

Thought For The Week

Genesis Day 4, Part 2

Day 4's Triumph: Starlight, Skeptics, and the Glory of God

When God spoke on Day 4, the heavens blazed with light—sun, moon, and stars filling the expanse with purpose and splendor. Genesis 1 paints a picture of a young Earth, roughly 6,000 years old, based on biblical genealogies from Adam to Abraham. Yet skeptics wield a challenge: if the universe is so young, how do we see stars billions of light-years away? The Andromeda Galaxy, 2.5 million light-years distant, or galaxies 13 billion light-years out, seem to demand an ancient cosmos. A light-year—5.88 trillion miles—implies light has traveled for eons to reach us. This “starlight problem” is touted as proof that Genesis is a myth. But Psalm 19:1 counters: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Day 4 isn’t a stumbling block—it’s a testament to God’s power, a victory over doubt, and a call to live boldly in His truth.

The Starlight Challenge

Skeptics frame the issue starkly. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second, so light from a star 13 billion light-years away should take 13 billion years to arrive. If Earth is only 6,000 years old, how do we see such stars? They smirk, claiming the Bible’s timeline crumbles under science’s weight. But 2 Peter 3:3–5 foresaw this: “Scoffers will come... deliberately forget[ting] that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being.” Their confidence rests on uniformitarianism—the assumption that today’s physical laws have always applied unchanged. Yet Romans 3:4 stands resolute: “Let God be true, and every human being a liar.” God’s Word doesn’t bend; it beckons us to explore Day 4’s solutions with faith and reason.

God's Solutions: Unpacking Day 4's Miracle

God, the author of creation, isn’t fazed by starlight. Genesis 1:14–15 records His command: “Let there be lights... to give light on the earth. And it was so.” Let’s examine three ways Day 4 resolves the challenge, each rooted in Scripture and reason.

Mature Creation: Light in Place

First, consider mature creation. Genesis 2:7 describes Adam formed as a man, not a cell evolving over millennia. Day 3’s trees bore fruit, not just buds. Similarly, the universe was created mature, with starlight already reaching Earth. Isaiah 45:18 declares God “formed [the heavens] to be inhabited,” not to leave Earth in darkness for billions of years. Psalm 104:2 adds, “He wraps himself in light as with a garment.” If God wields light itself, He could place it instantly across the cosmos on Day 4. Apologetics Press notes this as God’s intent—a functional universe from the start, stars blazing and visible to declare His glory.

This solution is elegantly simple. God didn’t set light in motion to arrive eons later; He made it shine on Earth immediately, just as He made Adam ready to walk and talk. A universe where stars are visible only after billions of years wouldn’t serve God’s purpose of revealing His majesty to

humanity.

Cosmic Stretching and Time Dilation

Another solution lies in the stretching of the heavens. Genesis 1:17 says God “set [the lights] in the vault of the sky.” The Hebrew *raqia* (expanse) connects to repeated biblical imagery of God stretching out the heavens. Psalm 104:2 says He “stretches out the heavens like a tent”; Isaiah 42:5 echoes, “The Creator... who stretches them out.” Creationist physicist Dr. Russell Humphreys proposes a white hole cosmology to explain this. At creation, the universe began small, with Earth near a gravitational core. On Day 4, God rapidly expanded space—faster than light itself. Einstein’s theory of relativity shows that time slows in strong gravity. Near Earth, time moved slowly (a single day), while billions of years of starlight travel occurred in the stretched cosmos.

By evening, the universe spanned 93 billion light-years, and starlight reached Earth. Humphreys ties this to Job 26:7: “He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.” This stretching was a one-time miracle, not a process we observe today. 2 Peter 3:8 supports this: “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” God bends time to His will, ensuring Day 4’s light arrived on schedule.

Variable Light Speed

A third possibility is that light’s speed (*c*) wasn’t always 186,282 miles per second. Genesis doesn’t fix light’s speed eternally. Some scientists, cited by Apologetics Press, suggest *c* could have been vastly faster during creation—perhaps a million times faster on Day 4. If so, 13 billion light-years of travel could occur in hours. God could have adjusted light’s speed post-creation to its current value. Job 38:19–20 challenges human arrogance: “What is the way to the abode of light?... Do you know it?” We don’t—God does. Psalm 119:91 affirms, “Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.” God sets the rules, then and now.

Which solution is correct? Mature creation is the simplest, requiring no complex physics—just God’s fiat. Time dilation aligns with biblical stretching imagery and modern relativity. Variable light speed is speculative but plausible. Deuteronomy 29:29 concludes, “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us.” God reveals He made the heavens; how is His prerogative.

Beyond Science: God’s Unique Domain

Day 4’s miracle isn’t repeatable. Genesis 2:1–2 states, “The heavens and the earth were completed... God rested from all his work.” Creation week was a singular act, like the Flood in Genesis 7:11. Today, Hebrews 1:3 says God sustains creation “by his powerful word.” Science studies current patterns—gravity, light’s speed—but miracles like Day 4 defy labs. Job 38:33 asks, “Do you know the laws of the heavens?” No. Skeptics’ uniformitarianism (2 Peter 3:4) assumes “everything goes on as it has since the beginning.” Wrong—Day 4 was extraordinary. If God stretched space or placed light, their equations fail. Psalm 19:1 triumphs: “The heavens declare the glory of God,” not man’s theories.

Science, a gift from God (Genesis 1:28), helps us subdue the earth. But it’s not king. 1 Corinthians 3:19 warns, “The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.” Day 4 belongs to God, beyond our full grasp.

The Heavens Preach

Psalm 19:1–4 describes Day 4’s legacy: a silent sermon echoing across the earth. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (v. 1). Each star—trillions across 93 billion light-years—shouts God’s majesty. Psalm 147:4 says He “determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.” Day and night, they “pour forth speech” (v. 2), preaching faithfulness and power. Voiceless, their message is universal (v. 3–4), as Romans 1:20 affirms: “God’s invisible qualities... have been clearly seen... from what has been made.” The stars both accuse skeptics and comfort believers.

Their sermon has three points:

- **God is Infinite:** Psalm 8:3–4 marvels, “The moon and the stars... what is mankind that you are mindful of them?” Yet He is.
- **God is Trustworthy:** Joshua 23:14 assures, “Not one of all the Lord’s good promises... has failed.” Genesis stands.
- **God is Near:** Matthew 10:30 says, “The very hairs of your head are all numbered.” He knows stars and you.

Living Day 4’s Triumph

Day 4 isn’t just a defense against skeptics—it’s a call to action. Here are five ways to embody its victory:

1. **Defend the Faith** (1 Peter 3:15): Answer skeptics with gentleness. Share how Day 4’s starlight showcases God’s power, not a problem. No PhD needed—just faith in His Word.
2. **Worship Anew** (Psalm 96:1): Let the stars spark fresh praise. Sing, pray, or whisper awe under the night sky. Creation roars—join it.
3. **Trust His Power** (Philippians 4:19): The God who lit galaxies meets your needs. When life overwhelms, lift your eyes—He governs your chaos.
4. **Rest in His Order** (Ecclesiastes 3:1): Day 4 birthed rhythm—day, night, seasons. Align with God’s pace: work, rest, trust. Stars shine unmoved; so can you.
5. **Shine for Him** (Matthew 5:14): Reflect Day 4’s light in a dark world. With kindness, integrity, and joy, be a beacon of God’s glory.

Conclusion

Day 4 stands unshaken. Starlight isn’t a riddle—it’s God’s signature, scrawled across 6,000 years. Science can’t cage this miracle; it’s His. Look up—the heavens proclaim, “Our God reigns!” Live that truth: defend, worship, trust, rest, and shine. The God who lit the stars lights your path.