

CHAPTER 7

LIGHT FOR THE EARTH

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

Genesis 1:14-15

The creation of the Sun, stars, and planets was covered in the initial chapters dealing with the creation of the Universe. We then focused our attention on the planet Earth. We learned how Earth received its initial atmosphere, its water, its land, and its vegetative life. It would seem logical to describe next how animal life came to inhabit this planet.

However, before animal life could exist on the Earth, three highly important and interrelated changes had to take place:

1. Light from the Sun had to be transformed from lethal ultraviolet radiation into a beneficial source of energy.
2. Oxygen had to be made available for animals to breathe.
3. The dense clouds of noxious smog-like gases (carbon dioxide, etc.) that shrouded the Earth had to be removed to make sunlight more visible and to improve the air quality of the polluted atmosphere.

In this chapter we shall learn how these transformations occurred.

OUR ENERGIZER AND PROTECTOR

The Sun is the magnificent power plant of our Solar System. It is a giant nuclear reactor that converts hydrogen into helium by fusion and in the process releases the constant radiation energy that makes life possible on the planet Earth. This nuclear energy appears on the Earth as light.