



*The* CHRONICLES *of* NARNIA  
C. S. LEWIS

The Voyage of the  
*Dawn Treader*

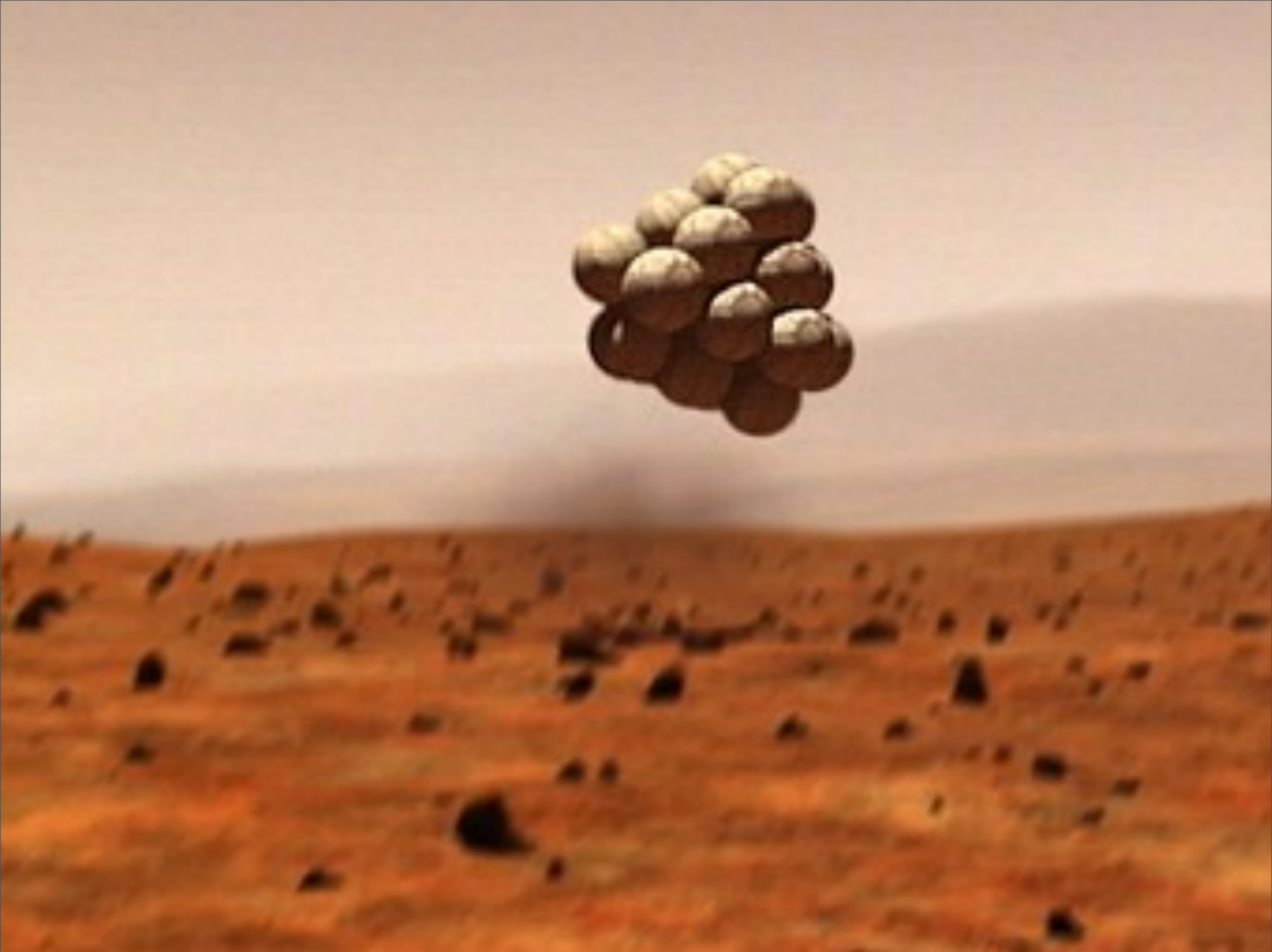












## VIII . Ontology

What is ontology?

A. Definition: What it means for something to exist

B. We view the world through a material ontology.

1. Sun, Moon & Stars — we think: planets, orbits — what they are made of, how far away they are

2. universe is a smoothly running machine

3. obeying natural laws that we generally understand

C. We inherited this way of thinking from the Greeks

Alexander the Great led the Greeks into Persia

What happened in 334 B.C.?

Definition of Ontology — and what it means to have a material ontology



What did the  
Sun, Moon & Stars  
mean to ANE?

What ontology did  
ANE people have?

D. What about the Ancient Israelites?

When they looked at the Sun, Moon &  
Stars what did they think?

- before the Greeks
- didn't think of them as something  
that could be touched - or  
smashed

- TIME

SUN = days

MOON = months

STARS = seasons & years

Gen 1:14

- they weren't concerned with what  
the Sun, Moon & Stars were made of,  
but with what they do, and  
WHO makes them do it.

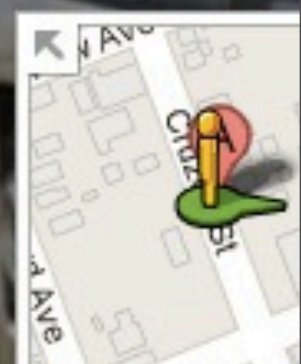
E. They had a Functional ontology

- Who is in charge?
- How does it work?
- Order, organization & functions
- ANE things treated as non-existent:
  - deserts
  - oceans

- Pre-creation condition:

- NOT no materials
- BUT no functions

ANE Functional Ontology



F. Modern example: A business

Is a business the building? or  
is it the people and what they  
do to serve customers?

G. The main concerns an ANE  
audience wanted to understand  
were:

1. Time
2. Weather
3. Food
4. My Place In It



# Genesis 8:22

“As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat,  
summer and winter,  
day and night  
will never cease.”

## IX. Gen 1

A. Question for Gen 1:5: Why didn't God call the light "light"?

- it's a period of light

B. On Day One, God created Time

C. Day Two: Weather

D. Day Three: Food

E. Another example in Gen 8:22

F. What about the other days?

4: Commissioning the things  
5: that operate in the realms  
6: created on days 1-3

G. Bara  $\equiv$  Hebrew word for "create"

1. God is always the Subject
2. objects?

clean heart, nation of Israel,  
wonders, north & south, praise,  
wind, etc.

What did God create on the first 3 days?

What is the Hebrew word for "create"?

Evidence for a functional ontology

What is Gen 1 about?

Does the Bible deal with material origins?

H. Asa  $\equiv$  to make  $\Rightarrow$  material  
to do  $\Rightarrow$  functional

I. Gen 1 is an account of functional origins, not material origins

J. The Bible does talk about material origins...

1. John 1
2. Col 1

- both are written in Greek  
- so it's after the Greek influence  
↳ material ontology

K. Another O.T. creation account

Psalm 104: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament accounts of material origins, and another O.T. example of a functional creation perspective.

