

On Day 3 of creation, God created the seas, land, and plants.

Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day. —Genesis 1:9–13

◆ **Day 3:** Seas, Land, and Plants

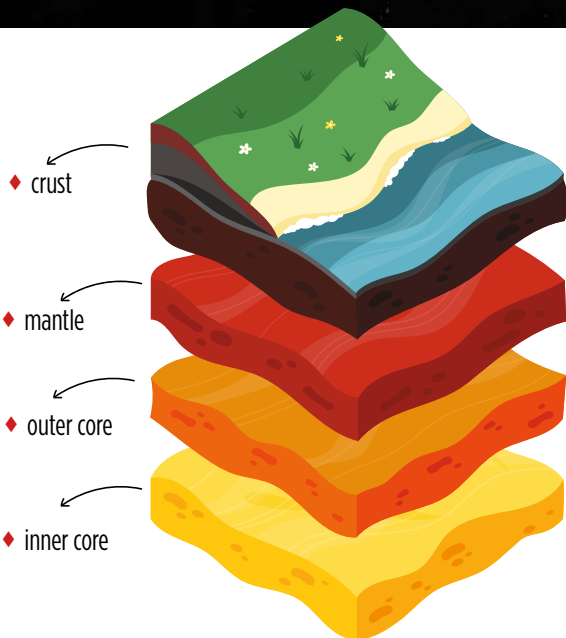
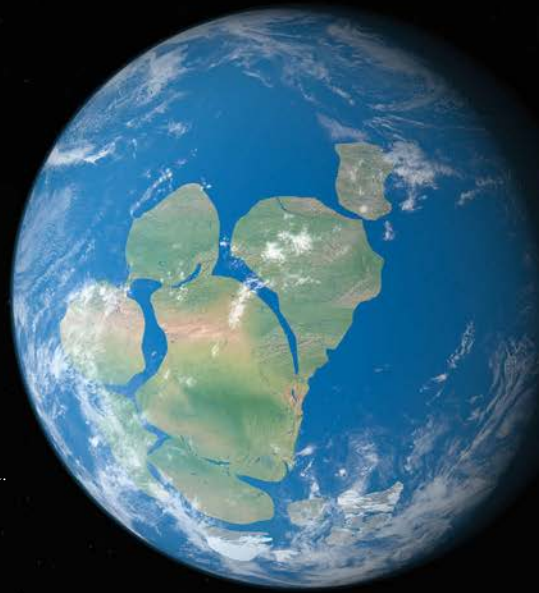


Taking Shape

On day 3, the earth was taking shape into the planet we know today. Outer space was still empty. The solar system did not yet exist. But amazing changes were taking place on planet Earth. God was at work!

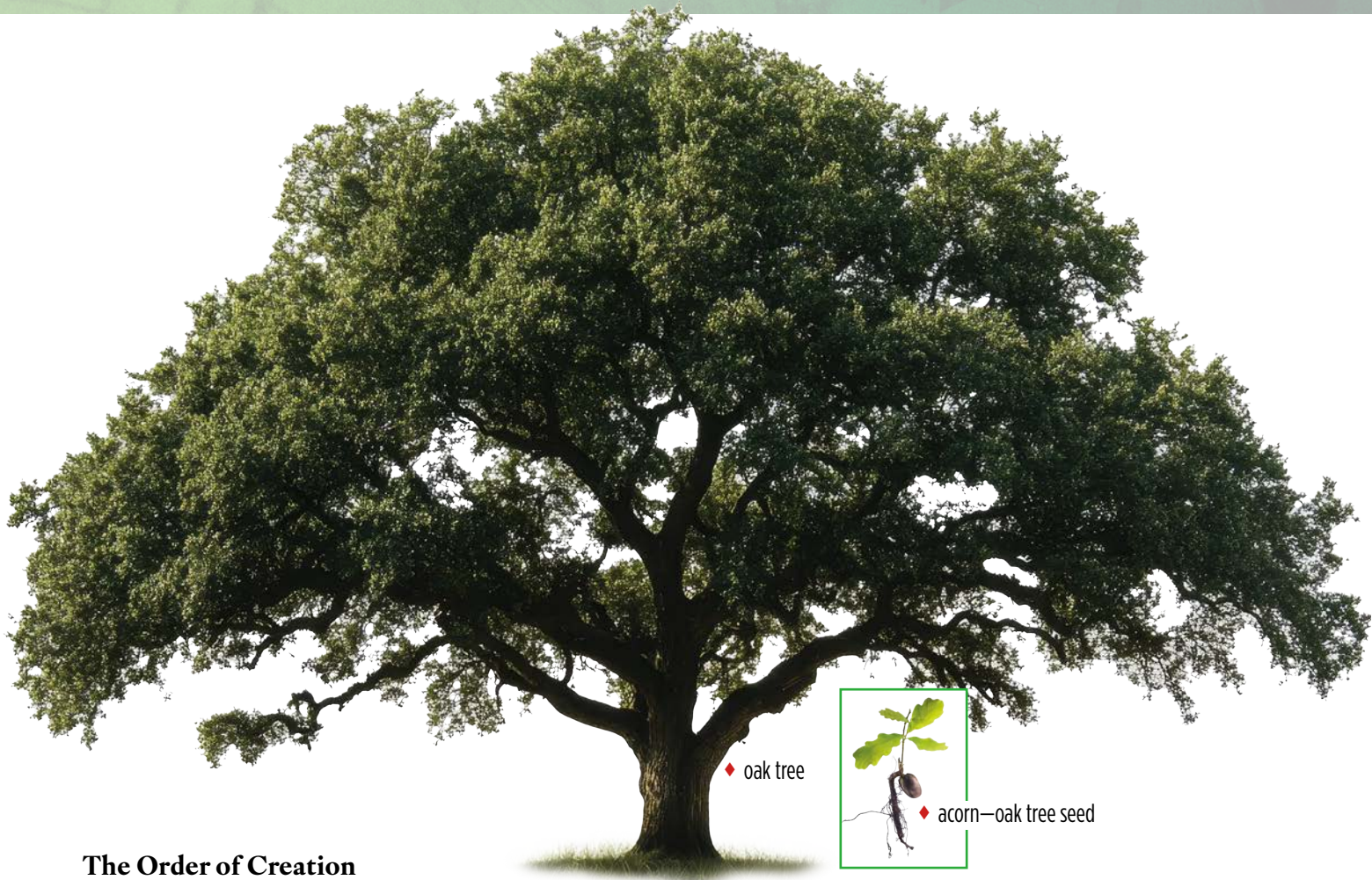
Plate Tectonics

God spoke His Word, and dry land appeared. Many scientists today accept the idea of plate tectonics—the theory that there was just one big continent of land and one ginormous ocean in the earth’s earliest history. This supports Genesis 1:9 of day 3 of creation. If that is so, how did the seven continents come about? A cataclysmic event could have broken the single continent apart. This supports what the Bible has said all along. The Flood of Noah would have caused cracks in the earth’s crust as well as major shifts of land and sea.



Four Layers

Dry land appeared on the earth’s crust, or its top layer. Covered with dirt, soil, and lots of water, the earth’s crust is mostly rock. Underneath the crust is the earth’s second layer, called the mantle. Most of this layer consists of iron and magnesium rock. Beneath the mantle is the third layer, called the outer core. Intense heat keeps the outer core like fiery, molten lava. It is probably made of iron and nickel. At the center of the earth is the inner core, made mostly of iron. The hottest of all four layers of the earth, the inner core is probably solid because of the intense pressure at the planet’s center.



♦ oak tree

♦ acorn—oak tree seed

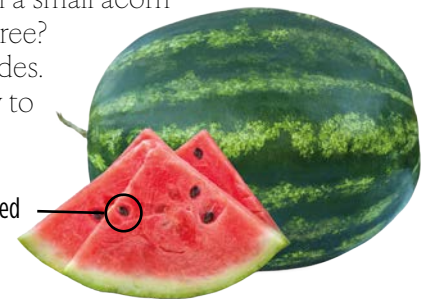
The Order of Creation

Most books on evolution state that the solar system was in place long before plants started to grow. That idea is valid if the earth evolved over millions and millions of years. But the Bible says God created plants *before* the sun. That’s a problem for evolutionary theory, because without photosynthesis (process by which plants use sunlight and other elements to make food), plants could not produce food and they would die. But the creation of plants before the sun is possible if God put plants on the earth one day and the sun in the sky the next. Photosynthesis could take place and plants could thrive. The Bible also says God created plants *before* bees and butterflies. If the earth evolved over eons of time, plants would not be able reproduce and would die out. Near the end of the literal 24-hour day and 7-day week, God created bugs. Plants could then reproduce because the world was abundant with pollinators buzzing and fluttering around.

According to Its Kind

On day 3 of creation, God created grass, herbs, and fruit trees that yielded seed “according to its kind” (Gen. 1:12). What does this term mean? When God created plants and trees, the Mastermind of the universe designed unique genetic codes and DNA within every living thing. Each plant has its own genetic codes, which are packed inside its seeds. How can a flat, black seed grow into a round, green watermelon? How can a small acorn grow into a giant oak tree? Because of genetic codes. It seems like a mystery to us, but it’s all in God’s amazing design!

♦ watermelon seed



Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” —Matthew 13:31–32

On Day 4 of creation, God created the sun, moon, and stars.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. —Genesis 1:14–19

♦ **Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars**



Outer Space

On the first three days of creation, outer space was empty. On day 4, God created objects that now make up the universe. The sun. The planets. The moons. Asteroids, comets, and black holes. Stars, galaxies, superclusters, and solar systems! In just one day, God designed, arranged, and stretched out the cosmos across 550 sextillion miles (550,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) of outer space. And that's just the *observable* universe—the part that our most powerful telescopes can see!

Solar System

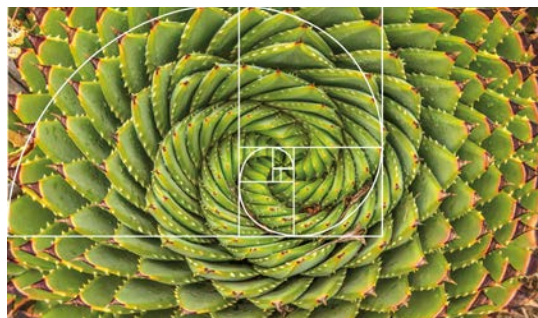
According to Colossians 1:16–17 and Hebrews 1:1–3, Jesus created our solar system and holds each object in its proper place. The sun is a fireball of nuclear power placed at exactly the correct distance from the earth to sustain life. The four planets closest to the sun—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars—have solid surfaces made of rock or metal. The four outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are made mostly of gases like hydrogen and helium, with no solid surface. However, the earth is the only inhabitable planet. None of the other planets in our solar system can sustain human life.

Age of the Planets & Stars

According to the chronological timetable in the Bible, God created the universe and everything in it during the week of creation roughly 6,000 years ago. Even though He didn't create Adam and Eve until the sixth day of creation, we know He created them as mature humans. God didn't create babies and then expect them to grow. He created adults—but they were just one day old! In the same way, God created mature, fully functioning planets, moons, and galaxies. Even the stars, whose lights take hundreds of years to reach the earth, were already twinkling in the night sky. They didn't evolve over time. Even though every object in space was just one day old, God created a mature and fully functioning universe—the amazing and wonderful home for His children.

Repeating Pattern

Have you ever heard of the Fibonacci sequence? It is a number pattern that shows up in many places in nature. The pattern is made up of numbers where each number is found by adding the two numbers before it. It starts with 0 and 1, and then continues by adding the previous two to get the next one. So, it goes 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and so on. This series creates a pattern, shape, or ratio.



What's so special about a series of numbers? It's found all over nature! You can see it in spirals of pineapples, sunflower seeds, petals, and seashells (and a lot of other places). The Fibonacci sequence is one of the best pieces of evidence to show God created everything. Explosions (like a big bang) create chaos, disorder, and random placement, not a sequence of order. Galaxies like the Milky Way, which includes our solar system, reflect the Fibonacci sequence. Only an intelligent Designer could organize our world with such precision. The Bible tells us this Creator is God.

*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?
—Psalm 8:3–4*

A Day Is a Day

Some people argue that each day in the creation account took place over a thousand years or more, taking 2 Peter 3:8 out of context: “with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” Genesis 1:14-19 says that God created the sun, moon, and stars to “divide the day from the night.” God set them in the sky “to rule over the day and over the night.” The Bible repeats the phrase, “so the evening and the morning were the first [or second or third, etc.] day.” When we take Genesis 1 in its full context, it is clear that the Bible is describing a 24-hour day on earth with the sun shining during the daytime and the moon and stars shining at night.

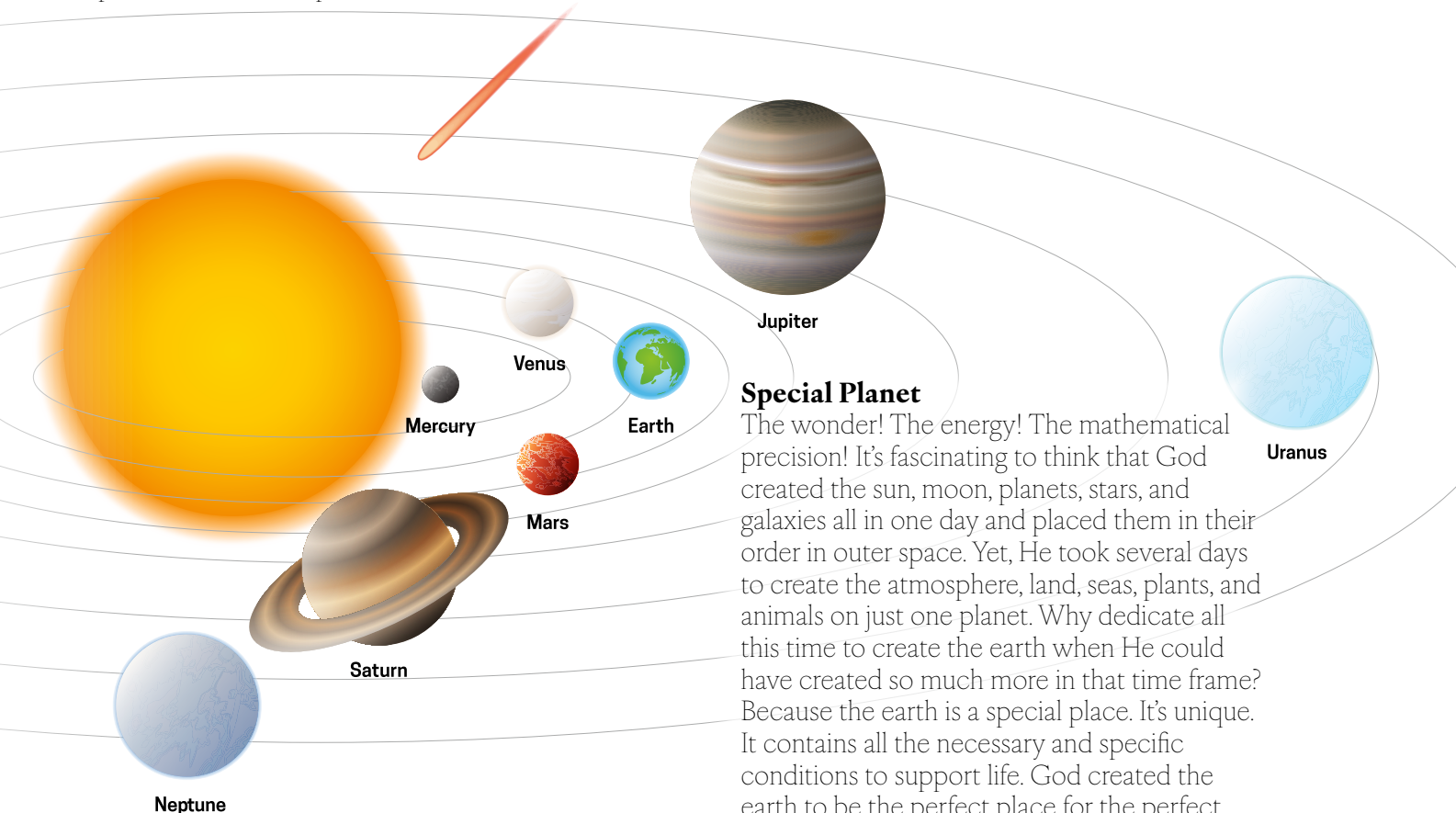


Why Create the Sun, Moon, and Stars?

Genesis tells us some of the reasons God created the sun, moon, and stars. First, they establish time as we know it. They define the meaning of the 24-hour day both in Scripture and in life on earth. They also mark the seasons as the earth orbits around the sun. Plus, they point people to God. The marvels of the heavens signal to every person the majesty and glory of God, inviting each one of us to worship our Creator (see Psalm 19:1-4).

Space Detective

Creation scientists examine the evidence of the starry hosts and explain how it supports what the Bible says. Scientists who believe in evolution also publish articles, books, and movies about their ideas concerning outer space. Unfortunately, they often state these ideas as facts, not theories. Comets are one example. Because comets are relatively short-lived on the evolutionary timeline, evolution scientists needed an explanation for where comets are “born.” They assert that the Oort Cloud is a birthplace for comets. The Oort Cloud is a theoretical cloud of icy bodies believed to exist far beyond the orbit of Neptune, surrounding our solar system in a spherical shell. However, the Oort Cloud has never been directly observed. It is a *theory*. Creation scientists assert that God crafted comets on day four of creation about 6,000 years ago. Comets still zip around space for us to marvel and enjoy today. When you study outer space, learn to be a space detective! Look for clues that show us that God is the Creator of the entire universe!



Special Planet

The wonder! The energy! The mathematical precision! It’s fascinating to think that God created the sun, moon, planets, stars, and galaxies all in one day and placed them in their order in outer space. Yet, He took several days to create the atmosphere, land, seas, plants, and animals on just one planet. Why dedicate all this time to create the earth when He could have created so much more in that time frame? Because the earth is a special place. It’s unique. It contains all the necessary and specific conditions to support life. God created the earth to be the perfect place for the perfect plan He has for His kids . . . including you!