
(Gen. 1:1)*

Points for home



*“In the beginning, God...”
(Gen. 1:1)*

**God is first and
foremost**

Points for home



*“And God said...”
(Gen. 1:3)*

Points for home



*“And God said...”
(Gen. 1:3)*

God still speaks into my
life and things happen

Points for home



*“And it was good”
(Gen. 1:10)*

Points for home



*“And it was good”
(Gen. 1:10)*

Thank you God!

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

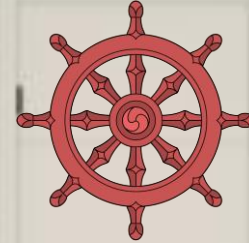
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Hindu

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Why I'm Not

~~Atheist~~ ~~Agnostic~~ Hindu Muslim ~~Buddhist~~ Jewish/
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