

## PACKS Wednesday's Wisdom Journal

September 1, 2021

### **BHC PACKS WEDNESDAY'S WISDOM**

Day Four (Genesis 1:14-19)

## **Be On The Lookout For Gods Without Names**

*This is the day the Heavenly Bodies are created. When we read the story of this day, we know it is about the sun, moon and stars. But in this story they are nameless -- and so is elohiym!*

**Connect With The Bible's Wisdom of the Beginnings Every Day!**

Wednesday's Wisdom turned ancient realities upside down.

*And elohiym made two great luminaries;  
the great luminary to rule the Day,  
and the small to rule the Night – and the stars too.  
And elohiym set them in the RAQIYA named Heaven / Heavens.*

When 21<sup>st</sup> century readers read the above words, they know this is about the creation of heavenly bodies – *sun, moon, and stars*. We know planets orbit around suns. We can google pictures that were sent back from the moon.

When people that lived 2,500 years ago heard those words, they immediately saw something we don't see. Those heavenly bodies were linked to the gods that affected their daily lives – *and two most powerful gods were not named!* Through the stories about the people of Israel we follow Abraham as he travels from Ur to Harran, then to Canaan, and from there to Egypt. Next, we followed Moses from Egypt to Canaan – *the Promised Land of the Israelites*. Later, Babylonians conquered the Israelites and took their leaders and others as exiles to Babylon.

In all of those places, *a god that dominated life was the sun god*. The moon god was also a very powerful. **Names of those two gods were very important** and they were also linked to many rituals, prayers, etc. **Here they have no names** – *they are just luminaries -- great and small!*

*Names were very important in the ancient world. In this story, they are not only **nameless** – they are literally embedded in the RAQIYA (the solid dome-like structure named, “Heaven” or “Heavens”). The Hebrew word translated “set” means “to set something like a jeweler sets precious stones in a bracelet.”*

## THE BIBLE'S WISDOM OF THE BEGINNINGS

The elohiym in this story is in total control of the two things the people of Ur, Canaan, Egypt, and Babylon viewed as their most powerful gods. That is something many scholars have noted. But, **most Bible readers miss another very big point – the elohiym in this story is not named either!** The Hebrew word **elohiym** is **a type of entity**, not the **name** of a god. There are many *elohiym*s in the *Hebrew Scriptures*.