

Message# 296_7-14-2024 – In the Beginning

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

I heard from Doug this week. He has let me know he is still having the seizures but they believe they may have found the source of them. So that's a step in the right direction - no pun intended certainly. As the next bit of news is that he has finally received a prosthetic for his leg and that seems to be working out. He appreciates the prayers and the thoughts and let's continue to pray for Doug and Mindy with all they are going through.

Alright, let's get into the message. Once again, I want to try to make myself perfectly clear. I thought this was clear - but apparently it is not. I'm going to say something - because I just don't know what else to do to make this clear - and I want the individual to understand I am not sharing his information publicly. My immediate family knows - because there's not a whole lot that I don't share with my family - especially Teresa. But beyond that, no one else knows who I'm talking about here - and I'll keep it that way. But friends, someone sent me a video and said I need to watch this - because it debunks “flat earth.” Two issues right away.

One. I am not a “flat earther.” So don't label me that way. I do not believe that God's world is a spinning ball - that is not what the Bible teaches. I believe that one of the best things we can know about the shape of the earth that makes up God's world is that the Bible says it is like clay under a seal. And I realize that we are thousands of years since the time God told Job to write that down - or whoever it was that wrote the Book in our Bible bearing the name Job. God said, God said, God said, the earth is like a clay seal. The other day Teresa and I received a wedding invitation. On the back flap was a seal. It was made like one of those clay seals that you can see that “historians” say were used hundreds or thousands of years ago. And, of course, that's if you can believe a “historian.”

I'm sure the clay seal has probably changed over the last 2,000 plus years - but I have my real doubts that the clay stamped under the seal - retained the shape of the lump that it started out as. Even assuming that's what happened. When God told Job to write concerning the ends of the earth - that it is turned like clay to the seal - the word turned means changed - haw-fak' - it's changing the clay to a seal. The clay is turned - picture a potter and how he starts out with a lump of clay - it turns - it spins - but then

what happens to make it a seal - the stamp is pressed into the clay and the clay is changed, it's turned into a flattened seal. That's what God told Job to write. And yes, absolutely, Job 38:14 is metaphor. It's descriptive language. But God did this all the time when He was communicating with His people. He used things in nature that they understood in order to make His point. Kind of like the moon withholding its light. Metaphor in many instances - but God used that the way He did because He created the Moon - and gave it Light. From time to time I get these absolute gems from Jeff. After the message last week, he wrote to me and said, it was God that was the source of the light for the Moon. Yes. That was awesome. God created the Moon - as a light - and God was the source of the light - just like He is the source for all light. And he was saying in reference to people today saying that the moon is just a reflector. It's not. The Bible says it's a light - He gave that light - it is not coming from the sun as a reflector.

The lights - the sun, the moon and the stars - the source of their light was God.

Well, anyway, the purpose of this message is simply this. It is to go the Word of God - that's what we have always called the Bible - and show what God said about His Creation as He inspired, He breathed, He instructed men to write.

I do not make my beliefs based on youtube videos. And brethren, by all means, if you are one who wants to believe in the world's scientists - that's between you and God - but by all means - seriously - as the kids say - you want to help me with my beliefs by sending me a video from Neil DeGrasse-Tyson "debunking flat earth?" I have said over and over now - I have played videos from the world's "leading" astrophysicists - and I included video by Neil DeGrasse-Tyson where he said he does not believe in the existence of God. If you call yourself a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, how could you possibly cite an open God-hating, Bible-hating, Christ hating - mocking - on top of that - how could you possibly cite someone like that as someone credible?

I don't get it. I simply do not understand how someone who claims Christ would send someone else a video from Neil DeGrasse-Tyson - and say - "Listen to this guy - this is what I believe". If Neil DeGrasse-Tyson was standing in the middle of a thousand people - all with wrist-watches that pointed to 12:00 - and he said "it's noon" - I would check my own watch to make sure it was true what he said.

It is the fool who has said in his heart there is no God.

And friends, if you believe a fool, then, well, you can finish my sentence for me. Is that

ad hominem? Yeah, it is. Absolutely it is.

The fool who says there is no God is corrupt, they have done abominable works, and not a single one of them are good.

For every Neil DeGrasse-Tyson video on youtube, for every Professor Dave video on youtube that says the “earth” as they say - is a spinning ball - there are just as many equally convincing videos on youtube that prove that God's world is not a spinning ball. As far as I am concerned - you do what you want - I cannot control any of you - don't want to control any of you - but as far as I am concerned - my beliefs are based on what the Bible says. And that is the purpose of this series.

I was accused of “just coming to the flat earth teaching” recently and somehow it caught my mind and then I misinterpreted Scripture to fit the model of a “disk earth.” Several things are interesting about that statement. First one is, to my knowledge, I've never referred to God's world as a “disk earth.” So I don't have any idea where that even came from. On the second point, I will say this, for sure, and make no apologies for this at all. I can remember all the way back to the 1970s where I questioned whether the U.S. went to the moon. The questioning was strong back then, then, when I became an adult and began learning that every single thing that comes from the mouths of U.S. politicians, agencies, etc., is a lie - from the late 1970s on - I publicly stated - even in the face of some pretty harsh scoffing - that I did not believe they went to the Moon.

I still remember watching on TV, where Nixon picked up his phone in the “oval office” and called those guys - supposedly 238,900 miles away - in 1969. I wonder how much that long distance call cost back then? I know. I'm not totally stupid. “Patch me through, Dano.” All he had to do was call Houston, and Houston patched him through to the Moon.

I can't even keep a good signal on my cell phone calling home from 2 miles away today - in 2024 - but in 1969 - they could talk to the Moon - 238,900 miles away. That's pretty cool.

So, knowing that the U.S. “government” people lie every time their lips move, I have no problem today looking towards pretty much the opposite of what they say as a better starting point for trying to find the truth. But then again, there's an even easier way to find the truth than that - and that is just go and find what God said - and just believe

what He said. And I'll do that every day of the week - and twice on the seventh day.

Concerning only recently coming to these beliefs, again, that's not true. Of course, as a little child, I believed what I was taught in "Sunday school" that God sent a flood that covered the whole "globe." I believed that because I was taught that. And unlike other things - like the Jews being God's chosen people - I didn't reject a "global flood" because it didn't seem to be that important. Well, in the 1980s - barely 20 years old - I began to believe that Noah's flood might have only been a regional flood. I couldn't reconcile a "global flood" - so I began leaning towards a regional flood that covered that part of the world that was inhabited by most people. But you know, I never could get away from the simplistic verses of Scripture that lend itself more to an actual world-wide flood. So I set it all on the back-burner, until I began studying what the Bible says about the shape of God's world. Then, the understanding of how there could have been a real flood that covered the whole world began to come alive again. It's not a "globe" - it's like clay under a seal. And it has boundaries that encompass the whole circle. And those boundaries are capable of containing - even flood waters that would cover the whole earth - the dry land. Not that I need this to make sense - because I'm living by faith - not by sight - but I will say that it makes a whole lot more sense understanding Genesis chapter 6 when you believe that the earth is like clay under a seal - as opposed to a spinning ball.

Now listen to me. Don't get mad at me. I do not want to lose friends over the "shape of God's world." But when it comes to what the Bible says - I am as immovable as God said His earth is or His world is. Turn to Psalm 96, please, begin with verse 1.

[1] O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

Oh my goodness. If there ever was a new song that all the people in the earth need. I was thinking the other day - sad thoughts admittedly - but how the people in the world today have corrupted so much. It seems like pretty much everything they've put their hand to - they've corrupted it. From the plants, to the animals, to people - they've done all they can to change God's perfect - kind after kind Creation - into corruption. So sad. We need a new song. The song they've been trying to force on all of us is worn out. It's tired. It's old. It's time for a new song. It's time for a new King. Time for a new Law - a new system. One that's new for most people, that is.

[2] Sing unto the LORD, bless His Name; shew forth His salvation from day to day.

Bless His Authority. Stand for His Authority. Stand for His Name. That would certainly be new for most people, too.

[3] Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

[4] For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all gods.

And what do you think the word for gods is here? Of course. It's elohim. It's not a pagan statue made of elephant tusk sitting on the mantle in a tiki hut in Africa. All the way back in the garden of Eden - turn there for a second. Keep your finger here in the Book of Psalms.

Creation time. Genesis chapter 3, begin in verse 1.

[1] Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Now friends, I'm telling you. If you want to talk about whether this was a talking snake, fine. Do it around the campfire as a fun, light-hearted discussion. See if you can figure out what this was. Fine. I'm all for it. But so many people have gotten lost in that discussion - all the while missing the most important part of this story. Whether or not this was a talking snake is not what's most important here - at least that's my opinion.

[2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

[3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

[4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

[5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

This is the first mention of gods - elohim - in our Bibles. Verse 5 is the most important of the five verses of chapter 3 in my opinion. Man is not to be as elohim. And whatever you do, do not be as shallow as the churchians who have determined that somehow God does not want us to know the difference between good and evil. That's ridiculous. That is not what God wants us to get from here. The gods - the elohim -

אֱלֹהִים 'ēlôhîym, *el-o-heem'*; plural of H433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:—angels, × exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), × (very) great, judges, × mighty.

Then,

ta. rulers, judges, either as divine representatives at sacred places or as reflecting divine majesty and power:

It is the elohim of the world that God does not want His Creation to associate with. All elohims make “laws.” All elohims make “laws” which are their own definitions of good and evil. That is what God was talking about in Genesis chapter 3. God never gave man power to make their own definitions of good and evil - and in the day that man unlawfully takes that power - that is the day when man has put a foot in the grave. As early as Genesis chapter 3, when God was revealing Himself to man - He said - all these trees you can partake of - all this garden - all these great things that I have made - but of this just one thing - this one tree - this one guiding principle - you aren't to touch it. You are not to make your own definitions of good and evil. This is certainly not a new song. God has been singing this song since Creation, His prophets sang that song in Israel, His Son sang that song in Jerusalem, His apostles sang that song throughout the world - and for those who call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ - tune up - we better start singing that song again. To the world - absolutely it's a new song - but it's the greatest song ever sung. Back to Psalm 96, verse 5.

[5] For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

That is priceless. We live in a world called nation-states today. The whole world makes their own “laws”, their own definitions of good and evil. And the God of Creation says they are all idols. But it's the One Elohim that stands out. The One True Elohim and that's the One who made the heavens.

What difference does it make what the Bible says about Creation? What difference does it make what the Bible says about the shape of the world? What difference does it make what God said about the Sun, the Moon and the stars? We live in a world where all the nations are idols. And - there could be - but I don't think there's a nation in the world today that doesn't have their scientists in league with the likes of the Tysons, the Sagans, etc., who do not believe in the heavens as defined by the Creator. It is the

LORD, the God of the Bible that made the heavens - and He is the One True Elohim and the Creation account of the Bible not only matters - it is the only thing that matters.

[6] Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

[7] Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

[8] Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His Name: bring an offering, and come into His courts.

No. It's the world of idols, the nation of idols today are only concerned with their courts, with their "power" - with their "laws, their statutes, their ordinances, their rules, their regulations."

[9] O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth.

[10] Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth:

This is the song, the new song, that the world needs to hear. It is the Lord Who reigns. The One Who made the heavens, the One Who has the only Authority - the only Name - to define good and evil. To make Laws. Now watch.

the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously.

And you know what? I understand that this too is metaphor. It's allegory. But there is something really interesting to me - about this verse - not just the fact that it says the world shall not be moved. I don't know if you have caught this or not, but I often say that people - particularly the astrophysicists - I say they are wrong when they call their blue marble photos - "earth." I believe - even if I believed in their spinning ball which I don't - I believe it would be Biblically incorrect to refer to that as "Earth." If you look again at Genesis chapter 1, God called the dry land earth. And the waters He called the Seas. Their blue marble is supposed picture of the land and the seas of all of it. I believe that should be called the world. The world is the land and the water. That's why I say those things the way I say them. But anyway, there are lots of Bible verses that refer to earth moving, earth movement. And that's perfectly fine. Earthquakes. That's the land moving. But watch this. Turn to I Chronicles chapter 16 because the Bible is distinctly different when it speaks of the earth - the dry land - and the world. Just as Psalm 96 speaks of the world being established that it shall not be moved, watch this. I Chronicles 16, begin with verse 23 and hold on as we see this. What the Psalmist wrote

in Psalm 96 - ha - was not a new song. That song had already been being sung for a long time before David was singing it. Look at this:

[23] Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day His salvation.

[24] Declare His glory among the heathen; His marvellous works among all nations.

[25] For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods.

Wow. Just like I said before, the song was originally written in Genesis chapter 1 - and when you find God's true people as we are finding here in Genesis 3 - there you find this exact same song.

[26] For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

[27] Glory and honour are in His presence; strength and gladness are in His place.

[28] Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

[29] Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His Name: bring an offering, and come before Him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Is anyone double-checking to make sure we haven't reverted back to Psalm 96 already? I'll assure you, we are right here in I Chronicles 16, reading pretty much the lyrics to the exact same song that David was singing in Psalm 96. That's because this is the song of God. This is the song of the Creator. This is the song we're supposed to be singing as Christians, as true followers of Christ.

[30] Fear before Him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

[31] Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

Turn to Psalm 93. Begin with verse 1.

[1] The LORD reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

[2] Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting.

[3] The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the

floods lift up their waves.

[4] The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

[5] Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

I realize that when we read verses of Scripture like this, that say the world also is established that it cannot be moved - ok, I understand that is metaphor. It's teaching a lesson. But if God's world is a spinning ball - this sure seems like a not so fitting metaphor. And I will tell you that people like Carl Sagan - who grew up as a Jew - it's passages of Scripture like these that he and people like him points to as reasons for not believing the Bible. "The Bible says the world is fixed, it's immovable, it's established and cannot be moved" - but "We know the 'earth' as he would say - is a spinning ball." And they will use passages like this against the God of Creation. And I refuse to try to - again - forgive the pun - spin these verses around to try to appease the scientists of the world who do not believe there is a God.

If the Bible says the world is fixed, its immovable, it cannot be moved - then sign me up for that belief system. I don't care about the mathematical equations of the globers, I don't care about the mathematical equations of the flat earthers - they can all make math do whatever pet trick they want it to do - all I care about is what the Bible says.

Now, I understand that someone could read these verses to simply say that God Created the world and established it - so that it would always be according to His plan. But, even still, I cannot find any reason to believe that it says He created a spinning ball that is then revolving around the sun - especially when there are so many Bible passages that say it is the sun that is moving - not the world. Then, top that off with those who say there is no God - who advance theories that are exactly opposite of what the Bible says - then - they say "That is proof that there is no God."

So...thank you very much, but I'll just stick with the Word of God and rely on it solely as the truth. Even with what I see with my eyes - or think what I see with my eyes - even to the point where - if my eyes might seem to contradict the Word of God - I will stick with the Word. Before we go any further - look at this. Turn to II Corinthians chapter 5, read beginning with verse 1.

[1] For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Regardless of all the squabbling and fussing and arguing over the earthly tabernacle - if all of what we know in our life were to be dissolved - we know - and there is a reason why we know this to be true and trust in it - we know that we have a building with God, a house not made with hands, and it is eternal in the heavens. And again, you aren't getting there in Captain Kirk's USS Enterprise. You aren't getting there in NASA's Apollo rockets - or their new Odysseus rocket - aptly named for one of their Greek pagans who was a "man of twists and turns, crafty, guile, etc." The Chinese aren't getting there in a rocket, the Indians aren't getting there in a spaceship - you get to the heavens - the house of God not made with hands - through Jesus Christ Who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father except by Me."

And there is verse after verse after verse that says God dwells in the heavens. If man can get to the heavens like they claim - it is for the purpose of making people believe, "See, there really isn't a God after all." That's what that's about.

[2] For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

[3] If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

[4] For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

[5] Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

[6] Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

[7] (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

We do not - Christians - followers of Jesus Christ and of the Creator His Father - do not live by sight. We live by faith. Faith is someone's system of belief. Our faith is based on, "Thus saith the Lord." We live by - and again - look at this one. Turn to Matthew chapter 4. Read from verse 1.

[1] Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

[2] And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred.

[3] And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

[4] But he answered and said, It is written, [from the Scriptures] Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

This has got to be the mantra by which every follower of Christ lives. If you want to be a part of God's heaven, God's house, we live by faith. Not by sight. Not by the physical things of the world. We live by, "Thus saith the Lord."

Last week, we left off talking about the fact that the Bible says the moon is a light. It is not a reflector. It is a light. It receives it's light from the Creator. Last week, I believe we left off with Isaiah 13. Turn this morning to Isaiah chapter 30.

God is having Isaiah write a prophecy concerning the ending of the Old Covenant and the establishing of the New. In fact, as I read Isaiah, I think that's the main purpose of Isaiah being a prophet, being the man of God that God used to prophesy concerning the New Covenant. Isaiah 30, like most of the rest of Isaiah uses symbolic language to describe the prophecies fulfillment. Begin reading in verse 21. Admittedly, I am telling you we are not reading the whole context, because I'm just simply trying to show one of the ways that God spoke figuratively. This is what God said.

[21] And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

[22] Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

This is talking directly about what we read from Psalms and I Chronicles 16. It's talking about casting away the gods of the heathen nations.

[23] Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

[24] The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.

[25] And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

[26] Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD

bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Here again, is another passage of Scripture stating that the moon's light is as the sun's light. The moon is a source of light - it is not reflecting the sun's light. It is not a reflector - it is a light. Turn to Isaiah chapter 60. Read beginning in verse 18.

18] Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

[19] The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

[20] Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

All of this speaking metaphorically, symbolically of the New Covenant. But a symbol, a metaphor, is when someone is trying to explain something and using other actual things to explain the meaning of the metaphor. The sun is a light. The sun is moving. The moon is a light - and what is very interesting here - is that the moon has the ability to - as the text says - withdraw itself.

Alright. Follow me now. Just for fun, this is all this is. It is just for fun. Like I said a little while ago, conversations around the campfire, conversations at the dinner table, driving down the road, they are great. They are fun. Trying to figure things out that may not be so simple or so cut and dry. Nothing wrong with that. Unless, of course, we find that our conclusions do not line up with the Bible.

This is what I think. Purely my opinion. Total speculation. Based on things like this - where the Bible says the moon can withdraw itself.

Most of you know that I enjoy doing things with solar panels. I've had solar panels for almost 20 years and I love it. I love making my own electricity - or - maybe I should better say - I love getting free electricity from God's Sun. That's pretty neat. I also have experience with batteries. With big battery systems.

In my own opinion - that's all I'm saying - purely for fun - purely for speculation - I believe the moon is like a giant battery. I think God may have created it like a flashlight. When the battery is full, the light shines bright. But as it shines, the battery gradually

gets less and less - until the light goes out. Because the battery is dead. Then, you put new batteries and the light is full again - the moon is full again. Either the moon has a built-in battery that dissipates through the 28 days - or - here's another fun thought - what if the sun is the energy that charges up the moon's battery? I don't know. That whole idea could be total hogwash - I don't know. But I do know that the Bible says the moon is capable of withholding its light - and we do see that - man has been seeing that ever since the day God created the sun, the moon and the stars. We see that the moon does not display its light fully all month long.

Turn to Jeremiah chapter 31. Once again, the prophet of God, inspired by God, the Creator, to write concerning the New Covenant - and using figurative, symbolic language to help His people understand. Verse 33.

[33] But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

One of the reasons that most people do not prefer the Laws of God, but rather prefer their own laws is because they believe this is all future. But it's not. It's the New Covenant.

[34] And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

[35] Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

The sun is a light. The moon and the stars are lights. Turn to Ezekiel chapter 32. More of the Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation. They are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, for correction. These are the very Words of God. These are not Ezekiel's ideas or Ezekiel's observations. Ezekiel was a holy man of God who wrote what God told him to write. Verse 7.

[7] And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.

[8] All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD.

Pretty much every time we see these types of verses, we see the sun and the moon as distinctly different - yet they are always both referred to as lights. Here again, we see the moon being capable of not giving her light. Being careful here not to inject my own observations into the conversation - because - like I keep saying - if we base our beliefs on the youtube videos, one side can convince people of their beliefs - an opposing side can convince people of their beliefs. I think the safest thing to do is just to believe the Word. The moon withholds its light. If the moon is just a reflector of the sun - how does it turn off its reflection? The Bible says the moon is a light. It has the distinct ability to withhold its light and why? Because that's the ordinances of the moon. The moon was not created as just a light - but it is also part of God's calendar. It tells us the moon's - the months.

Turn to Habakkuk chapter 3. We'll come back to this one again when we talk about the sun later. But look at this verse 7:

[7] I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

[8] Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?

[9] Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

[10] The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

[11] The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.

Once again. The Bible says the sun and the moon - not just the moon - the sun and the moon are moving in their habitation - in their high lofty places of their abode. Listen to these from the Apocrypha.

4 Ezra 6

[45] Upon the fourth day thou commandedst that the sun should shine, and the moon give her light, and the stars should be in order:

Sirach 43

[7] From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection.

From the Letter of Jeremiah 1, verse 66

Neither can they shew signs in the heavens among the heathen, nor shine as the sun, nor give light as the moon.

I find it interesting that so many of these verses talk about the moon withholding light. I really we don't live by sight - but in this regard - we see the moon withholding light all month long. The sight perfectly agrees with the Scripture. Fine.

Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Alright. Admittedly, when this text says it the way it does, one can possibly say that because the sun is dark, then so is the moon - but again - even if I could stretch that into a belief system - we can't make the mistake that so many others do on other passages of Scripture in what we call the New Testament. We have read verse after verse from the Scriptures - the Old Covenant Scriptures - and we need to be very careful when we understand the changes that were made between the Covenants. But when I read Matthew 24, I'm reading it based on the passages we have already read from the "Old Testament" and see this as the two - the sun and the moon - are distinctly different lights. I do not see the moon as a reflector.

Finally, Revelation chapter 21. The New Covenant has been fully implemented. Read from verse 23.

[23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

[24] And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

[25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

[26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

[27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Figuratively speaking, there is no need for the “moon to shine” - because Jesus is now revealed as the One True Light. And the symbolic language describing the former purpose of the moon, was to shine in the city. You know what? When I first read that, I thought it was saying the moon was shining. That's not what it's saying. The text is totally consistent with everything we've been reading. The phrase “to shine in it” is referring to that which the sun does and that which the moon does. They are both light sources. From Strong's - condensed - for the word shine - applying equally to the sun and the moon.

to bring forth into the light, cause to shine, shed light

shine, to shine, be bright or resplendent

to become evident, to be brought forth into the light, come to view, appear

of growing vegetation, to come to light

to appear, be seen

exposed to view

to meet the eyes, strike the sight, become clear or manifest

to be seen, appear

to appear to the mind, seem to one's judgment or opinion

I believe, we have seen more than enough Biblical evidence to conclude that the moon is a light source. It received its original Light from God the Creator. It is not a reflector of the sun. The Bible does not teach that. The moon moves, it has a circuit. It has ordinances that are used for determining times, months. It has the distinct ability to withhold its light as it goes through its planned, determined circuit.

This what I believe the Bible teaches. This is the faith that I am trusting in. I understand that it goes against science - science-falsely so-called. But science in the world is mainly led by men who say there is no God. Those people are shut out from my life. They speak - and I shut them out. I don't hear their voice. I hear only the voice of the Great Shepherd. I live by faith - not by sight.

