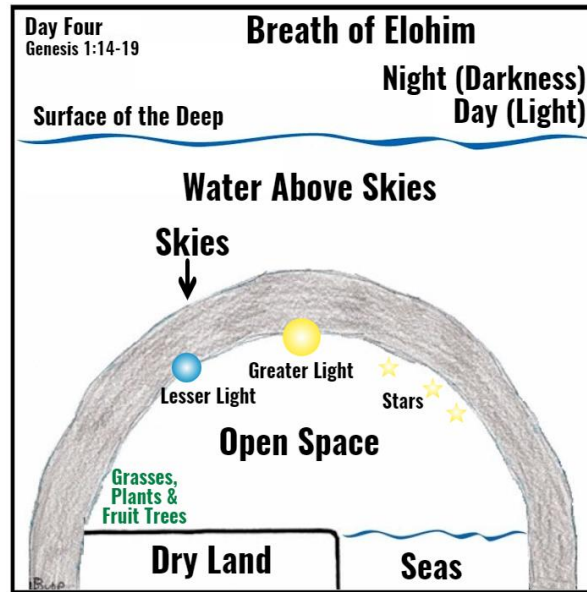


Day Four



(1:14) *Elohim said, “Let there be lights
in the plate of the Skies*

to separate between the Day and the Night;

(1:15) *and let them be for appointed times, and for days, and for years;
and let them be for lights in the plate of the Skies to give light on the Dry Land.”
And it was so.*

(1:16) *Elohim made two great lights;
the great light to rule the Day and the small light to rule the Night;
and the stars.*

(1:17) *Elohim set them in the plate of the Skies, to cause light over the Dry Land,
(1:18) and to rule over the Day and the Night; and to separate the Light from the Darkness.
Elohim saw that it was Tov.*

(1:19) *And it was evening, and it was morning, Day Four.*

A functional orientation is still obvious, but now Elohim is installing functionaries. The assignment of functionaries **to their tasks and realms** is equally an act of creation. Elohim began with a decree that identified the lights in the Skies.

The Bible's Wisdom of the Beginnings Series: The First Story

1. *They separate Day and Night.*
2. *They provide light.*
3. *They serve for signs, seasons, days, and years.*
4. *They rule over Day and Night.*

It should be noted that the fourfold descriptions of functions are pertinent only to humans. The Hebrew word for "**seasons**" when it is used elsewhere, designates the festival celebrations that are associated with the sowing seasons, the harvesting season, and so on. So, we must not think of seasons like summer and winter.

For readers in the ancient world, **Day Four** reveals a power structure that will challenge the power structures that had dominated Near Middle Eastern societies for thousands of years. The lights in the skies were viewed as the gods and goddesses that controlled every aspect of their lives and the world around them. They had names, stories, personalities, and desires. People served gods and goddesses by doing rituals at their temples, doing rituals in their homes to their idols, and doing seasonal celebrations in the fields they worked. Humans existed serve to gods -- *and for no other reason.*

But Elohim turned that power model upside down. There are no gods or goddesses in their story. The lights in Skies are "**only lights.**" They are there because Elohim put them in their places. **The lights are in the Skies to serve humans** (when He gets around to creating them).

This is **Elohim's power model**:

Ruler will exercise power by giving "light" to the people!

Elohim saw that this was Tov.

Day Four ended, but we will be hearing much more about this new power model in the near future.