

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The topic of focus this Lenten midweek is the 4th day of creation. As we recognize the Lenten season as a time of repentance and preparation, at time during which we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning.

God places limits and boundaries upon His creation for our benefit. Because our finite human mind cannot fully comprehend the infinite God, He comes to us in ways and at the proper time so that we can understand and believe in Him.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

The first thing God does is differentiate between evening and morning, the first created light was separated from the darkness already on day one. But here on the fourth day he places markers to accentuate that division. The wonderful order that God places in the heavens above us causes us to wonder at His majestic power. If you haven't lately, you ought to go out on a clear night and gaze at the stars, they are wonderful and awesome. The sun and moon are great cause for us to delight, everyone who has been outside knows that warm feeling that the sun gives upon your skin and the cool light of night when the moon is full. Yet we should not delight chiefly in creation but the Creator Himself. This is why they are simply called two great lights, for all the pagan nations gave them divine names and worshiped the sun and the moon¹, making idols of things created and blaspheming our Lord.

Yet as it is, God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

So, the purpose of the greater and the lesser lights and the stars is to be signs and for seasons and for days and years. Without them we would have no calendar. Imagine a world with no calendar, no schedules, no planning, everything would be chaos. Thankfully God gave us days and weeks and months and years so that we might live orderly lives and believe that our time is in His hands. To be time markers is the purpose of the sun and moon and stars. They are not astrological signs so that you can try to figure out through a horoscope when the next important event in your life will happen,

¹ Solar false gods: Greek - Helios, Egyptian - Ra, Roman - Sol Invictus; Lunar false goddesses - Greek - Artemis, Selene, Roman - Luna, Diana and many others. Jupiter, Neptune, Pluto and Saturn are false star gods of Roman mythology.

they are not so that you can compare astrological signs and see if you are compatible with another person born at a certain time, these faithless speculations ought to be left to the heathen not dabbled in by Christians.² The foolish cosmological timeline of Big Bang astronomers is debunked. The earth was created before the sun. This is not possible in the solar system models our kids are taught. The so called scientists, astrophysicists, claim that the earth was formed by gravitational accretion of stellar dust as it orbited the sun. These wild speculations of men need not cause us to doubt our Creator. God created according to His timetable and He does not need to conform to models that men can comprehend. Yet in His lovingkindness He does make the sun and moon lights comprehensible as time markers.

And time is important for the Christian. Seasons, days, and years: Time, is important because we live in time and it is God who orders our time. So we all must repent for having squandered our time on sinful things, for the times when we said hurtful things, and times when we failed to speak what is right and true. For caving into solar system models that leave no place for God. There are many times in our lives that we suffer and face many temptations and tribulations, from all this we need redemption.

And this is why we rejoice in Jesus Christ, the uncreated light, who at the proper time came to redeem sinful mankind and give us everlasting life. **When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.**

The same one who made the greater and lesser lights and the stars on the 4th day was born in the Christmas Season, a star marked his birth and the magi came to worship Him.³ Jesus is the King of the universe ruling the sun and moon and everything with grace and mercy.

As the years passed Jesus grew up and became a man. In the right seasons He worshiped with his parents for the Jewish festivals and eventually His time came to redeem God's people. All feasts and their appointed times would find their meaning when Jesus made payment for our sin by shedding His blood on the cross. So the evil men rejecting the Son who came down from heaven rejected also the Creator of sun, moon and stars. Instead of honoring God and believing in His Son they planned and organized to kill Him. In spite of men's unbelief and vain philosophies and plans, God's plan for all time is to save, now is the day of salvation.

And on the right day die Jesus did. For all the times men sinned, for all the wasted time and evil days. On that day all of time found its purpose. **It was now about the sixth hour (noon), and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (3PM),**

² That the heavenly lights influence our lives is condemned by God as sorcery. see Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Daniel 2:27

³ Matthew 2:10,11 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

The temple curtain which was embroidered with the stars of the heavens was torn in two. This shows that Jesus' sacrificial death opens heaven to all who believe. Time now has purpose for all who are united to Him in Holy Baptism. Our evenings and mornings once marked by the greater and lesser lights are times of comfort and gladness marked by His blood. His mercy is upon us, even more certain is this than that the sun will rise and the moon shine during the night.

After Jesus died, just as He promised, He rose from the dead on the 3rd day. The morning of eternal light dawned upon creation as He walked out the tomb. The day has dawned and the Morning Star, Christ Himself, rises in our hearts so that we might have confidence as we pass through this dark place.⁴

Dear Christians, All of your time is ordered by your loving Creator and Redeemer and Sanctifier. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit worked together to redeem you and save you. Since now your sins are forgiven, you are Children of light, separate yourself from darkness. **Redeem the time, because the days are evil.** (Eph. 5:16) May your days be marked with peace and joy in the Lord. May the limits God has placed be pleasant to you. May the order by which He shapes your life be in conformity with Christ Crucified.

Christ your Lord has promised to come again, on that day **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

What a time we live in, the heavenly luminaries still give their light upon the earth yet Jesus outshines them all, by faith we cling to him even when the sun and moon shall fail, even when the stars fall from the sky. Thanks be to God Jesus has entered time and redeemed His fallen creation. Amen

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⁴ 2Peter 1:19