



# Genesis 1: Day 1 of Creation

**Prof. Douglas  
Petrovich**

**W. Houston Bible Church Feb. 27, 2022**

# Genesis 1

## Day 1

1.1 בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

1.1 In *the* beginning, God created the cosmos, then the earth.

1.2 וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתָה תְהוֹ וְחָשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם

וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:

1.2 Now, the earth was unformed and unfilled, and darkness *was* over the surface of the primordial deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

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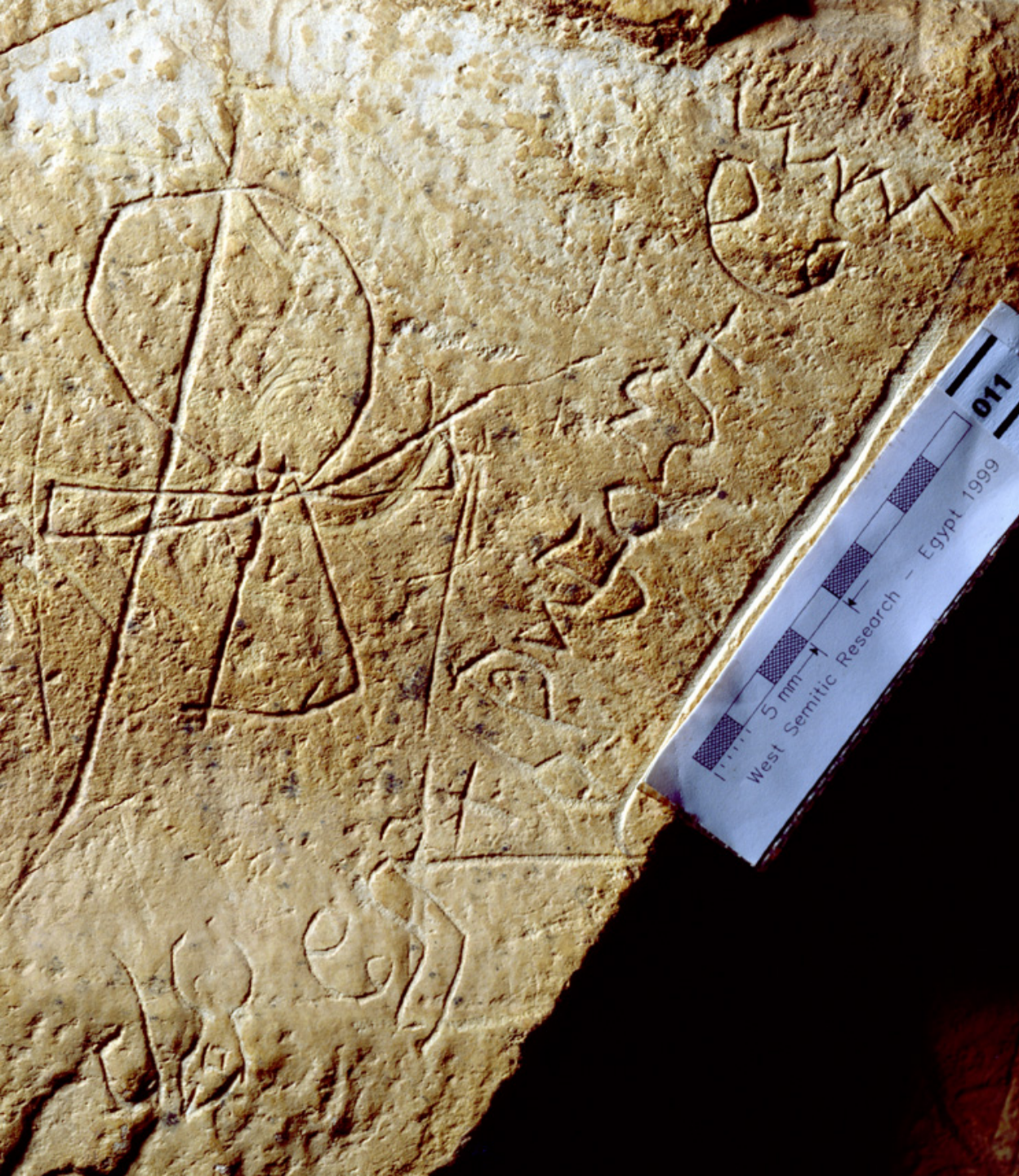
## Divine Plurality

- 1) “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image’” (Gen. 1:26)
- 2) “For by him [‘his son’] all things were created” (Col. 1:13–16)
- 3) “the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface” (Gen. 1:2)

# Wadi el-Ḥôl Inscriptions

Language: Hebrew  
Inscription: 2

(1834 BC)



**Wadi el-Hôl  
Inscription 2**

**Dynasty 12  
(ca. 1834 BC)**

*The World's  
Oldest Alpha-  
bet (2016)*

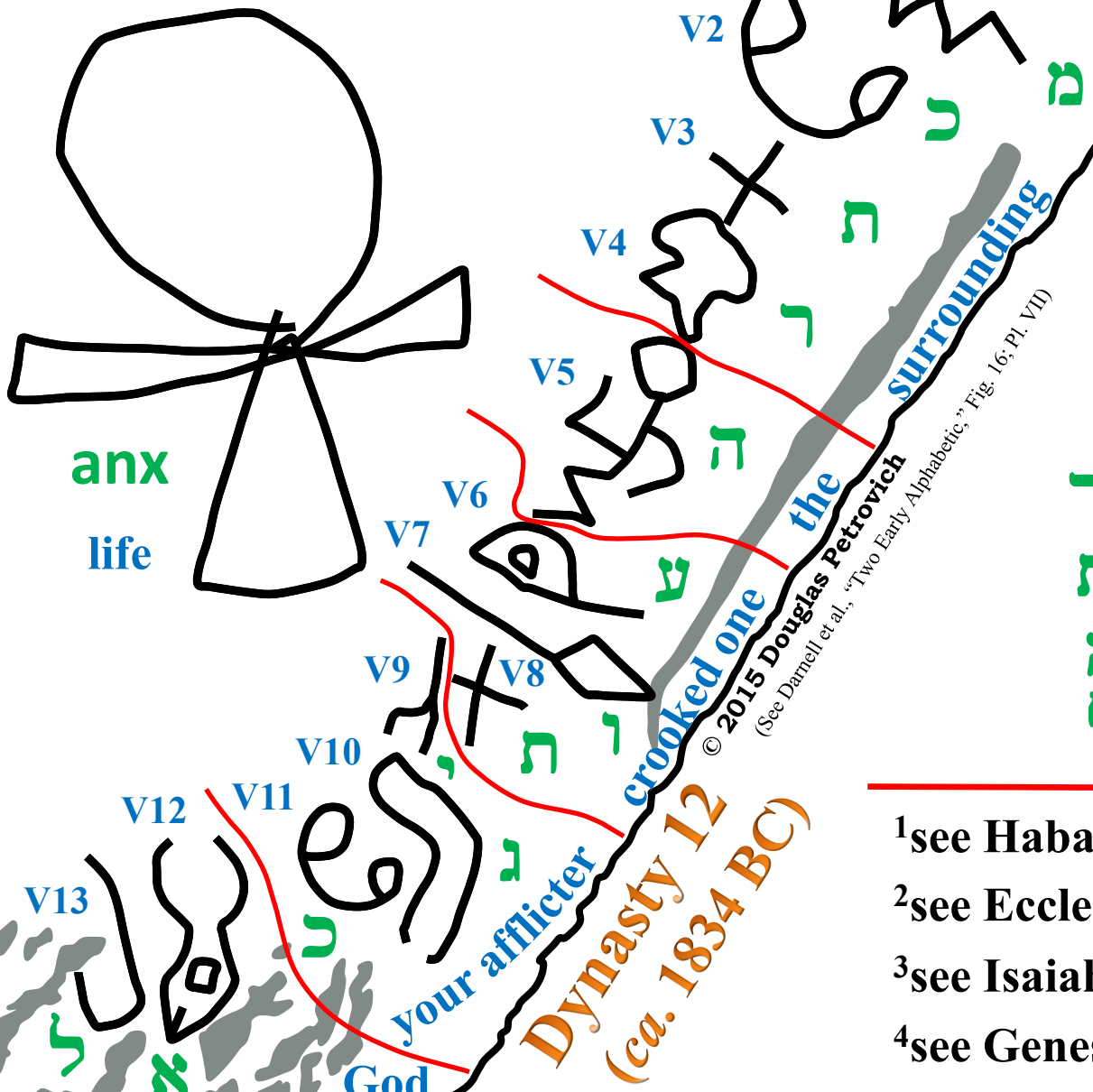
Biblical Hebrew Transcription:

מִכְתִּיר הָעוֹת  
יִגַּד אֱל

# Wadi el-Hôl Inscription 2

Petrovich Translation:

**“Surrounding the  
crooked one, your  
afflicter, is God.”**



anx  
life

- כָּתַר = surround<sup>1</sup>
- עָוֹת = be crooked, bent<sup>2</sup>
- יִגַּד = afflict, grieve<sup>3</sup>
- אֱל = God<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>see Habakkuk 1:4

<sup>2</sup>see Ecclesiastes 1:15

<sup>3</sup>see Isaiah 51:23; Lamentations 3:33

<sup>4</sup>see Genesis 14:19, 20

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(See Darnell et al., "Two Early Alphabetic," Fig. 16, Pl. VII)

# Wadi el-Hôl Inscription 2

מִכְתִּיר הַעֲוֹת יִגִּיד אֱל

**God** (is) your afflicter the crooked one Surrounding

## Judges 14:14

מֵעַז יֵצֵא מִתּוֹק

*something*  
sweet

has come

*something* From  
strong

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**בָּרָא** Does this verb necessarily imply *ex nihilo* creation?

1.27 **וַיִּבְרָא** אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְם אֱלֹהִים

1.27 So God **created** the man in his image; . . . **בָּרָא** אֶת־ךָ  
in the image of God, he created him. . . .

2.7 **וַיִּיצֶר** יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עֹפָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה

2.7 Then He-who-is, God, formed the man **from the soil**.

# Genesis 1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: 1.1

1.1 In *the* beginning, God created **the cosmos**, **then the earth**.

## MOSES ARTICULATES THE ORDER OF CREATION

Summary of creation narrative: 2.4 “These are the (hi)stories of the cosmos and the earth, **in their having been created on the day He-who-is, God**, made the earth and the cosmos.”



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וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר: 1.4 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים 1.3

1.3 Then God said, “Let there be light.” **So there was light.** 1.4 Then

Question: What was the source of this  
light of Day 1? (cf. Gen 1:14–17)

The sun (Sol)? Later-destroyed star? God?

# Genesis 1

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אֶת-הָאֹר כִּי-טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ:

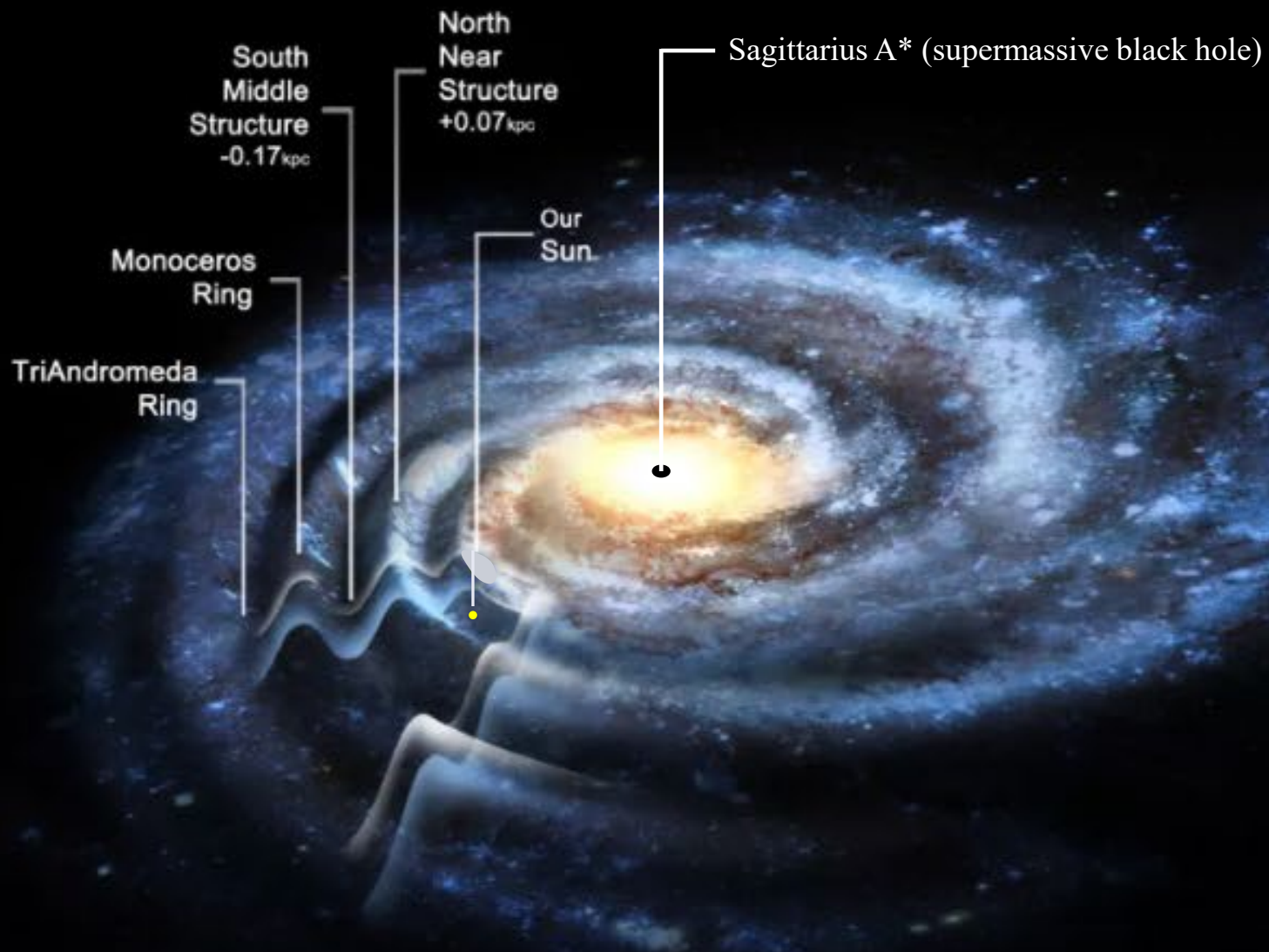
God saw the light, that *it was* good, and **God made a division between the light and the darkness.**

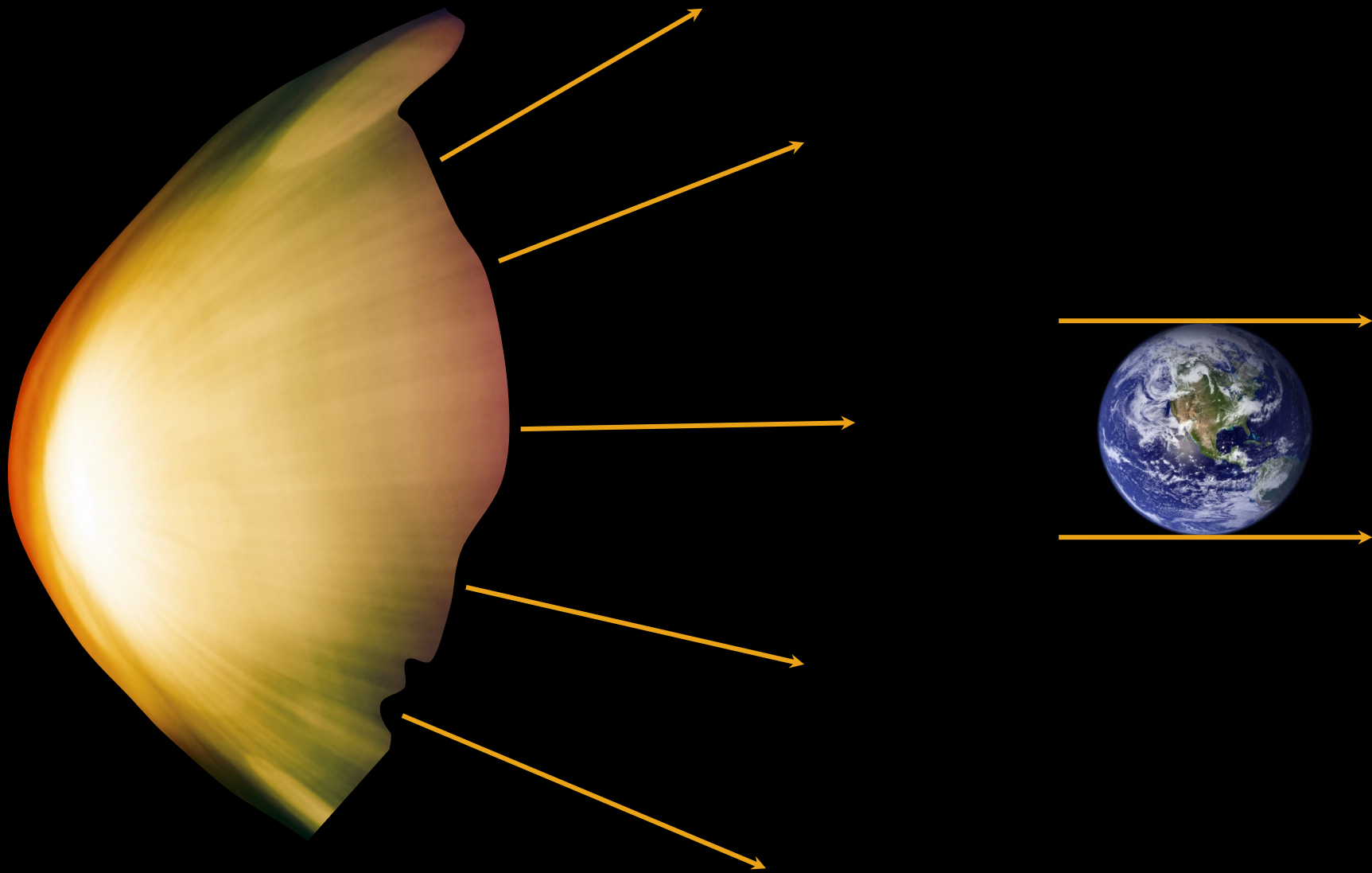
וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ לַיְלָה

וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד: פ

1.5 Then God named the light “day,” and the darkness He named “night.” So it was evening, and it was morning: one day.

# Milky Way Galaxy





# Genesis 1

## Day 1

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר: 1.4 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים

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