Signs and Seasons Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 1:14-19.

B. The key to understanding cosmological phenomenon is in Genesis 1.

II. The question regarding creation in Genesis should not be how or how long—it should be why.

A. There is parallelism in the days of creation—the first three days are the days of forming and the second set of days are the days of filling.

B. The number three is significant in Genesis—three is the number of the essence of deity reflecting the Trinity.

C. Day 4 and Day 1 may occur at the same time—light would originate from the sun and the moon.

1. This idea would reveal that life began from the sea also.

2. This would also demonstrate that animal and plant life began together.

D. The reason for the creation of the sun, moon and stars.

1. They exist to give life to the earth.

2. They exist to measure the process of time.

3. They are designed to mark significant events as signs.

a. The sun is figurative of the Son of God.

b. The moon is figurative of the people of God.

c. This is a perfect picture because the moon has no light of its own—it can only reflect the light of the message God has given it to give.

d. The only purpose of the church in the world is reflecting the light of Jesus.

e. Christ shines only for believers who know Him, but the light of the church is for the darkness in humanity.

f. Only as the church reflects the light of Jesus is there any light in the world.

III. The symbolism of eclipses.

A. An eclipse of the sun pictures the church loosing the light of Christ and the world plunging its darkness around it.

B. An eclipse of the moon pictures the church blocking the light of Christ—the church becomes more important than Christ does.

C. The church is to be exemplary in order to hasten Jesus' return.

Application questions:

1. How could light be created before the sun and the moon? Explain.

2. Do you find yourself blocking out the light of Jesus more or taking on the darkness of the world?

3. How would you respond to a believer seeking more understanding about how to reflect Jesus' light better in his or her daily life? Be specific.