

Sign Post

**July – August,
2024**

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Sign Post is online at
www.iowaeastdeaf.org.
It is the newsletter for:

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Church for the Deaf
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Then God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night. They will be signs and will mark religious festivals, days, and years. They will be lights in the sky to shine on the earth.” And so it was. God made the two bright lights: the larger light to rule the day and the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. God put them in the sky to give light to the earth, to dominate the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. There was evening, then morning—a fourth day. Genesis 1:14-19

In the first three days of creation, we saw God create places to put things in – space, the sky, land and waters. Now on days four through six, we will see God put things into those places. On day four, God put the sun, moon and stars in the sky.

Why? This is an interesting question. God made everything, but while He was creating, He didn’t say why He was making everything. Genesis 1 doesn’t say why He made light. It doesn’t explain why He made the land or seas, plants or animals. The Bible describes what God is doing, but it doesn’t say why.

Except for the lights in the sky. The Bible gives us many reasons why God made the sun, moon and stars. God made the lights in the sky:

- To separate day and night, light and darkness
- To be signs
- To show seasons (or special times, religious festivals)
- To show days and years
- To give light to the earth
- To rule the day and night

God put the lights in the sky to work for Him and to help us. The sun, moon and stars give us day and night so we know when to work and when to rest and sleep. Our calendar of months and years is based on the sun and moon. That is how we have seasons so we can plant and harvest. The calendar means we can have regular celebrations like birthdays, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Good Friday and Easter. You see that when the sun, moon and stars do the work that God made them to do, they help and serve us.

Some people think that the lights in the sky have their own power to influence us. They think the stars help us to tell time and they control our lives. This is called astrology.

Continued on p. 2

Day 2 – Sun, Moon and Stars (continued from p. 1)

Understand the difference between two words that look much the same.

Astronomy – science that studies everything in the sky. This is science and not a religious belief.

Astrology – the belief that the planets and stars control or influence my life. This is a religious belief.

You have probably seen people talk about when they were born and if they are a Taurus, or Capricorn, Leo, or some other sign. People find horoscopes in the newspaper or online that tell them what good or bad things might happen to them today. They believe the stars in the sky have power to make their day good or bad, or to say what kind of personality they have.

Can Christians believe in astrology? Is it okay to read your horoscope and see what it says about your day? No! We don't even read it "for fun." God told His people not to worship the sun, moon and stars. In Deuteronomy 4:19, Moses told God's people, "When you look up at the heavens, you will see the sun and moon. And you will see huge numbers of stars. Don't let anyone tempt you to bow down to the sun, moon or stars. Don't worship things the Lord your God has provided for all the nations on earth."

We only worship and trust in God to take care of us and guide our lives. We don't trust the stars, fortune tellers, or anyone else who says they can use some special knowledge or power to guide us.

The things in the sky point us to God, because He made them. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that His hands created them." The more that science tells us about the universe, the more amazing it is that God made everything. If you could travel at a million miles an hour, it would take you 2,847 years to get to the nearest star! There are stars that are billions of times farther away than that. And God made all of that on day 4 of creation by speaking His word. The things we see in the sky truly show that we have an amazingly powerful God!

Even more amazing is this – that God made you, loves you and saves you through His Son, Jesus. The sky can make us feel pretty small and not important (see Psalm 8:3-8). When you look up at night, remember God is greater than everything you see, and He put those objects in the sky to serve you. You are the focus of His love and His saving work.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1). Thank God that He shows His greatness and His glory in the skies and in all of creation. He made everything for His glory and for our good.
- ✦ Thank God that His greater glory is that His Son humbled Himself to die on a cross to save us. The beautiful creation is wonderful to see, but ask God to remind us of His best gifts for us in Jesus.
- ✦ Ask God to give us good and wise leaders who will work agreeing with God's ways.
- ✦ It seems like more countries are threatening war. Pray that the leaders of these countries will stop their anger and threatening, and instead work towards peace.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Gerald Mitchell, Joanne Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, Jeanette Kern, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for people who are suffering from the weather – tornadoes, flooding, and severe heat. Ask God to protect people and for His church to reach out in love to help people in need.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

A sign tells you a message. It tells you something you need to know. Road signs tell you speed limits, to stop or yield, or other important messages. A sign in the Bible tells you to look at something important happening. In Joshua 4:1-7, God told the people of Israel set up stones as a sign to remind them how the Jordan River stopped flowing so they could walk across. In Isaiah 7:14, God said to watch for a sign – the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a Son. That was a sign that God was sending the Savior. Jesus did many signs (miracles) to show that He was the Messiah, the Savior.

Genesis 1:14 says one reason God made the lights in the sky was to be signs. What kinds of signs? We will look at some examples of how God used stars as signs in the Bible. *Answers are on p. 4.*

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

1. What was Abram concerned about (vs. 3)?
2. What did God promise Abram (vs. 4-5)?
3. How were the stars in the sky part of God's promise to Abram (vs. 5)? What work will God do?

Read Isaiah 13:9-13.

1. What does God say will happen to the stars, the sun and the moon (vs. 10)?
2. When will that happen? What is God doing at that time? (vs. 9, 11)
3. So when the sun, moon and stars are dark, what is that a sign of?
4. Also read Luke 21:25. Do you think Jesus is talking about the same thing here, or something different?

Read Matthew 2:1-12. This is probably the most famous star in the Bible.

1. What appeared to the wise men (vs. 2)?
2. What did this sign mean to them (vs. 2)?
3. How did the star help the wise men (vs. 9-10)?
4. The star showed God was doing what work?

Read Revelation 1:12-20.

1. John wrote this about Jesus coming to him and telling him what to write. These verses describe Jesus. What was Jesus holding (vs. 16)?
2. How did John describe Jesus' face (vs. 16)? What does that show about Jesus?
3. Jesus explained what the seven stars mean. What did He say the seven stars are (vs. 20)?
4. How was Jesus holding the stars (vs. 16)? What work is Jesus doing?

Read Revelation 12:1. This can be a difficult one to understand!

1. How was this woman clothed?
2. Read Galatians 3:27. What does that tell you the "sun" means in Rev. 12:1?
3. Back to Rev. 12:1, what kind of crown did the woman have?
4. Think about the number twelve. What does that number often mean in the Bible?
5. What is this telling us about the woman? Who is this woman?

Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 3.

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

1. God had promised Abram a large family, but Abram had no children yet.
2. God promised that Abram will have a son and his family will be very large.
3. God told Abram to try to count the stars in the sky. That is how many people will be in his family. From then on, every time Abram saw the stars in the sky, he could remember God's promise. God will work to give Abram many descendants.

Read Isaiah 13:9-13.

1. The stars will not give light. The sun will be dark and the moon will not give its light.
2. That will happen at the time of God's judgment. God will punish people for their sin.
3. The sun, moon and stars becoming dark is a sign that God's judgment is coming.
4. Jesus is saying the same thing. Multiple times in the Bible, when it talks about the sun, moon and stars becoming dark, that is a sign of the end of the world and God judging people for their sin.

Read Matthew 2:1-12. This is probably the most famous star in the Bible.

1. A star rose, or appeared in the east.
2. The wise men knew that the star meant a king was born. So they came to look for the new king of the Jews.
3. The star appeared at first to show them a king was born. Then it seemed for a while that the star stopped leading them. Maybe that was so they had to learn from God's word that the Savior will be born in Bethlehem. After that, the star led them to the house where Jesus was.
4. The star was a sign that God sent the Savior, Jesus.

Read Revelation 1:12-20.

1. Jesus was holding seven stars.
2. John said Jesus' face was like the sun. Remember another time Jesus' face was shining like the sun – on the Mount of Transfiguration (read Matthew 17:1-2). Jesus' face shining shows His glory.
3. Jesus said the seven stars means seven angels. An angel is a messenger, so this can mean the seven stars are the pastors of the seven churches.
4. Jesus was holding the seven stars in His right hand. Holding them in His right hand meant He was protecting and taking care of the pastors.

Read Revelation 12:1. This can be a difficult one to understand!

1. The woman was clothed with the sun.
2. When you are baptized, Christ Himself is your clothing. That can tell us that Christ clothed this woman. Jesus was her light and her life.
3. The woman had a crown of 12 stars.
4. The number 12 usually means God's people because there were 12 tribes (families) in Israel.
5. This woman means God's people. God gives us Jesus' perfect life and glory to clothe us.

July

- 2 Ricky Moore
- 13 Barb Zimmerman
- 31 Michael Anderson



August

- 17 Stephen Eckert
- 28 Mary Erpelding
- 29 Mike Currier

July 2024

	1	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	4 Happy Fourth of July!	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10	11 ILDA in Michigan	12 ILDA in Michigan	13 ILDA in Michigan
14 CR – No worship ILDA in Michigan	15 EC in Michigan	16	17 7:00 WL – Study	18	19	20 10:00 QC – Worship
21 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	22	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 QC – Worship
28 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	29	30	31			

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 QC – Quad Cities. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 1st Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

August 2024

				1	2	3 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
4 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	5	6	7 7:00 WL – Worship	8	9	10 10:00 QC – Worship
11 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	12	13	14 7:00 WL – Study	15	16	17 10:00 QC – Worship
18 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	19	20	21	22	23	24 10:00 QC – Worship
25 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	26	27	28	29	30	31 10:00 QC – Worship

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m.
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Praise the Lord!

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God created everything for His glory. Colossians 1:16 says this about Jesus; "All things were created in Him. He created everything in heaven and on earth. He created everything that can be seen and everything that can't be seen. He created kings, powers, rulers and authorities. All things have been created by Him and for Him." That is why the Bible says again and again that all things in creation give glory and praise to God. The words for the puzzle are from Psalm 148. Find the underlined words.

H A T W I N D S O R T C N S N
 N E G K S G N I K E E W E E E
 N C A I R S G E N A A S E H E
 T A E V A H L D N T L O R D H
 G N G E E I T E E N C H E W E
 I S I N L N O R G E H E G W E
 L S E C I I S O A N T E T W L
 O E N S E N R N O E A R S U N
 N R L I N G T O E A N L F H S
 G U O T A S M H V O N H W O D
 O T E O T T H E G O T E T G A
 R A B S R A N W T I E A E I D
 D E T A E R C U A U L D N E E
 Y R O T E S T F O E U G R A E
 T C L A S N R L L M I K N U N

Praise the Lord from the heavens.
 Praise him in the heavens above.
 Praise him, all his angels.
 Praise him, all his angels in heaven.
 Praise him, sun and moon.
 Praise him, all you shining stars.
 Praise him, you highest heavens.
 Praise him, you waters above the skies.
 Let all of them praise the name of the Lord,
 because at his command they were created.
 He established them for ever and ever. He gave
 them laws they will always have to obey.
 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea
 creatures and all the deepest parts of the ocean.
 Praise him, lightning and hail, snow and clouds.
 Praise him, you stormy winds that obey him.
 Praise him, all you mountains and hills.
 Praise him, all you fruit trees and cedar trees.
 Praise him, all you wild animals and cattle.
 Praise him, you small creatures and flying birds.
 Praise him, you kings of the earth and all
 nations.
 Praise him, all you princes and rulers on earth.
 Praise him, young men and women.
 Praise him, old men and children.
 Let them praise the name of the Lord. His name
 alone is honored. His glory is higher than the
 earth and the heavens.
 He has given his people a strong king.
 All his faithful people praise him for that gift.
 All the people of Israel are close to his heart.

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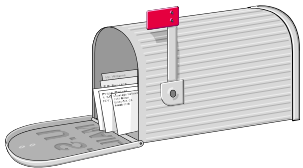
Thanks to Pam Winn

06-03-2004

I'LL TAKE THIS MILLION STAR MEADOW
 OVER A FIVE STAR HOTEL ANY DAY

Word of God Lutheran Church
for the Deaf
1515 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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