

**January 2014**



**January 2015**



**January 2016**



**January 2017**

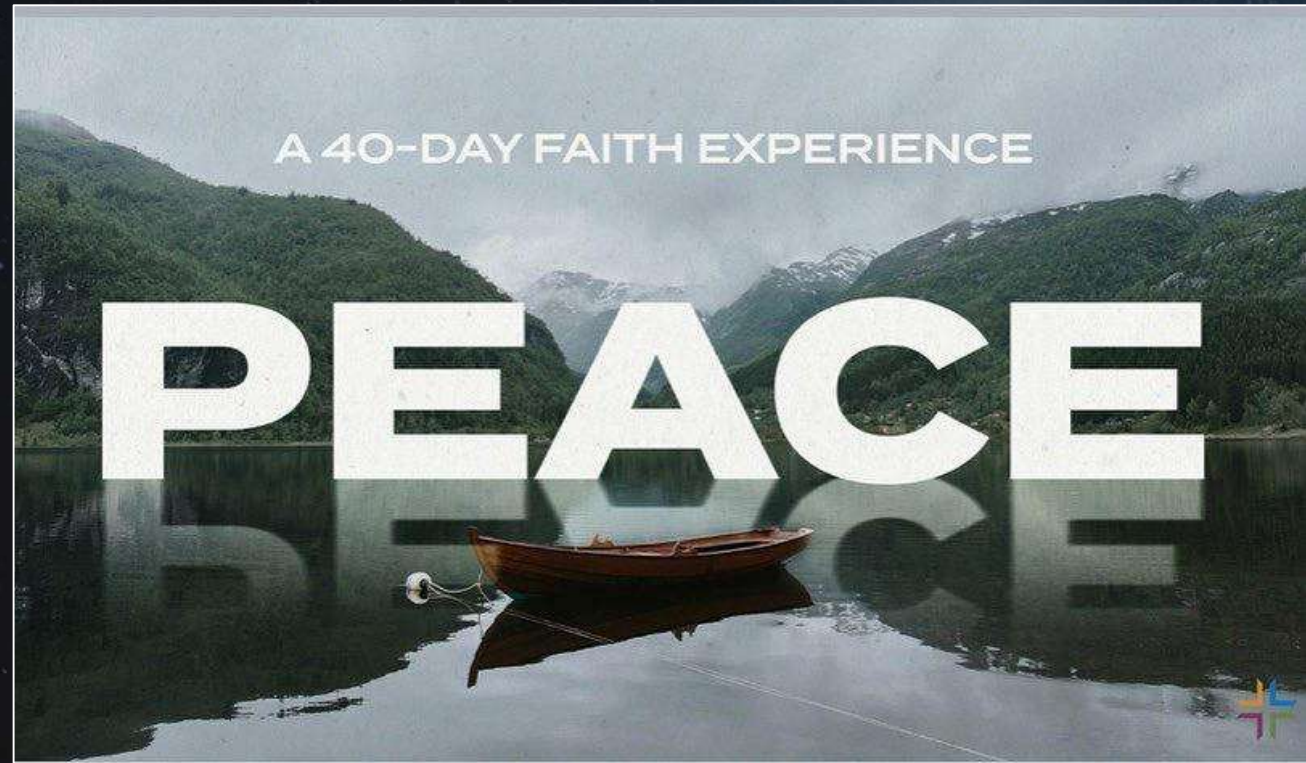


**January 2018**

**40  
Days of  
FAITH**



**January 2019**



**January 2020**





A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE

# LIGHT

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

**January 2021**

# ***Why 40 Days?***

Number “forty” + (time period) is mentioned 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial and testing, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

# ***40 Days in the Bible***

- It rained for 40 days and nights when God wanted to cleanse the world through a flood and start over. (Genesis 7:12)
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark. (Genesis 8:6)
- Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days (TWICE). (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28-29)
- Moses' face shone after 40 days on the mountain. (Exodus 34:29)





***Why do we  
need a series  
on Light?***





***What qualities of a nation  
and its citizenry are usually  
associated with Darkness?***

- Anger
- Hatred
- Racism
- Cheating
- Violence
- Dishonesty
- Conflict

***What qualities of a nation and its citizenry are usually associated with Darkness?***

- Anger
- Hatred
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- Conflict

***What qualities of a nation and its citizenry are usually associated with Light?***

- Kindness
- Truthfulness
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Trust
- Communication
- Cooperation

***That is why we need a series on Light***





**DURING THIS 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE,  
FIRST MELISSA ASKS THAT YOU WILL COMMIT TO:**

- **PRAYING AND STUDYING EVERY DAY USING THE DAILY WORKBOOK**
- **ATTENDING WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY**
- **ATTENDING A SMALL GROUP**
- **ATTENDING WEDNESDAY NIGHT 40-DAY SERVICE EACH WEEK**

A dark blue space background featuring the Earth on the right and the Moon on the left. The text is centered in white, bold, italicized font.

***Where it all begins***

***Genesis 1***



In the beginning God created the  
heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

God is not bound by time... Bereshit ("in the beginning") begins time

In the beginning **God created** the heavens  
and the earth. Genesis 1:1

בְּרֵאשִׁית **בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים** אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

Unlike men who struggle to find the meaning of life within the limits of the physical universe, we seek meaning by looking beyond material things to the Person of the Creator.

– Teacher's Commentary



# ***Who made all this?***

- Creation was the voluntary choice of a sovereign, eternal God
- Part of the meaning of mankind being created in God's image (imago dei) is that we have choice
- God created the physical realm and the spiritual realm, He is beyond all those things
- The first verse in the Bible is a fork in the road -- a path with a belief in an all-powerful God or a path of depending upon a series of cosmic accidents
- Verb "bara" (created) is used only of God in the Bible. When people create something (poem, art) another verb is used. This verb applies to creation "ex nihilo" (something from nothing).

- Genesis 1 affirms God, a Person with mind and emotion and the power of choice, who existed before the beginning. The ultimate reality is not random motion in dead, impersonal matter. The ultimate reality is a living, vital, personal Being. Life, not death, is the eternal ground of all that is.
- You and I can find no meaning in a life which has roots in the chance interplay of mindless atoms. But we can find meaning when we realize that our lives were given us by another living personality. If God exists, and God is the cause of the material world, then we can look for meaning in His purposes in creating.
- “In the beginning God created.” Here we find a special sense of comfort and joy. God did act, freely and from His own choice, to create. There is meaning to the universe, and a purpose to human life.
- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” God stands behind it all. The God of Genesis is no potter who merely shaped an already existing clay. The living God does not share His eternity with rock, or even with the billion stars that span our sky. The Source of all, the only and the ultimate reality, is God.



# ***Who made all this? Scripture says...***

- For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, the Lord God of hosts is His name. Amos 4:13
- For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the Lord, and there is none else.” Isaiah 45:18
- The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Psalm 19:1
- Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; let the Lord be glad in His works; Psalm 104:31

# ***Who made all this?***

- The material and moral world were designed by a Person, who made mankind distinct from the rest of Creation. There is no hint here of the pagan notion that objects (like the sun or moon) are “gods.” There is no hint of the modern fiction that life was generated spontaneously from nonliving matter, to gradually evolve from single cells into the complex forms we know today. Genesis sets forth a personal God as the ultimate reality. He is the root and source of all that exists.
- Everything around us has been carefully and thoughtfully designed. Creation is a mirror, placed to reflect our thoughts and our worship back to the Person whose image Creation enables us to see.
- Creation is such compelling proof of God’s existence, and such a clear reflection of His character, that any explanation of beginnings which rules God out serves only to underline human perversity.
- Today, as in the ancient world, the urge persists to find some explanation for man and the universe, but an explanation which leaves out God.

# Chapter 112. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science

## Subchapter B. Middle School

(8) Earth and space. The student knows characteristics of the universe. The student is expected to:

- (A) describe components of the universe, including stars, nebulae, and galaxies, and use models such as the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram for classification;
- (B) recognize that the Sun is a medium-sized star located in a spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy and that the Sun is many thousands of times closer to Earth than any other star;
- (C) identify how different wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum such as visible light and radio waves are used to gain information about components in the universe; and
- (D) research how scientific data are used as evidence to develop scientific theories to describe the origin of the universe.



(9) Earth and space. The student knows that natural events can impact Earth systems. The student is expected to:

- (A) describe the historical development of evidence that supports plate tectonic theory;
- (B) relate plate tectonics to the formation of crustal features; and
- (C) interpret topographic maps and satellite views to identify land and erosional features and predict how these features may be reshaped by weathering.

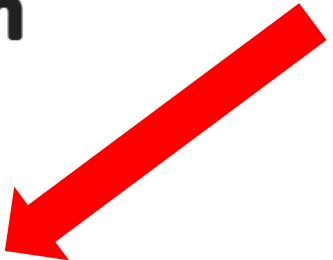


WeTeachNYC is an online space for educators developed by the New York City Department of Education.

## Origin of the universe and our solar system

Grade 9

Science



Out of the Big Bang came everything in the Universe. All of the matter that formed Earth, all of the materials that formed the stars and galaxies that light up the night sky, and all of the building blocks for everything in the Universe were once contained in a tiny singularity. Through observations of models, in this unit students will develop an understanding of evidence (cosmic background radiation and red shift) that has led scientists to their current understanding of the Universe's origin.

Is our culture  
teaching the next  
generation Light  
or Darkness?





***The Light  
shines in the  
darkness, and  
the darkness  
did not  
comprehend it.  
John 1:5***



The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Genesis 1:2

Rashi said “formless and void” could be translated as “astonishingly empty”

Hebrew תהו ובהו תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ



Then God said, “Let there be **light**”; and there was **light**. Genesis 1:3

בַּיּוֹמַר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אוֹר

First recorded words spoken by the Creator God are “Yehi Ohr” יְהִי אוֹר .

# ***Bible words for light***

Old Testament Hebrew אֹר      ohr

light, day, dawn, lamp

New Testament Greek φῶς      phos

light, fire, lamp, torch, brightness

# ***Who made all this?***

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- Verb "bara" (created) is used only of God in the Bible. When people create something (poem, art) another verb is used. This verb applies to creation "ex nihilo" (something from nothing).
- Sun and moon were created on day 4. So what is this light? God created spiritual light which counters the darkness mentioned in the previous verse. God's light allows the physical world (including man) to connect to the spiritual.



# What is Light in science?



- There has been light from the beginning. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second.
- In all its forms—visible and invisible—it saturates the universe.
- Light is light—pure, but not simple. No one is exactly sure how to describe it. A wave? A particle? Yes, the scientists say. Both.
- It is a measure of light's importance in our daily lives that we hardly pay any attention to it. Light is almost like air. It's a given. A human would no more linger over the concept of light than a fish would ponder the notion of water.
- There are exceptions, certain moments of sudden appreciation when a particular manifestation of light, a transitory glory, appears—a rainbow, a sunset, a pulse of heat lightning in a dark sky, the shimmering surface of the sea at twilight, the little red dot from a professor's laser pointer. Stained glass in a church, backlit by a bright sky. The flashlight searching for the circuit breakers after a power outage.
- Usually, though, we don't see light, we merely see *with* it. You can't appreciate the beauty of a rose if you ponder that the color red is just the brain's interpretation of a specific wavelength of light with crests that are roughly 700 nanometers apart.
- The more you look at the topic, the more you realize that our lives are built around light, that our daily existence is continuously shaped—and made vivid—by that ambiguous stuff that dates from the beginning of time. From our technology to our spirituality, we are creatures of light.

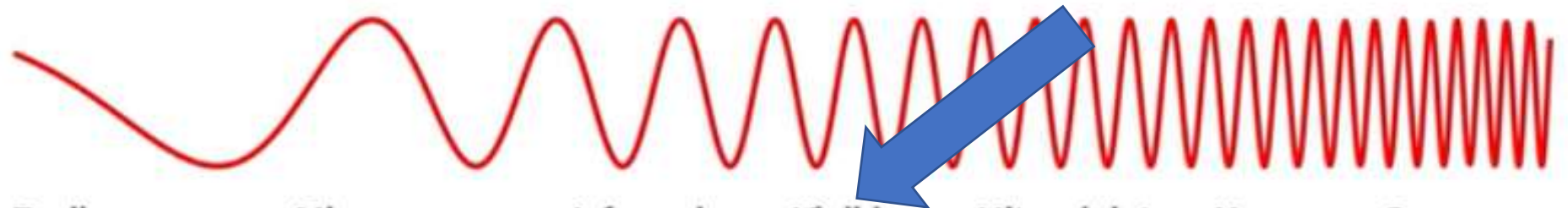
# ***What is Light in science?***



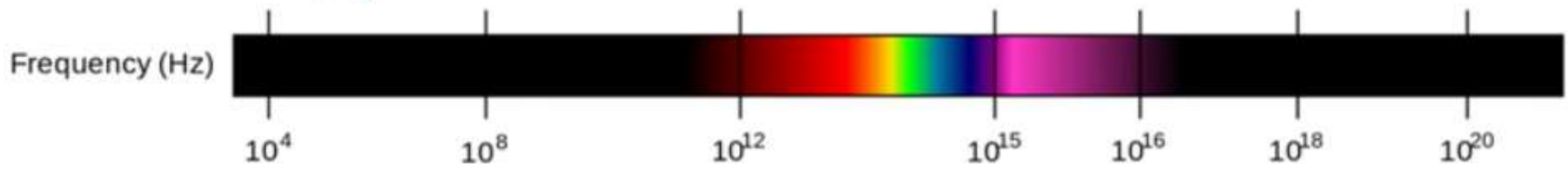
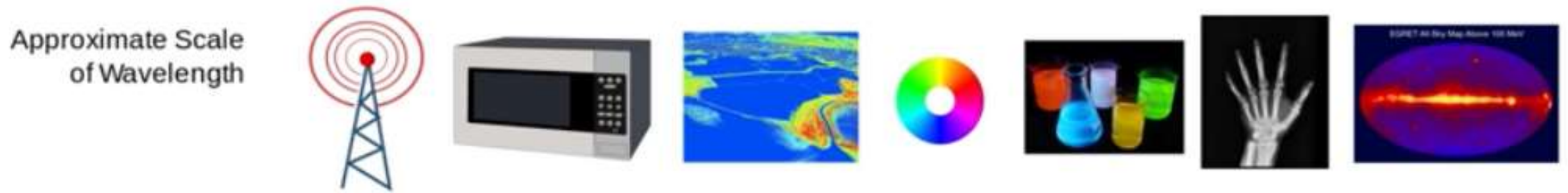
- Light is produced by changes in the energy level of electrons. Light moves through space as a wave, but when it encounters matter it behaves like a particle. It simply doesn't fit into one of our neat little categories. "Light, indeed, is different from anything else we know," writes physicist Sidney Perkowitz.
- Our eyes each have about 125 million rods and cones—specialized cells so sensitive that some can detect a mere handful of photons. "About one-fifth of your brain does nothing but try to deal with the visual world around you," says Perkowitz. The position of the eyes, semiprotected in the case of the skull close to the brain, is testament to the importance of visual data.
- The sky is blue because the molecules in the air scatter blue light more readily than they scatter red, orange, yellow, and green.
- Technology constantly advances, allowing engineers to create ever brighter beams. The general rule is that brightness has increased a hundredfold every five years.
- "You can envision a point where everyone in the world could have his own wavelength," says George Gilder. "You'd have one wavelength that connected you to the person you wanted to address in Vienna or Tokyo or Tierra del Fuego, and this wavelength could easily accommodate three dimensional images. You could have conversations in which you forget within literally seconds that the person is not present. You see a face, the images saturates your own optical capabilities." He adds, "I believe that light was made by God for communications."

# electromagnetic spectrum

wavelength decreases/frequency increases/energy increases 



Radiation Type	Radio	Microwave	Infrared	Visible	Ultraviolet	X-ray	Gamma ray
Wavelength (m)	$10^3$	$10^{-2}$	$10^{-5}$	$0.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$10^{-8}$	$10^{-10}$	$10^{-12}$





Week 1  
Where it all starts

God saw that the **light** [אור ohr] was good [טוב tov]; and God separated the **light** from the darkness [חשך choshek]. Genesis 1:4

“good” means “reached its final stage”

In our physical world, how is light good?

# ***Uses of Light today include:***

- 1. Food formation** (photosynthesis; Light is the sole source of food generation for all living organisms)
- 2. Growth of the body**
- 3. Regulation of physiology**
- 4. Vision and sight**
- 5. Temperature** (Light is a form of energy. Sunlight has huge energy by which the temperature on the earth is maintained. Due to this, life exists on earth.)
- 6. Sleep regulation** (body clock or circadian rhythm)

# ***Uses of Light today include:***

- 7. Drying and evaporation** (Sunlight helps dry the soil, forests, air and rocky surfaces due to its ability to heat up. It helps water evaporate from oceans and water ponds creating the water cycle.)
- 8. Sanitation of earth** (Sunlight helps keep nature clean)
- 9. Source of electric energy** (solar power)
- 10. For chemical analysis by spectroscopy** (analysis of compounds)
- 11. Signal system** (we use light as traffic signals, navigation signals, etc.)
- 12. Sterilization** (ultraviolet light is an excellent sterilizing agent in hospitals and stores)

As complex as **Light** is, as many possible uses of **Light** as there are... we only have **Light** because the Creator God said so.



God called the **light** day, and the darkness  
He called night. And there was evening and  
there was morning, one day. Genesis 1:5

**day yom יום**

The Hebrew word for “day” covers a variety of periods:  
the hours of daylight (Genesis 29:7), a twenty-four-hour  
day (Genesis 7:4) or an indefinite period (Genesis 35:3).

## ***If this is the beginning, what will the end look like?***

[Apostle John wrote] Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the **light** of a lamp nor the **light** of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:1-5





Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street.

Revelation 22:1-2

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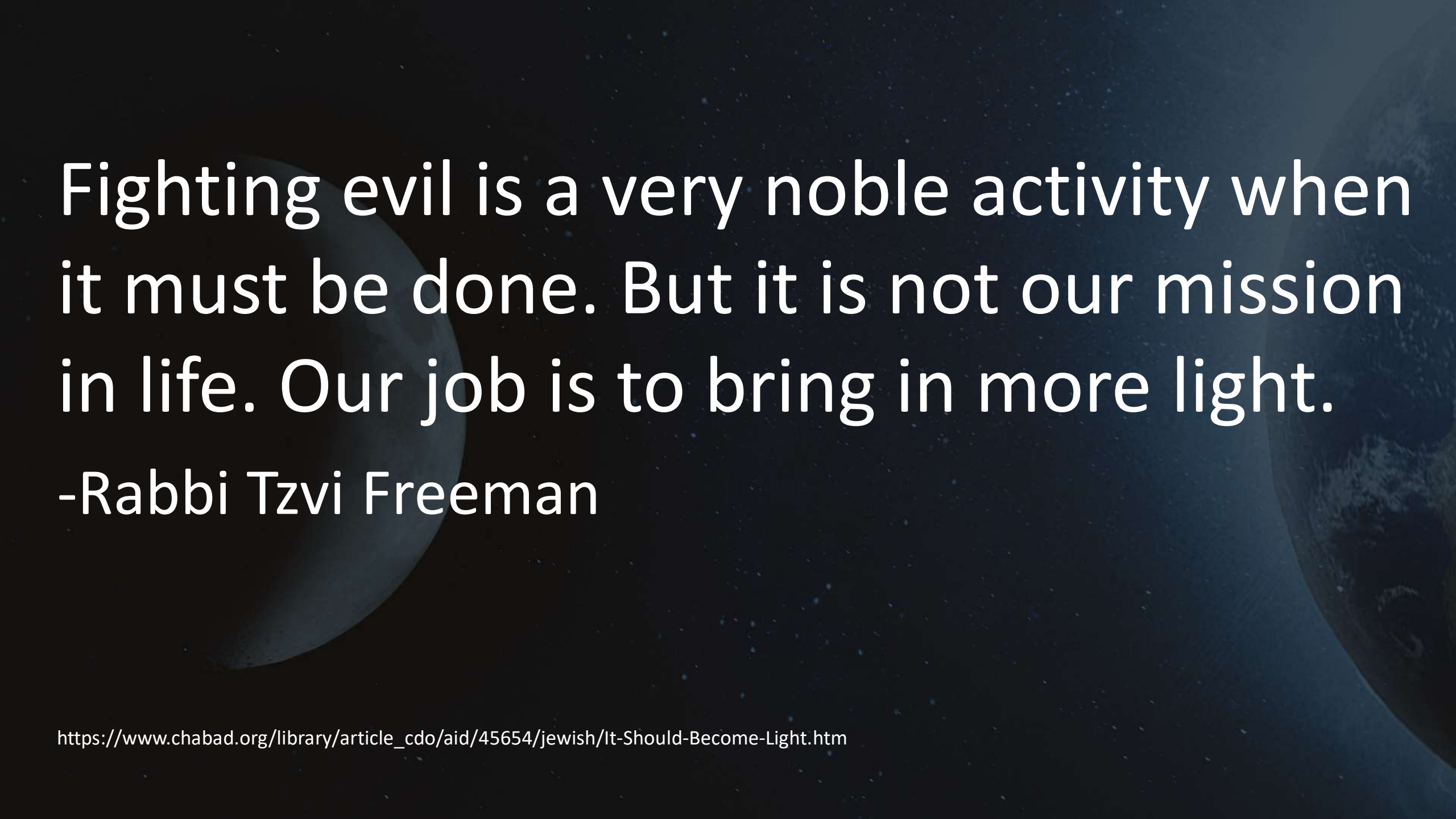




***“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”  
John 3:19***







Fighting evil is a very noble activity when it must be done. But it is not our mission in life. Our job is to bring in more light.

-Rabbi Tzvi Freeman

# ***Light... Where it all begins***

- The rest of your life's journey is determined by how you react to the beginning.
- Do you believe there is a powerful, brilliant God who started it all?
- Do you believe you are the creation of a loving Father?
- Do you believe you are simply a cosmic accident?
- How would you live if you knew that you had a purpose?
- How would you live if you knew that you were wanted by Jesus, the Creator of Light?



# In the beginning (בראשית)

In Hebrew, the Book of Genesis is titled Bereshit (first words of 1:1)

ב -BET: House (House/Tent) 𐤁

ר -RESH: First/Highest Person (Man's Head) 𐤅

א -ALEPH: Strength/God (Ox Head) 𐤀

ש -SHIN: Consume/Destroy (Teeth) 𐤍

י -YOD: Hand/Works (Arm/Hand) 𐤎

ת -TAV: Covenant/Mark (Cross) 𐤐

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"Son"



God



Destroyed



Hand



Cross



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ת -TAV: Covenant/Mark (Cross) ת

"Son"



God



Destroyed



Hand



Cross



The Son of God will  
be destroyed with His  
hands on the cross



# ***Where it all begins***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Jesus] was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:1-3

For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17