

# *The Work of His Hands*







**Psalm 111 – *The Work of His Hands***

**— a psalm of praise and thanksgiving**

**— a believer among believers . . .**

***“in the company of the upright,  
in the congregation”***

**— rehearsing the works of Yahweh**

**— works of . . . creation, provision, & providence –  
all viewed through His work of redemption**







*“Let us make man in our  
image, after our **likeness**...*

*Genesis 1:26*

*When God created man,  
He made him **in the  
likeness of God**, male and  
female He created them,  
and He blessed them and  
named them Man when  
they were created.*

*Genesis 5:1*

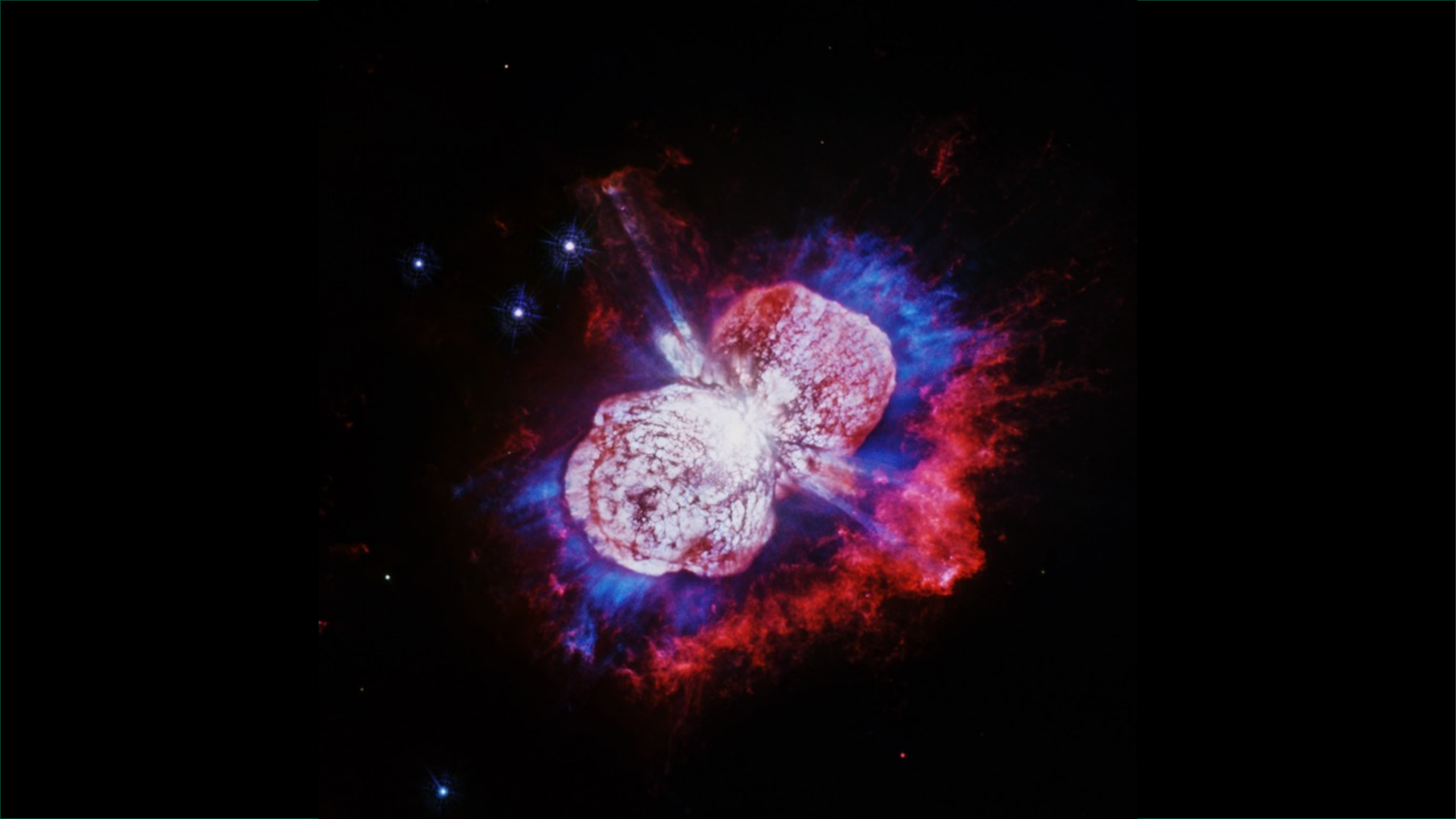
*When I look at your heavens, the  
work of your fingers, the moon  
and the stars, which you have set  
in place, **what is man that you  
are mindful of him**, and the son  
of man that you care for him?*

*Psalm 8:3-4*

*You have given him dominion  
over the works of your hands...*

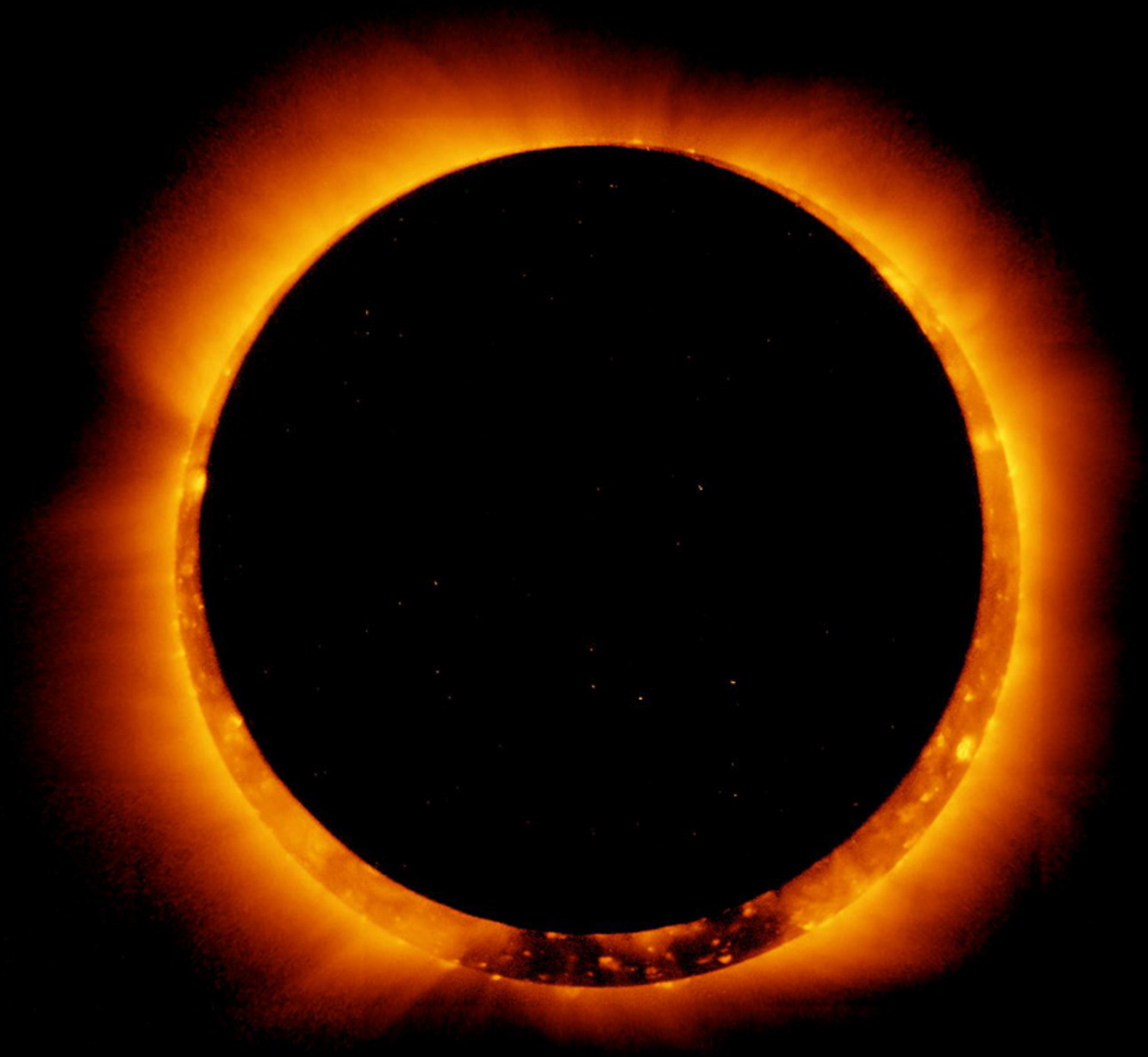
*Psalm 8:6*















***“Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.” (Psalm 111:2)***

***Those “works,” declared “great,”  
are “studied” works by “delighting” believers.  
That truth was the central verse in what became known as  
“The Scientist’s Psalm.”  
In the work of *dominion & subduing*, believers will *delight*  
in their *study* of “the works of Yahweh.”***

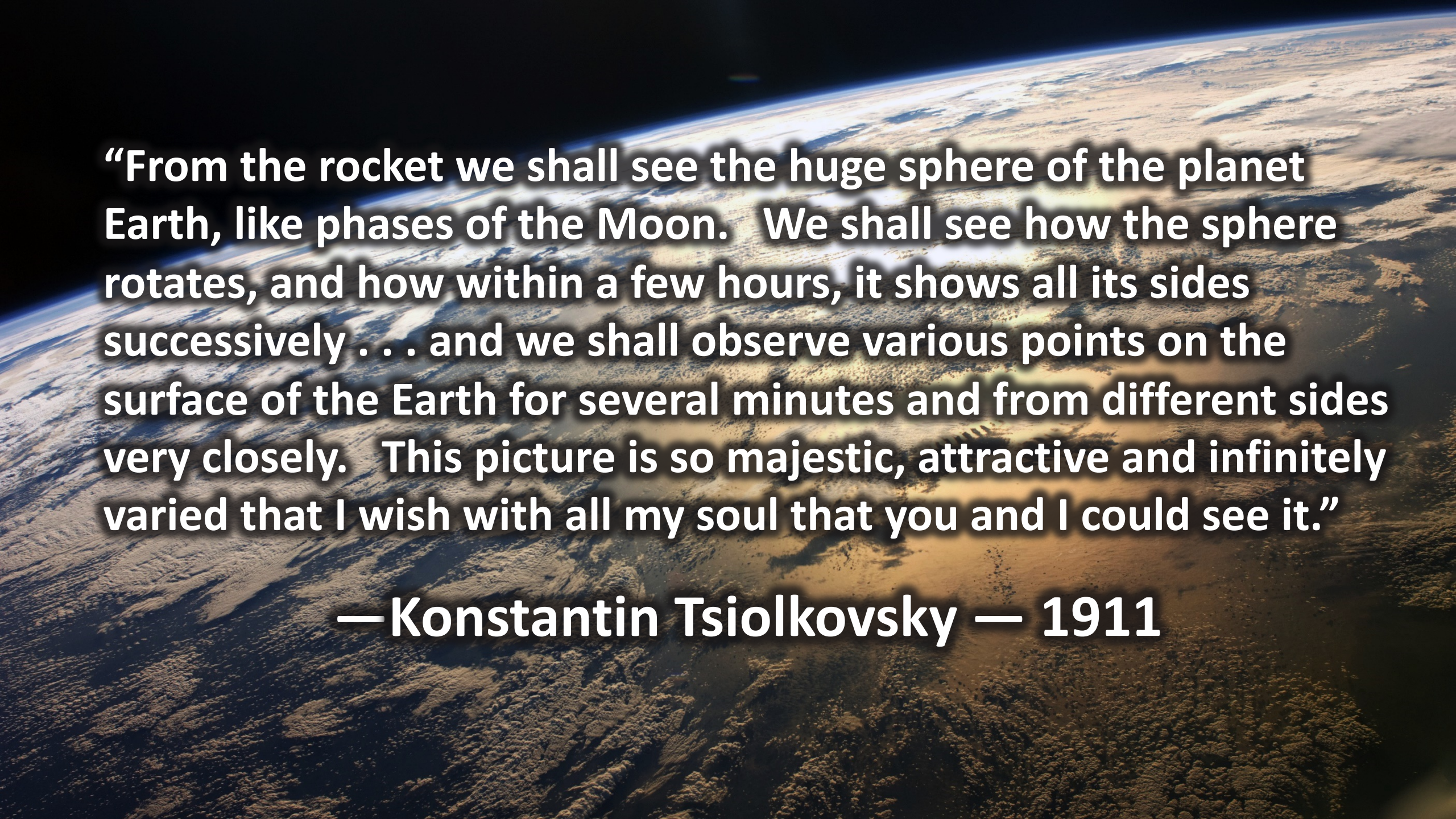








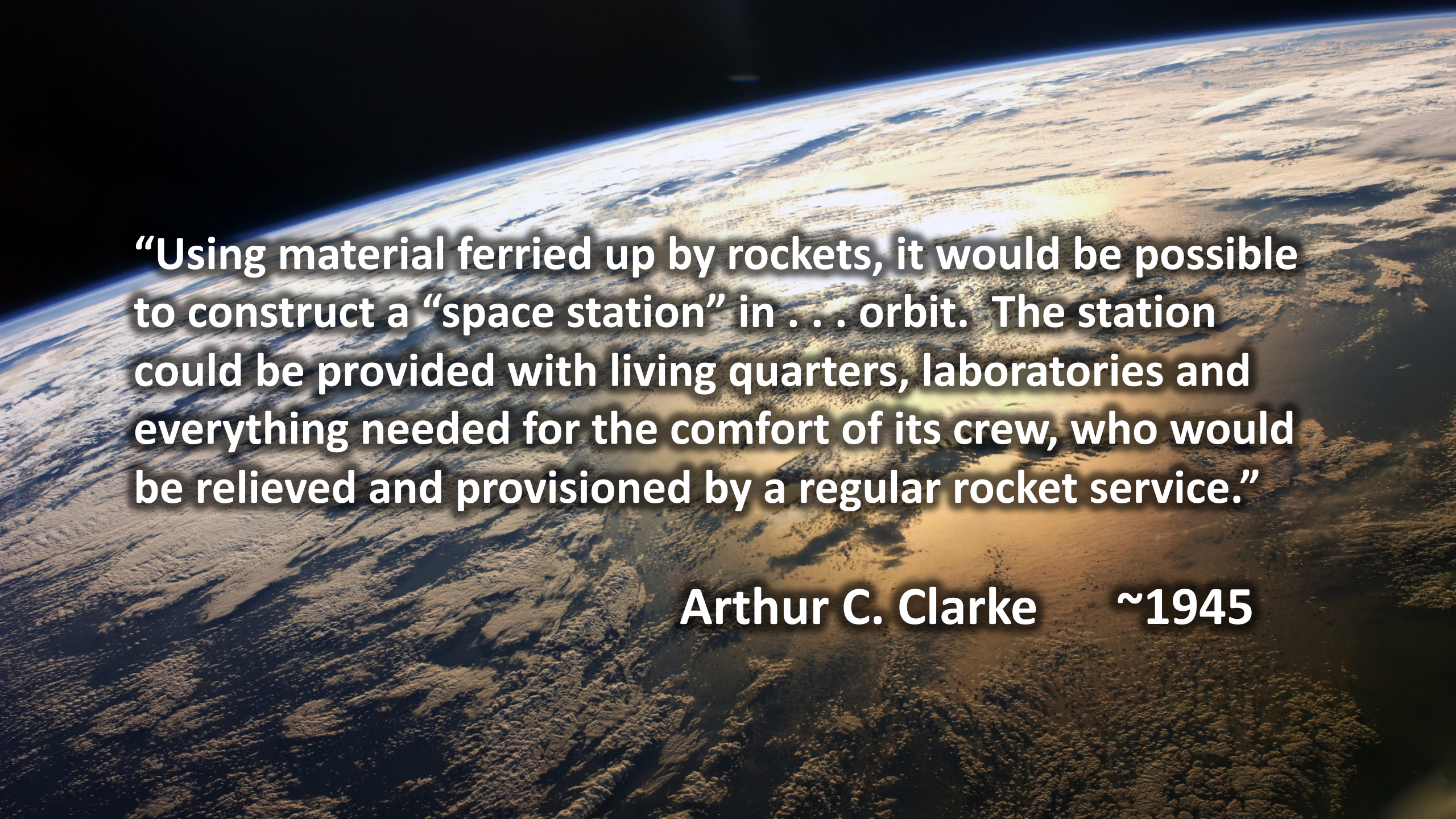




**“From the rocket we shall see the huge sphere of the planet Earth, like phases of the Moon. We shall see how the sphere rotates, and how within a few hours, it shows all its sides successively . . . and we shall observe various points on the surface of the Earth for several minutes and from different sides very closely. This picture is so majestic, attractive and infinitely varied that I wish with all my soul that you and I could see it.”**

**—Konstantin Tsiolkovsky — 1911**



A photograph of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the atmosphere. The image is used as a background for the text.

**“Using material ferried up by rockets, it would be possible to construct a “space station” in . . . orbit. The station could be provided with living quarters, laboratories and everything needed for the comfort of its crew, who would be relieved and provisioned by a regular rocket service.”**

**Arthur C. Clarke      ~1945**



















***He stretches out the north over the void and  
hangs the earth on nothing.***

**Job 26:7**

***Behold, these are but the outskirts of his  
ways, and how small a whisper do we  
hear from him!***

***But the thunder of His power who can  
understand?***

**Job 26:14**

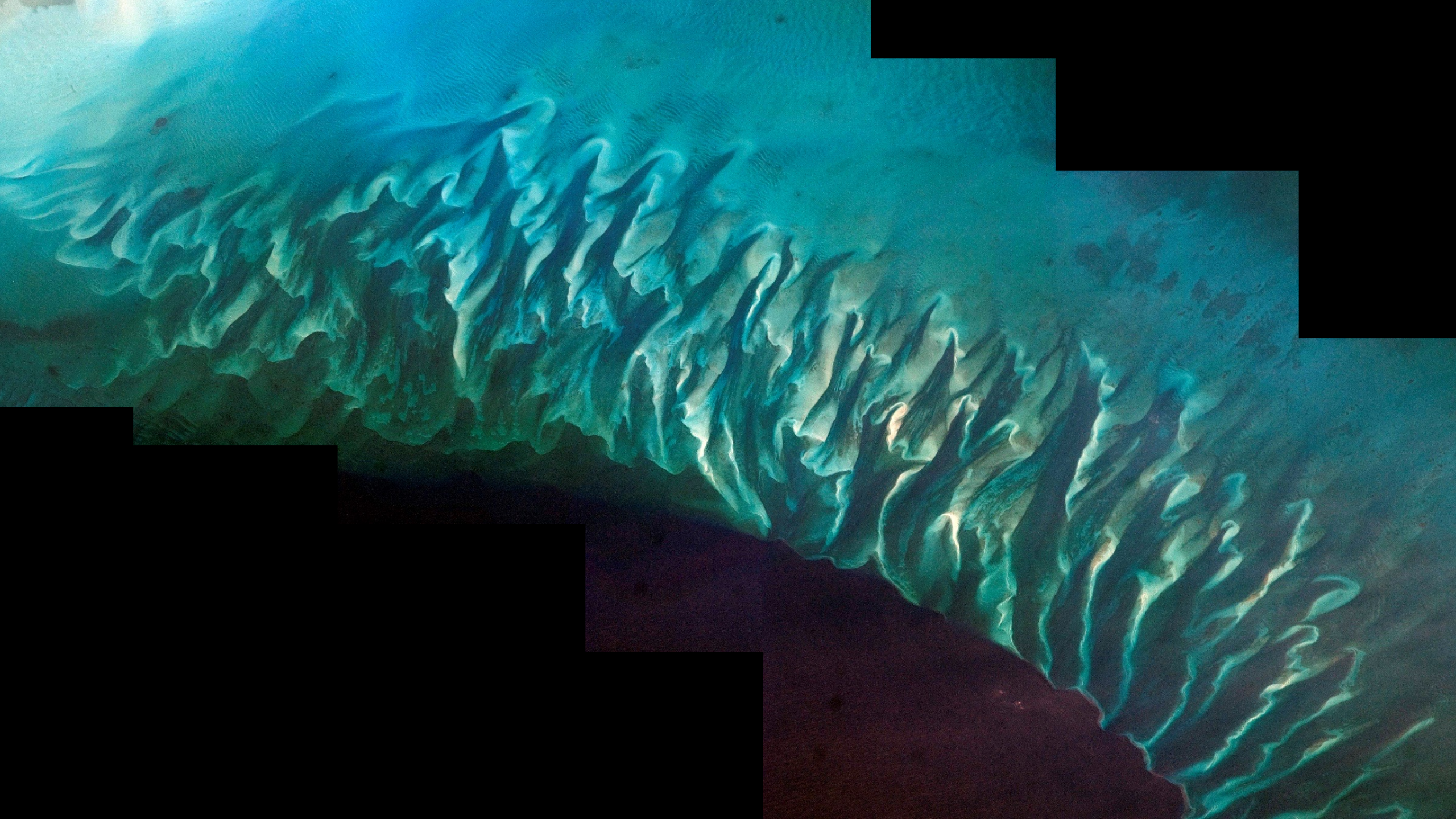








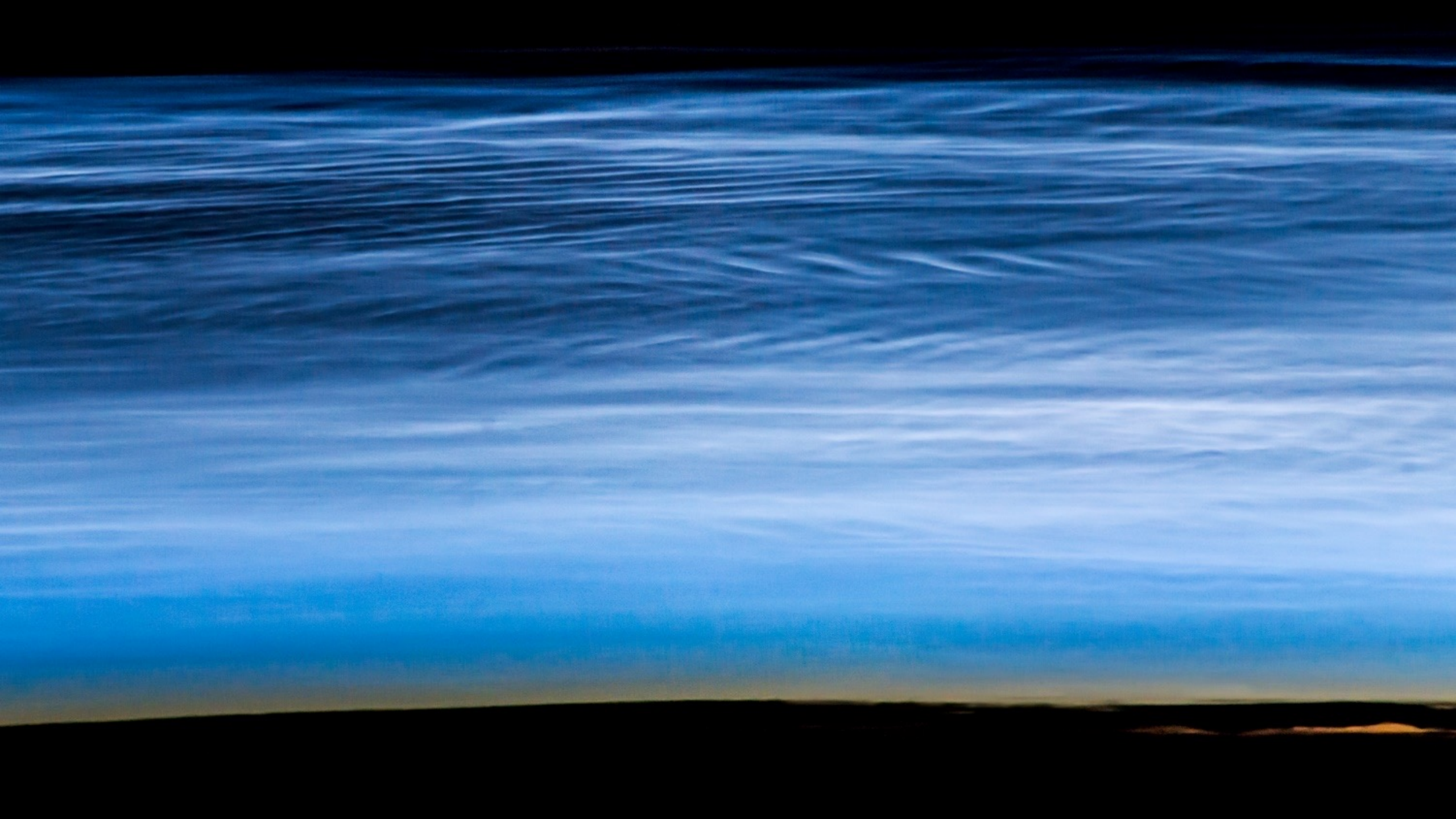
















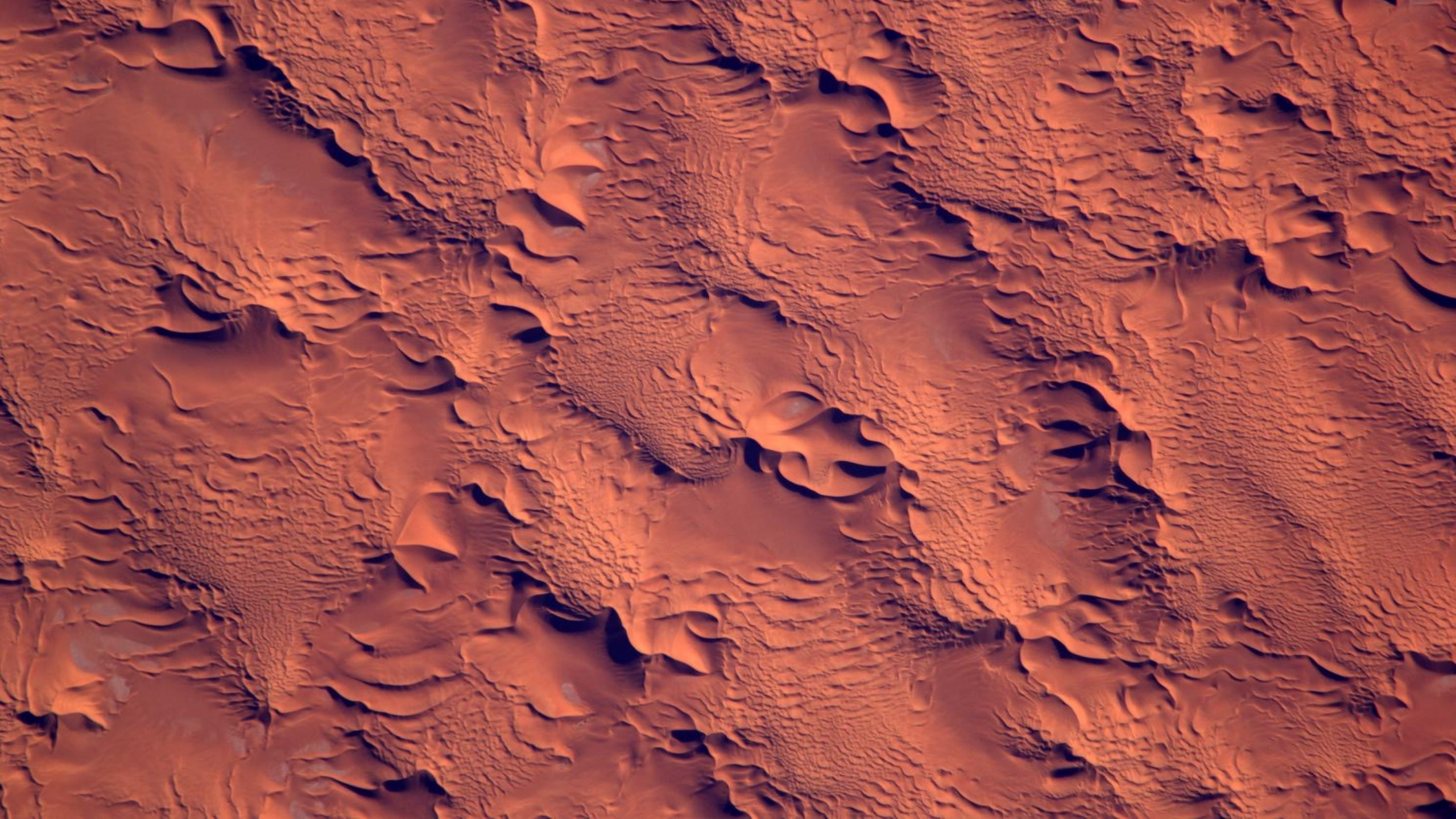














- Throughout the universe we see a lawful ordering (*cosmos* means *order*... in contrast to *chaos*)

...we see order, precision, beauty, elegance, simplicity, harmony, symmetry in ...

- A Mathematical ordering
  - In Physics, Chemistry, Optics
    - In Biology... e.g. DNA, cellular function, organism
      - ...in Music ... e.g. octaves, chords, keys, rhythm



# Science means “*knowledge.*”

God is all-knowing – man is not.

The classic scientific endeavor . . . the searching out of knowledge to understand God’s works, to discover and utilize the provision found in creation, and to develop the discovered science into technology for the good of man and the glory of God.

*Scientific endeavor* is a category of **subduing** and exercising **dominion!**

*...delighting in the studied works of the LORD!*



# *Classic BIBLICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS IN SCIENCE*

- 1) Rational & knowable ordering in creation
- 2) Precision in the ordering
- 3) Lawful Contingency

*“... in [Jesus Christ]  
all things are held together [sunistemi - to cohere or consist].”  
(Colossians 1:17b)*

*“He upholds [phero – to bear or bring forth] the universe by the  
word of His power.”  
(Hebrews 1:3b)*





➤ **Examples of leaders from the “Age of Science”**

- ✓ **Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) – Astronomy**
- ✓ **Robert Boyle (1627-1691) – Chemistry**
- ✓ **Isaac Newton (1642-1727) – Classic physics**
- ✓ **Leonhard Euler (1701-1783) – Applied mathematics**
- ✓ **Michael Faraday (1791-1867) – Electromagnetics & chemistry**
- ✓ **Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) – Biology**
- ✓ **James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) – Electro & Thermodynamics**
- ✓ **Lord Kelvin (1824-1907) – Thermodynamics**



# Testimony of Isaac Newton . . .

Along with science, Newton pursued his other great love — studying the Bible.

*“I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.”*

Among his publications was:

*“Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms and Observations Upon the Prophecies of Daniel”.*



## ***Testimony of Louis Pasteur . . .***

**Pasteur saw no conflict between science and Christianity. In fact, he believed that *'science brings men nearer to God'*. In his work as a scientist, he perceived evidence of wisdom and design, not randomness and chaos.**

**Pasteur quoted as, "The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator."**

**Known for the formulation of the *law of biogenesis*  
— that life comes from life —**





***Testimony Concerning James Clerk Maxwell...***

**... Designed and constructed the Cavendish Laboratory  
at Cambridge.**

**Carved in the heavy wooden doors of the laboratory's  
entrance is Psalm 111:2 in Latin:**

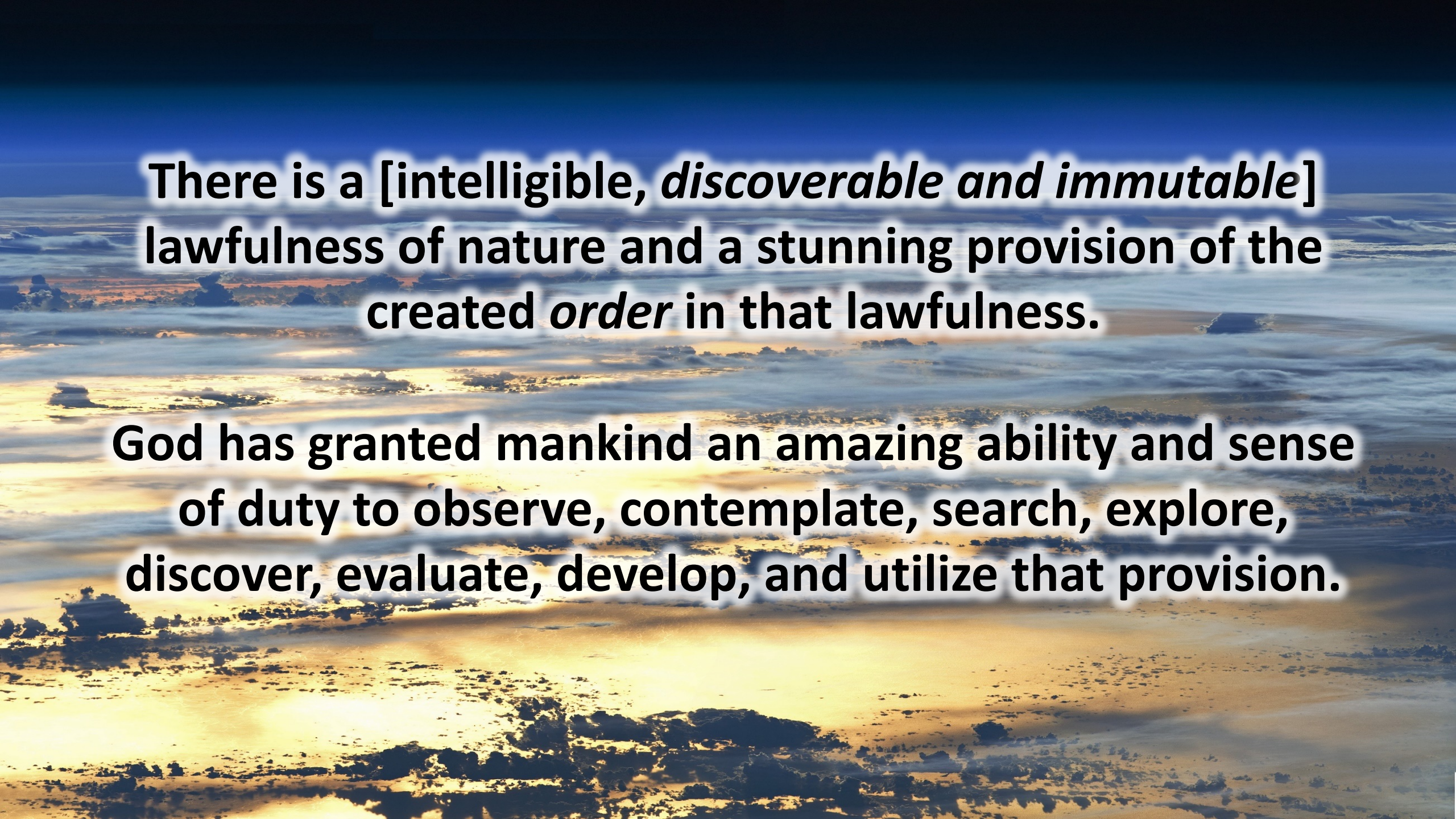
***“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.”***



# ***Testimony Concerning James Clerk Maxwell . . .***

***A written prayer found after his death . . . “Almighty God, who created man in Thine own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after Thee and have dominion over Thy creatures, teach us to study the works of Thy hands, that we may subdue the earth to our use and strengthen the reason for Thy service; and so to receive Thy blessed Word, that we may believe on Him Whom Thou hast sent to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of sins. All of which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.”***

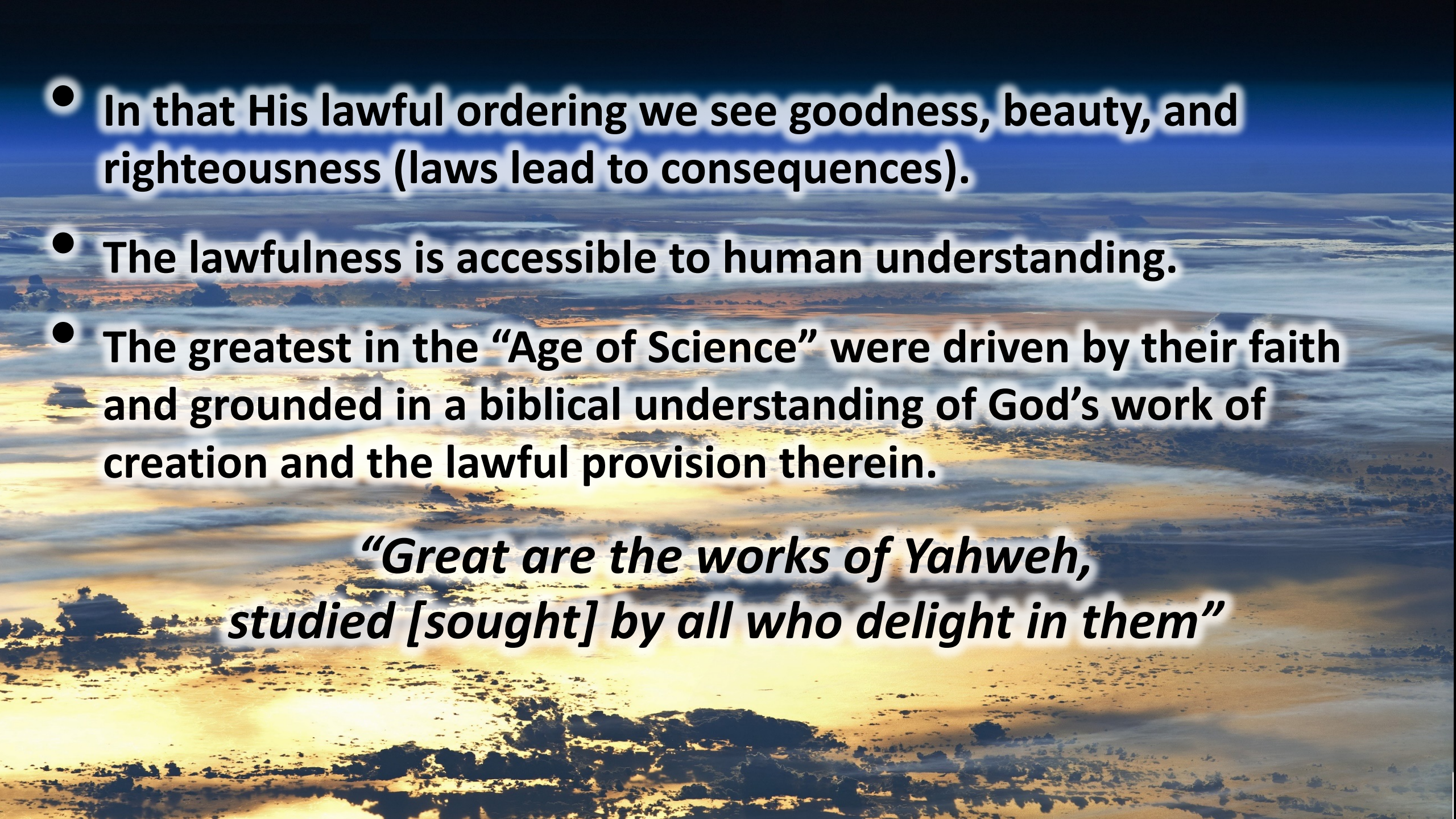




**There is a [intelligible, *discoverable and immutable*] lawfulness of nature and a stunning provision of the created *order* in that lawfulness.**

**God has granted mankind an amazing ability and sense of duty to observe, contemplate, search, explore, discover, evaluate, develop, and utilize that provision.**



- 
- In that His lawful ordering we see goodness, beauty, and righteousness (laws lead to consequences).
  - The lawfulness is accessible to human understanding.
  - The greatest in the “Age of Science” were driven by their faith and grounded in a biblical understanding of God’s work of creation and the lawful provision therein.

*“Great are the works of Yahweh,  
studied [sought] by all who delight in them”*



# *The Battle of Worldviews*

Why, then, is there the *perceived* conflict between science and the Bible?

How did it come to be?







*...“Did God actually say, ...  
(Genesis 3:1)*

*In those days there was no king in Israel.  
Every man did what was right  
in his own eyes.  
(Judges 21:25)*



# *Considering contemporary myths, lies, and “cancel culture”*

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- The church killed Greek science – **false**
- Christianity plunged Europe into the “dark ages” – **false**
- Columbus vs the church’s ‘flat earth’ – **false**
- The inquisition of Galileo-science vs Scripture – **false**





# *Considering myths, lies, and “cancel culture”*

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- Portrayal of superstition, intolerance, tyranny – **false**
- *Progressive* science and ‘reason’ freed us from the *regressive* religion – **false**





# *Considering myths, lies, and “cancel culture”*

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- The *Enlightenment* brought us out of *the Dark Ages* and spurred the *Scientific Revolution* and the *Renaissance*.  
—propaganda with purpose!





The Legacy of Darwinian theory began way before...

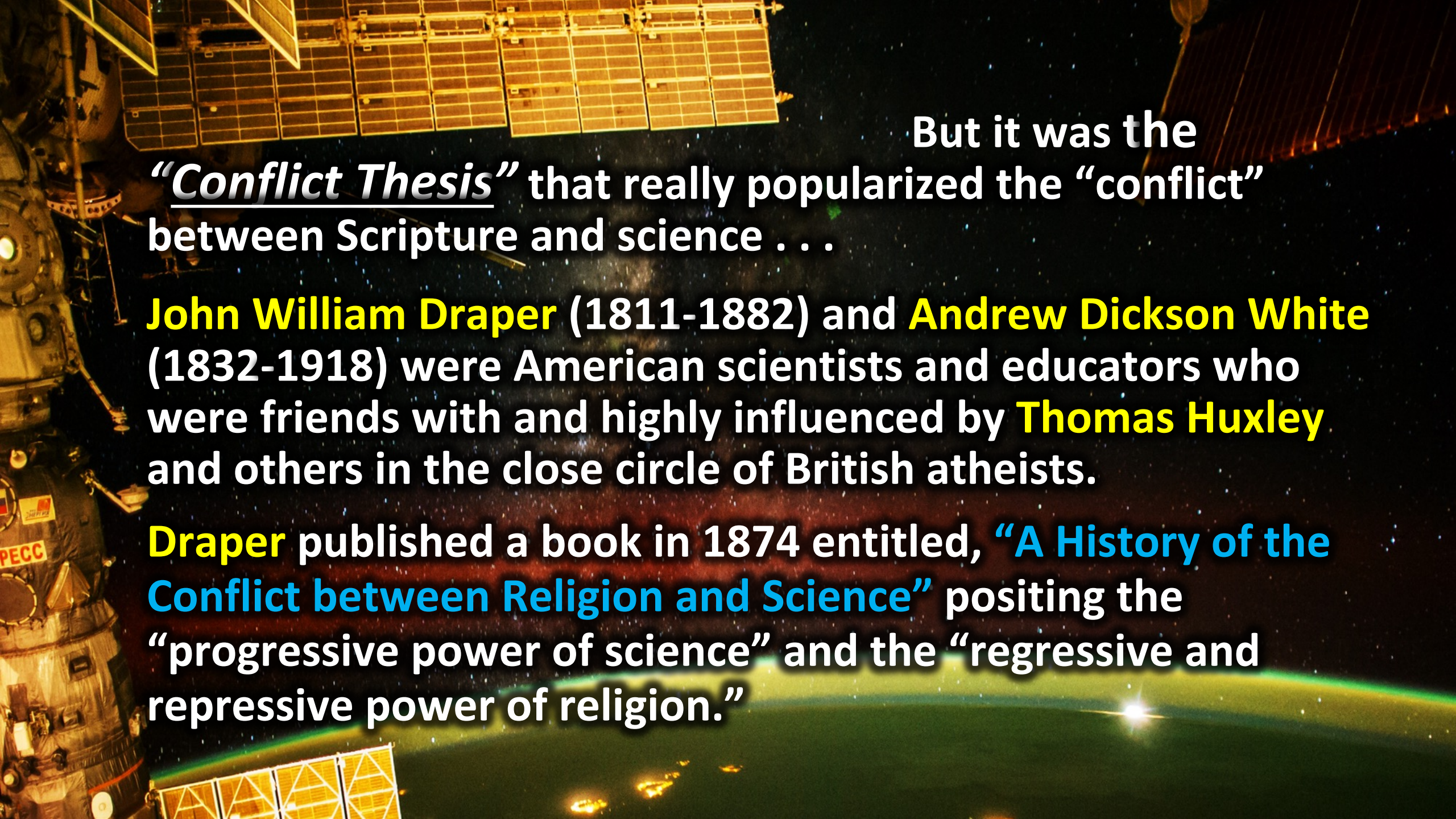




## The Legacy of Darwinian theory began way before...

- Deist **James Hutton** (1726-1797) who thought religion as contrived . . . . Supposed earth millions of years old with gradual changes; also suggested “continuous evolution”  
Friends with evolutionist **Erasmus Darwin** (1731-1802)
- Geologist **Charles Lyle** (1797-1895) influenced by Hutton, popularized *uniformitarianism*.
- Atheist **Thomas Huxley** (1825-1895) dubbed “Evolution’s High Priest. Portrayed theology as “enemies of science.” Coined “survival of the fittest.” Very influential in all public spheres.



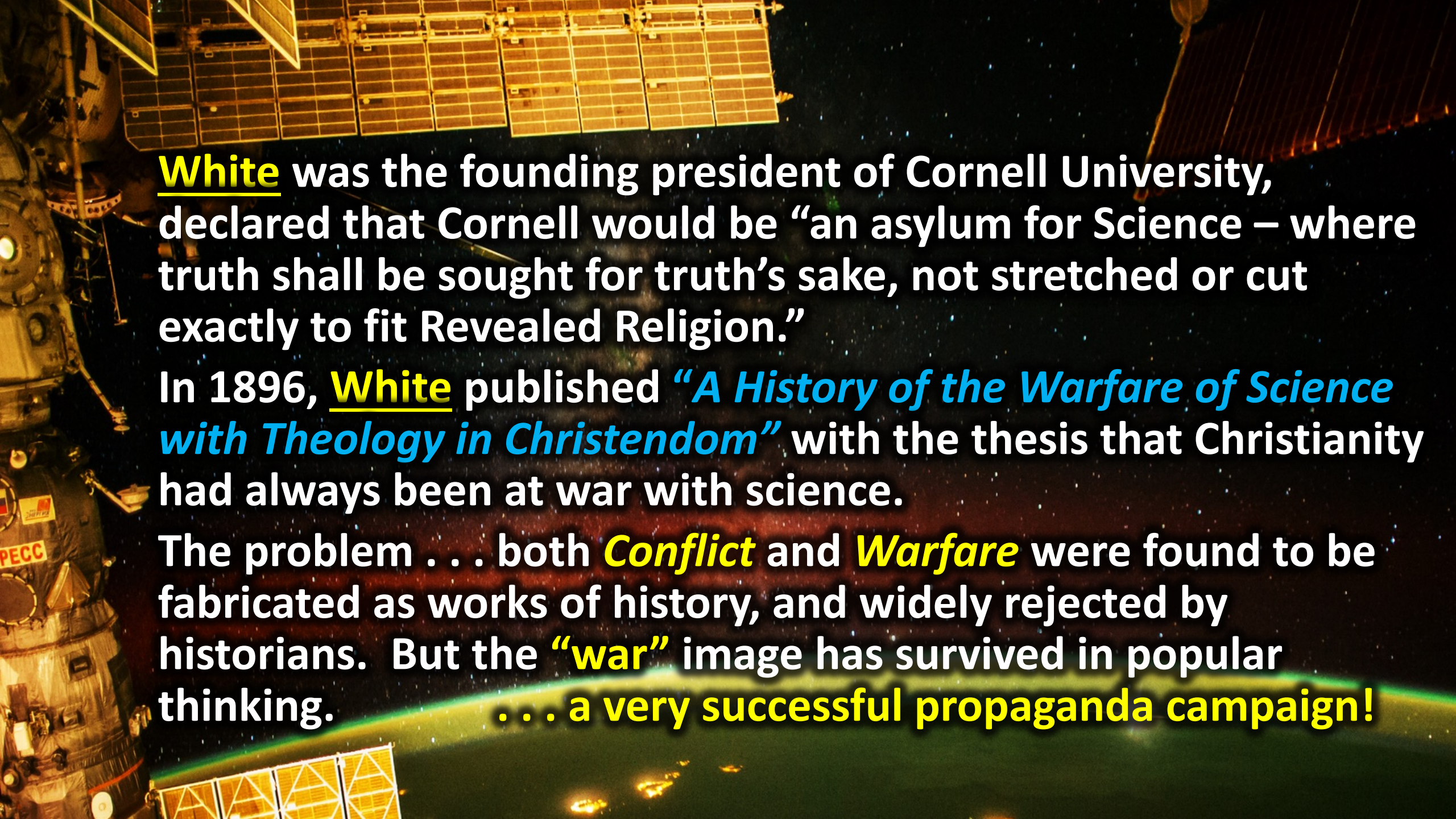
A background image of a space station in orbit above Earth. The station's complex structure, including large solar panel arrays and various modules, is illuminated against the dark void of space. The Earth's horizon is visible at the bottom, showing a thin layer of atmosphere and a bright light source, likely the sun, creating a lens flare effect.

But it was the **“Conflict Thesis”** that really popularized the “conflict” between Scripture and science . . .

**John William Draper** (1811-1882) and **Andrew Dickson White** (1832-1918) were American scientists and educators who were friends with and highly influenced by **Thomas Huxley** and others in the close circle of British atheists.

**Draper** published a book in 1874 entitled, **“A History of the Conflict between Religion and Science”** positing the “progressive power of science” and the “regressive and repressive power of religion.”



A background image of a space station in orbit above Earth. The station's complex structure, including large solar panel arrays and various modules, is illuminated by a bright light source, likely the sun, creating a high-contrast scene against the dark void of space. The Earth's horizon is visible at the bottom, showing a thin layer of atmosphere and the dark surface of the planet.

White was the founding president of Cornell University, declared that Cornell would be “an asylum for Science – where truth shall be sought for truth’s sake, not stretched or cut exactly to fit Revealed Religion.”

In 1896, White published “*A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*” with the thesis that Christianity had always been at war with science.

The problem . . . both *Conflict* and *Warfare* were found to be fabricated as works of history, and widely rejected by historians. But the “war” image has survived in popular thinking. . . . a very successful propaganda campaign!





*“... men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”*  
(Romans 1:18b)

Paul's warning to Timothy: *“Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called ‘**knowledge.**’”*  
(1 Timothy 6:20)



**“But where shall wisdom be found?  
And where is the place of understanding?”  
(Job 28:12)**

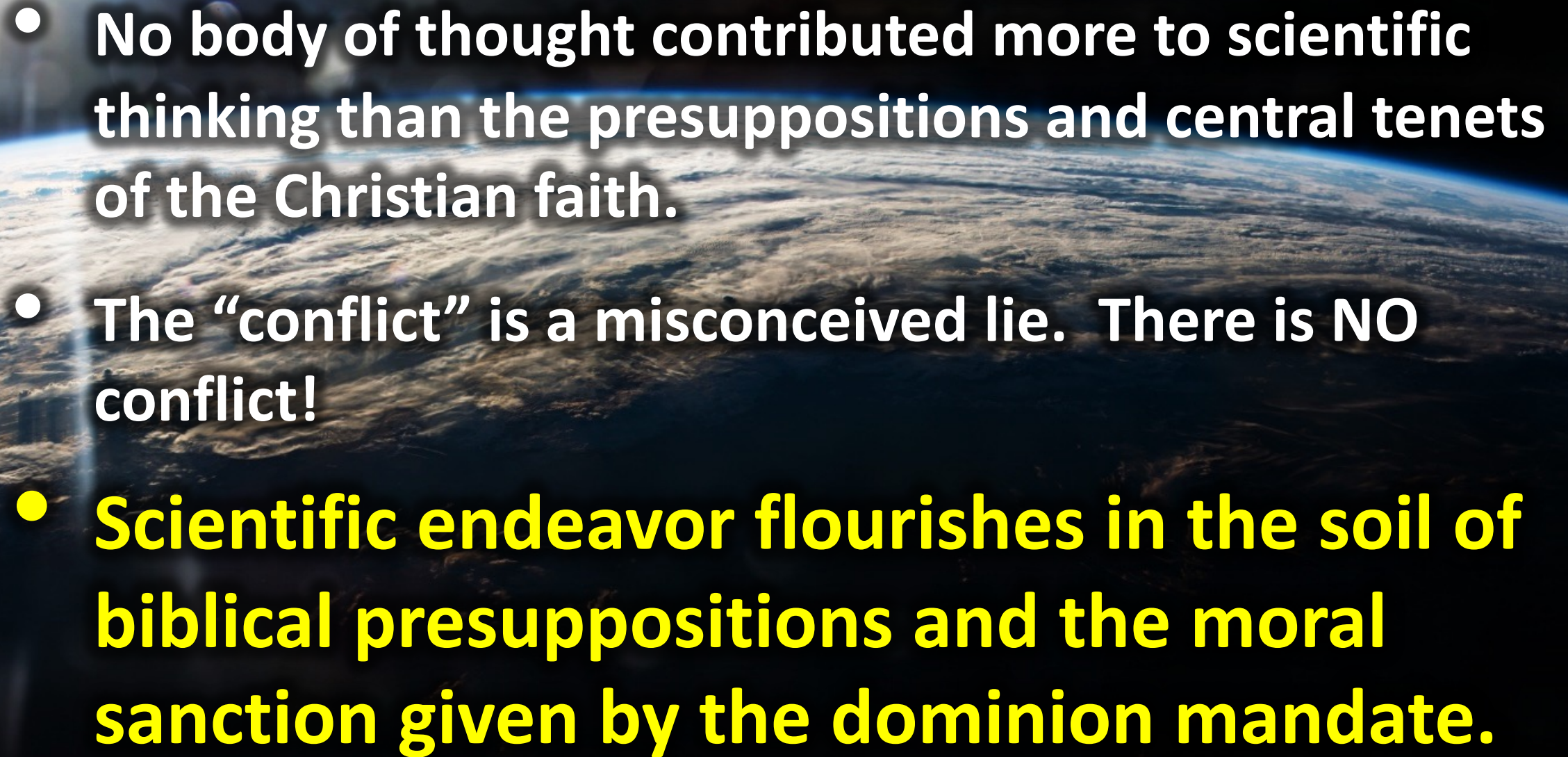
**“Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,  
and to turn away from evil is understanding.”  
(Job 28:28)**

**“For whoever finds [wisdom] finds life.” (Prov 8:35)**

**“All things were made through [Jesus Christ], and without him was  
not any thing made that was made. In Him was life.” (John 1:3-4)**

***“... Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:3)***



- 
- No body of thought contributed more to scientific thinking than the presuppositions and central tenets of the Christian faith.
  - The “conflict” is a misconceived lie. There is NO conflict!
  - **Scientific endeavor flourishes in the soil of biblical presuppositions and the moral sanction given by the dominion mandate.**





**Oh... to *know Christ*, and to be found in Him!**

**There is a beautiful, discernable, [fixed], and useful order in the universe accessible to the mind of created man, who bears the image of the rational Creator and is endowed with intelligence.**

**Man is equipped and commissioned to seek out that order.**

**One found in Christ *delights* in the study of His works so to know his Creator and to make Him known.**

**In that sense, *we are all scientists!***





***“Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them!”***















An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A large body of water, possibly a river or harbor, winds through the city. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## **SPEAKING OF WORKS OF PROVISION . . .**

**“...all things in the world, one way or another, center in the usefulness for man; some to feed him, some to clothe him, some to delight him, some to instruct him, some to exercise his [intelligence], and others his strength.”**

**Stephen Charnock (Existence and Attributes of God)**



# ***Bearing GOD'S Image . . . What are the implications?***

## **Reflecting . . .**

- **We appreciate and see beauty and majesty in creation. God is ultimate beauty.**
- **We experience awe and wonder. Wonder demands God as its explanation.**
- **We are creative, in the likeness of the Creator. We think . . . and, in response, we do. We contemplate and act with purpose . . . with design . . . with an end in mind.**



# Reflecting . . .

- Foundationally, **image** indicates that man has a relationship and spiritual fellowship with God. Man **needs** relationship.
- Unique from animals . . . made in the **image** and likeness of our Creator.

**btw, the new man reestablishes what was damaged in the fall.  
(Eph 4:24; Col 3:10)**



- Bearing His Image and Likeness, we relate to Him. We are His sons and daughters – as His creatures – but because of the fall, rebelling, estranged, separated, at enmity with our Creator.
- In Christ – redeemed – we are atoned for and forgiven, brought back into the family, given access to the King. Our redemption also renews these substantive components of our being . . .
  - **Personality** is central because **our** personality is grounded in **His** infinite personality. We are given . . .
  - A **mind** with the **ability to reason**, remember the past, contemplate the future, and apply that understanding to the present – we have an intellect with a will.



# The ability to think and communicate in the abstract, to articulate in complex speech

- **A self-awareness** – a conscience with a moral sense operating to guide or convict us.

We have an awareness of a moral order.

- **A capacity to make decisions** (“free” will, we possess self-determination), acting out of our own character . . . our own nature

- **Creativity, ingenuity** — a sense of comprehension of meaning and significance

- **An appreciation of beauty, goodness, and truth**, which motivates our pursuit to know our Creator



All of these characteristics of our **personhood**,  
along with the very contemplation  
of the creation around us,  
give testimony to  
***bearing the image of God!***







God *spoke* the cosmos into existence

... with a nature consistent with His character

... and He is constantly involved in the unfolding pattern of the ongoing operation of the universe.

*For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is God!), who formed the earth and made it; He established it; He did not create it empty, He formed it to be inhabited! –*

*He says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”*

*Isaiah 45:18*



*And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep . . . Genesis 1:2*

“formless” [Heb: tohu] = **“without form”** → emptiness, waste, place of chaos (e.g., in vain, without purpose);

**“void”** [Heb: bohu] → emptiness, waste, nothingness

. . . can be described as **“bare being;” “lacking differentiation;”**

Considering Isaiah 45, Genesis 1:1-2 can be paraphrased as,

***“the heaven and earth were created,  
at first, unformed and uninhabited.”***



**But then**, differentiation took place; He **filled** it and **formed** it . . . in time  
[we could say, “He *ordered* it” →

*. . . the light separated from the darkness (v4)*

*. . . the expanse separating the waters below from the  
waters above (v7)*

*. . . gathering of waters and land (v9)*

*. . . vegetation, plants yielding seed, fruit  
trees bearing fruit (v11)*

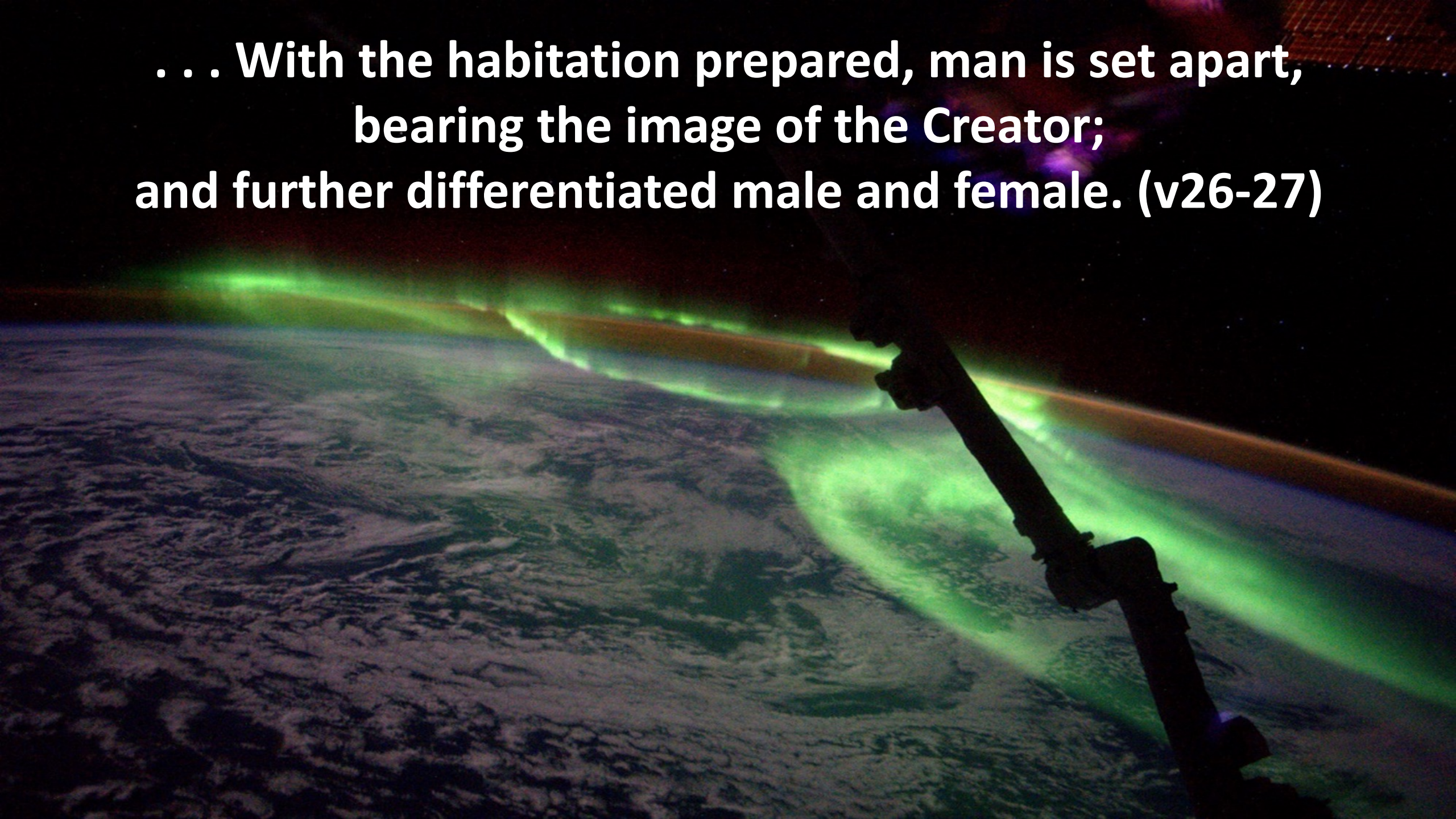
*. . . two great lights, sun & moon, (and the stars),  
separating day and night (vv14-16)*

*. . . conscious and unconscious life (vv20-21); water  
creatures, air creatures, land creatures*

*. . . created life and procreated life (vv22-25)*



**. . . With the habitation prepared, man is set apart,  
bearing the image of the Creator;  
and further differentiated male and female. (v26-27)**





# How Does Science Fit into All of This?

Back to Genesis 1:26b . . . made in the image and likeness of God,  
*“ . . . and let them have dominion . . . ”*

Later in vs. 28 . . . *“And God blessed them. And God said to them,  
‘Be fruitful and multiple and fill the earth and subdue it, and have  
dominion . . . ’*



# Implications of *dominion*:

- . . . delegated physical responsibility to cultivate and care for
  - a stewardship
- . . . delegated moral responsibility
  - given provision for usefulness
  - the animals brought to Adam to be named (2:19-20)

(Read Psalm 8:5-8 for a striking expression of man's dominion.)



# Science means “*knowledge*.”

God is all-knowing – man is not.

The scientific endeavor is . . . the searching out of knowledge to **understand** God’s works, to **discover and utilize** the provision found in creation, and to **develop the discovered science** into **technology** for the good of man and the glory of God.

*Scientific endeavor* is a category of **subduing** and exercising **dominion!**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. (Prov 1:7)*



## Known as the *Dominion Mandate* or *Cultural Mandate*

... which calls for an intense study of the earth (with all its complexity of components and processes) and then, the utilization of this knowledge for the benefit of mankind. This calling is what authorizes both science and technology as a basic enterprise (derived from “working and keeping” the garden).

“Science” is the disciplined study and understanding of the phenomena of his world.

“*Technology*” is the implementation of this knowledge in the effective ordering and development (“creating out of something”) of creation’s resources for the greater good... and for the glory of God!



***The Testimony of the Logos (John 1:1-18)***







John's themes in the prologue...

providing *testimony* and giving *witness*

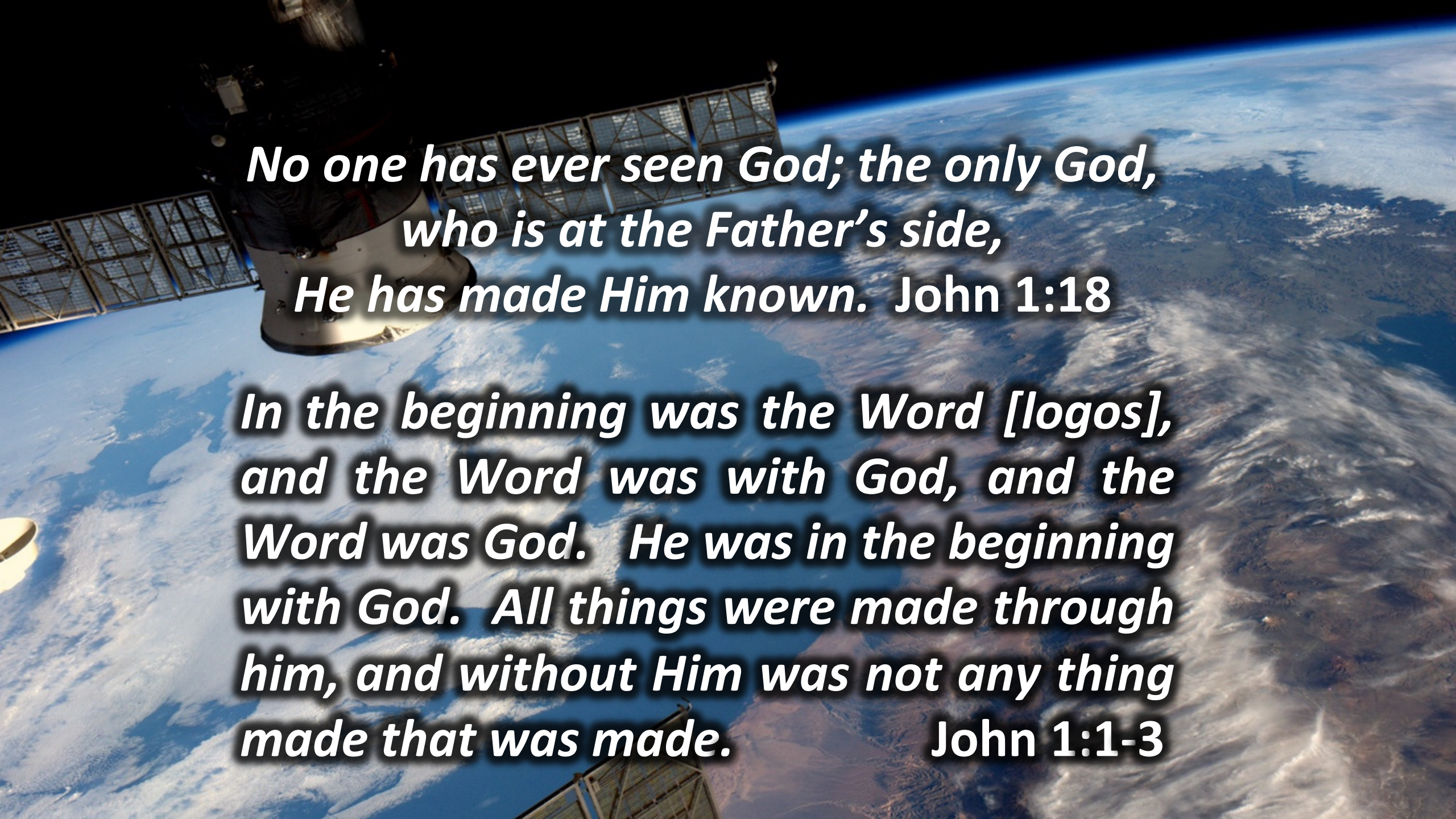
*life* (not biological but spiritual)

*light* revealed

*glory*

*grace*





***No one has ever seen God; the only God,  
who is at the Father's side,  
He has made Him known. John 1:18***

***In the beginning was the Word [logos],  
and the Word was with God, and the  
Word was God. He was in the beginning  
with God. All things were made through  
him, and without Him was not any thing  
made that was made. John 1:1-3***



A satellite in space, likely the International Space Station, is shown in the upper left corner. The satellite has large solar panel arrays and a central module. Below the satellite, the Earth's surface is visible, showing a mix of blue oceans, white clouds, and brownish-green landmasses. The curvature of the Earth is visible at the top right of the frame.

***Logos* means *word*, but it had a far deeper meaning in the culture**

**John was writing to . . .**

**. . . to the Jews**

**. . . and to the Greeks**

**First, to the Jews . . .**





**Logos** to the Jewish mind would call to mind . . .

*The Word of God.*

*God spoke the creation into existence . . . “And God said . . .”*  
repeated over and over in Genesis 1

*For the word of the Lord is right and true . . . By the word of the  
Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all  
their hosts. Psalm 33:4,6*

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path.*

**Psalm 119:105**





**. . . to the Jewish mind . . .**

***You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.***  
**Psalm 119:114**

***So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*** Isaiah 55:11

**See also Ephesians 6:17, 1 Peter 1:23, Hebrews 1:3,**





... to the Jewish mind ...

**Logos** is also related to wisdom ...

*For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*

Psalms 119:130

*Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

Matthew 7:24



A satellite in space, viewed from Earth orbit. The satellite has several large solar panels extended outwards. The Earth's surface is visible below, showing a mix of blue oceans, white clouds, and brownish landmasses. The satellite is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame.

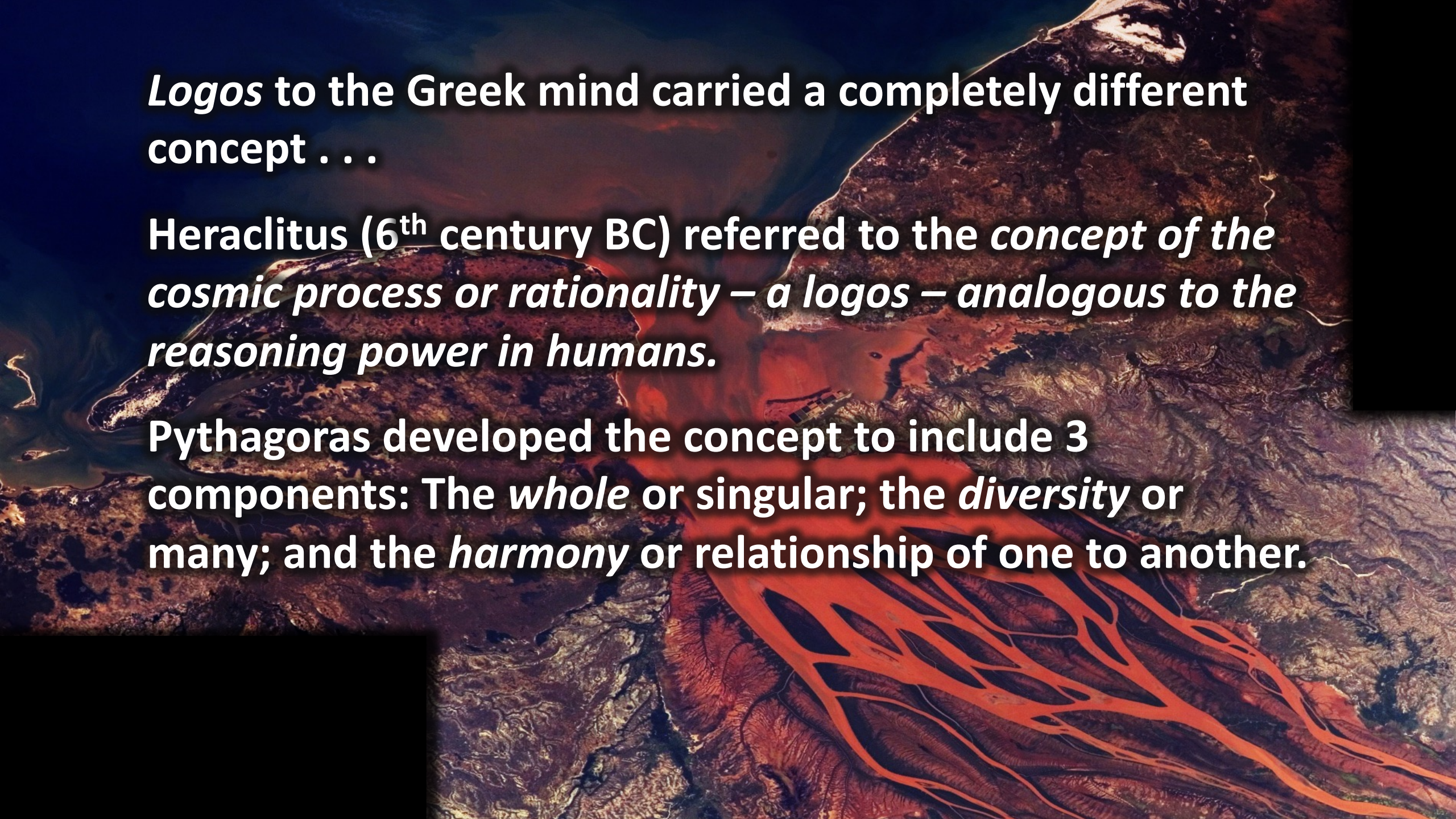
**To the Jewish mind, then . . .**

***In his opening prologue, John was pronouncing that the God-man, Jesus Christ, was the full revelation of God!***

***. . . the promised Word of God, made known (explained; Gk exegeomai, to exegete)***

**See John 3:31-36; 12:45; 14:8-10**



An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries. The water is a deep red-brown color, contrasting with the brown and tan land. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark box in the upper left quadrant.

***Logos* to the Greek mind carried a completely different concept . . .**

**Heraclitus (6<sup>th</sup> century BC) referred to the *concept of the cosmic process or rationality – a logos – analogous to the reasoning power in humans.***

**Pythagoras developed the concept to include 3 components: The *whole* or singular; the *diversity* or many; and the *harmony* or relationship of one to another.**



... to the Greek mind *logos* meant ...

... rationality, intelligence, [that communicates]; a unifying principle of the cosmos giving it form & meaning. It was a central concept for the Stoics – the rational order. The world soul.

Stoicism emphasized that the entire universe was ordered according to the wise direction and the rational principles of the *logos*.

*Logos* is, thereby, related to *wisdom*, in that it had both the power of reasoning and was reason expressed in speech.



An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Colorado River, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries. The image has a strong red and orange color cast, giving it a dramatic, almost abstract appearance. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

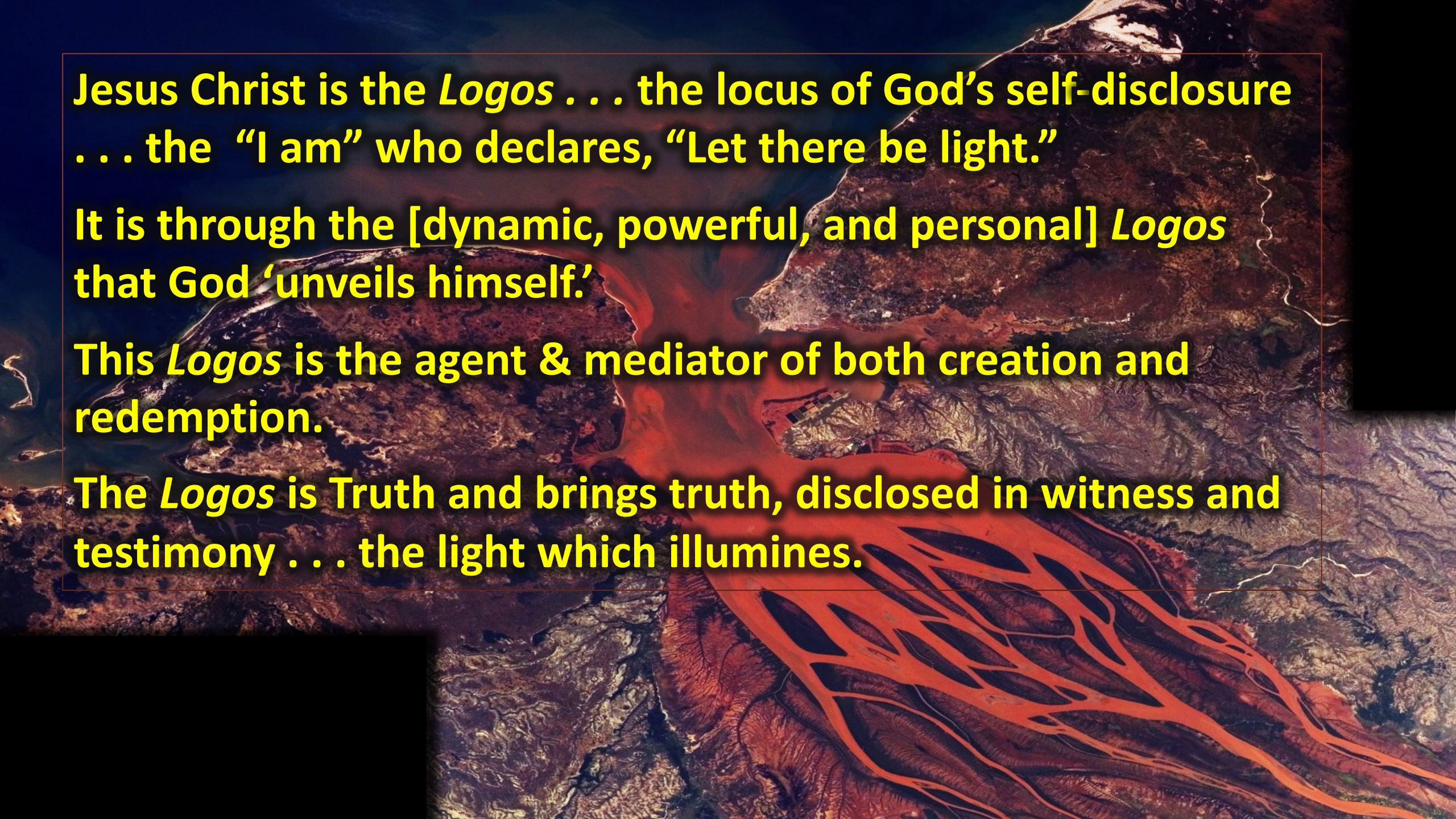
To the **Greek** mind, then . . .

In his opening prologue, John was pronouncing that the impersonal rationality and unifying principle of the universe was a Person, infinite, eternal, and triune, Who had created all things, and now, has revealed Himself in his work of redemption!

*“What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it . . .”*

**Acts 17:24**



An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Colorado River, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries. The water is a deep red color, contrasting with the brown and tan earth. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

Jesus Christ is the *Logos* . . . the locus of God's self-disclosure  
. . . the "I am" who declares, "Let there be light."

It is through the [dynamic, powerful, and personal] *Logos*  
that God 'unveils himself.'

This *Logos* is the agent & mediator of both creation and  
redemption.

The *Logos* is Truth and brings truth, disclosed in witness and  
testimony . . . the light which illumines.





***Then Pilate said to Him, “So you are a king?”***

***Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.***

***Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”***

**John 18:37-38**

**... To bear witness – to the TRUTH!**