

# Genesis 1:14-25 God Will Use

**You For His Glory**

**02/12/17**

*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,<sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.<sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.<sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,<sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.<sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*

*<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”<sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.<sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”<sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.*

*<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.<sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

*(Pastor prays)*

At the core of what we believe as Christians is not what we believe about life. We believe life is sacred from conception to final breath. This fundamental belief drive our hatred of abortion and care of the elderly. These pro-life views are not political but theological and are the buttresses that undergird all of our ministries. Every person’s life is sacred. Every one of you were created like you are by a God that loves you. The God of the Bible that knit you together. The Bible teaches that you were fearfully and wonderfully made. That you are not a product of a series of random accidents nor are you the latest production of an evolutionary chain. By God’s goodness, the Bible teaches that the very

hairs of your head are numbered. That you are created in the image of God and that you are not random. You know what that means? You are created for a purpose. Now, as a human created by God, designed for a specific purpose, it is your responsibility to find out and live our God's purpose for your life. Regardless of what you are in right now or coming out of right now – be encouraged.

## **God Created You By His Power to Use You For His Purpose**

Today from the text, I just want to assure you of some things.

### **God Knows *When* He Wants to Use You**

When? Isn't that the perpetual question? How long Lord? How long do I wait?

As we look at the 6 days of creation, specifically 4,5, and 6, remember that in days 4,5, and 6, God is filling and giving meaning to days 1,2, and 3. Let me show you what I mean.

Look at how and why God created the two lights, Verses 14-16. *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, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.<sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.*

Down in verse 16, Moses tells us that God created the two great lights and we'll talk about them later in the sermon. But in v. 14, notice what they are for. Beyond governing the day and night, they were for signs and seasons and for days and for years. They are put in place to provide timing and to show us that timing is important.

We inherently know that we run on schedules. Even without clocks our lives are governed by timing. Timing is everything in God's economy. The Lord Jesus himself would say at several points in His early ministry "My time has not yet come." And isn't that what Paul said describing Jesus' death on the cross? For sinners in Romans 5:6, *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* And Hebrews 9:27 tells us there is an appointed time for death, or in Exodus where Solomon

tells us there is an appointed time for everything. We studied Esther in Sunday School and Esther found out she was created, “For such a time as this.”

All of that to say that God created you by his power for his purpose. Listen, He knows when he wants to use you, so listen to what this means. Each day, through every set of events and circumstances, tragedies and triumphs, God is preparing you. God is teaching you and molding you and sometimes it’s a “hard providence” as He shapes you for His purpose and for when He wants to use you. Look at the people of God, Israel, they spent 40 years in the wilderness. Moses spent all that time on the backside of the desert.

God’s timing is perfect and He knows when He wants to use you. For some of you, His desire is for you to wait and to trust. Some of you are not in any condition to be used yet. For others of you, an opportunity has presented itself and you need to take it. I think about Hickory Grove, that God has uniquely positioned us to reach people for Christ and display to Charlotte what grace-filled Biblical Christianity looks like. As you think about that, consider this: God not only knows when He wants to use you...

### **God Knows *Where* He Wants to Use You**

Let’s go back to the text, Verses 16 and 17, *<sup>16</sup>And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,*

God created the sun, moon and stars and v. 17 says that God places them in the exact right position. If the sun were any closer, the earth would be scorched. If it were any further away, the earth would be a frozen wasteland. The same is true with the placement of the moon and its gravitational pull. As it is, the sun, moon and stars are set exactly where they need to be. God ingeniously placed the sun and the moon and the stars in just the right place to serve His purposes.

Now what is true on the macro level is also true on a micro level. The principle holds. God has placed you right where He wants you to use you. For instance, that job that you hate. What if God has you there to be a witness for Christ or to teach you humility? Or a more specific one, your marriage. What if God gave you the spouse you have not just to fulfill your needs? What if you are there for your spouse? Maybe God placed you there not just for you but FOR your spouse. Honestly, when your life quits being about you and starts being about God and His purposes, then God can really start to use you.

But to be used means a surrendering...A yielding and a giving over to Christ...A radical reframing of why you are here and what you are living for. God knows *when* He wants to use you and God knows *where* he wants to use you...

### **God Knows *How* He Wants to Use You**

Let's look back at verse 16 and when we read it, notice the description of the two great lights. *16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.*

Do you see that each one was created with a specific purpose in mind? Sun rules the day and moon the night. The sun can't govern the night; it is too bright. The moon can't govern the day; it's too dim. The sun is set in its place to govern the day and the moon, reflecting the sun's light, is to govern the night.

And the truth is, we cannot all be used in the same way. God did not create all of us the same. God created you specifically, just like you are, to use you in a way that He can't use me. One of the most frustrating things in life is to desire to serve God but to be in the wrong place.

There's something else in verse 16. The sun, moon and stars were worshipped by Israel's neighbors. As this is being written by Moses, he is looking back, and notice he

doesn't even name their gods. He calls them "greater light" and "lesser light." Here's what he is saying: The things that you are worshipping are not gods at all. They are objects created by the *one true God*. Oh, yeah, He created the stars also.

Moses writes this and gives a clear message. There is one true God and Moses knew him to be the Great I AM. We know Him through the son Jesus Christ. Creation is telling the story of the creator. Psalm 19:1 says, *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

God knows just how He wants to use you, to tell the story of creation and re-creation through Jesus. God created you by His power and for His purpose.

*(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)*