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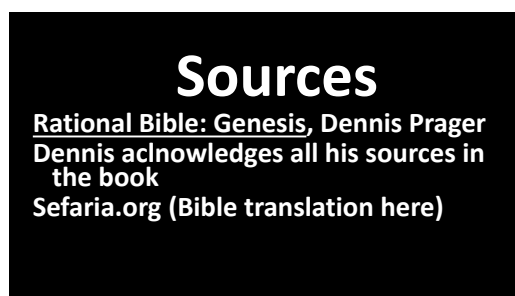


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There was good reason for the ditty sung at the dinner table. Repetition and remembering are important. One can argue good is better than love. Love is a feeling. Whether love is good or evil depends on who or what you love and how you express it. Good, is good. "God is love" is not in the Hebrew Bible. "I will make all my goodness pass before you" (God says to Moses when Moses asks to behold His presence), Exodus 33:19. Let that be a teaser...

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Only 2 volumes out so far. Exodus was published first because of the Ten Commandments, which, if everyone followed, we'd be practically devoid of human-caused suffering.

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My Dad and I... Bible is a great source of wisdom which hopefully will become apparent throughout this course of you don't think so already. As Bible literacy has declined, in favor of intelligence and knowledge. At one time nearly every household has a Bible and used it to impart wisdom, right from wrong. God wants us to be good, and as we'll see throughout, wisdom is a prerequisite to being good. **"Don't put words in God's mouth."** Same "rule" when quoting others. To add words or pull out oof context is a form of lying, outlawed by the Ten Commandments.

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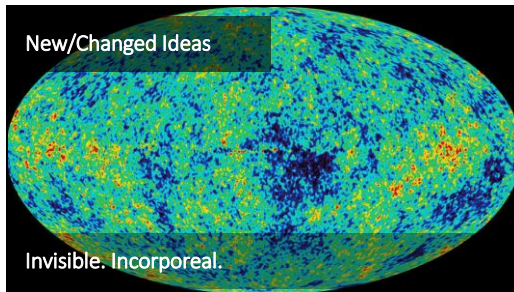
Not pagan gods.
Not tribal gods.
Not nature gods.

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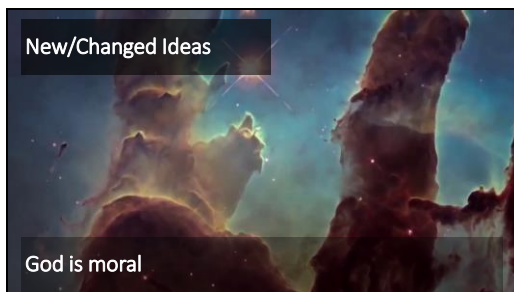
Leads to “all humans are brother/sister” (through the-Adam and from God.

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The physical is not the only reality. Life is infinitely more than the material world. Makes for the possibility of an after-life.

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Previous gods were capricious, not moral. Ultimately, justice prevails. Humans may argue with God. “Israel” means “struggle with God.”

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Spelled the end of nature gods.

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This notion was first introduced here, in the Torah; no other history had a god like this. Unfortunately, as the Torah fades, nature worship re-emerges.

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Not gender.
Not race.
Not position.
Not wealth.
Not...

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Jews, and Christians by extension, are charged with sharing this wisdom with the world. It's not just a Hebrew thing. Hebrews do not come into the story until Abraham.

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Following this wisdom is not easy, not "in our nature" as we will learn. God is much more of an authority than any man.

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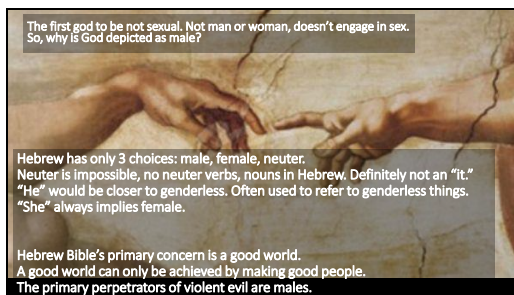
If a parent follows God's law but believes it is man-made, not likely it will last to his grand-children. If Jews had thought long ago this was man-made, there likely would be no Jews today.

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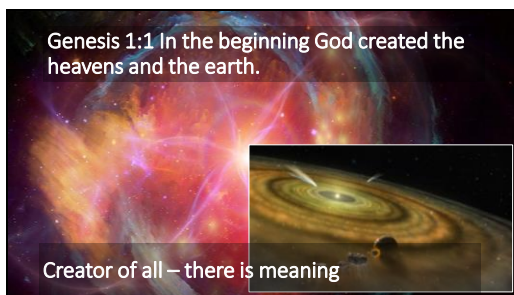
An example of change/new approach... In all other systems to date, parents were allowed to kill wayward children. The Torah departed from that by saying only a court could do that. Sounds primitive, but was actually an advance. And there is no record of a Jewish court ever ordering a child's death. If we find something to be immoral in the Torah, we haven't looked deep enough. God is right (revolutionary) or moving to right (evolutionary). The Bible's words on slavery are evolutionary (as we'll see later).

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Given all these, It is in everyone's best interest that God be depicted as male.

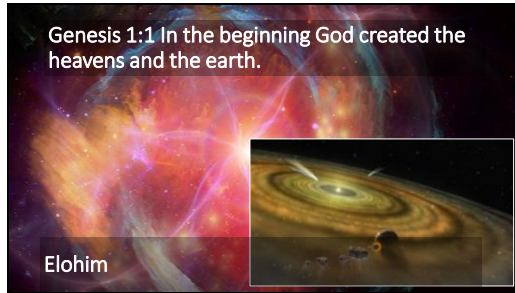
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Not just atoms, energy, and physics predictably interacting. Otherwise our lives would be meaningless and without purpose. One writer put it like this: "If Believers made up God, atheists made up meaning. Where else would meaning come from?"

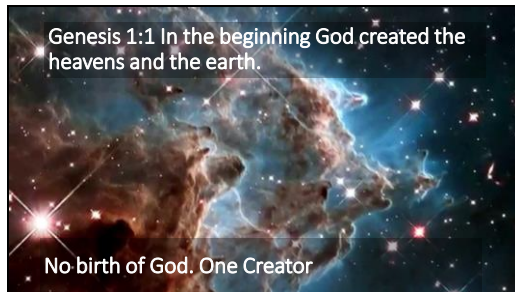
Bara – only used re. God. Only God creates from nothing. "Making" is a different thing as we'll see.

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The word for God in Genesis, Elohim, is a plural noun. But bara (created) is singular.
Like "fish." Number is gathered from context.
Another posited thought – **God** encompasses all gods.

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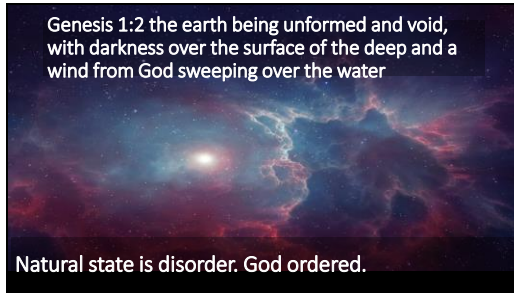
Monotheism, a first. 1st time God completely separate from nature. First completely desexualized: no mating with other gods, with humans. No gender. If God were created, he wouldn't be God (turtles all the way down). Science can't prove or disprove God, outside of nature. The biggest problem with believing is unjust suffering. That is what believers have to account for; atheists everything else.

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We once thought the universe had existed forever and would continue forever. In less than 100 years, science switched to the Big Bang theory which has a beginning and an end. As big a fan as I am of science, I recognize it can't answer all the questions. It can pick away at knowledge, but has nothing to say about wisdom.

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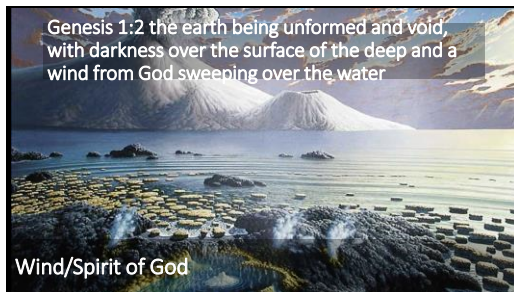
Physics calls this “entropy.” The Creation is as much about ordering and distinction as about creating. Man-God. Good-Evil. Man-Woman. Holy-Profane. Parent-Child. Beautiful-Ugly. Life-Death. Secularity tends to disavow distinctions – not a good thing.

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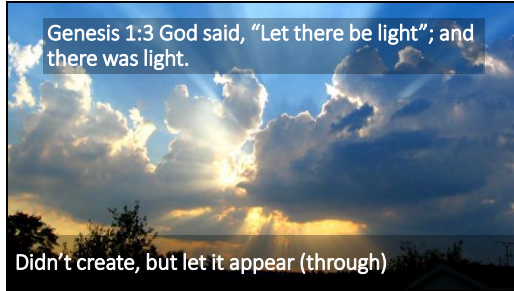
Entirely water covered earth, 1.5 miles deep. Opaque atmosphere.

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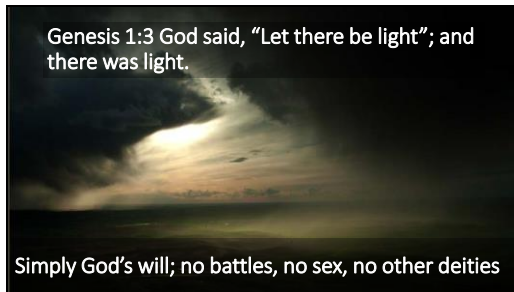
The focus has now shifted to the Earth’s surface... Hebrew word for wind (ruach) also means spirit.

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Light was created earlier. Not it appears (Earth surface point of view). The verb is "appear", not create.

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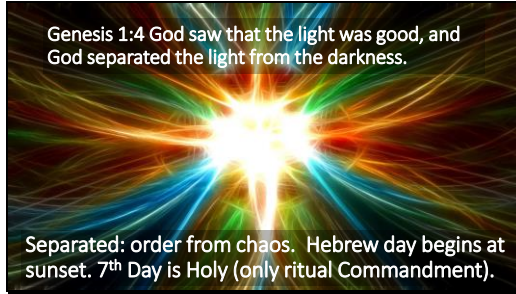


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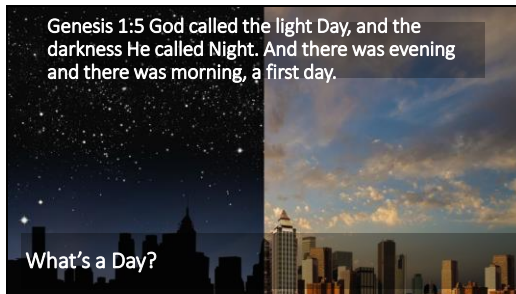
"It was good". Appears 7x. Very important. Creation/Order includes and inherent optimism. Good will prevail, eventually (afterlife). Human teaching moment: take pleasure and admire your good work. Not false humility. Not arrogance.

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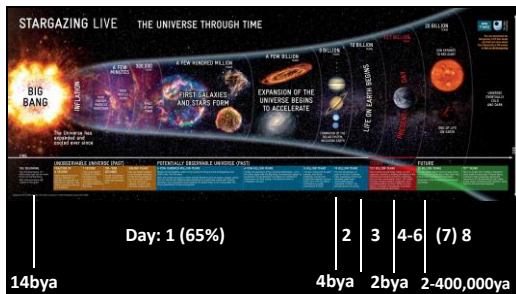
Darkness is absence of light. Not the other way around. Evening precedes day. More distinction: Chaos-Order. Night-Day.

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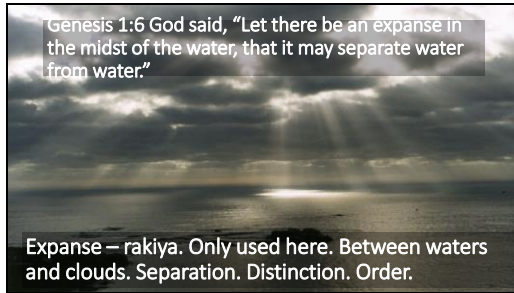
“On the day”. “In the day.” What matters is that it happened, not how long it took. When the Psalmist says “How great are your works” it does not occur to ask how long they took.

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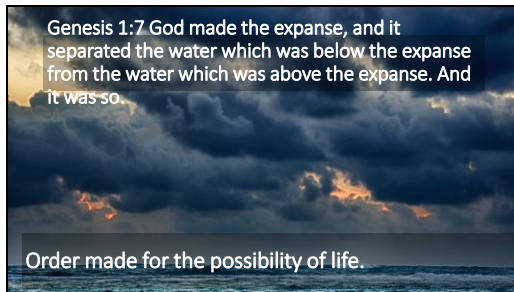


Jews live and work in the 8th Day: making God’s world better, good. Parentheses indicate nothing happened/s, rest.

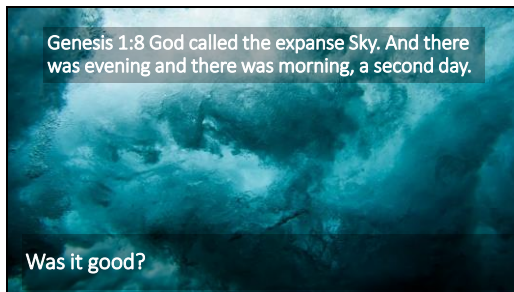
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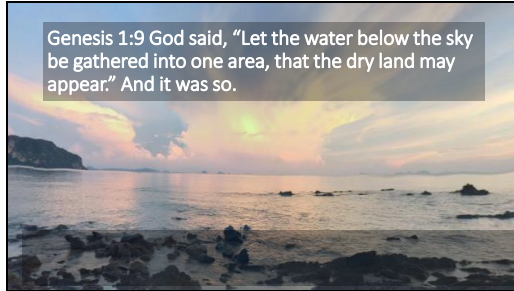


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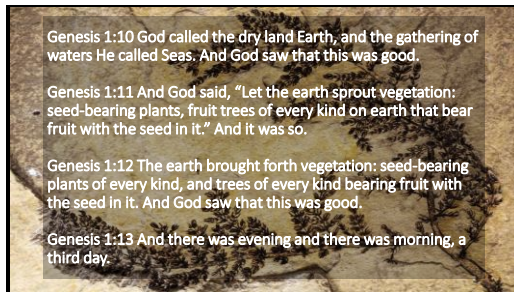
God does not say. Maybe because no creating, just separating. Maybe because mankind wasn't the focus. May mean nothing - day 7 wasn't called "good" either (but it was blessed and holy).

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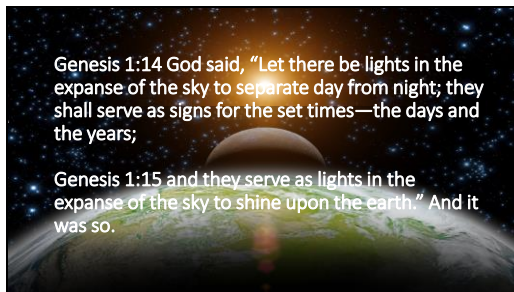
Initially 1.5 miles deep worldwide. Aligns with plate tectonics making (not creating from nothing) mountains and troughs, and voila..

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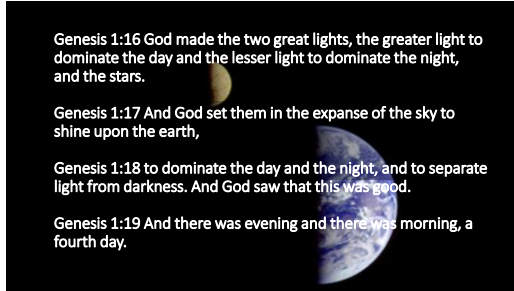
And how did that happen before the Sun and Moon were created? They were there, just not yet visible from the earth's surface, till now. There would be enough light for plants filtering through without being able to tell the Sun is there (as measured/tested on overcast days). Remember the shift of perspective to "from the surface").

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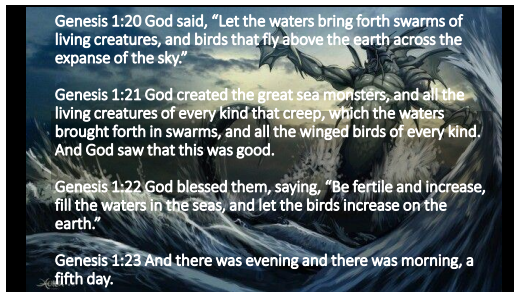
2nd word meaning light. The first when light was created is ohr. Here, the 2nd, mi-ohrot means "bodies that give light." 1:15 Not new bodies, just revealed bodies.

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Central teaching here: the sun and moon are not deities. Also the why (not that they were made): to light day and night. The world was made for man. From earth, the two great bodies appear amazingly the same size given their actual difference in size.

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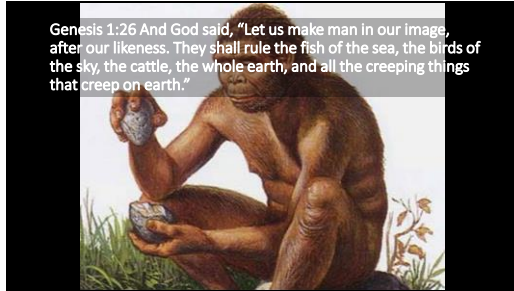
Taninim, translated here as great sea monsters, refers to an ancient sea creature worshipped by other nations. The Torah tells us these, too, were created by the one true God and are not gods. They are stripped of divinity. Bara is used here for the 2nd time, world was first. Man will be 3rd.

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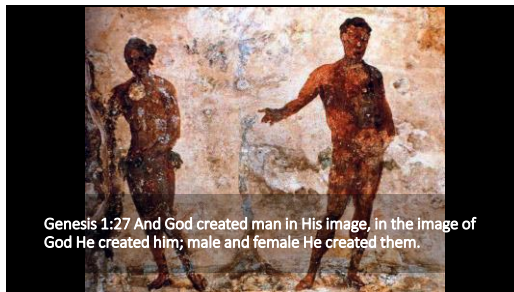
Evolving continues...

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1. There were many, many "days" in Day 6 to allow for a process. There are two descriptions of Adam: Adam and Ha-Adam – "man" and "the man." Here is (plain) "man," in the process perhaps.
2. Who is "we" in "Our Image"? Royal we? Angels? Animals? Man may be considered part animal and part divine – constant battle. Here man is still man, not the-man. Evolution.

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3rd and last bara. This is Ha-Adam, the man. In the previous verse, God made. Here God creates. Something new. Now "Our" is gone, replaced by "God's" image. Previous no male/female. Here there is male/female – part of God's order. He created **them**, male and female (not an androgynous human).

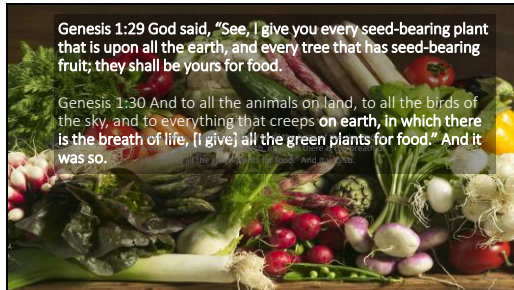
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1. Having children is important, first commandment of the Torah. A nation's very existence lies in the balance. 2. Dominion does not include abuse. Nature is not sacred, human life is. 3. Man is ruler of nature; not nature over man (paganism). Man must learn how to "conquer" (not pray to); leads to science, math, medicine, etc. Wasn't that long ago that most people feared being eaten by animals. Hardly a thought any more (in most of the world, except maybe surfers, backwoodsers, and the like). Either man rules nature, or nature rules man, can't be both. Man must "rule" but

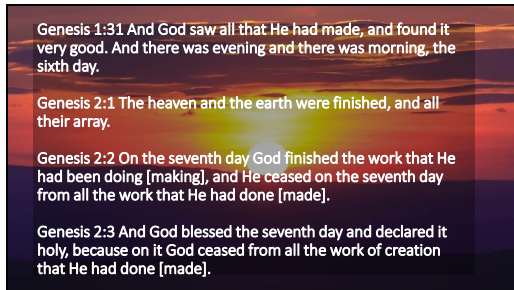
based on a set or moral rules, nature is just physics. In many ways, we can't all just get along.

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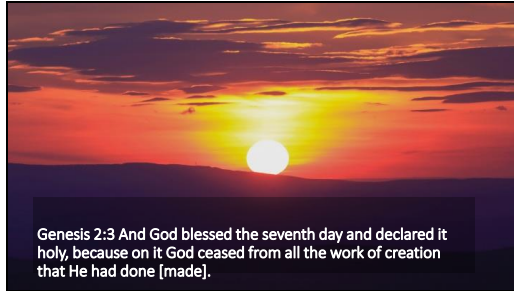
God's original intention was for Man (29) and animals (30) to be vegetarian. Permission to eat meat comes later (Genesis 9:3).

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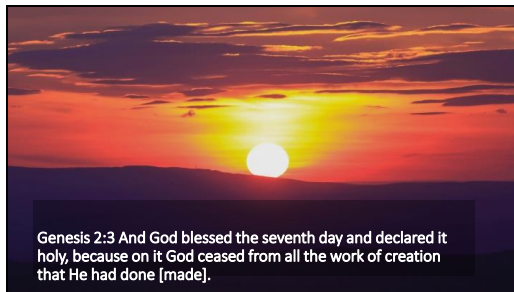
1. The Hebrew here refers not to "what He had done" but "made." He ceased making. Creation is not enough, something must be made of it. That's now our job. We live "in the 8th Day." 2. **Time can be sanctified (unique to Torah)**, made holy, 7th Day. There is more to life than work; humans are valuable even when not producing. Only ritual in the Ten Commandments. Many references to 7, all point back to Creation.

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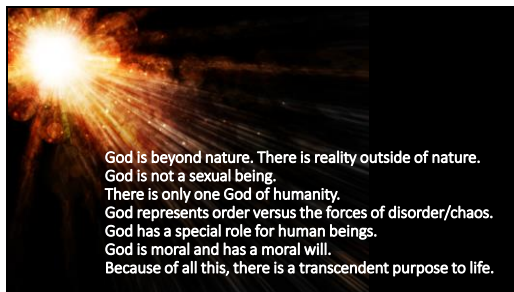
Hebrew for “ceased is shavat, for Sabbath is shabbat – both use the same 3 letters. Experiencing Yom (Day) Kippur (Atonement), Day of Atonement, most holy Jewish holiday. “Sabbath of Abbaths, 10th day of 7th month. Everything in Israel stops, surreal, they experience sacred time.

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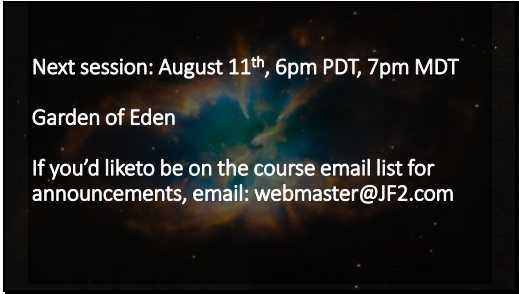


Hebrew word translated “work” is milacha, not really translateable. Not creative work. Regular work is avoda. There is more to life than work. Man is valuable even when not producing. The Sabbath is a day to contemplate what we are doing of value the other 6 days.

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Next session: August 11th, 6pm PDT, 7pm MDT

Garden of Eden

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announcements, email: webmaster@JF2.com