

QUESTION: On the first day, God created light, but where did it come from when we know that the sun, which is the source of light, wasn't created until the fourth day? (Genesis 1:14-19)

Genesis 1:3-5 (NIV)

[3] And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. [4] God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. [5] God called the light “Day,” and the darkness He called “Night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Theological Reflection:

In the opening chapter of Genesis, we see God creating the heavens and the earth and bringing order to the chaos. The first act of creation is the command for light to exist. This is significant because light symbolizes more than just physical illumination—it represents the presence and holiness of God. When God says, “Let there be light,” He is declaring the arrival of order in the cosmos, as well as the manifestation of His own divine nature.

Where did the light come from before the sun was created?

In the ancient world, darkness often symbolized chaos, evil, and death. The act of separating light from darkness is an image of God bringing His righteous order to a disordered world. 1 John 1:5 (NIV) says, “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” This not only refers to God’s nature but also to His truth and purity. From the very beginning, light represents the revelation of God to the world.

ANSWER: God, being sovereign and transcendent, does not depend on created sources like the sun for His power. Unlike humans, who need material causes to create things, God is self-sufficient and can create without any external help. This is a key distinction. When God creates light, it is not necessarily a physical light in the same sense we understand it, but a divine light that precedes the creation of the sun, moon, and stars. Psalm 104:2 (NIV) describes God as “the one who wraps Himself in light as with a garment.”

God, in His omnipotence, is able to illuminate the universe with His presence even before the sun was created. This is not surprising when we understand that God exists outside of time and space. In fact, the entire universe, including light itself, was made by Him. John 1:3-4 (NIV) affirms this idea: “Through Him all

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things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.”

The light here in Genesis also has a deeper theological significance—it points to Christ. The Gospel of John explicitly connects Jesus to the light that was present at the creation of the world. In John 8:12, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The light created in Genesis is a foreshadowing of Jesus, the eternal Word, who is the true Light that came into the world to bring spiritual illumination.

The creation of light on the first day, before the sun was created on the fourth day, symbolizes the preeminence of Christ as the source of all life and light. Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV) says, “For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

The Role of the Sun, Moon, and Stars:

It’s important to note that although God created light on the first

day, He later created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19). These celestial bodies serve a different purpose: they mark times, seasons, days, and years, providing structure to the physical world. The light on the first day, however, was not dependent on these created sources but was a direct manifestation of God's power and presence.

Genesis 1:14-19 (NIV)

[14] And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, [15] and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. [16] God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. [17] God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, [18] to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. [19] And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Christ: The True Light of the World

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The connection between light and Christ is clear throughout Scripture. In John 1:9, it says, “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” Jesus is the light that not only illuminates the world but also guides humanity spiritually. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus calls His followers the “light of the world,” indicating that, through Him, believers are also meant to reflect God’s light into a dark world.

Theologically, the light that was created on the first day represents the eternal light of Christ, who is the “Word” through whom all things were made. Revelation 21:23 (NIV) speaks of the eternal kingdom of God, saying, “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” This speaks of the ultimate fulfillment of the light that began at creation—the fullness of God’s presence in Christ.

Has Christ Shone Inside You?

Without Christ, there is no true life. The Bible teaches that only in Christ can we find true spiritual light and life. Jesus offers a way to be reconciled with God, as John 8:12 (NIV) affirms: “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of

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life." Through repentance and faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness and are spiritually reborn. This is why it's crucial to turn to Christ for salvation.

If you're ready to receive Christ, the true Light, into your life and be transformed, I encourage you to pray this prayer of repentance:

Prayer of Repentance:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge my sin and my need for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, and through His death and resurrection, He offers me eternal life. I ask You to forgive me, cleanse me, and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for making me a new creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May the Lord bless you richly, and may His light shine upon you.

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