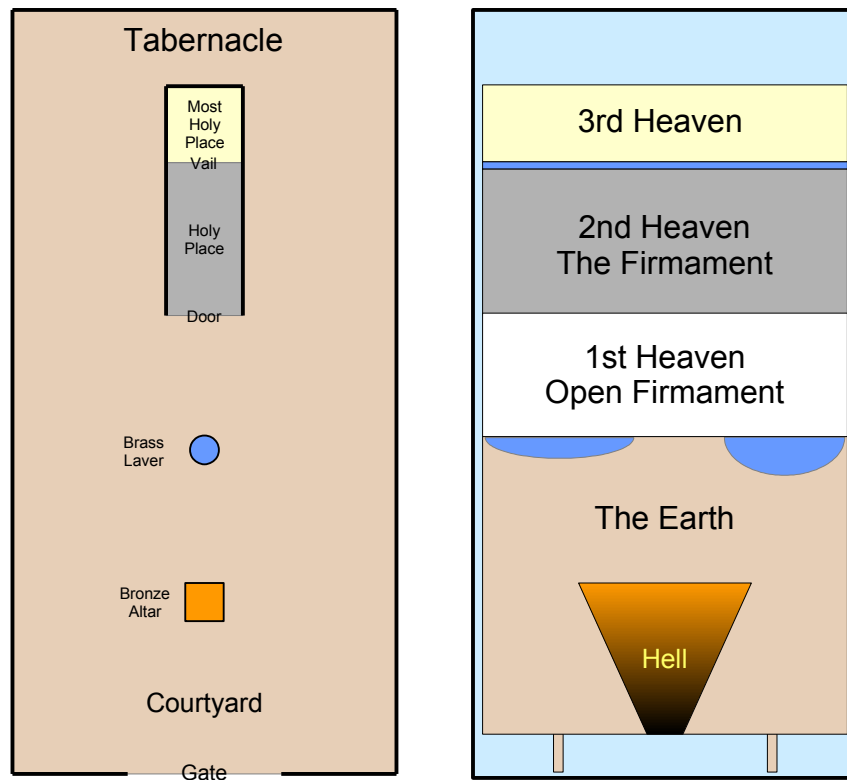


The Biblical Creation

Tom Wilson



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Preface

I will briefly give some background as to how this book came to be and how it is organized. Then, there are some suggestions as to how to get the most out of this book and how to improve it. Finally, I wanted to acknowledge those who have helped me in some way (most of whom I do not know).

Book Origin

Around 2017, I knew a lot less about the bible, particularly concerning what it said about the creation. I was doing the dumb things that people still do today: I was reading other books that are not truth (e.g., the *Book of Enoch*) rather than the bible itself. I recommend that you do not waste your time on such things.

I was also listening to Rob Skiba, who discussed similar materials that I was reading. He said that he heard that the earth was flat. I thought this was absurd, but I checked out his video. The video was about a photograph that Joshua Nowicki took across Lake Michigan. The conclusion was that if the earth were round, then no one should be able to see the buildings of Chicago. This got my attention. Couple that with the fact that we should know we are not on a ball that is spinning! I don't feel it.

Well, after two years of research, I had developed a bible study series on the biblical creation. I had quite a few things wrong though, particularly since I did not fully understand right division. I recorded the first sessions of the study series, but stopped since I felt I needed to better organize the creation verses.

Perhaps a couple of years later, I heard Richard Jordan reference that the creation was structured like the tabernacle. I found other teachings that he did that had small nuggets related to it, but I did not agree with his round earth assumptions (since he never proved it with scripture). Unfortunately, he is a teacher of the gap theory which introduced other problems. Don't misunderstand: he has many, many things correct. I comment as a student, not a judge.

I also found the book *Creation: In the Beginning* by Gary Paul Miller. He essentially echoed what Richard Jordan was teaching, but had it all organized in one book. To me, the picture on the front of the book tells it all (see Appendix F for more information).

I was able to reorganize the material that I already had, but with the tabernacle as a template. I learned so much more now that this door had been opened. I also stumbled across some key teachings by David Reid. First, he set me straight on the gap theory. That caused quite a bit of re-work. I was in the middle of recording my "Angels" study series when that happened. Some rework had to be done there too. Secondly, he helped me understand when angels were created and that the sand was a bound for the sea.

So, the video series got completed and recorded about 3 years after the first 3 sessions were. I decided to keep those first 3 sessions since they were still useful as they were. I had also completed and recorded the Angels series a few months earlier. Phew!

Then a live bible study series was done using the slides from the established study series. I was hoping for more interaction, but I feel this topic is just too advanced for most people. If you are not digging into the scriptures yourself, just hearing me read them is not going to make it clear. When scriptures are scattered, it requires a lot of reading and re-reading, finding cross references, and studying what words mean.

But, while that live series was going on, I began to move all of the material into a book. I don't think the book is necessarily any more clear, but it has facilities in it to help the reader study.

Book Organization

This book is structured similarly to the video study from which it is derived. This may be found at <https://thechurchoforlando.org> in the *Advanced Studies* area. The video study sessions are:

1. Exposing the False Cosmology
2. The Modern Mythology
3. The Flat Earth Model
4. Eternity
5. An Overview of the Creation
6. The First Day
7. The Second Day
8. The Third Day
9. The Fourth Day
10. The Completed Creation
11. Hell
12. The Mazzaroth
13. Miracles in the Creation
14. Stability and Government
15. The Second Coming
16. Summary and Who's Where

The book follows the same structure, except that "The Mazzaroth" has been moved to the appendices and reduced in content since it teaches material out of a copyrighted book. Discussions of alternative cosmologies have been moved to an appendix.

The main matter has been divided into four parts. This was simply to give the table of contents better structure. Since it is not known when hell was created, it was placed with the creation week chapters.

Most of the material in this book consists of quoted verses. Frequently, I will not comment on the verses. I would prefer that the verses speak for themselves. I will explain what I feel I can explain. I would rather not try to explain what I cannot, but, if I speculate, I will make it clear when I do. Sometimes, there are many verses saying the same thing. This is done in order to provide contrast with a verse that only speaks once. Bad doctrines are often built upon a lone verse.

To make the book more useful as a study tool, an index was created for the referenced verses. Because of the tools already in place, this was so simple. Similarly, a list of figures is provided that helps the reader find places in the book that he will remember more clearly than a chapter or section title.

How to Get the Most out of This Book

You can certainly print this book if you would like, but you will get the most out of it by using a good PDF reader and learning how to use it. The book contains many hyperlinks to navigate it. Examples are the table of contents and list of figures, chapter and figure references, and the page references in the bible verse index.

A good reader will allow you to navigate the table of contents as a sidebar. You can also create bookmarks and display those bookmarks in the sidebar. You can also highlight text and insert comments. These too can be displayed in the sidebar. Maybe your reader will have more facilities.

Having a good on-line bible will also aid you when you study using this book. That should have a concordance and you should go to the trouble to learn how to use it. Beware of commentaries! It is unlikely that anyone is teaching what you are reading here. You get to decide what you believe—whether it is right or wrong.

How to Improve This Book

You should have gotten this book for free with no expectation of giving anything in return. But you can give back to it by suggesting improvements.

I am interested in the following:

- Correction of simple typographical or spelling errors
- Suggestions for improved explanations (including explaining something that I didn't explain at all)
- Correcting misapplied verses or suggesting newly applied verses. Either is quite possible
- Better drawings for the drawings that I did. I would really appreciate a good sketch artist
- Asking questions that prompt me to add explanation

I am **not** interested in the following:

- Corrections following outdated publishing guidelines (like putting a period inside the quotes)
- Your belief that other bibles are ok
- Your disbelief that the *King James Bible* is God's word in English (including suggestions about correcting it)
- Your disagreement with right division
- Your belief that the earth is round. You would have to prove that with scripture and I already know that you cannot. A circle is not a sphere
- Your belief that astronomy is a valid science

I do not know everything, and I make plenty of mistakes. How you present yourself will go along way toward not wasting your time when suggesting improvements.

You can submit feedback by first contacting me through the “Contact” link at <https://thechurchoforlando.org>. A reply will then ask you for your comments. Similarly, if you have clarifying questions, I might end up supplementing the book as a result.

Acknowledgments

I already mentioned Rob Skiba, Joshua Nowicki, Richard Jordan, Gary Paul Miller, and David Reid in the section about the book origin. They do not even know that they have helped me. Of course, there are numerous people who have taken or collected photographs and scattered them on the Internet to be found.

I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to something open source or otherwise free. Such tools have been instrumental in developing the video materials and this book. More specifically, I would like to thank everyone involved with

1. Linux, in general,
2. \LaTeX and its packages, Macintosh ports/tools (Mac \TeX , TeXShop, TeX Live), and the \TeX Users Group,
3. \LaTeX Beamer in particular, and
4. the \LaTeX discussion forums, where many of my problems were already solved.
5. Apache OpenOffice Draw

We all benefit from a more robust version of this book.

I thank God for his written word. And, the translators of the *King James Bible*. They've done all the work for us!

I also applaud all who are open to listen and slow to dismiss what they don't already believe. I know I don't have everything right, but a lot of it is.



Introduction

This book intends to help you understand the structure of God's creation. The unbeliever is unlikely to accept what the bible teaches since the things of God are foolishness to those who don't believe (1 Corinthians 2:14). For the immature Christian, it isn't much different. While he is open to scripture, he will almost always try to marry the scripture with what the world teaches.

If you are a believer, you should stop now and pray about what you are about to read. The book itself is a work of a man, but it has a multitude of verses from the word of God. There is power in God's word. But it also easy to abuse God's word.

As you read the scriptures in this book, you will have questions about what you are reading because the context is limited. This should drive you to open your bible and read the larger context. This might further drive you to search for words and look at cross references. This is how you mature as a Christian.

The creation is an advanced topic since the material is scattered throughout the bible.

If you are a student of astronomy or consider it a hobby (as I once did), you will have a very hard time dealing with just how strongly you embraced the lie. For me, there were so many things that were hard to believe, and I typically told myself that they must be true, and I just went with the flow. Then, to learn the truth and be able to turn loose of all of that confusion felt so good!

This book begins with paying attention to the cosmology that you are being taught and what is wrong with it. If you are open to the fact that you are being lied to, you will begin to see the flaws. Then, you'll also want to know what the alternative is. But, that comes with mocking and ridicule.

Next, we'll turn to scripture and see that God has a purpose. God wants to make a creation and dwell in it. The bible not only tells us about that, but how God structured the creation. We don't have to turn to external sources to understand the creation. In fact, doing that hinders us from receiving the truth.

This book helps you assemble the story of the creation. The creation account in Genesis 1 is insufficient to understand how the creation is structured. Rather, it is an outline to work from.

This book is not packed with commentary. Rather, it is packed with quotes from scripture. This will be annoying to the immature Christian since I am not telling you what all the verses mean. If I do that, I'll teach you the same errors that are in my thinking. There are some comments, but I've tried to keep it from being a book about the bible by trying to put into it a lot of the relevant parts of the bible.

Let's get going!



Dedication

To Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, without whom nothing would be possible

Colossians 1:16—For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him

To Dahlia, my wife and my helper in all things

Genesis 2:18—And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

To all the members of the body of Christ

2 Corinthians 13:11—Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Part I

Destroying the Bad Foundation

1 Exposing the False Cosmology	2
2 The Modern Mythology	11
3 The Flat Earth Model	23

The first three sessions of the original video study series targeted some topics using many pictures and a few videos from the Internet. But only a few scriptures were presented. The objective of the first session was to demonstrate that you can prove that the earth is not a globe without even using the bible. The objective of the second session was to demonstrate the lies that exist when teaching the current cosmology. The objective of the third session was to show what people teach who know the earth isn't a globe, but don't believe in the bible. The videos that were embedded in the studies are not represented in this book at all. Unfortunately, some of them were quite useful.

So, this part focuses on destroying the bad foundation that most Christians have. Little scripture is used since scripture can be misused to teach many things, and there are many Christians who would swear that the bible teaches a globe earth. However, scripture will be the focus for the other parts.

Exposing the False Cosmology

We will look at how you can tell that what the world is teaching you about the earth is false. While you can expose the lie, you won't fully know the truth. You will need the bible to know that.

1.1 Seeing Beyond the Curve

If the earth is curved, there is a limit to how far you can see before objects are not visible due to the curve. Our inability to see very far is the typical unscientific "proof" that the earth is curved. But this is simply perspective.

Figure 1.1 shows some distance data that shows how much curve there should be at certain distances from the viewer. Obviously, the curve is subtle at small distances. At great distances, the curve should be enormous. People don't understand that there should be notable curve at distances beyond the range of our eye sight. But not out of the range of cameras, binoculars, and telescopes. The lie requires our ignorance and laziness to be believed.

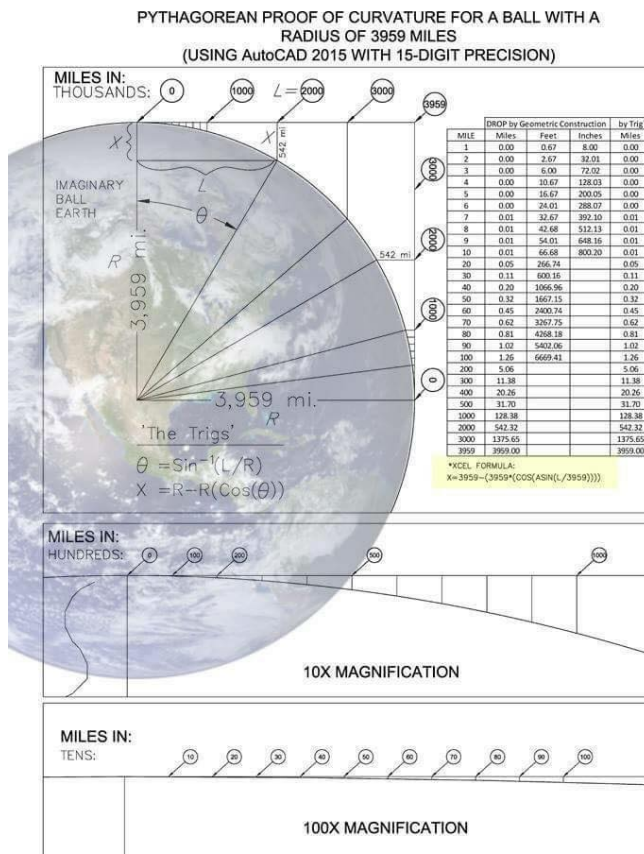


Figure 1.1: This figure shows the "science" related to the curve of the round earth. The same "science" that describes the curve of the earth can be used to disprove it: When you can see further than you're supposed to, then it is not curved!

So, if the earth is curved, should we see what Figure 1.2 shows? A picture of Chicago was taken across Lake Michigan from 56 miles away. The tallest building is 1451 feet tall. The buildings should be 1873 feet below the horizon according to the “curve” math. But, the picture is showing not just some, but all of the buildings.



Figure 1.2: Assuming that this photo is real, it demonstrates that the earth is not curved. Given the distance to Chicago, none of the buildings are tall enough to be seen if the earth is curved. This is an observation that almost anyone can make, given a cooperative climate.

The “scientific” explanation is that refraction bends the light rays such that an observer can see around the curve of the earth. Are you believing that? There can be some refraction, but it cannot be this drastic. When you have the starting point of “the earth is curved”, then, of course, this explanation makes sense. If you are more objective and open-minded, you will question what you have been told. If you are open to the earth not being curved, then the picture makes perfect sense. If you look on another day, you might not see the buildings. The skeptic says: “See! It was refraction!”. Shortly, we will explain why the buildings might not be seen every time.

But why might you be closed-minded? Did you grow up seeing what is in Figure 1.3 and never questioned anything?



Figure 1.3: This picture demonstrates the indoctrination that occurs early with children. Most schools will have a globe or other visual aid that teaches the children the lie when they are young. Of course, this is made worse today by television and the Internet.

1.2 Fundamentals of Observations

We will give some very simple statements about our vision and observations. Our eyes give us a pair of 2D images that our brains enhance into a 3D environment. The pair of 2D images gives us some amount of depth

because the two images come from two (very close) perspectives. This is a stereoscopic image. Our brains do a lot of work to make the 2D image mean more, and we should God the credit. We have a large library of information about what things look like and that information adjusts what we think we observe. Other aspects add depth (the 3rd dimension): motion, shadows, shading, and relative size.

A few things can make seeing something difficult: (1) Unfamiliarity with what we are looking at, (2) lack of resolution due to large distances, (3) lack of 3D cues (motion, shading/shadows), and (4) atmospheric effects.

Besides pictures, there is video. This is a series of pictures which introduces the many aspects that contribute to the 3rd dimension since we will note change from picture to picture. A 3D movie can enhance that depth. As with pictures, video can be modified so that they are no longer real.

Lenses can be used to enable a camera or telescope to see further than the lenses of our eyes can see. A lens has a few key attributes. These are illustrated in Figure 1.4. The focal length is the distance from the lens to the point of focus. The *field of view* (FOV) is the area that can be seen by the lens. Magnification increases the focal length while decreasing the FOV.

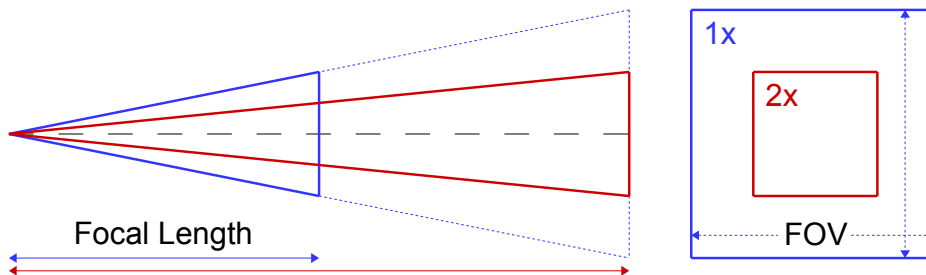


Figure 1.4: This drawing shows the relationship between focal length and the FOV. As the focal length increases, the FOV decreases.

A *fish-eye lens* has a large FOV resulting in the curvature of straight lines, particularly away from the center of the image. A fish-eye lens is often used to show the curvature of the earth. Figure 1.5 shows how this lens works.



(a) The Fish-eye Lens Deception

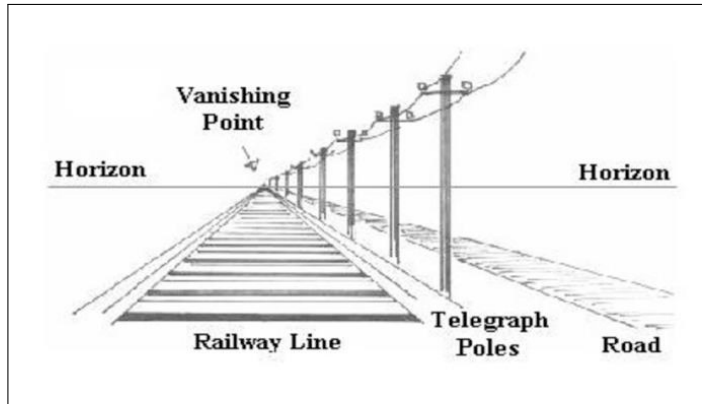


(b) Fish-eye Lens View of Florida

Figure 1.5: Fish-eye lenses have a purpose, but are often misused to deceive the viewers. (a) This is a hilarious, self-condemning picture that typifies the lying going on. The top portion of the picture is suppose to indoctrinate you into the curved-earth lie using a fish-eye lens. However, a similar image was taken when the camera was near the ground. Wow! The earth is really curved less than a mile away. (b) Yet another fish-eye lens photo. Florida looks enormous. There could be other photo editing or filtering going on too. It is hard to establish truth when pictures with modifications are used.

Our brains are often dulled such that we do not spot the error in what we are seeing. We blindly trust the source and blindly accept the lie. Nonetheless, identifying the use of such a lens is often pretty easy.

The vanishing point occurs at the focal point when the focal length is exceeded. All lines of depth converge at the vanishing point. Essentially, no detail can be discerned beyond the vanishing point due to the limitations of the lens. A higher-powered lens has a vanishing point that is further away. Figure 1.6 illustrates the concept of the vanishing point.



(a) Drawing



(b) Photograph

Figure 1.6: The vanishing point is a phenomenon where distant objects disappear into the horizon. A tall object will get smaller and move towards a point in the center of the observation. (a) This drawing illustrates the vanishing point. Here, the railroad tracks and telephone wires and poles move toward the vanishing point. (b) This photograph shows where the road becomes smaller as it gets further away. Notice the telephone poles to the left also move toward the vanishing point, but it is hard to see them converge with the road. You can increase magnification to see further, but a vanishing point will still exist.

When we see something, there are rays of light traveling between the object and our eyes. Typically, we are looking through the air. We could also look through glass or water. The medium that the light travels through (i.e., the air, water, glass) affects the path of the rays. As the rays pass from one medium to the other, there is refraction. Figure 1.7 illustrates refraction through different media.

Now, the atmosphere isn't just "air". It can contain different gases, but also moisture. This moisture tends to cause occlusion rather than refraction and blocks out what we see. The further we try to look, the more moisture will be in the way. Moisture comes through fog, clouds, rain, snow, and hail. Other particles, such as dust, can cause a haze, which has the same effect. Over land, many other obstacles can prevent seeing a large distance.

When you look across a large lake, you cannot see very far due to the limitations of your eye (not the curve of the earth). When you get a camera with a high-powered lens, you can see much further. When you look over a very large distance, atmospheric effects can be an issue. There are reasons why you cannot see something far away, even over a flat surface.



Figure 1.7: This photograph demonstrates the effect of refraction. The direction of light rays is affected by the medium in which the light travels. Water refracts differently than air. One conclusion to draw is that the moisture in the air can affect what we see.

1.3 Observations

We will define three categories of observations: (1) personal, (2) reproducible, and (3) specialized. A *personal* observation is one that almost everyone can make. No special equipment is necessary to make it. An example would be looking at the moon. A *reproducible* observation is one that a large, diverse group can make. Readily-available equipment is necessary to make it. An example would be looking at the sun through a special camera

filter. A *specialized* observation is one that hardly anyone can make. Personally-unaffordable special equipment is necessary. An example would be looking at a star from a private observatory. We have to trust the sources of specialized observations because we cannot confirm them for ourselves.

If we consider the picture in Figure 1.2, we can say that the evidence presented is not personally observable by just anyone, but it is reproducible by many. There is an image which could have been altered. The fact that many can make the observation will discourage someone from doing any editing since that would be easily exposed.

The session in the video study series had an embedded video that showed how zooming a video camera would bring objects far away into view. Next, we will look at some thoroughly documented observations and some others that are not so well documented.

Some Documented Observations

Samuel Rowbotham carried out some line-of-sight experiments at the Old Bedford Level. It is a canal with a 6-mile straight section. Figure 1.8 gives some drawings that the research produced (there were more than those shown). In each case, there was an expected observation that assumed the earth was round, and an actual observation that confirmed that it was not. These documented observations can be repeated by numerous people. The fact that “science” ignores this knowledge shows you that there is something behind the lying.

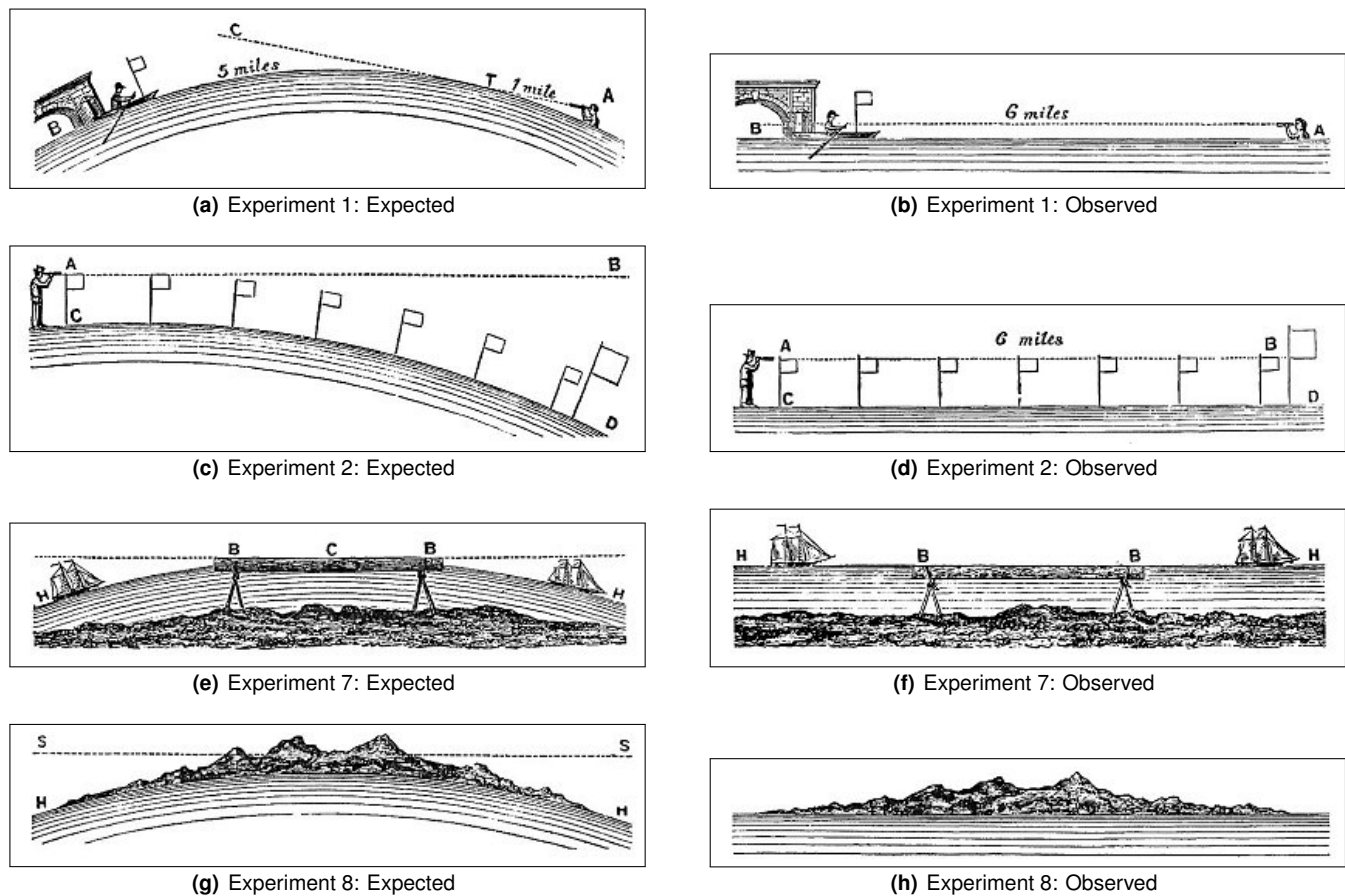


Figure 1.8: Samuel Rowbotham's experiments at the Old Bedford Level were a series of experiments which will confirm the shape of the earth. Some of the experiments are shown here. For each there is an expected result for a globe earth and the actually observed result that confirmed the flat earth. Drawings (a) and (b) show experiment 1, where a boat with a flag rowed down a 6-mile stretch. Drawings (c) and (d) show experiment 2, where a series of flags were positioned on the 6-mile stretch. Drawings (e) and (f) show experiment 7, where there is an observation of the movement of a sailboat using a long board for comparison. Drawings (g) and (h) show experiment 8, where there is an observation of the Isle of Wight, which is 22 miles wide.

Other Observations

There are also bad presentations of evidence. These result in mocking and rejection. Figure 1.9 shows an example of bad presentation. It is just too difficult to reach the conclusions that the presenter is reaching. A video might be much more helpful. Nonetheless, if the location is documented, others can easily confirm the observation.



Figure 1.9: Unfortunately, there is a lot of sloppy evidence given to support a flat earth. While the example is a good one, the argument is poor. Highlighting “No Curvature” perhaps a few hundred feet away is useless (how far is it?). The high vantage point doesn’t necessarily illustrate flatness. Too many questions arise that are not answered. This may be a good opportunity to demonstrate the facts, but the method taken will not convince many. Perhaps there was other information captured external to the picture.

Figure 1.10 provides another example that is interesting, but will not convince many. In this case of the photograph in Figure 1.10(a), the photographer is in Genoa, Italy, and is looking across the Mediterranean Sea. Although difficult to see, four islands can be made out (it helps to zoom the image). But what are they? Someone has added labels, but a little research will show that an error has been made.

Figure 1.10(b) has been obtained from Google Maps. We highlight right away that this is not a source of truth, but probably contains some useful information. The first thing to note is that the order of the labeled islands in the photograph is incorrect. Assuming that is just a placement error, we can turn to determining how far away each island is. Google maps allows you to measure distances. Assuming that these measurements are reasonably accurate, the distances are: Gorgona - 81 miles, Corsica - 99 miles, Capraia - 102 miles, and Elba - 125 miles. These are tremendous distances over which to see something.

For someone with resources, you could make the observation and then ride in a boat to one of the islands to confirm what you think you saw. This is something that “scientists” should do.

Another pair of observations is in Figure 1.11. Again, we could use more information. Figure 1.11(a) doesn’t tell you anything at all. Figure 1.11(b) provides more information, including a general idea of where the viewer was located. Of course, pictures like this don’t work because they require the audience to think about what they see and the implications.

The final example presented here is really a poster rather than a photograph. Figure 1.12 presents the evidence. Figure 1.12(a) is the poster-like photograph of the antarctic ice wall. It is the information on it that is the evidence. The text refers to a government document. The cover of that document is shown in Figure 1.12(b). That document can be found on the Internet, and the quotation found within. The point of the poster is that the government, which tells us that the earth is round, says that they can see further than the curve allows.

1.4 What Does the Bible Say?

Some try to argue that flatness of the earth from some scriptures. These arguments are generally not effective because they are easy to dismiss by a skeptic. The first example is a vision in *Daniel*:

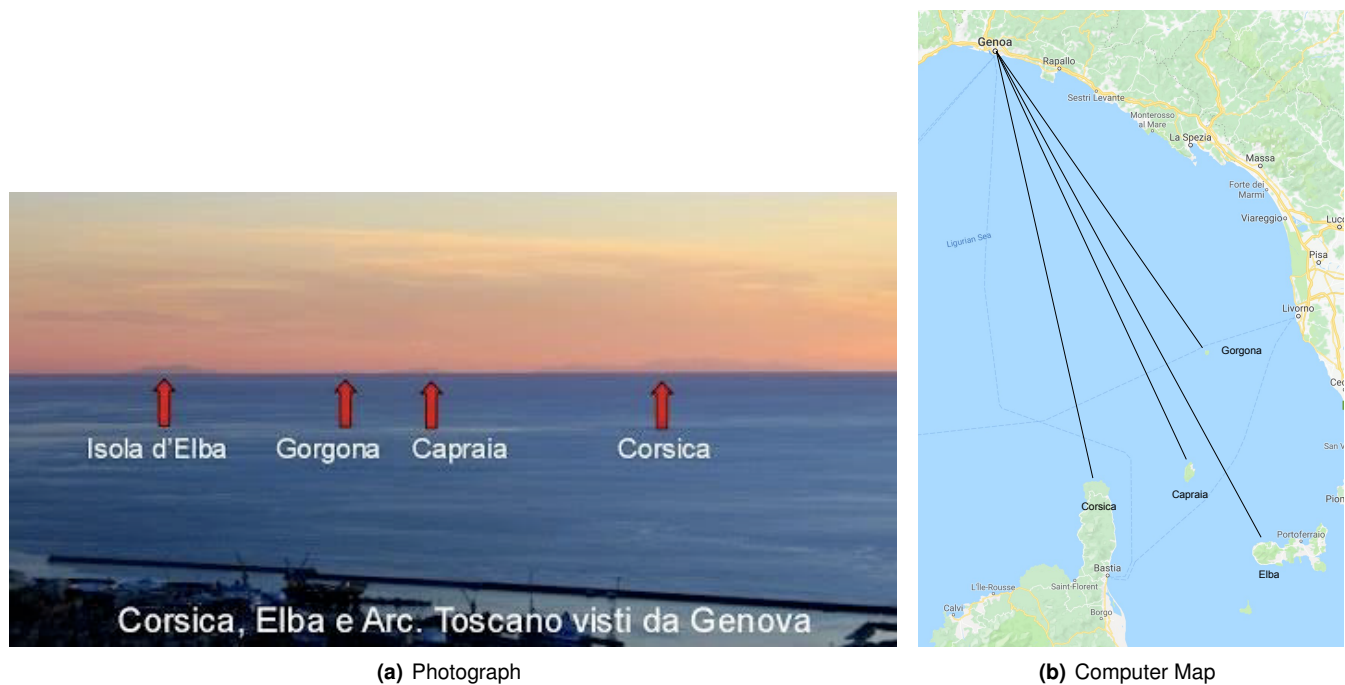


Figure 1.10: Here is another attempt to prove the earth is flat, but it is difficult to convince anyone with it. **(a)** The photograph shows four islands in the Mediterranean Sea. These are very distant from Genoa and are very difficult to make out in the photograph (zooming the original helps). **(b)** The map shows the locations using Google Maps. One problem with the photograph is that two of the islands appear to be reversed in the labeling (that doesn't help). If this is a valid photograph and the error is as explained, then this is excellent evidence that the earth is flat.

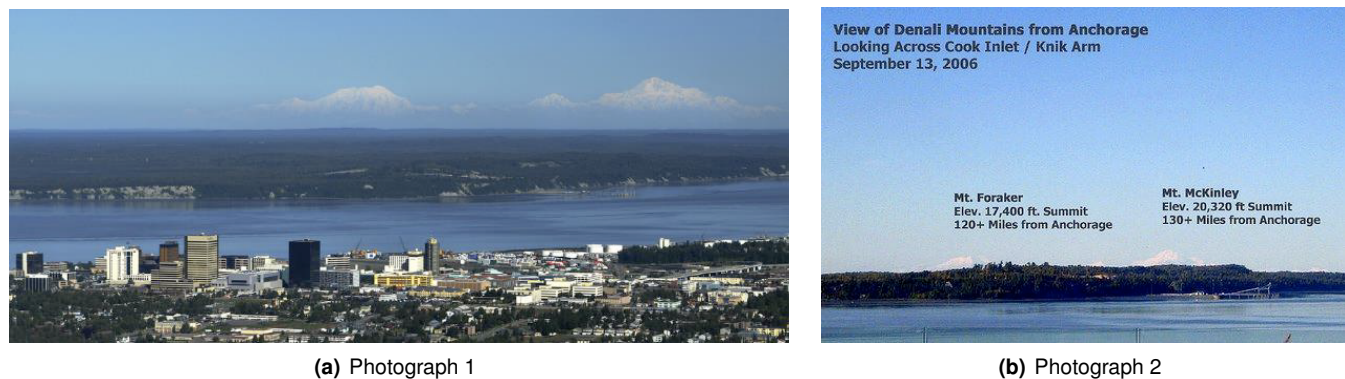
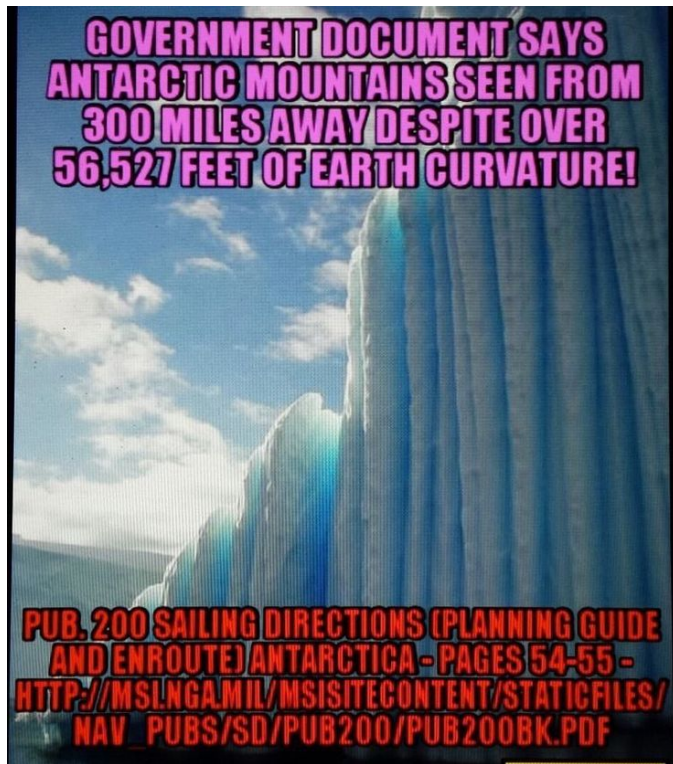


Figure 1.11: Here are two photographs showing Mount Foraker and Mount McKinley from over one hundred miles away. **(a)** The left photograph shows the mountains from an elevated observation point. This will dissuade some that the conclusion is valid because they will assume they are seeing across a curve still. But that is nonsense since the photographer is not high enough to see across that much curve. **(b)** The right photograph is a better photograph since the observation point is lower down. Only the top third of the mountains should be visible. Note that nearby trees obscure more of the mountains. This is why observations over water provide better evidence.

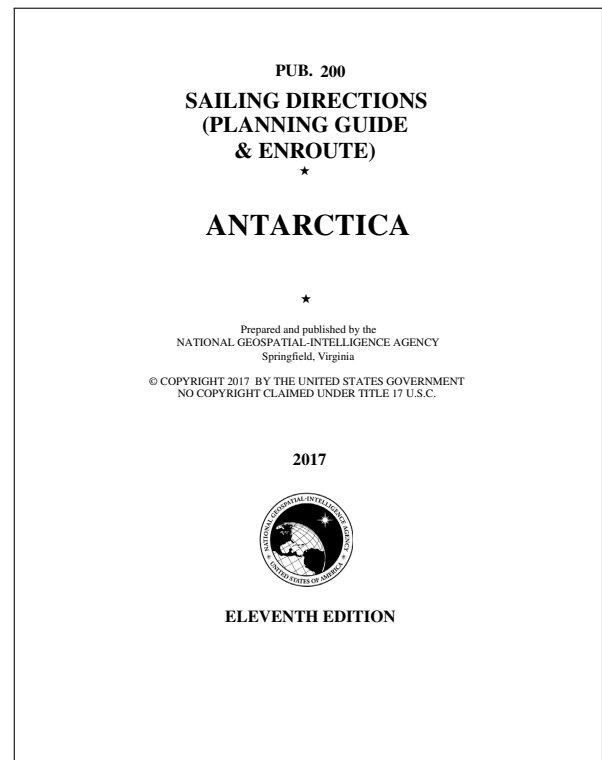
Daniel 4:10-11

- 10 Thus [were] the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof [was] great.
 11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

The argument is that in order for “all the earth” to see the tree, the earth must be flat. Figure 1.13 illustrates the tree in the two commonly-argued cosmologies.



(a) Government Sees Distant Mountains



(b) Publication 200

Figure 1.12: (a) The photograph shows antarctic ice wall, but the overlaid text claims that a government document claims to see mountains from 300 miles away. (b) Pub. 200 contains this quote from page 64: "An object which may be thought to be 5 miles distant could well be 30 miles away, and mountains have been sighted at 300 miles." Quite a claim from a government that says the earth is a globe.

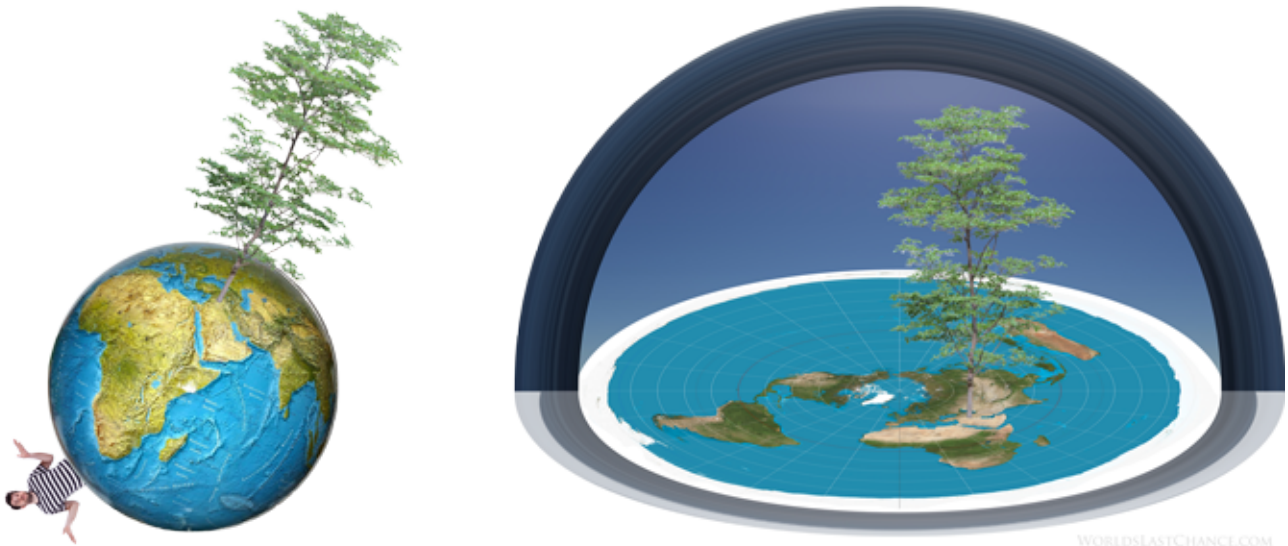


Figure 1.13: One of the common arguments used for the flat earth is that no one could see the tree mentioned in Daniel 4:10-11 from the other side of a globe. While that is true, no one will be able to see it on a flat earth either. It is just too far. While such statements in a vision only make sense on a flat earth, no one is going to be convinced by these kinds of arguments.

Psalms 33:13-14

- 13 The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.
14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

With reference to the Psalm, some will argue that God cannot look upon all of the inhabitants of the earth if the earth is curved. The round-earthier will foolishly reply that God can see everything! While this scripture works on the biblical earth, that's not what it is trying to teach.

Matthew 4:8

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

This passage in *Matthew* is the same kind of argument. How can you see all of the kingdoms of the world if the earth is curved? Once again, that is not what the scripture is teaching. These kingdoms are probably not existing at the same point in time. And this is likely to be a vision (concluding that requires advanced study). The focus will be that they went up a mountain. This will lead you to why it is a vision.

The following passages are all referring to Jesus' return to the earth:

Mark 13:26

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Acts 1:9-11

- 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Again, another argument is made that the earth must be flat in order for everyone on the earth to see Jesus coming to the earth. First, no one can really see that far anyway. The skeptic will say that it will be on television!

Finally, a description of the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:1-2

- 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:10

- 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:16

- 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

This argument is probably the most reasonable of them all. A 1500 by 1500 mile city won't sit on a curved earth very well. I have heard someone say that the "new earth" will be bigger (like Jupiter) so that it will. Yikes!

Conclusion

If anyone can see a large distance, then we can't be on a globe. It really is that simple! You have to do some research yourself. You believed liars who provided no real justification for what they taught. Give those presenting truths the same latitude. Better yet, believe what the bible says.

The Modern Mythology

Next, we will investigate that we are not surrounded by science, but rather entrenched in a mythology. You have passively believed the lie, now you must actively find the flaws in it. That's not impossible to do, but it won't happen without some effort.

The original video study session had some embedded videos from the Internet. One in particular was a documentary that showed how live video of the "round" earth was faked through the window of the space craft. This is not a blind accusation since it is clear that the astronauts and ground control were discussing what they were doing.

People worship the stars today. They are looking for the origins of life in the "void" of outer space.

Acts 7:42

42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices [by the space of] forty years in the wilderness?

Most of the figures presented here are discussed only in the captions.

2.1 Naughty NASA

The primary source of information concerning the established cosmology is NASA. In the early days, only Russia had a similar "space" program. Now, a number of countries participate in "space" exploration. But these few sources of data are still specialized. No amateur can reproduce the "observations".



(a) We Can't Go to the Moon Now



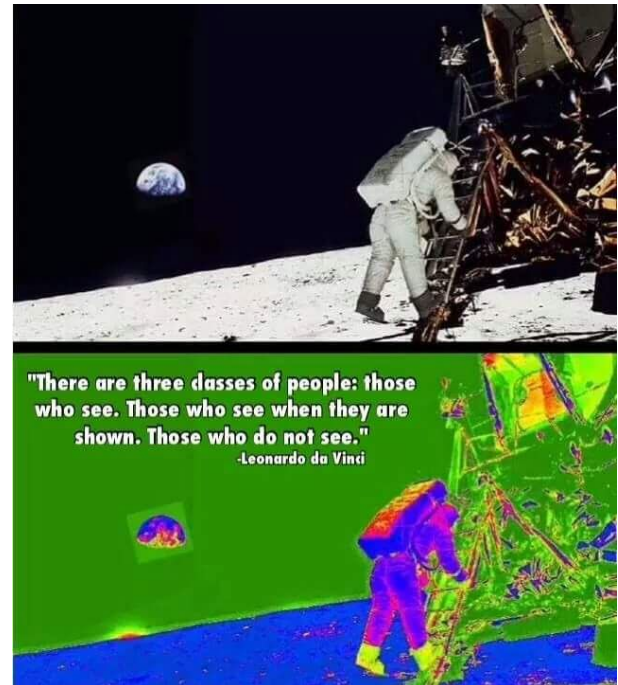
(b) They Blamed Van Allen Belt Radiation

Figure 2.1: In the late 1960's and in the 1970's, America supposedly went to the moon several times. (a) 45 years later, NASA said that they couldn't go to the moon. (b) The dumb explanation was that they could not go through the Van Allen belt safely. This typifies the lying that comes from NASA and how it is so easily exposed.

DEBUNKING ALL LUNAR MISSIONS



(a) Impossible Earth Rise

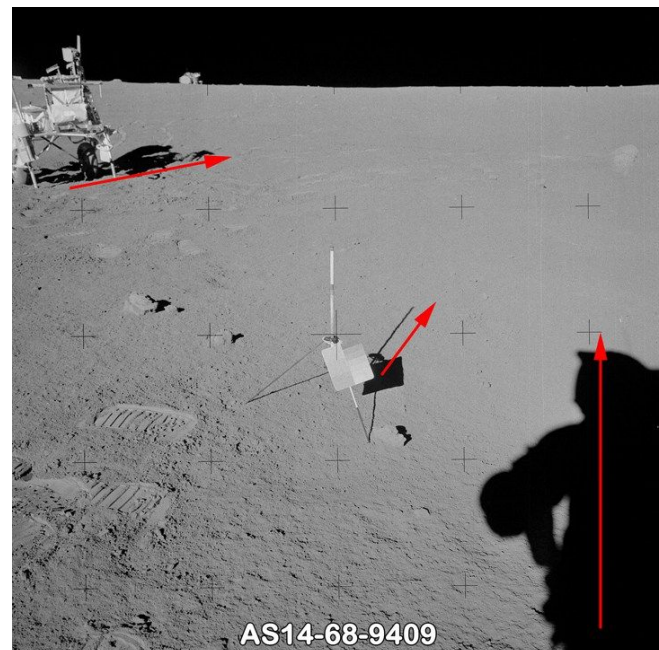


(b) How It Was Really Done

Figure 2.2: These images argue how the earth rise from the moon cannot be real. (a) This poster argues that the earth cannot be on the horizon if the missions landed on the side of the moon facing earth. That side of the moon always faces the earth. (b) The images reveal that the image of the earth was inserted into the studio photograph of the astronaut and lander



(a) Faked Astronaut Shot



(b) Shadows from Local Lighting

Figure 2.3: (a) This picture suggests artifacts that do not make sense. The studio is certainly smaller than the landscape of the moon. (b) This picture has shadows that do not make sense. Similarly, lighting in a studio is not the light of the sun on the moon. You will have to decide for yourself.

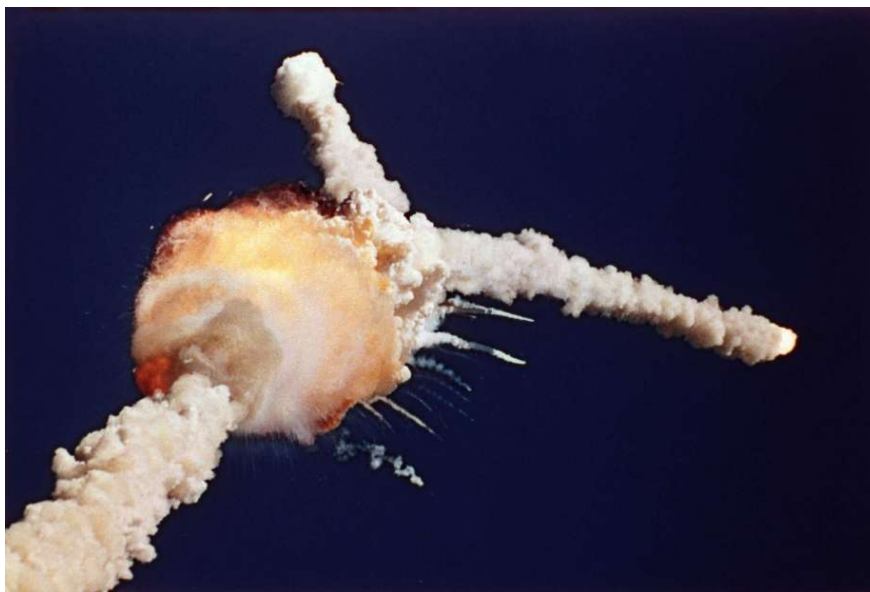


(a) Footprints on the Moon

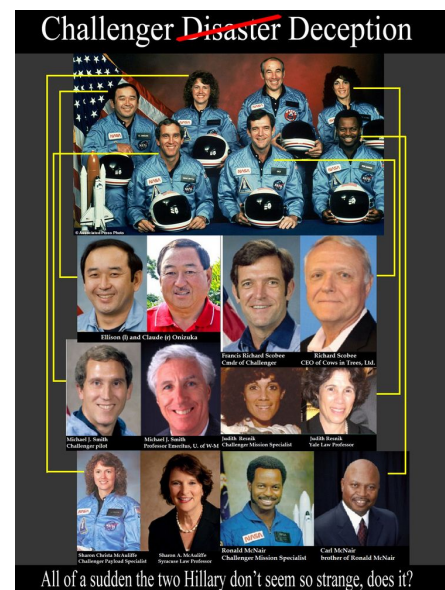


(b) Shouldn't the Moon Be Bright?

Figure 2.4: (a) What should footprints look like on the moon? (b) Why don't photographs on the moon show the brilliant illumination that we see from earth? Perhaps they use a special filter, but it would change what we see.



(a) The Challenger Explosion

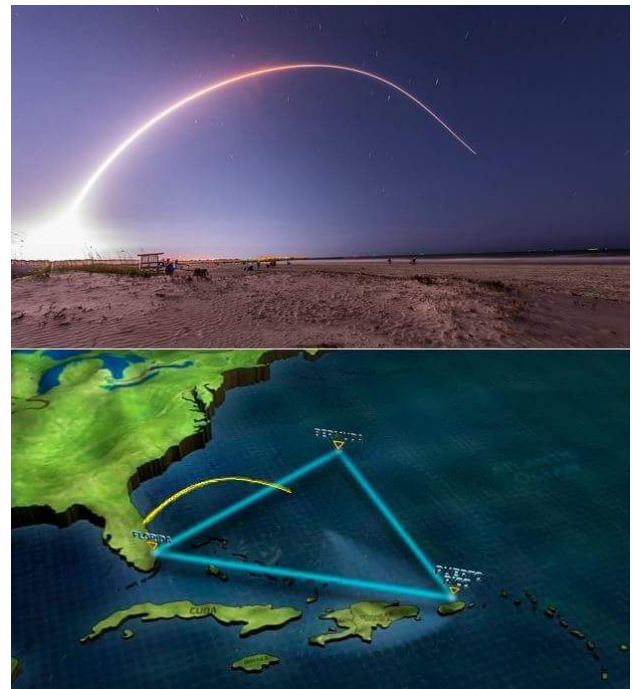


(b) The Crew Lives!

Figure 2.5: The explosion of the Challenger space shuttle was a live TV event. (a) This video still frame shows a moment shortly after the explosion. When the empty shuttle explodes and was not planned, you need plan "B". You'll have to put the living crew into the witness protection program with new identities. (b) This poster shows the research that has concluded that all of the crew survived.



(a) A Collection of Launch Photographs



(b) A Speculative Explanation

Figure 2.6: Do the rockets keep going up? (a) This poster shows a collection of rocket launch photographs. Why do the flight paths level out so low in the atmosphere? Shouldn't the rockets continue climbing? One lame explanation is that the spin of the earth is causing the effect. (b) This poster suggests an explanation. What is really going on?



Figure 2.7: This also exemplifies the type of lying going on. The zero-gravity environment is not even being simulated. It is simply hair-sprayed hair that doesn't move naturally. This picture, and other video, only needs to be compared to video of people in "zero-gravity" airplane flights. Their hair flows with the movement.



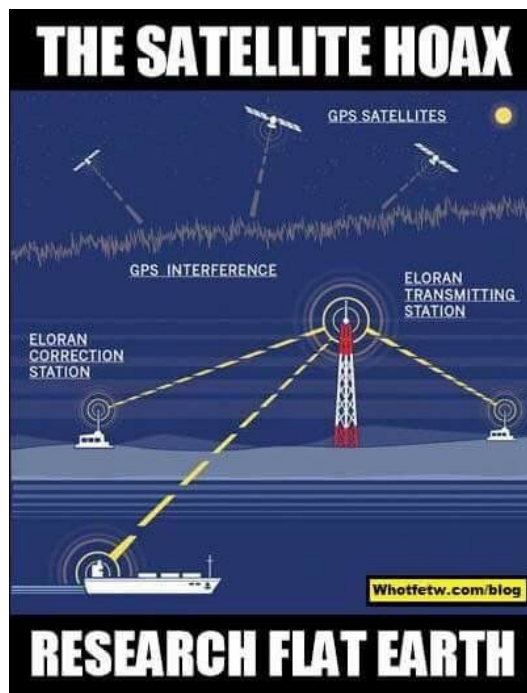
Figure 2.8: Each time NASA comes out with a new “picture” of the earth, they try to make it better. The problem is that they contradict what they have generated before. The result is easy proof that these are not photographs.



Figure 2.9: Can a fire burn without oxygen? The claim added to the picture suggests that it can't. Does someone have an explanation?



Figure 2.10: When the earth is shown as a Mercator projection, the orbit of a space craft looks quite strange. Try as anyone might, there is no good explanation. Until you see the path on a flat-earth map.



(a) A Poster Mocking Satellites



(b) Do We Need Reconnaissance Planes?

Figure 2.11: Are satellites real? (a) This poster suggests they are a hoax. They might be faked by simple ground stations. (b) The overlay on this photograph asks why would we need reconnaissance planes if there are so many satellites.

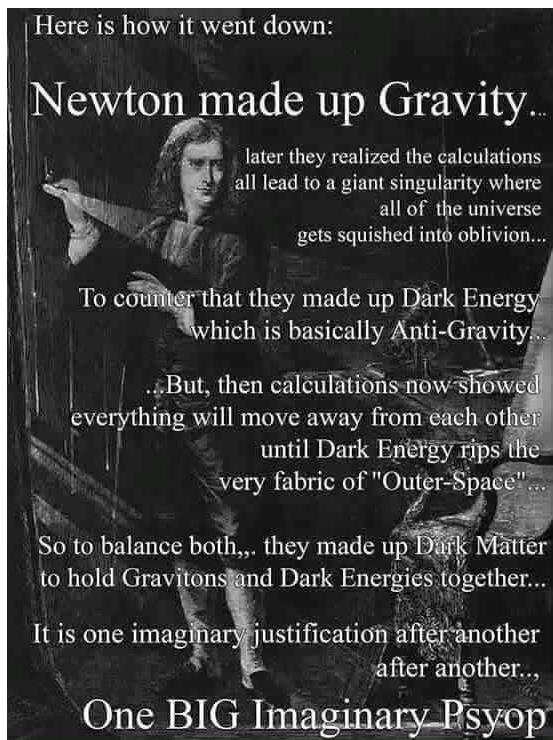


Figure 2.12: Who taking this picture? A passing shuttle? There is probably an answer, but can we confirm it?

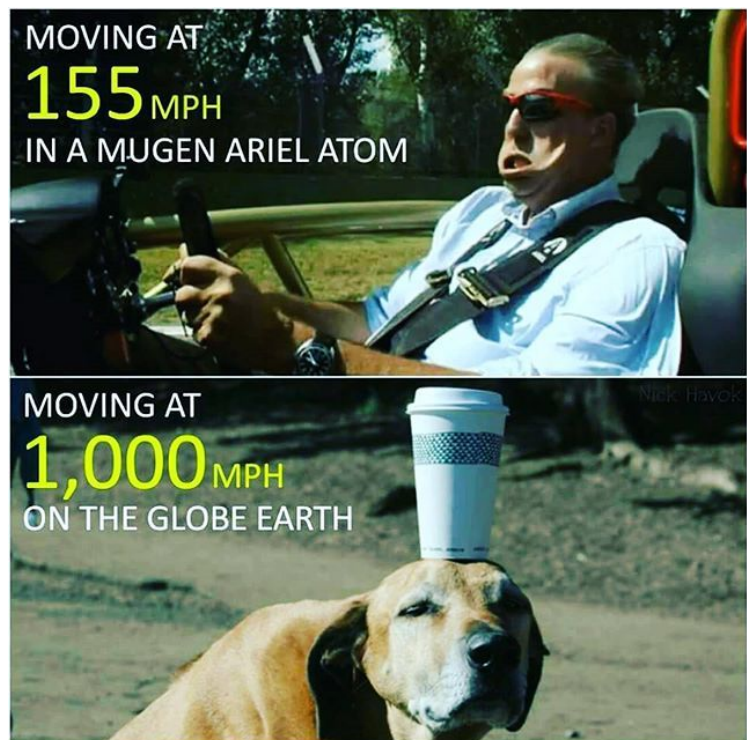
2.2 Defying Gravity

Another big part of the modern mythology is the belief in gravity. Gravity is the supposed force generated by the mass of an object. It has never been proven and has never really observed. Yes, things fall to the ground, but there is no way to make a relationship to the mass of the earth.

Gravity is responsible for: (a) making things fall, (b) causing the tides, (c) keeping oceans in a spherical shape, (d) causing planes to fly straight above the curving earth, (e) keeping us on the earth as it is spinning (and we don't feel it), (f) keeping planets and moons in orbits, (g) varying its force based on mass, (h) altering space and time, and (i) forming the solar system. These miraculous powers make it a (false) "god". You can call it: deifying gravity!



(a) Newton's Great Myth



(b) Should We Feel the Movement?

Figure 2.13: Gravity is a mathematical concept that does not exist in reality. **(a)** A poster that suggests that, as more math is done, more problems have to be resolved. It is never ending. **(b)** Photographs that show what moving at a high speed would look like, and what not moving at all looks like!

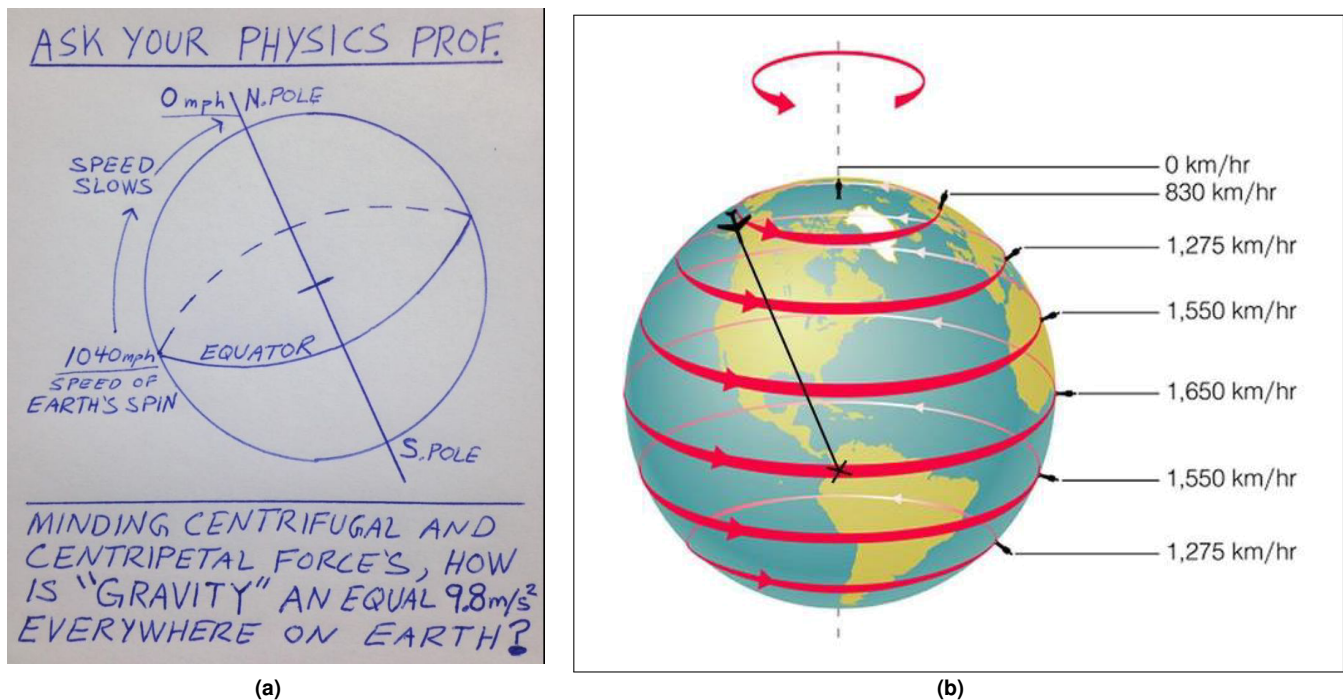


Figure 2.14: It only takes a little thinking to expose the myth of gravity. These two drawings are highlighting the same problem.

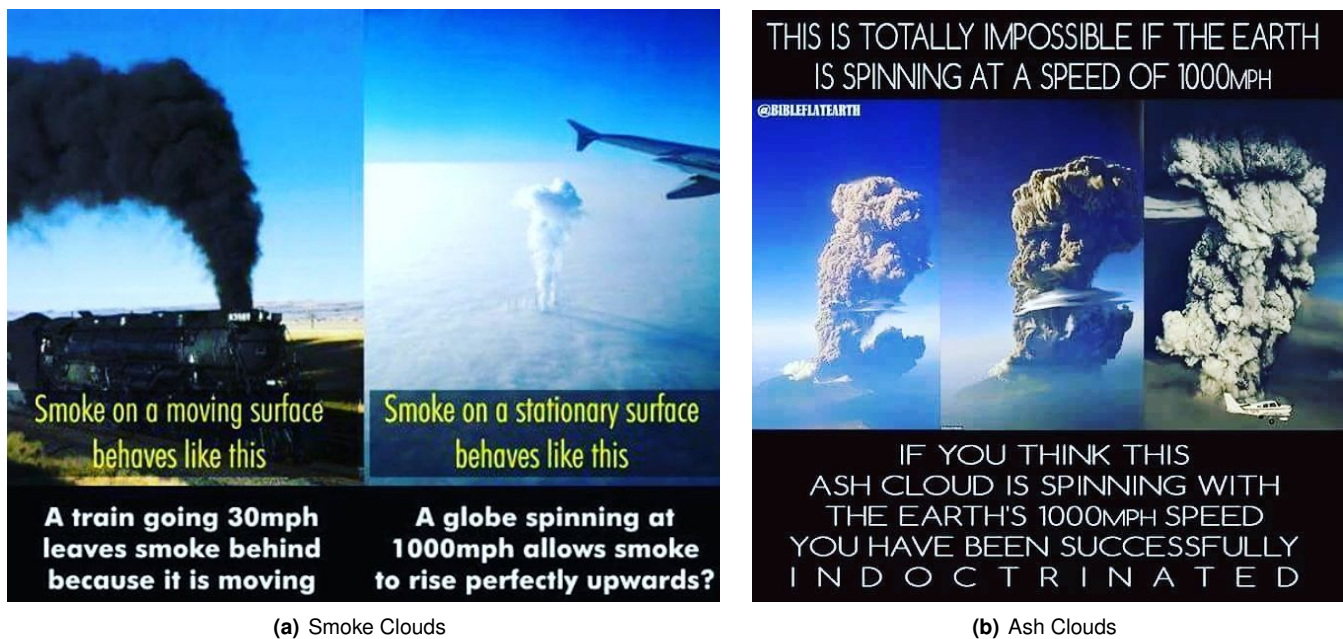


Figure 2.15: These pictures provoke you to think about what you are being told. **(a)** These pictures suggests that smoke should be a trail that doesn't go straight up because the source of the smoke is moving. **(b)** This picture shows that ash clouds go straight up even though even though the volcano is on a moving earth. Can gravity really keep the cloud straight?

2.3 Science Has No Authority

"Science" has information, theories, and models. Scientists often have data that fit theories or models. These models are always being changed rather than discarded. But, "science" has no authority concerning truth. Don't listen to "...but scientists have proven". Only the Bible has such authority because it comes from God.

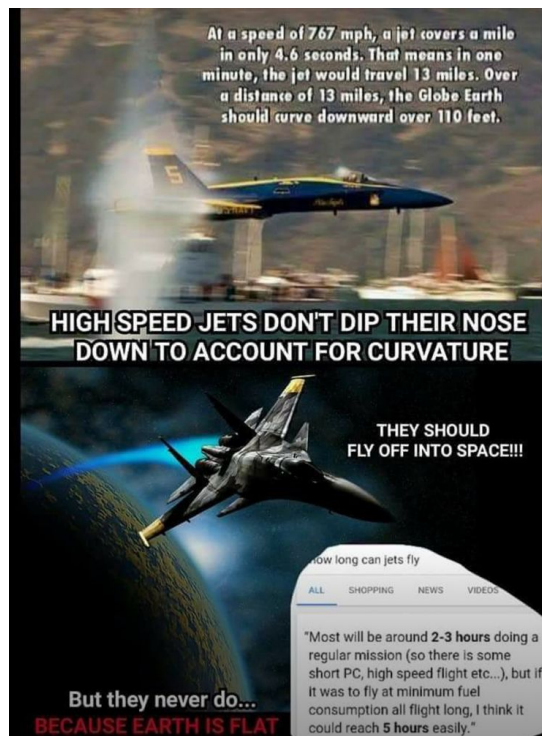


Figure 2.16: Should high speed jets fly straight or follow a curve? Who compensates for the curve? Does the pilot? or does gravity keep pulling the aircraft along a curved path? This poster provides some data about a certain jet. But also consider the manned SR-71, which can fly at 2284 miles per hour. That's 38 miles per minute. Then consider the unmanned X-15, which can fly at 4474 miles per hour. The compensation should be huge.

“Science” is used to bully people into believing lies. Here’s what the authority says about “science”:

1 Timothy 6:20

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

False science will try to steal the bible’s authority. Christians are often contributing to it. For example, particle physicists claim there are 10 dimensions. Four of these dimensions can be sensed: 3 spatial and time. A weak or false Christian will then say that the bible confirms these four, and further conclude that Einstein is teaching truth:

Ephesians 3:18

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

But none of those are “time”. This verse was further explained in Section 8.2.

While science has no authority, don’t assume that even the false sciences don’t have answers. In many false sciences, those scientists are living in an alternate mathematical world. Some of their equations confirm what they think, but that is still not reality.

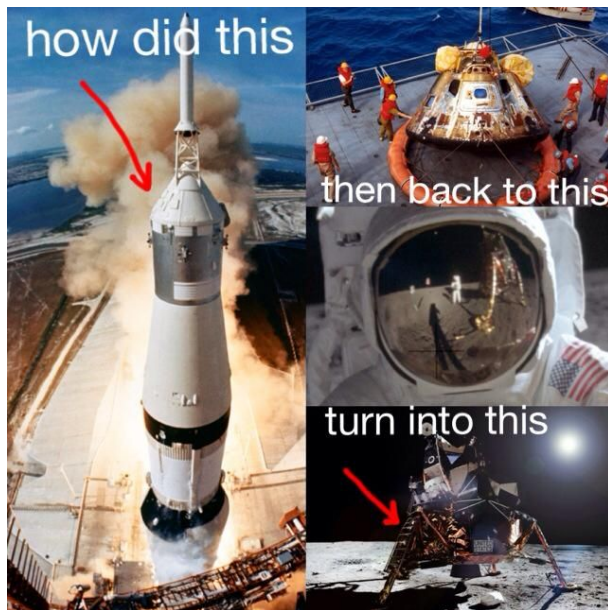
There are many things that are questioned in astronomy, but there are often answers. Many things are questioned about what NASA has done, but they always make up an answer if they don’t already have one. Figure 2.17 presents some things that are questioned.

Astronomy likes to boast that it has determined the distances and ages of many stars. But this is essentially the same argument that evolutionists make about the fossils and the layers in which they are found. It is circular reasoning made using bad assumptions in the first place.

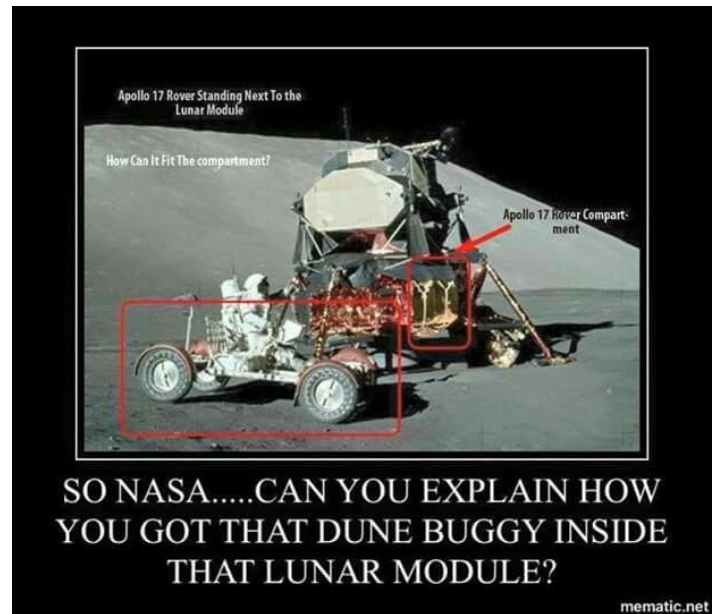
Astronomy uses at least 4 methods to determine a star’s age and/or distance:

- parallax,
- variable star comparison,
- color, and
- rate of recession.

Variable star comparison assumes that variable stars are the same and their differences in variation reveal their differences in distance. Using star color assumes that stars follow an “evolution” sequence and so its color dictates how old it is and, therefore, it’s distance. Rate of recession assumes there is a red-shift Doppler effect. The assumption is that all stars are moving away from each other because of the “big bang” myth. Stars that are further away will show more red-shift than others. All of the assumptions that go into these fairly complicated concepts are bad! Don’t let someone bully you by telling you that you don’t understand.



(a) Does the Lunar Module Fit into the Capsule?



(b) Does the Moon Rover Fit in the Lunar Module?



(c) Why Isn't There Steam When the Capsule Splashes Down?

Figure 2.17: Don't make the mistake that the false sciences don't have answers. Usually, the one asking the question doesn't understand. **(a)** Does the lunar module fit into the capsule? I believe that this is a bad question. I think the capsule stayed in orbit above the moon and the lunar module's upper portion connected to it. I'm sure there's an acceptable explanation. **(b)** Does the moon rover fit into the lunar lander? I don't know, but expect that they thought of that and have an answer. **(c)** Why isn't there steam when the capsule splashes down into the ocean? Again, I don't know but perhaps it cooled down enough as it parachuted down. These are minor compared to NASA's big goofs. The existence of answers doesn't make the story truth.

Parallax attempts to measure the distance to stars by viewing them from opposite sides of the sun. Supposed further stars are used as a baseline to determine an angle, which can be used to do some simple trigonometry. Figure 2.18 shows an example illustration. The problem is that the angle would be almost 0. The fact that the earth doesn't go around the sun doesn't help. But it is all smoke-and-mirrors anyway. The assumptions are bad.

Rigorous study of the bible will reveal that the creation is a little more than 6000 years old. Any statements beyond this are clearly wrong. Any claim that when God stretched out the heavens, he was really stretching out the "space-time continuum" so that things appear to be older is pure nonsense.

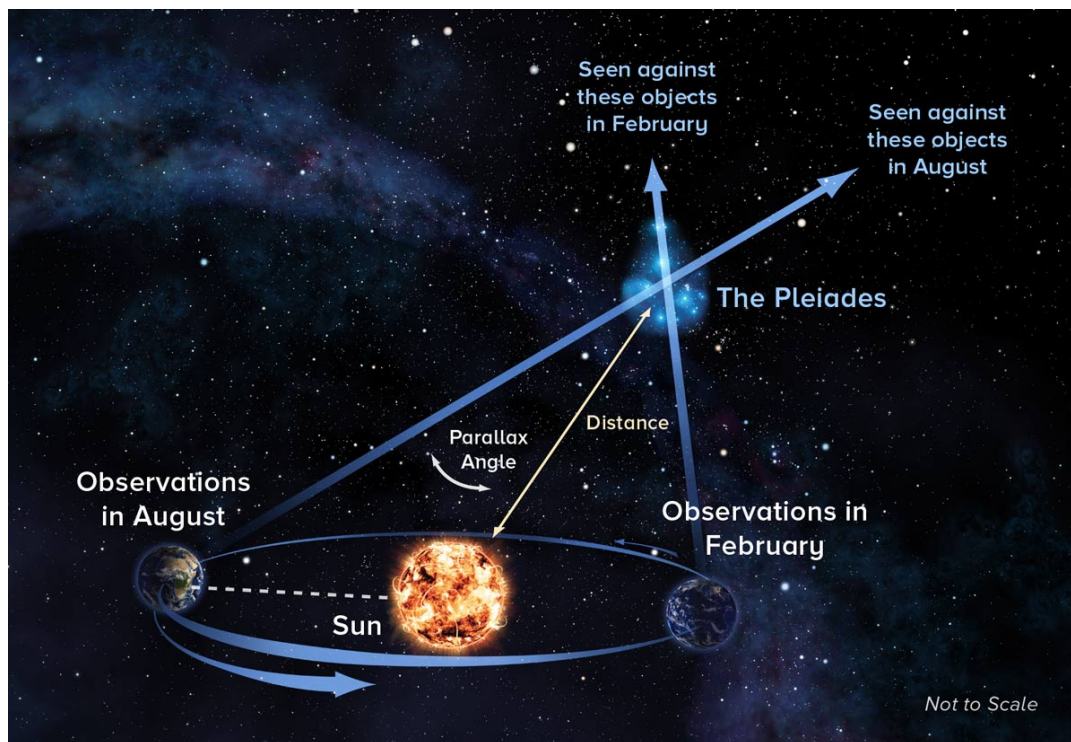


Figure 2.18: One of the few measurement techniques that astronomy uses is *parallax*. The idea is that the distance to a star can be measured by the angle made by the position of a closer star and the position of the earth when it is on opposite sides of the sun. But, this is essentially absurd as the angle is almost 0. Also, the distance to the nearer star is not really known anyway.

2.4 Why It's a Mythology

While astronomy is a mess that is out of control today, its earlier days give away the mythology. Just consider the names of the planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto. They all come from Roman mythology. Why?

You can take that a step further. Many of the older government buildings use a Greek architecture. Except for Saturday, the days of the week come from Norse gods (Saturday comes from a Roman God). Hollywood used to date movies using Roman Numerals.

Look at the roots of geocentrism and heliocentrism (refer to Figure 2.19). Some of those roots predate Jesus. The world was steeped in paganism at that time. The roots continue through the Roman empire and are taken over by the Roman Catholic church. Don't be deceived, the Catholic church supported many of the proponents before the church as a whole backed heliocentrism. Catholicism is not Christianity; it is pagan Baal worship from the old testament.

It isn't clear what people believed in the time of Abraham and before. Gentiles did not keep good records. Just look at flood stories from different cultures. They stray far from the bible.

Conclusion

The popular cosmology is simply a mythology. Don't be bullied by the false sciences. The god Gravity ultimately manifests itself in a "black hole", where darkness is more powerful than light. Astronomy tries to explain away the bible. Weak Christians want to mix the two. But keep this in mind:

Romans 3:4

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

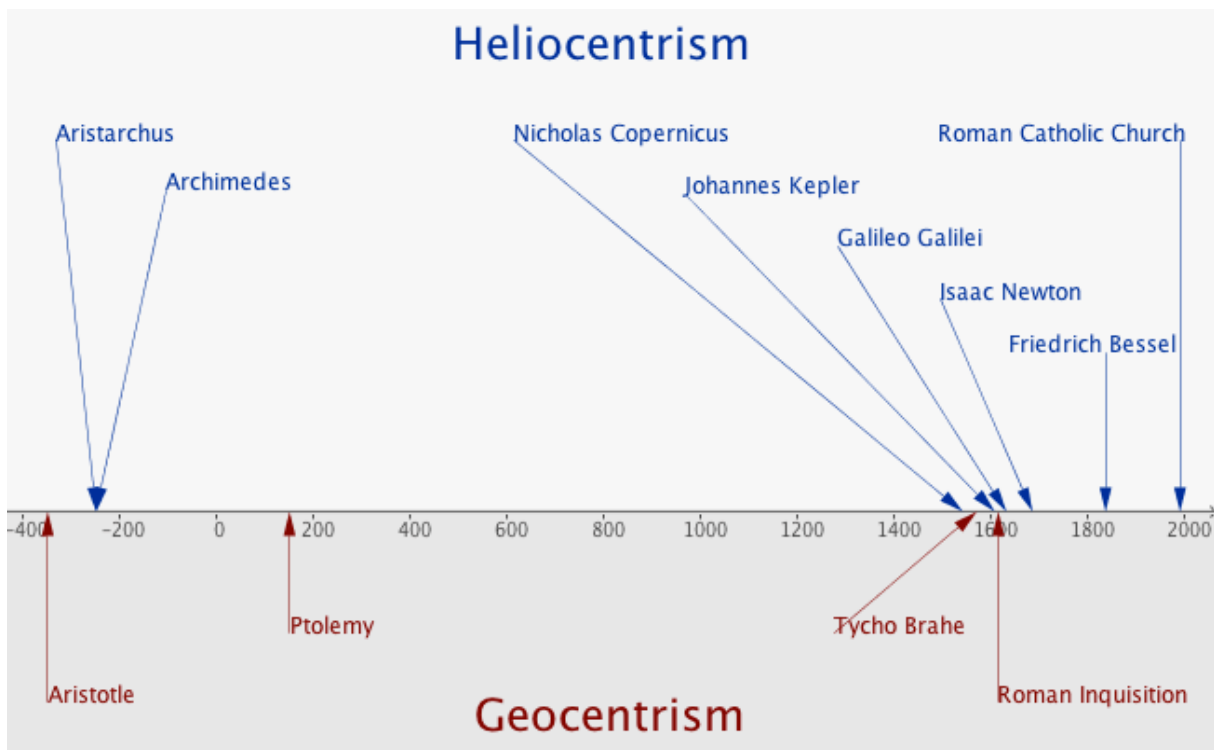


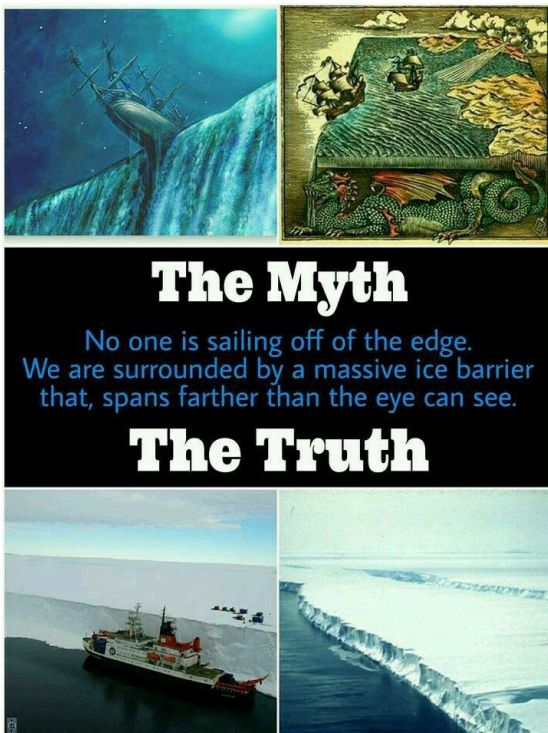
Figure 2.19: A timeline of geocentrism and heliocentrism. Geocentrism is a smaller lie. It helped establish that the earth was a planet in space, but that the earth was special since everything revolved around it. Heliocentrism is the bigger lie. It makes the sun the object of worship since everything revolves around it. The earth is not just another planet. But, clearly, one thing is true: people believed something else before these lies came along!

The Flat Earth Model

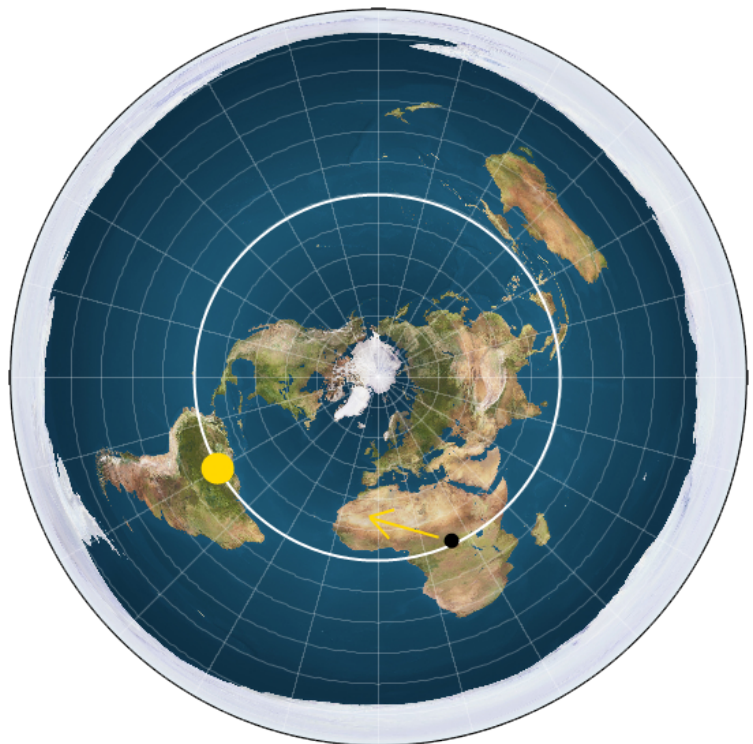
We will discuss the concepts of the flat earth model. Note that the biblical earth is not the same as the flat earth model. For example, many flat-earthers believe that the force commonly called “gravity” is caused by the flat earth moving up at that rate of force. Some flat earthers are not Christians.

3.1 Flat Earth Basics

Most cannot handle the idea of a flat earth because of the indoctrination of the globe earth. They see pictures like those suggested by the top of the poster in Figure 3.1(a). But, there is no edge that you can encounter because the biblical earth is bounded. The bottom of the same poster suggests a boundary that you cannot pass. You can pass the ice boundary, but you would eventually reach a place that you could not survive for very long.



(a) The Myth and the Truth



(b) A Downward View of the Flat Earth

Figure 3.1: (a) This poster highlights the common misunderstanding of what the flat earth is. (b) This map shows the flat earth disc. The border may extend much further than suggested by what we call Antarctica.

Figure 3.1(b) shows what the flat earth looks like and this might be close to what the biblical earth is. Some that believe in the flat earth say that the earth is infinite. Well, that is clearly not true since the tabernacle model has bounds. I expect that no one can reach those bounds.

The flat earth disc has the north pole at its center. Antarctica forms the boundary of the seas. Far beyond the Antarctica boundary, it may be very dark and cold. There is no south pole.

Latitude and longitude are similar to a globe. Southern latitudes get wider rather than narrower. The directions north, south, east, and west are similar as well. You can circumnavigate east or west, but not north or south.

3.2 Flat Earth Maps and Logos

You may be surprised at the flat earth maps and logos that exist. Unless you do some research, you are simply ignorant. Figure 3.2 shows two popular maps.



(a) The Air Map



(b) The Gleason Map

Figure 3.2: There are two established flat earth maps: the Air Map (a) and the Gleason Map (b). You can find these on the Internet and buy printed versions.

You can also find a little comedy about the flat earth. Figure 3.3(a) presents a funny cartoon. Evidently, the kids know the truth better than the teacher. They have converted her “globe” to the flat earth. It appears someone actually made one of these flat earth stands, as seen in Figure 3.3(b). I want one of those!!!

But now it gets interesting. There are several flat earth logos used by the government. You should say, “What? Wait a minute!” Figure 3.4 shows the logos. These organizations use a flat earth logo:

1. United Nations,
2. World Meteorological Organization,
3. International Maritime Organization,
4. World Health Organization,
5. UNIDO, and
6. ICAO.

Only UNICEF and the International Monetary Fund use globes. This should tell you something.



Flat Earth Society Vandalism

(a) A Flat Earth Cartoon



(b) A Flat Earth Display Stand

Figure 3.3: (a) A cartoon mocking the globe by converting it to a flat earth stand. (b) The flat earth stand. Fantastic!!!



Figure 3.4: A poster showing the United Nations logos. Six organizations have flat earth logos. Only two have globes. Why would these organizations use logos of the flat earth? Are they mocking it? or dangling the truth in front of you (mocking you)?

3.3 The Sun and Moon

So how do the sun and moon work in a flat earth? Like the biblical earth, the sun and moon are above the earth. They are much smaller than the earth as well. But first, let's see some scripture.

Ecclesiastes 1:4-7

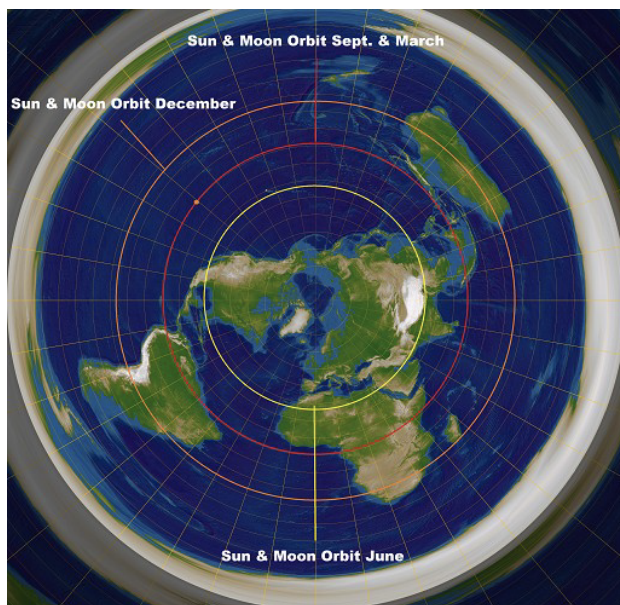
- 4 [One] generation passeth away, and [another] generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.
 5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.
 6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.
 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea [is] not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

While these scriptures attest to the vanities of life, they also state that:

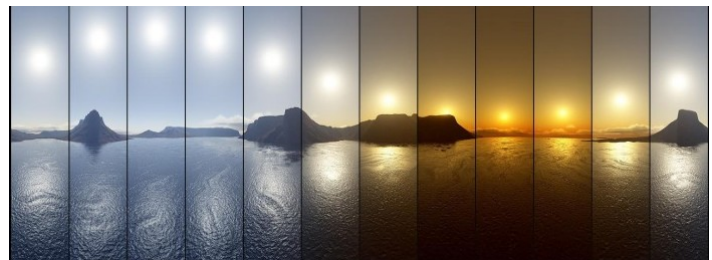
- The sun rises and goes down,
- The sun returns to where it previously rose, and
- It is the sun that moves.

The sun arises and goes down due to perspective. The passage also attests to the circuits in the creation. This may be why the earth is referred to as a “circle”.

Figure 3.5(a) shows the circuits of the sun and moon above the flat earth map. Not only do the sun and moon go around above the earth every day, but they also spiral inward and outward between the latitudes corresponding to the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The spiraling takes 6 months to go in each direction. This change in latitude causes the seasonal changes. The moon is slightly slower than the sun. This allows the various phases of the moon throughout a month.



(a) Sun and Moon Circuits



(b) The Midnight Sun

Figure 3.5: (a) This flat earth map shows the circuits of the sun and moon above it. (b) A series of photographs that shows that the sun never sets in the summer near the north pole. No such observation can be made in the south.

Figure 3.5(b) shows the perpetual day that occurs in the far north. This effect is not observed in the south. Time zones are determined by the position of the sun over the earth. Note that the sun and moon travel faster in the south since longitudinal lines are further apart. This makes the south colder than the north. This is consistent with temperature data in the north and south.

Figure 3.6 shows how seasons are explained on a globe and a flat earth. Doing some research will often expose holes in the mythical cosmology. You'll also encounter an explanation that makes much more sense.

The sun and moon appear to be the same size because they are. Both are significantly smaller than the earth. Since they are smaller than the earth, they must be much closer.

When you see sun rays through the clouds, you may see the rays spread out. You may wonder how the rays do that if the sun is so far away (shouldn't they look straight?). Figure 3.7 shows some examples. Just remember that you are looking at things that are very big and far away, so it is hard to judge what you are seeing. The rays may spread out because the sun is really much closer.

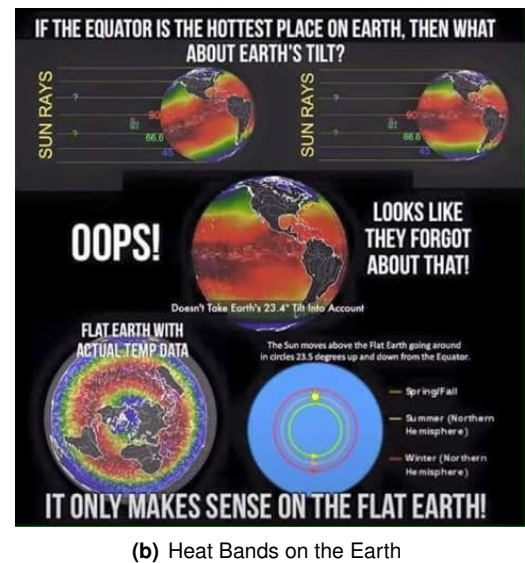
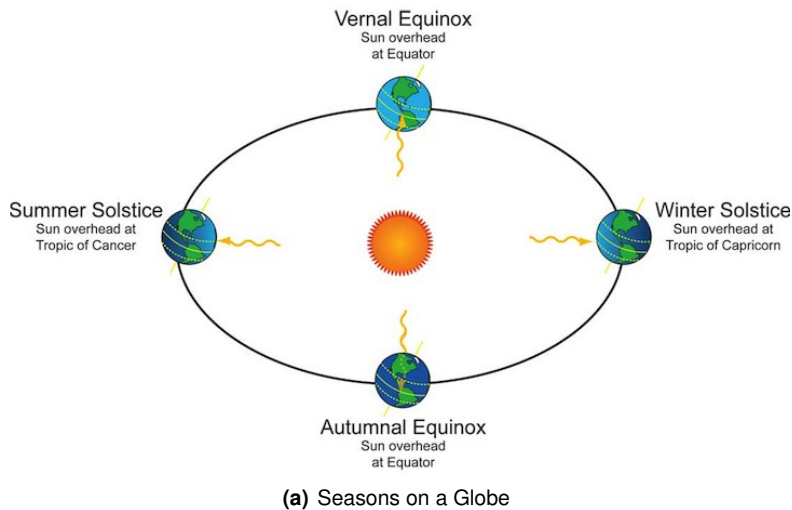


Figure 3.6: What causes seasons? The heliocentric model says that the seasons are caused by the tilt of the earth. (a) The drawing shows how the earth goes around the sun, yet the tilt does not change. It doesn't really explain it, but they have to say something. (b) This heat map shows how the temperatures form bands that are inconsistent with the tilt. Yet the temperature data makes sense on a flat earth.

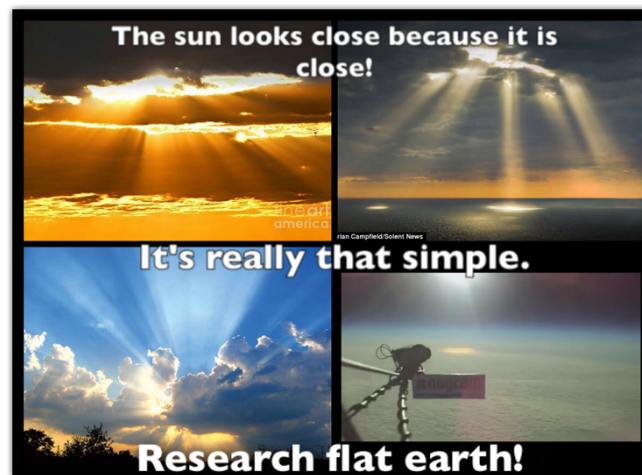


Figure 3.7: Sun Rays Through the Clouds

3.4 Flying on the Flat Earth

Flying and sailing are simple to understand just by looking at the flat earth map and thinking about it. However, looking at flight paths will reveal some interesting truths. Figure 3.8 show some examples. What appears to be an inconvenient detour is really close to a straight line.

When I first started studying the flat earth, I came across something on the Internet called the *Planefinder*. Figure 3.9 shows a screenshot of it. I was able to select an aircraft and see information about it. That included displaying its flight path. On a Mercator projection, the paths looked quite strange when they went up toward the northern latitudes. But, for some reason, the aircraft in the southern latitudes would not display the flight paths. I thought that I knew why. I couldn't confirm any flights directly between the southern continents. When I researched that, I found contradicting reports about these southern paths. Some claimed they flew them; others said the flights were always cancelled.

When I revisited the Planefinder a few years later, the southern latitude flights were now plotting. In fact, the flights between continents were now present. But the question was and still is: Are the data accurate? Are these



Figure 3.8: Some flight paths on the flat earth. **(a)** One example shows some flights from Australia to North America to South America. On the Mercator projection, these don't make sense. But on the flat earth map, the intermediate stops are on the way. **(b)** Another example shows a similar situation for flights from Africa to the Middle East to Australia. Again, what doesn't make sense on a globe makes perfect sense on a flat earth.

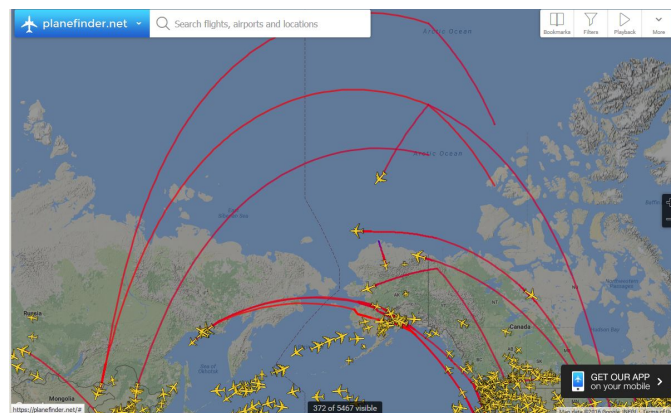


Figure 3.9: The Planefinder is an aircraft traffic program that displays where the aircraft are. Some interesting things can be learned by displaying some flight paths.

flights really occurring? or are they just added to support the globe earth claim?

3.5 The Tactic of Disinformation

As you research the flat earth, you will encounter a lot of bad information from both sides. Besides the overwhelming amount of information on heliocentrism (called *propaganda*), there are two elements working against the flat earth model: true supporters who are naive and false supporters who mock it. Naive supporters make claims in ignorance of either or both models. False supporters provide dumb explanations so that others will quickly turn away from the model.

Figure 3.10 provides a good example. Most flat earth supporters do not understand how light from the sun comes in two forms: sunlight and daylight.¹ Sunlight comes directly from the sun and can cause shadows. Daylight comes from the gases in the atmosphere. These gases are affected by the sun's electromagnetic field and give off light. They can produce many colors.

But most flat earth supporters don't understand daylight and they only mention the sunlight. So, a flat earth mocker finds something that is easy to ridicule and makes the cosmology look like a farce.

Figure 3.11 shows an example of the other kind. In this case, a naive flat earth believer mocks the globe by talking about something that he doesn't understand. The claim is that a compass wouldn't work on a globe. But he

¹An embedded video in the original video study series explained this concept and even demonstrated daylight in a laboratory.

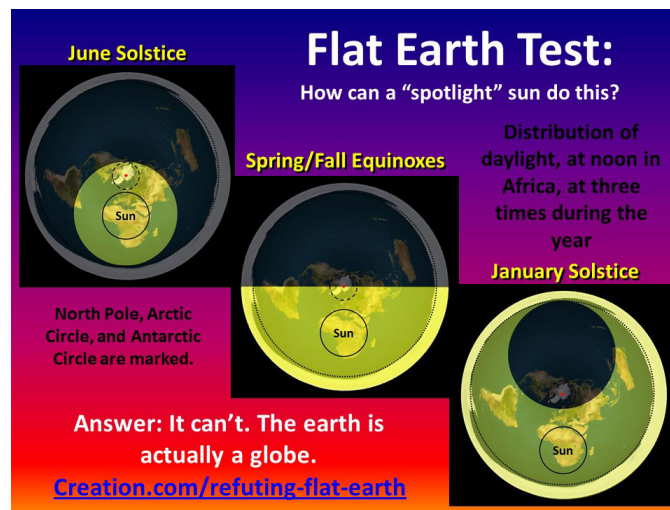
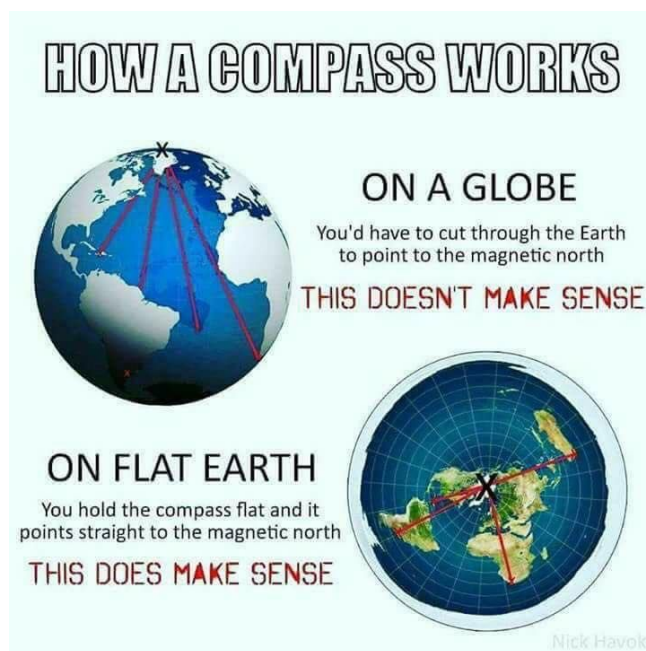
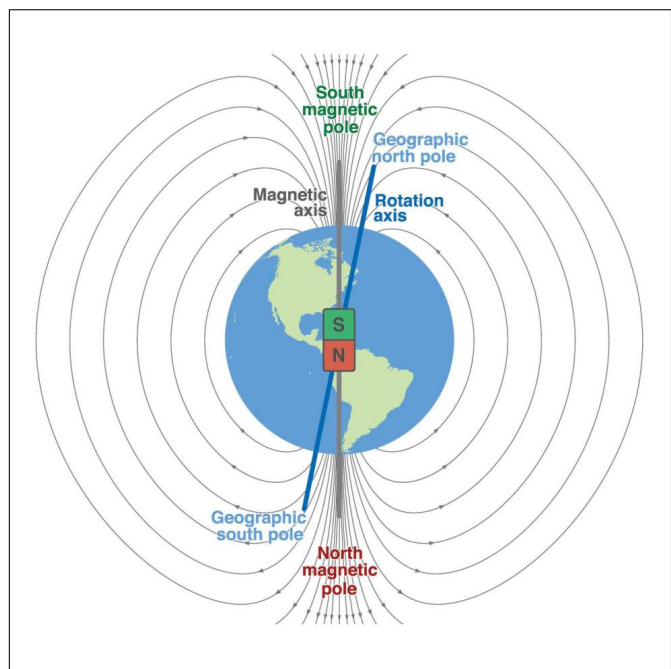


Figure 3.10: Day and night are typically explained as the sun shining as a spotlight. This is incorrect, and it opens the door to criticism. Illustrations show that too much or too little of the earth is lit. A skeptic sees this incomplete explanation and quickly rejects the model. The flat earth believers then hide due to the ridicule.

doesn't understand the theory of how the compass is supposed to work. He is quickly shown to be a fool by the "science" of the globe. The Internet is full of these kinds of arguments and name calling.



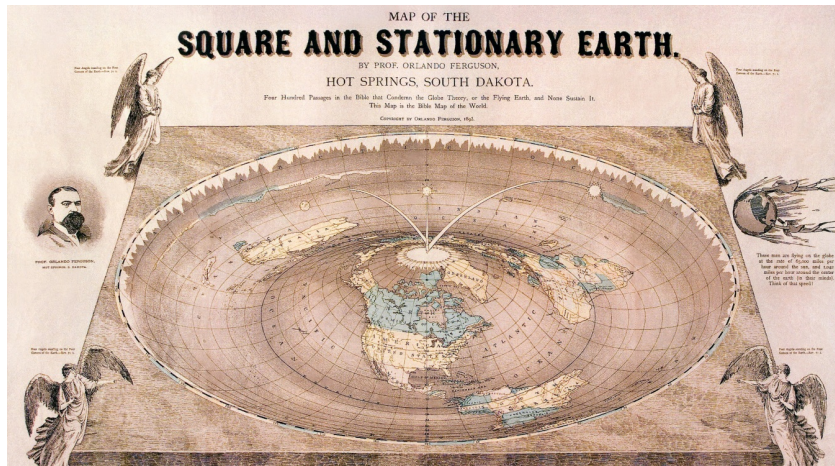
(a) How a Compass Works



(b) A Magnetic Field on a Globe

Figure 3.11: A compass and the earth's magnetic field: Those who believe in the flat earth will mock the globe. (a) This drawing mocks how a compass would work on a globe and quickly concludes that the earth is flat because the compass makes sense there. (b) This drawing explains how a compass is supposed to work on a globe (that doesn't mean that it actually does). So, the globe believer mocks the "dumb flat-earther" because he doesn't understand the "science".

You will also encounter flat earth information and drawings that further condemn it. Figure 3.12(a) shows a flat earth map that looks quite odd. It appears to be a volume swept out by a sine wave. It curves both up and down. How in the world would someone think of that? Well, of course, when people see that, they run from the model. The angels are nice, but they shouldn't have wings.



(a) The Curved Flat Earth?



(b) Unreachable Continents

Figure 3.12: Thanks, but no thanks! (a) Orlando Ferguson's view of the earth. It only leaves you with questions. (b) Someone has decided to make a map with continents that you can't reach. Why?

Figure 3.12(b) shows a flat earth map with a multitude of continents past Antarctica. Just how is the sun going to light and heat them? It can't be a map since no one could have survived to go there. The bible calls this a *vain imagination*.

Conclusion

The flat earth model may feel foreign at first, but it really fairly simple. If you do any research, be prepared for frustration and ridicule. Remember that biblical earth \neq flat earth.

Part II

Laying the Right Foundation

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There are some foundational concepts that must be discussed before getting into what happened during the creation week. One of the first things is understanding God before the creation and what his plan was. We have the benefit of a complete bible, but much of what we want to know is scattered throughout the scriptures. So, the desired information is organized so that you can have a better understanding of what happened during *Genesis* 1.

God and Eternity

We begin with who God is and what eternity is. Understanding God fully is a complex study in itself, so we will keep it simple. Eternity isn't clearly described, so we will do a little speculating about it.

4.1 Eternity and Time

Isaiah 57:15

15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

The word *eternity* occurs only once in the bible. That observation in itself is interesting. Isaiah 57:15 says that God inhabits eternity. Of course, when *Isaiah* is written, there is already a creation.

Since *eternity* occurs only once, let's consider some other words that are related: *eternal* and *everlasting*.

Deuteronomy 33:27

27 The eternal God [is thy] refuge, and underneath [are] the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy [them].

Genesis 21:33

33 And [Abraham] planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.

From everlasting...

Psalms 93:2

2 Thy throne [is] established of old: thou [art] from everlasting.

...to everlasting:

Psalms 41:13

13 Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

The bible also uses a few related titles for God: (1) the first and the last, (2) the beginning and the end, and (3) alpha and omega. Here are just a couple of several such verses:

Isaiah 44:6

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I [am] the first, and I [am] the last; and beside me [there is] no God.

Revelation 22:13

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

This verse mentions “the beginning” and “the end” in a different way:

Isaiah 46:9-10

- 9 Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

It says that God knows the future. Let's better understand this. Before the creation, there is nothing. There is only God. It is likely that there is no concept of time yet either. God is everything because there is nothing else. But God makes a creation, including time within it. Figure 4.1 depicts how God views time and eternity. Time is linear to those in the creation. It had a beginning, but won't have an end. But to God, everything is “now”.

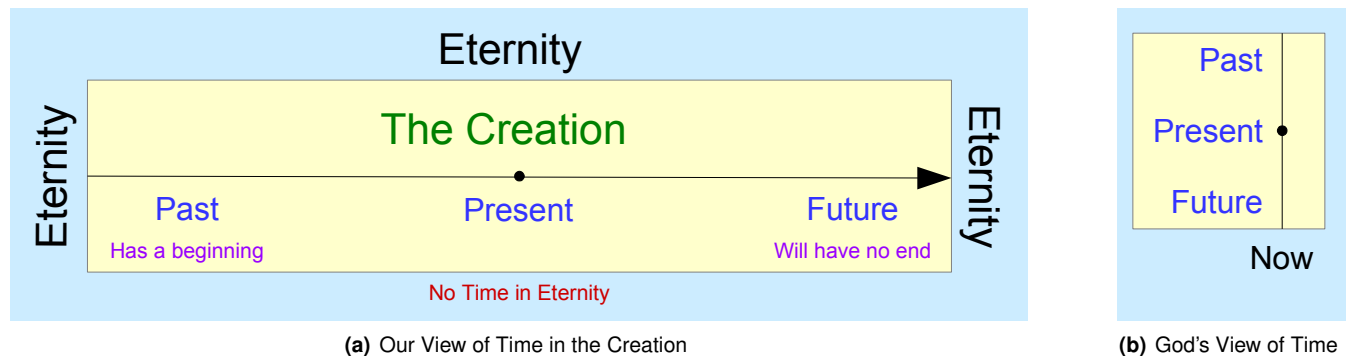


Figure 4.1: This figure depicts how God views time. God dwells in eternity, where there was nothing but God. When God made the creation (yellow box), he also created time. **(a)** This is our simple view of time in the creation. Time had a beginning in the past; there is always a present time; and the future will have no end. But there is no time outside the creation in eternity. **(b)** This may be God's view of time. God sees all of time as “now” since God sees it all from eternity.

Perhaps this is what eternity is. Once the creation is formed, God is still in eternity since beyond the bounds of the creation there is nothing but God. Time has a beginning; eternity does not. We shouldn't say that eternity existed *before* time but we do. The bible appears to do this as well. Time will not end because God will sustain it forever. From eternity, God sees all time in the present. Eternity has no past or future, it is always “now”.

4.2 God's Purpose

There are many verses that mention God's purpose. Here is a short summary of what they say:

- God wants to make a creation.
- He wants to dwell within it.
- He wants to interact with his creation.
- He wants those in the creation to have free will.
- He knows what they will do with that free will.
- He has a plan to deal with sin.

Let's see some examples.

Isaiah 55:9

- 9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:11

- 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.

We will see that God wants to make a creation, but can he dwell in it? These verses suggest he cannot:

1 Kings 8:27

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

2 Chronicles 2:6

6 But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who [am] I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

2 Chronicles 6:18

18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

Acts 17:24

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Nevertheless, God will dwell in his creation! Next, can God be seen by his creation? These verses suggest he cannot:

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Romans 1:20

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1 Timothy 6:16

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Nevertheless, God will be seen in his creation! God will manifest an image to interact with his creation:

Colossians 1:15

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

1 Corinthians 11:7

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover [his] head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Hebrews 1:3

3 Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

God wants to interact with his creation.

Psalms 68:15-16

15 The hill of God [is as] the hill of Bashan; an high hill [as] the hill of Bashan.

16 Why leap ye, ye high hills? [this is] the hill [which] God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell [in it] for ever.

Revelation 21:3

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God.

God wants his creation to have freedom.

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Deuteronomy 30:19

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

They have the freedom to choose, including to obey and do what is right.

4.3 God's Nature

We will learn just a few things about God. He is omnipresent:

Jeremiah 23:23-24

23 [Am] I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?
24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Psalms 139:7-8

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there].

We already saw that God is omniscient because he sees the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9-10). Likewise, God's wisdom prepared for what will come.

Proverbs 8:1

1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

Proverbs 8:22-29

22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.
23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.
24 When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water.
25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:
26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.
27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

We will discuss that some of the verses in that passage in more detail in subsequent chapters.

Proverbs 3:19-20

19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.
20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Jeremiah 51:15

15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.

4.4 God's Plan

The phrase "before the world began" means "before the creation".

2 Timothy 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Titus 1:2

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Whereas, the phrase “before the foundation of the world” means the “before world was ordered” (or completed). It can mean before the creation began, but it does not have to. Using the concordance helps, but remember that the concordance is not truth.

John 17:24

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1 Peter 1:20

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Basically, God decided many things before he began creating.

Ephesians 1:5

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:9-11

- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Philippians 2:13

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.

Hebrews 6:17

17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath:

God reminded Job that he has a plan:

Job 38:2-4

- 2 Who [is] this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
- 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job 38:22-23

- 22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
- 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

Job 40:7-9

- 7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
- 8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?
- 9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

Job 42:2-3

- 2 I know that thou canst do every [thing], and [that] no thought can be withholden from thee.
 3 Who [is] he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

You may want to read Job 38-42, but it is too much to quote here. It is a challenging sequence of chapters.

Proverbs 9:1

- 1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

Wisdom has 7 pillars. But what might they be? It might be the 7 days of creation, which are a model for 7000 years of time.

Jeremiah 10:10-13

- 10 But the LORD [is] the true God, he [is] the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.
 11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, [even] they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.
 12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.
 13 When he uttereth his voice, [there is] a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

God will also deal with the “gods”, but we will not focus on that here.

4.5 The Wise Builder

A few scripture talk about God being a wise builder. Jesus, like his father, was a carpenter:

Matthew 13:55

- 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

Mark 6:3

- 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

A few other scriptures also mention how a carpenter works (although these reference building an idol):

Isaiah 44:13

- 13 The carpenter stretcheth out [his] rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

Isaiah 41:7

- 7 So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, [and] he that smootheth [with] the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It [is] ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, [that] it should not be moved.

Oh, by the way, Paul was a tentmaker by trade. The tabernacle is a tent. Interesting. . .

Acts 8:3

- 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [them] to prison.

4.6 Building Design

There are a few lengthy passages that describe building structures. We will only give a sample from each. In Ezekiel 40-42, God specifies the design of the temple for the millennium:

Ezekiel 40:3

3 And he brought me thither, and, behold, [there was] a man, whose appearance [was] like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

In Revelation 21, God specifies the design of the new Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:15

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

Here are some other example measures:

Isaiah 40:12

12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Job 28:24-25

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, [and] seeth under the whole heaven;
25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

Proverbs 8:27

27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

So, what is the compass in Proverbs 8:27? Figure 4.2 shows some compasses.

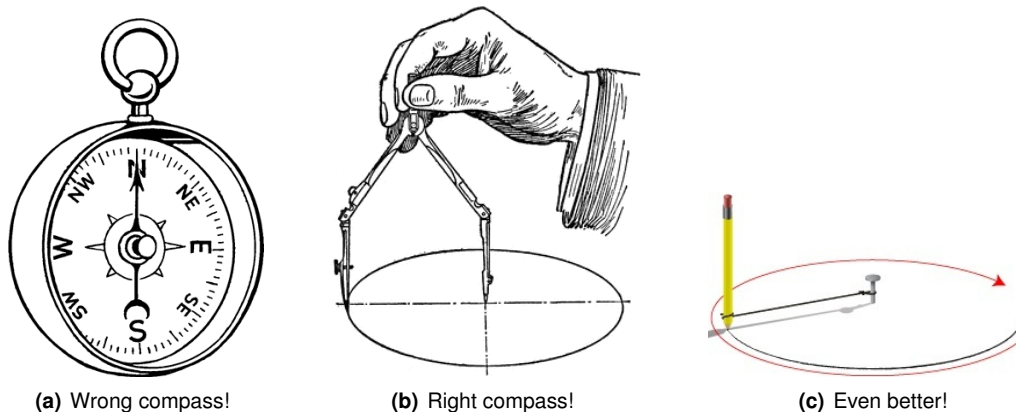


Figure 4.2: This figure shows some compasses: (a) a directional compass (which is not the right one), (b) a drawing compass (which probably is the right one), and (c) a different drawing compass, where a line is stretched out.

While the last compass is a line stretched out, Job 38:5 may be referring to a simple measuring line:

Job 38:5

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Scripture highlights that a building starts with a foundation.

Matthew 7:24-27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Hebrews 11:10

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker [is] God.

Job 38:4-6

4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

God builds his churches in the same way.

Ephesians 2:20-22

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];
 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building.
 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.
 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:20

20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

Isaiah 28:16

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

These are easy examples of how scripture uses types and patterns. The following are various building scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:4

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Hebrews 11:3

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Exodus 40:17-18

17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first [day] of the month, [that] the tabernacle was reared up.
 18 And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

2 Chronicles 2:12

12 Hiram said moreover, Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

Many verses say that God made all things by his image (either the LORD or Jesus Christ):

Ephesians 3:9

9 And to make all [men] see what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:16-17

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 10:6

6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

The tabernacle, the temple, and other buildings have pillars:

Exodus 26:32

32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim [wood] overlaid with gold: their hooks [shall be of] gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

Judges 16:26

26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

2 Chronicles 3:17

17 And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

There are chambers and treasuries in the temple:

1 Chronicles 9:26

26 For these Levites, the four chief porters, were in [their] set office, and were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God.

Notice the beams, doors, and windows in the next passage. There is also a throne.

1 Kings 7:2-7

2 He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof [was] an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars.
 3 And [it was] covered with cedar above upon the beams, that [lay] on forty five pillars, fifteen [in] a row.
 4 And [there were] windows [in] three rows, and light [was] against light [in] three ranks.
 5 And all the doors and posts [were] square, with the windows: and light [was] against light [in] three ranks.
 6 And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof [was] fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits: and the porch [was] before them: and the [other] pillars and the thick beam [were] before them.
 7 Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, [even] the porch of judgment: and [it was] covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other.

Conclusions

God has a desire and a plan. God wants to dwell in his creation. Astronomy wants God out of the creation!

An Overview of the Creation

We will give an overview of the creation before we go into the multitude of details about it. Attention will be given to the predominate places described in scripture: the heavens, the earth, the seas, and hell. Then, we will look at two very simple views of the creation. Finally, we will stress the importance of considering scale when we think about the two views.

5.1 Heaven, Earth, Seas, and Hell

Scripture gives significant attention to heaven and earth. We will not focus on it now, but there really are multiple heavens. Hell also is a place of focus, albeit less than heaven and earth. You might not think that the seas are also a place of interest in the creation, but they are. All four places are not always mentioned and other names might be used.

Psalms 135:6

6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, [that] did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

The above verse mentions heaven, earth, seas, and all deep places (but is this hell?).

Exodus 20:4

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth:

Deuteronomy 5:8

8 Thou shalt not make thee [any] graven image, [or] any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the waters beneath the earth:

Now we have heaven, earth, and waters under the earth (is that the seas?).

Job 11:8

8 [It is] as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

1 Kings 8:23

23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, [there is] no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

Philippians 2:10

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

¹Long sequences of verses may be given with no discussion. You should be reading all of the passages because there is power in God's word.

Revelation 5:3

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Revelation 5:13

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 14:7

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Psalms 69:34

34 Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein.

Deuteronomy 4:16-19

16 Lest ye corrupt [yourselves], and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,
 17 The likeness of any beast that [is] on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,
 18 The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that [is] in the waters beneath the earth:
 19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, [even] all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

So, Deuteronomy 4:16-19 is an interesting passage. It states that the fish are in the waters “beneath the earth”. Therefore, the seas are considered to be beneath the earth. We tend to think of the seas, or oceans, sitting on the earth. Believe what God’s word says and learn the language that God uses. So-called “smart people” might tell you to think and talk a different way. That will cause you to doubt the scriptures.

5.2 Potential Layouts

Figure 5.1 shows two potential layouts of the creation. Figure 5.1(a) shows an absolute structure where “up” is the same direction everywhere. This is commonly associated with a flat earth. Figure 5.1(b) shows a relative structure where “up” is relative to the person on the earth. This is commonly associated with a round earth. Earth is said to be “under” heaven because “up” is relative. In reality, this puts earth in heaven, which should give you trouble when you think about it. There is an alternate version of the relative structure where the third heaven is completely above the rest of the creation. That does not fix the main problem though.

5.3 God’s Dwelling Place: The Tabernacle

Let’s see what God says about his dwelling place:

1 Chronicles 17:4-5

4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:
 5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from [one] tabernacle [to another].

Ezekiel 37:27

27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Psalms 15:1

1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

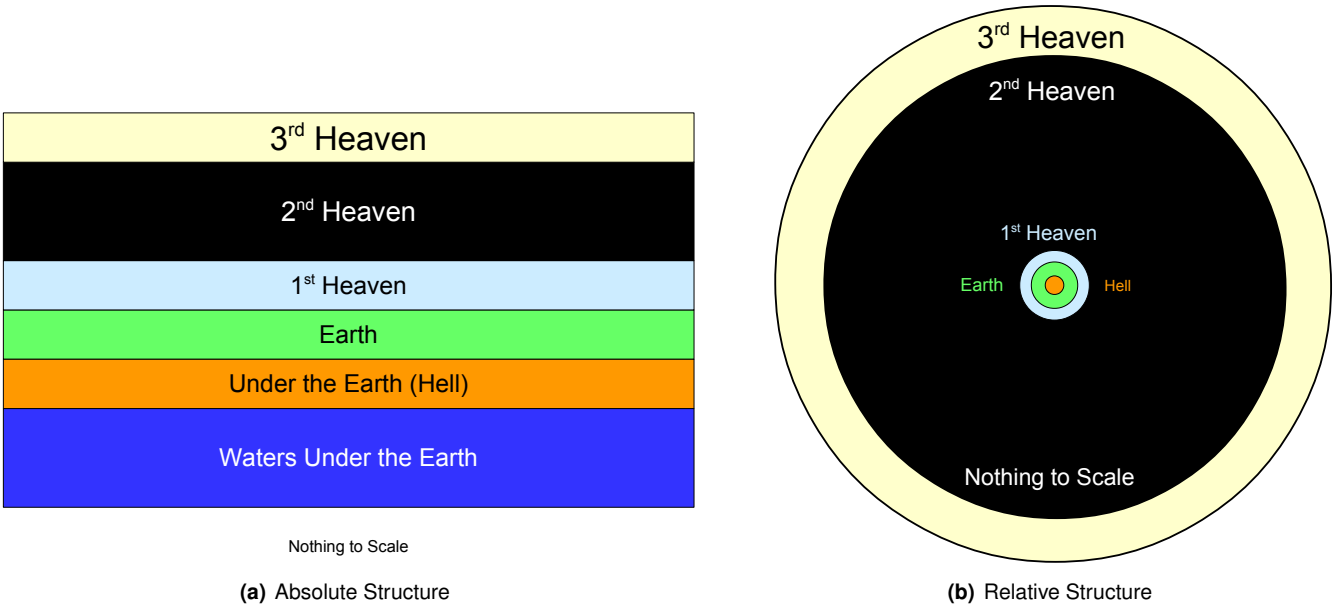


Figure 5.1: The two figures suggest possible layouts for the creation. **(a)** The absolute structure has only one direction that is “up”. **(b)** The relative structure has many directions that are “up” because “up” is relative to a person on the earth. An alternative structure will be shown later.

Psalms 78:59-60

59 When God heard [this], he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:
60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent [which] he placed among men;

So the tabernacle, which is a tent, is referred to as God’s dwelling place. More about a tent is said here:

Isaiah 54:2

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

But the creation is the true tabernacle:

Hebrews 8:2

2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 9:23-24

23 [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 8:5

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Note that there is a pattern, which is like a blueprint:

Exodus 25:8-9

8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.
9 According to all that I shew thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it].

Figure 5.2 depicts the tabernacle of the old testament. This tabernacle was assembled and disassembled as Israel traveled through the wilderness. Nevertheless, its structure and furnishings give us clues as to the structure of the creation.

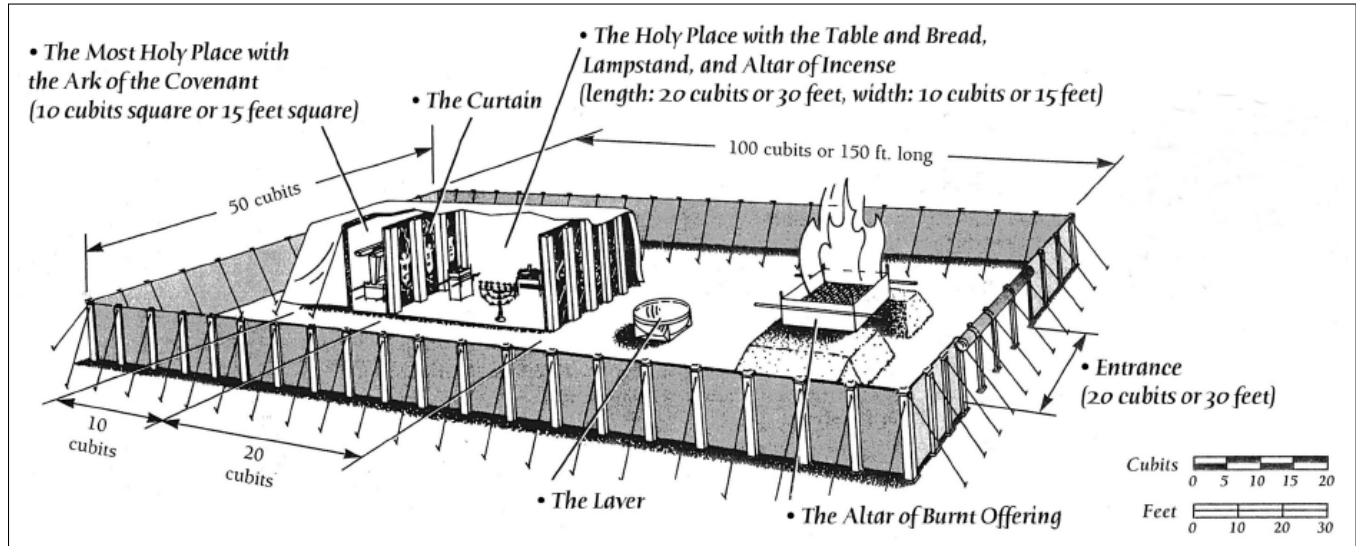


Figure 5.2: The tabernacle is described in Exodus 26. The furnishings in the tent are described in Exodus 25. The furnishings in the courtyard are described in Exodus 27.

Figure 5.3 shows the tabernacle and the temple built by Solomon. The temple design has some similarities to the tabernacle, but there are also a number of differences. The altar is positioned differently. The laver is replaced by a sea. Some of the differences are explained by the fact that the tabernacle was portable and the temple was permanent.

The temple has multiple floors, rooms for temporary living, and storage for treasures. Like the tabernacle, God also had a pattern for temple:

1 Chronicles 28:10-12

- 10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do [it].
- 11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasures thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,
- 12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasures of the house of God, and of the treasures of the dedicated things:

1 Chronicles 28:19

- 19 All [this, said David], the LORD made me understand in writing by [his] hand upon me, [even] all the works of this pattern.

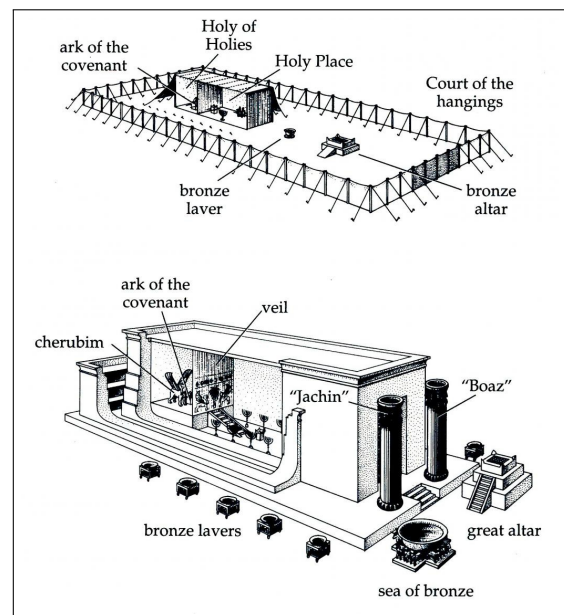


Figure 5.3: The Tabernacle and the Temple

Figure 5.4 shows the tabernacle model that we will use as a pattern for the creation. As a model, the tabernacle is stood up vertically, with the most holy place at the top and the gate at the bottom.

Next, we will note that the wilderness tabernacle had no bottom:

Numbers 5:17

17 And the priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel; and of the dust that is in the floor of the tabernacle the priest shall take, and put [it] into the water:

So we should conclude that the heavens, represented by the tent, sit upon the earth. This clearly means that the earth is not inside the tent.

The most holy place is where God's presence is:

Exodus 25:22

22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which [are] upon the ark of the testimony, of all [things] which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

There is a vail (or veil) between it and the holy place:

Exodus 26:33-34

33 And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy [place] and the most holy.
34 And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy [place].

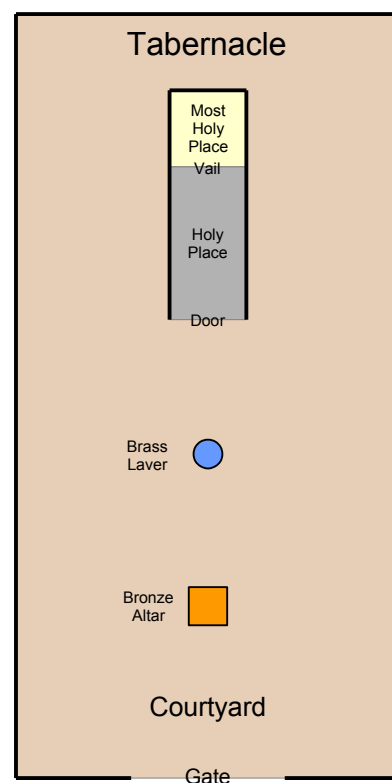


Figure 5.4: The Tabernacle Model

The most holy place corresponds to the 3rd heaven:

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.
2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Ephesians 4:10

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Psalms 68:33

33 To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, [which were] of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, [and that] a mighty voice.

Deuteronomy 10:14

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens [is] the LORD'S thy God, the earth [also], with all that therein [is].

The holy place is the 2nd heaven. It is a dark place with lights.

Exodus 25:37

37 And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.

There is a door that allows entry:

Exodus 26:36

36 And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.

John goes through a door into heaven in his vision in *Revelation*. This is another confirmation that the earth is not in the 2nd heaven!

Revelation 4:1

1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

The courtyard is everything else. It has a gate:

Exodus 27:16

16 And for the gate of the court [shall be] an hanging of twenty cubits, [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: [and] their pillars [shall be] four, and their sockets four.

The courtyard contains a bronze altar and a brass laver. The brass laver corresponds to the surface of the earth (we will provide evidence for that later). The bronze altar corresponds to hell. We'll see that hell is in the earth. So, again, the earth is not in the holy place.

5.4 Scale in the Creation

It seems reasonable to assume that the creation has scale proportional to the elements of the tabernacle. If so, we would expect to see that scale is consistent in other metaphors used. We will consider the example of the throne and footstool, which occurs frequently in scripture.

Isaiah 66:1

1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven [is] my throne, and the earth [is] my footstool: where [is] the house that ye build unto me? and where [is] the place of my rest?

Acts 7:49

49 Heaven [is] my throne, and earth [is] my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what [is] the place of my rest?

Matthew 5:34-35

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:
35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Let's think about this when looking at some pictures. Figure 5.5 shows a couple of examples. The suggestion here is that the throne (or, the heaven) is similarly sized to the footstool (or, the earth). Here, the heaven may refer to the 2nd heaven, but we don't need to make it too literal. Nonetheless, why use a metaphor if it is confusing? The heaven and the earth should have similar scale.

Psalms 110:1

1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

1 Chronicles 28:2

2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: [As for me], I [had] in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

Psalms 132:7

7 We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.

Lamentations 2:1

1 How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, [and] cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!



Figure 5.5: Example Thrones and Footstools

Of course, a footstool can also be round. Figure 5.6 shows some examples. We suggest this because we will see that the earth is referred to as having a circular shape. Also, the stool has legs like pillars! God uses these illustrations for a reason.



Figure 5.6: Round Footstools

Conclusions

We established some important points in this overview. Mainly, that the creation is patterned after the tabernacle. It will also have some aspects that correspond to the temple. Keep the following verse in mind when deciding which creation model you think the scripture describes because one creation is confusing:

1 Corinthians 14:33

33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Romans 3:4

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

We need to put aside the teaching of the confusing creation.

Part III

The Creation Week

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The creation account in *Genesis* is really an outline and summary of what happened during creation week. The details of the creation week are scattered throughout the scriptures. We need to keep in mind to whom *Genesis* is written and when. *Genesis* is written after the people of Israel came out of Egypt. They had the book of *Job* which has a lot of creation information in it. The people of Israel also probably knew some things not written down in *Job*. Nonetheless, they may have only had a basic understanding of most things.

The numerous scattered scriptures have been gathered and presented on each day. It is not always clear which day, if any, some scriptures should be assigned to. They are collected for you so that you can form your own opinion. What the Bible says is true, but our understanding of it might not be.

It is not clear when hell is created. It is organized with the creation week, although not assigned to a specific day. If hell aligns with the altar of the tabernacle model, then it is probably present by the end of the week.

The First Day

We will look at the description of the first day of creation in Genesis 1. In order to understand what happened, we will need scriptures from elsewhere. We will primarily focus on structure rather than other details. But first, let's read the passage corresponding to the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that [it was] good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

We will postpone the discussion about the heaven and the earth in order to discuss the other aspects of this passage first. *Heaven* simply means a lofty place—the main point being that it is above the earth. *Earth* can simply mean the ground or land. We'll get to those shortly.

6.1 God Manifests His Image

"In the beginning" is an important phrase that tells us that we are dealing with the timeframe of creation. There will be other passages that link to this time frame.

John 1:1-5

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1 tells us about the same time frame. Here, we have reference to God's image, called "The Word".¹ There are other names for God's image. We are told that all things were created by God's image. But what about God's image himself?

Revelation 3:14

- 14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹ Understanding God fully is a study all on its own.

Revelation 3:14 refers to Jesus Christ, who is God's image. But here we learn that God's image was the beginning of God's creation. So God manifested his image first, and then his image created all things. Let's see other scriptures that align with that.

Ephesians 3:9
9 And to make all [men] see what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:15-17
15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Colossians 1:15 confirms that God's image was the firstborn of every creature. This doesn't mean "born" like a child is from a mother. God's image was referred to as "the LORD" in the old testament.

Nehemiah 9:6
6 Thou, [even] thou, [art] LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all [things] that [are] therein, the seas, and all that [is] therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Figure 6.1 shows three pictures depicting the first day. Figure 6.1(a) shows that God manifested his image first.

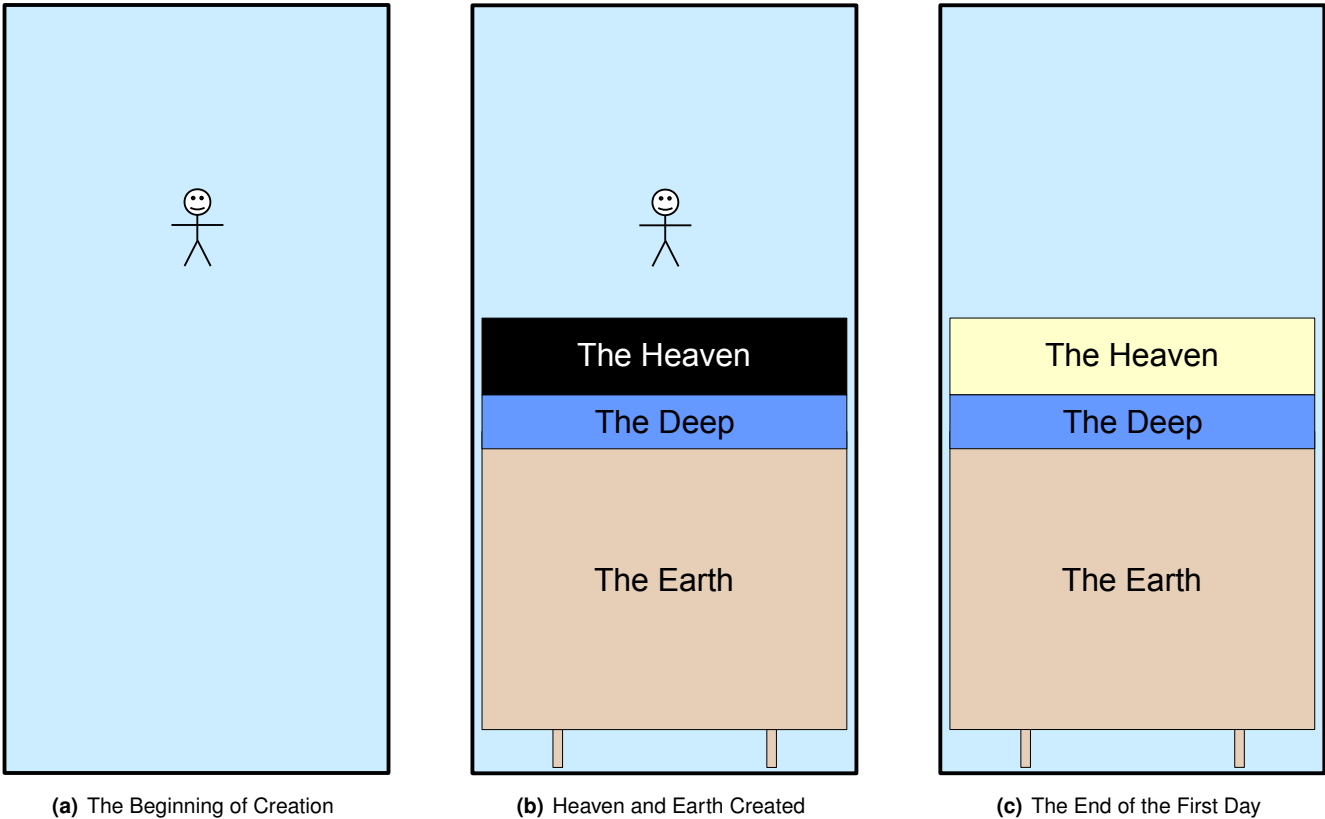


Figure 6.1: (a) God manifests his image. He does this because God himself is invisible. (b) God's image creates all things, beginning with the heaven and the earth. (c) Perhaps God's image entered into the creation and brought forth the light.

Figure 6.1(b) shows the creation after Genesis 1:1-2. We'll depict the situation as God's image is not in the creation yet, so it is dark within it. Genesis 1:2 refers to darkness. Some people have a problem with there being darkness at this point, but the darkness serves a purpose: It is a better setting in which to bring forth light in Genesis 1:3. We do have scripture that says that God created darkness:

Isaiah 45:5-7

- 5 I [am] the LORD, and [there is] none else, [there is] no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:
 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that [there is] none beside me. I [am] the LORD, and [there is] none else.
 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these [things].

I've personally considered that perhaps God's image entered into the creation at the point that the light is formed in Genesis 1:3. That is depicted in Figure 6.1(c). You can form your own opinion. Here are a couple of related verses that we will not dwell on:

John 1:5-7

- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John.
 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe.

John 8:12

- 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The light spoken of on the first day is most likely spiritual light. Genesis 1:5 mentions four words: light, day, darkness, and night. Other scripture says this:

1 Thessalonians 5:5

- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

The same words are used here and they are spiritual terms, not physical. Next, we will turn to the structure of the creation. To discuss this, we need to establish some foundational concepts.

6.2 Water and Ice

Before we consider what the heaven and the earth are, we need to gain understanding of some foundational concepts concerning water and ice.

Parting the Red Sea

We will learning something significant from the parting of the red sea.

Exodus 14:21-22

- 21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go [back] by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry [land], and the waters were divided.
 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry [ground]: and the waters [were] a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

A strong wind divides the waters, creating a passage within.

Exodus 14:29

- 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry [land] in the midst of the sea; and the waters [were] a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Notice the walls: one is on each side of the dry land. Buildings have walls. Let's see what kind of wall this is.

Exodus 15:8

- 8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, [and] the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Congealed here might mean frozen. God's breath is the strong wind. Let's see what God's breath can do:

Job 37:10

- 10 By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.

Psalms 78:13

13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

 ²
Psalms 106:7-9

7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked [him] at the sea, [even] at the Red sea.
 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.
 9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.

Psalms 66:6

6 He turned the sea into dry [land]: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

Psalms 136:13-14

13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:

Hebrews 11:29

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry [land]: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Isaiah 63:12-13

12 That led [them] by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?
 13 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, [that] they should not stumble?

Isaiah 51:9-10

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. [Art] thou not it that hath cut Rahab, [and] wounded the dragon?
 10 [Art] thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

Psalms 74:13-15

13 Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.
 14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, [and] gavest him [to be] meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.
 15 Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers.

Next, we will see that God also melts the ice:

Psalms 147:16-18

16 He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.
 17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?
 18 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, [and] the waters flow.

This is how the Egyptians were drowned:

Exodus 15:10

10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Nehemiah 9:11

11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

This same method can be used to cause a flood.

²Another reminder that there are sometimes long sequences of verses given with no discussion. You should be reading all of the passages (there is power in God's word).

Parting the Jordan

The parting of the Jordan in the time of Joshua is a similar miracle:

Joshua 3:13

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, [that] the waters of Jordan shall be cut off [from] the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

Joshua 3:16-17

16 That the waters which came down from above stood [and] rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that [is] beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, [even] the salt sea, failed, [and] were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.
17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

Joshua 4:23

23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

Elijah does something similar:

2 Kings 2:8

8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped [it] together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

Elisha repeats this:

2 Kings 2:13-14

13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;
14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where [is] the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

Ice in the Creation

Notice all of the terminology that we saw previously applied to the creation.

Psalms 33:6-9

6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
9 For he spake, and it was [done]; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Job 38:29-30

29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?
30 The waters are hid as [with] a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

Isaiah 48:13

13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: [when] I call unto them, they stand up together.

It may be that the creation is encased in ice in order to insulate it from eternity.

6.3 Creating the Heaven and Earth

Genesis 1:1-2 is repeated here for convenience:

Genesis 1:1-2

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The point of the earth being described as “without form and void” is that its basic material is present, but there is more to do concerning it. That additional work comes on days three through six. So, the initial focus is on the heaven. Consider this verse:

Psalms 89:12

- 12 The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.

It says that God created the north and south:. We can think of this as being the directions of the compass, but why aren’t “east” and “west” mentioned? We could imply those. Or, we could see if other scripture gives us help.

Job 26:7

- 7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.

This says that God stretched out the north. This is likely to refer to stretching out the heaven on the first day or the heavens on the second day. If that is the case, then the north refers to the top of the creation and the south refers to the bottom of the creation.

Now, Job 26:7 also mentions the “empty place”. The same Hebrew word used for that phrase is also used for the phrase “without form” in Genesis 1:2.³ So we should think of this as saying “He stretched out the heaven over the earth. . .”. We will deal with the end of the verse on third day. Some want this to mean that the earth is hanging in outer space, but that is not what it is about. Rather, the earth hangs on nothing because it is submerged in the deep.

Figure 6.1(c) shows one view of creation at the end of the first day. It is one view because it may be that all heavens are stretched out at one time, which would have to be on the second day. If the heaven is not stretched out on the first day, then there is essentially only the water, or the deep, and the earth. The water would fill the heaven. Decide which one you want to believe and move forward with it.

Consider this:

Psalms 75:6-7

- 6 For promotion [cometh] neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.
- 7 But God [is] the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

While this is referring to the directions on the earth, it implies that promotion comes out of the north. Of course, promotion comes from God who is then mentioned. Again, this implies that God is in the north, or the (uppermost) heaven.

Psalms 48:1-2

- 1 Great [is] the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, [in] the mountain of his holiness.
- 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, [is] mount Zion, [on] the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Isaiah 14:13-14

- 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Both of the previous two passages refer to “the sides of the north”: What does that mean? The simplest meaning is that it refers to something in heaven. For more understanding here, we need to consider the new Jerusalem for the Psalms passage and the government of the angels for the Isaiah passage.

Let’s see what is said about the south.

Job 9:9

- 9 Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

³See Section B.1 of Appendix B for more information on how to use a concordance while studying this passage.

Proverbs 7:27

27 Her house [is] the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Are the chambers of the south the same as the chambers of death? Is this a reference to hell? I'll suggest that it is, but you can decide for yourself. We will also note that a whirlwind is often a symbol of God's judgment:

Job 37:9

9 Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.

Sometimes we wonder what the scriptures are saying, but we always need to use scripture to try to explain any particular thing. It is possible to use the wrong reference, but careful study will often resolve such mistakes. You can always default to "I don't know what it is saying".

Now we know that the north (i.e., the heaven) is stretched out like a tent because we are following the pattern of the tabernacle. Let's see some other verses related to a tent or tabernacle.

Isaiah 54:2

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

Jeremiah 10:20

20 My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they [are] not: [there is] none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.

We will look at more verses on the second day. Again, it is quite possible that this heaven is stretched out on the second day.

6.4 Challenging Passages Concerning the Earth

Let's look further on the passage that says that the earth hangs upon nothing. We'll repeat the passage here for convenience:

Job 26:7

7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.

As previously stated, this verse is used as proof of the globe. A reference to a picture like Figure 6.2(a) will often follow: "See, it is hanging upon nothing!" The picture is the **not** truth—the bible is. So, where is the scripture that justifies the picture? One thing is clearly true, when the heavens are stretched out, the earth is submerged in water. Also, there is no verse that puts the earth in any heaven. Doing that violates the tabernacle model.

Here is another passage that can help you understand what the true creation is and put away the wrong one.

2 Peter 3:5-6

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

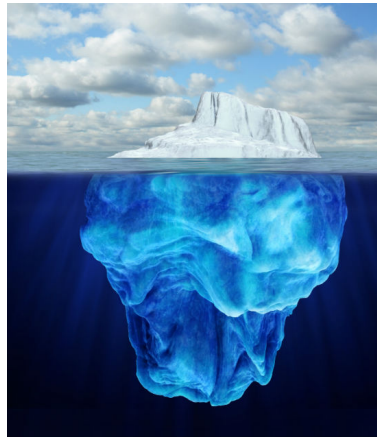
6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2 Peter 3:5-6 is describing the situation after Noah's flood: "... the world that then was, being overflowed with water...". The beginning of the passage refers to the creation: "... by the word of God the heavens were of old ...". The end of verse 5 says "... the earth standing out of the water and in the water...". This is after the creation and before the flood. What comes to mind is an iceberg, as pictured in Figure 6.2(b). We know that there are things that weigh tons (like an aircraft carrier), yet float. The scripture seems to be saying something like this about the earth. We will get more confirmation of this when we understand what the earth is founded on during the third day. But at this point during the creation, the earth hangs upon nothing and is, therefore, submerged. To not know this, you have to be willingly ignorant! Yikes! People don't know this because they have believed a lie.

Of course, if you insist upon a globe earth, then you need to envision something like Figure 6.2(c). You have to strain very hard to believe that, or you'll need to put a better story to the beginning of creation. The globe cosmology is discussed further in Appendix F.



(a) A Globe Earth in Space



(b) An Iceberg



(c) A Floating Globe in Space...?

Figure 6.2: (a) A picture like this is often shown when explaining Job 26:7. You have to ignore other verses to get away with that. (b) An iceberg is a good example of something that sits in the water and stands out of the water. Could this be what 2 Peter 3:5-6 is describing with respect to the earth? (c) This is someone's effort to try to apply 2 Peter 3:5-6 to a globe earth. But, where is all of that water now?

6.5 The Veil

In the tabernacle, the most holy place has a veil. Does God create a veil for the heaven? If so, does he create it on the first day? It isn't clear, but let's see some possible scriptures. Some of these clearly reference the creation after it is completed.

Job 22:12-14

12 [Is] not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!
 13 And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?
 14 Thick clouds [are] a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.

Dark clouds could be the veil. But are these dark clouds in the sky that we see?

Lamentations 3:44

44 Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that [our] prayer should not pass through.

2 Samuel 22:12

12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, [and] thick clouds of the skies.

Job 37:21

21 And now [men] see not the bright light which [is] in the clouds: but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them.

Exodus 14:19-20

19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:
 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness [to them], but it gave light by night [to these]: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

While this is clearly a description of the pillar that the LORD hid himself in during Israel's exodus out of Egypt, it could be a type of the veil in the creation. It would be a cloud and darkness the the 2nd heaven and below, but there would be great light in the 3rd heaven. That's essentially what you get with a veil between the most holy place and the holy place.

Job 36:29-32

- 29 Also can [any] understand the spreadings of the clouds, [or] the noise of his tabernacle?
30 Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it, and covereth the bottom of the sea.
31 For by them judgeth he the people; he giveth meat in abundance.
32 With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it [not to shine] by [the cloud] that cometh betwixt.

Isaiah 50:3

- 3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

Psalms 97:2

- 2 Clouds and darkness [are] round about him: righteousness and judgment [are] the habitation of his throne.

Conclusions

God created one heaven and the earth. The earth is submerged in water. God created darkness, so that he could bring forth the light. These are surely spiritual aspects. God may have stretched out the only heaven on this day.

The Second Day

On the second day, we will see how the other heavens are formed. This is more clear when we understand aspects of both the tabernacle and the temple. The angels are also created on this day. Let's begin with the account in *Genesis* 1.

Genesis 1:6-8

- 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
- 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so.
- 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

A “firmament” is an expanse. So, an expanse divides the waters. This will eventually be the 2nd heaven from the perspective of the earth. Figure 7.1 attempts to show what happened at the beginning of the second day. The grey region would be the initial firmament. We will learn that it is stretched out. It isn't clear just how much water there would be above and below the firmament.

While we already have an idea that there are three heavens from the overview, let's see that the scripture tells us this. There isn't a verse that says this explicitly and this is what keeps most Christians from understanding it. Then we will see that God “stretched out” the heavens. It is this stretching out operation that creates the final heaven.

We will also note that nothing is described as “good” on the second day. This leads some to believe the heresy of the gap theory.

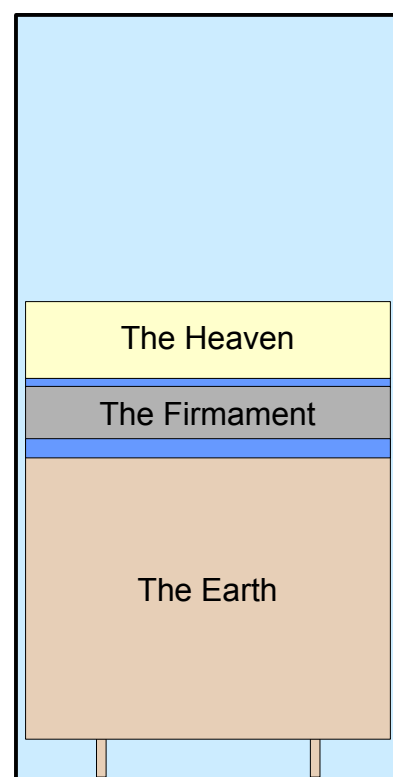


Figure 7.1: The Initial Firmament

7.1 Stories in the Heavens

The concept of stories aligns with the temple rather than the wilderness tabernacle. However, the stories will be applied to the creation tabernacle model.

Amos 9:6

- 6 [It is] he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD [is] his name.

Amos 9:6 is a critical verse for understanding that there are stories in the heaven. Bad bibles do not say this. Refer to Section A.3 for more on the issue. Bad bibles hinder Christians from maturing!

Psalms 104:3

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

It isn't clear what the beams would be. The only thing that comes to mind is ice.

There are several references to the number of stories in scripture. We will start with Noah's ark.

Genesis 6:16

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; [with] lower, second, and third [stories] shalt thou make it.

Noah's ark had 3 stories: lower, second, and third. Since there is a "lower" story, it may be that the second story has the door. This is consistent with there being a door into the wilderness tabernacle.

Next, we will see the stories in Solomon's temple.

1 Kings 6:6

6 The nethermost chamber [was] five cubits broad, and the middle [was] six cubits broad, and the third [was] seven cubits broad: for without [in the wall] of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that [the beams] should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

1 Kings 6:8-10

8 The door for the middle chamber [was] in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle [chamber], and out of the middle into the third.
9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.
10 And [then] he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house [with] timber of cedar.

There are three stories here too: nethermost, middle, and third. You will certainly picture in your mind that stories are parallel to one another, rather than a sphere inside a sphere.

The number "3" in the bible can mean holy completion. So, we will have a third example of the 3 stories. This comes in the vision to Ezekiel about the temple in the millennium.

Ezekiel 41:16

16 The door posts, and the narrow windows, and the galleries round about on their three stories, over against the door, cieled with wood round about, and from the ground up to the windows, and the windows [were] covered;

Ezekiel 42:3

3 Over against the twenty [cubits] which [were] for the inner court, and over against the pavement which [was] for the utter court, [was] gallery against gallery in three [stories].

Ezekiel 42:6

6 For they [were] in three [stories], but had not pillars as the pillars of the courts: therefore [the building] was straitened more than the lowest and the middlemost from the ground.

There are three stories here too. So, there are going to be three stories in the heaven, or three heavens. We've only seen two so far, so let's see how the third one is formed.

7.2 Stretching Out the Heavens

We saw in Section 5.3 that the tabernacle is a tent. When a tent is put together, the curtains are stretched out to be attached to the pillars (or what the temple calls "beams"). So, note the many scriptures that reference the stretching out of the heavens.

Isaiah 40:22

22 [It is] he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof [are] as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Isaiah 42:5

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isaiah 44:24

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I [am] the LORD that maketh all [things]; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isaiah 45:12

12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, [even] my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

Psalms 104:2

2 Who coverest [thyself] with light as [with] a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

Isaiah 51:13

13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where [is] the fury of the oppressor?

Jeremiah 10:12

12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Jeremiah 51:15

15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.

Zechariah 12:1

1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

Isaiah 48:13

13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: [when] I call unto them, they stand up together.

7.3 The Open Firmament

The 1st heaven is referred to as the “open” firmament. It is only mentioned in Genesis 1:20 on the fifth day.

Genesis 1:20

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl [that] may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

The open firmament is where the clouds are. Proverbs 8:27-29 will help us better understand what is going on here. It is a brief summary of the first three days of creation.

Proverbs 8:27-29

27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Genesis 1:2 says that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Verse 27 mentions the “face of the depth”. So this is the first day. Verse 28 mentions that the fountains of the deep were strengthened. These are the sides of the heavens that are formed as the water is frozen after the stretching out. So, this is the second day. Since

the clouds are mentioned, the open firmament is formed on that same day. We will see in the next chapter that the earth is founded on the third day.¹

Now let's see how this open firmament is formed. This is yet another challenging aspect to understand. To do this, we have to see another firmament in scripture.

Ezekiel 1:22-26

- 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature [was] as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- 23 And under the firmament [were] their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.
- 24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.
- 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that [was] over their heads, when they stood, [and] had let down their wings.
- 26 And above the firmament that [was] over their heads [was] the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne [was] the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

It may be hard to understand what Ezekiel is seeing. Most people get focused on the cherubims' wings. But this is a description of the chariot of God (the same thing that picks up Elijah in 2 Kings 2). The firmament described in Ezekiel will help us understand the firmament in the creation. It will so show us how the open firmament is formed and what it is.

Fortunately for us, God uses types and patterns in the scripture, so we can get an idea of what Ezekiel saw by comparing it to another chariot in the scripture: the ark of the covenant (reference 1 Chronicles 28:18). Figure 7.2 shows a picture of 4 Levites (or priests) carrying the ark (we can ignore the one blowing the horn). The ark is like the firmament in Ezekiel's vision. The mercy seat is like the throne in the vision. The Levites are like the cherubims in the vision. The ark/firmament represents the holy place or the 2nd heaven. The mercy seat/throne represents the most holy place or the 3rd heaven.

When the Levites pick up the ark (akin to stretching out the heavens), an open space is left beneath the ark. This open expanse is the open firmament. The same can be said for the cherubims in Ezekiel's vision: they hold the firmament over their heads leaving an open area under the firmament. We will see scripture later that describes four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, so there is consistency throughout the scripture.

Ezekiel 1:22 mentions the "color of the terrible crystal". The Hebrew word translated "crystal" is also translated "ice" and "frost". The vision references the color of it, but the firmament of the creation probably is made of ice.

Job 37:18

- 18 Hast thou with him spread out the sky, [which is] strong, [and] as a molten looking glass?

This passage says that the sky is strong, or hard, as a molten looking glass. A molten looking glass is essentially a metal polished so well that it reflects. However, the verse isn't saying that the sky is a mirror, it is saying that it is hard. That would make sense if it were made of ice. The next verse implies something similar. Perhaps it isn't ice but rather some crystalline structure that is transparent. In the latter case, perhaps the sun could shine through without melting it.

Exodus 24:10

- 10 And they saw the God of Israel: and [there was] under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in [his] clearness.



Figure 7.2: Levites Carrying the Ark

¹ This is an excellent example of how advanced the study of the creation is. Most Christians are not going to understand the accumulation of these many principles when they have the wrong bibles.

Figure 7.3 shows the tabernacle model and our representation of the creation. The 3rd heaven corresponds to the most holy place. The 2nd heaven corresponds to the holy place. The 1st heaven corresponds to the open area outside the tent. The tent is enclosed; the area outside of it is open. It really is that straightforward. We will look at the elements of the open firmament in Section 10.4.

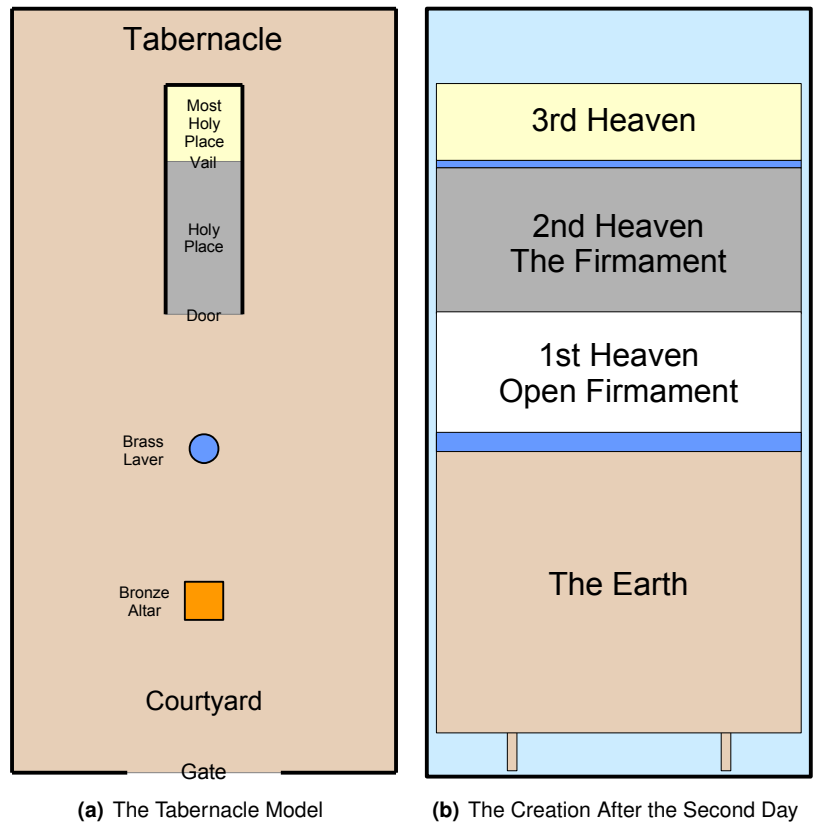


Figure 7.3: (a) shows tabernacle model and (b) shows the creation after the second day. The heavens are complete, but the earth is still submerged in water.

7.4 God's Sanctuary

Several scriptures talk about God's sanctuary.

1 Chronicles 28:10-12
10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do [it].
11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasures thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,
12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasures of the house of God, and of the treasures of the dedicated things:
Psalms 63:2
2 To see thy power and thy glory, so [as] I have seen thee in the sanctuary.
Psalms 78:69
69 And he built his sanctuary like high [palaces], like the earth which he hath established for ever.
Psalms 102:19
19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

7.5 Waters Above the Heavens

These verse talk about waters above the heavens:

Psalms 148:4

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that [be] above the heavens.

Job 9:8

8 Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.

Psalms 29:3

3 The voice of the LORD [is] upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD [is] upon many waters.

Psalms 29:10

10 The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.

There is also water below the firmament, but it is less clear where exactly. Is it in the clouds? We'll discuss the water under the firmament on the third day.

7.6 The Creation of the Angels

Angels is another advanced topic in the scripture, and it is taught just as poorly as the creation is. First, let's see where the angels dwell:

Matthew 24:36

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

They are called the "angels of heaven" because heaven is where they dwell. But you might ask, "Which one?" Some will assume the 3rd heaven, but it is really the 2nd heaven. The firmament is called "Heaven" in Genesis 1:8, is usually the heaven referred to throughout scripture when the reference is singular. A thorough study of what the angels are doing will make this clear. But like the priests and Levites who serve in the temple (more particularly the holy place), angels have a similar home in the heavens. We'll discuss this in more detail in Chapter 15.

This is also where the LORD dwells:

Psalms 148:1-2

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

There is further evidence as to where the angels live because the wilderness tabernacle has cherubims on it. Cherubims are angels, in spite of what people teach.

Exodus 26:1

1 Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle [with] ten curtains [of] fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: [with] cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

Exodus 26:31

31 And thou shalt make a vail [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

The firmament may have been created during the evening of the second day, and the angels during the morning of the same. This is implied by their being referred to as "morning stars". This could refer to how they minister, or both.

Job 38:4-7

4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

The angels witnessed the founding of the earth, which occurred on the third day. Lucifer, or Satan, is called “son of the morning”:

Isaiah 14:12

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

As we mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, nothing is described as good on the second day. Some speculate that it because some of the angels rebelled:

Job 15:15

15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

Job 25:5

5 Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.

However, this rebellion did not occur by the end of the second day. But perhaps it is because the firmament is a place of darkness, and the lights for it are not created until the fourth day. Looking to the gap theory heresy for the answer is the wrong solution to this very small problem.

Conclusions

The tabernacle model guides us pretty clearly as to what happened on the second day. The firmament was created and the heavens were stretched out. This created the open firmament. The angels were created soon after their home was prepared. The angels are not the focus of the creation account.

The heavens are 3 parallel stories:

1. The 1st heaven is seen by day,
2. The 2nd heaven is seen by night, and
3. The 3rd heaven is seen by faith.

While there is no scripture for that, it appears to be true. Of course, it may be that only the body of Christ will see the 3rd heaven. We'll have that discussion in Chapter 15.

The final exclamation is that the earth is not in heaven! It isn't going to be moved there later either.

The Third Day

Although the earth was created on the first day, it isn't founded until the third day. The seas are also named as a result of God gathering the waters together. This day is an interesting day because it symbolizes resurrection.

Genesis 1:9-13

- 9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so.
 10 And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good.
 11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
 12 And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.
 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

We saw in Section 6.2 that God parted the waters of the Red Sea by a strong wind to expose the dry land. We also saw this verse that seemed to refer the the creation event:

Psalms 33:7

- 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

We won't focus on the plants very much other than highlighting their seeds. We read this in the new testament:

John 12:24

- 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

The passage around this verse is speaking of Jesus' death and resurrection. The phrase "the third day" is frequently associated with resurrection. But, no resurrection is said to have happened here in Genesis 1, although perhaps it is implied. Also, if the earth brings forth grass, then perhaps the seed was in the earth.

Also, the earth is lifted up on this day. It is a type of resurrection. Let's see a few verses that describe that:

Psalms 136:6

- 6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

Isaiah 42:5

- 5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isaiah 44:24

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I [am] the LORD that maketh all [things]; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

8.1 Founding the Earth

We will now see many verses that refer to the foundation of the earth.

Hebrews 1:10

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Isaiah 48:13

13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: [when] I call unto them, they stand up together.

The previous verse says that the heavens and the earth stand up together. If so, then perhaps the heavens are not stretched out already. One possibility is that one heaven is stretched out each day. Perhaps the lowest (i.e., 1st) heaven is stretched out at this time. That might be the means to reconcile all the verses.

Isaiah 51:13

13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where [is] the fury of the oppressor?

Isaiah 51:16

16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou [art] my people.

Psalms 102:25

25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens [are] the work of thy hands.

Psalms 89:11

11 The heavens [are] thine, the earth also [is] thine: [as for] the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

Zechariah 12:1

1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

Psalms 78:69

69 And he built his sanctuary like high [palaces], like the earth which he hath established for ever.

Psalms 119:90

90 Thy faithfulness [is] unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

Jeremiah 31:37

37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Notice that the foundations of the earth are beneath the earth, not within it. But what are the foundations?

Psalms 24:1-2

1 The earth [is] the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

It says that the earth is founded on the seas, or the floods. That seems to mean that it sits on water.

Job 38:4-11

- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;
 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
 8 Or [who] shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, [as if] it had issued out of the womb?
 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,
 10 And brake up for it my decreed [place], and set bars and doors,
 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Verse 6 is an interesting verse. The word *foundations* comes from a word that is often translated *socket*. The word *fastened* comes from a word that is also translated *sink* or *settle*. One way to view the question in the verse is as : What is the earth fastened to? The answer could be “nothing”. In a similar way, you could ask, “What holds an airplane up?” The answer would be “the wind”. But how can the wind hold up something so heavy. Obviously, there is more to it than that (there is a force exerted against something that supplies resistance). But, I’m just suggesting that verse 6 could be a question that helps you conclude that the earth is fastened into nothing. The alternative is that the question begs Job to produce the right answer.

It could be that the earth is fastened into ice. It could be sitting upon water but have pillars that go down into ice. You won’t get that out of that verse, but it is a possibility when considering many scriptures. I will leave it at this: the earth is founded upon the seas.

Verse 7 tells us that the angels are present to witness the founding of the earth. So, they are likely created after their home, the firmament, is created.

Verses 8-11 are even more challenging. Verse 9 references that water is held in clouds. They get dark as they hold more water. It is hard to know when the sea broke forth in verse 8. Is this Noah’s flood? The rest of this passage seems to deal with creation. Perhaps it is saying that the waters are held back so that they can break forth for Noah’s flood. . . ? The *decreed place* is intriguing. I think the water was broken up (was it ice?) to expose the land, the place that God has decreed that he will dwell. It may more particularly reference something that we shall see shortly. The “bars and doors” hold back the seas.

Proverbs 8:27-29

- 27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

This provides us with a short summary of the first three days of creation. Verse 27 seems to reference the first day. Verse 28 maybe the stretching out of the firmament and the forming of the first heaven. Verse 29 says that the seas were bounded when the earth was founded. And just what are the bounds of the seas? You find the answer buried in *Jeremiah*.

Jeremiah 5:22

- 22 Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand [for] the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

So, the sand is the bound for the seas! The decreed place in Job 38:10 might refer to the sand. Go read the context around Jeremiah 5:22 and you will wonder why this verse is there. We will actually suggest a reason in Appendix E.

Job 26:10

- 10 He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.

Let’s revisit the tabernacle model to see how the creation compares. Figure 8.1 shows the two drawings. The earth has been lifted up so that it is not submerged in water. Can we come up with any scripture that tells us that the earth is where the brass laver is?

Genesis 1:9 said that all of the waters were gathered into one place. The laver is a vessel for holding water. Maybe that is just a coincidence. Searching for “earth” and “brass” will reveal this verse:

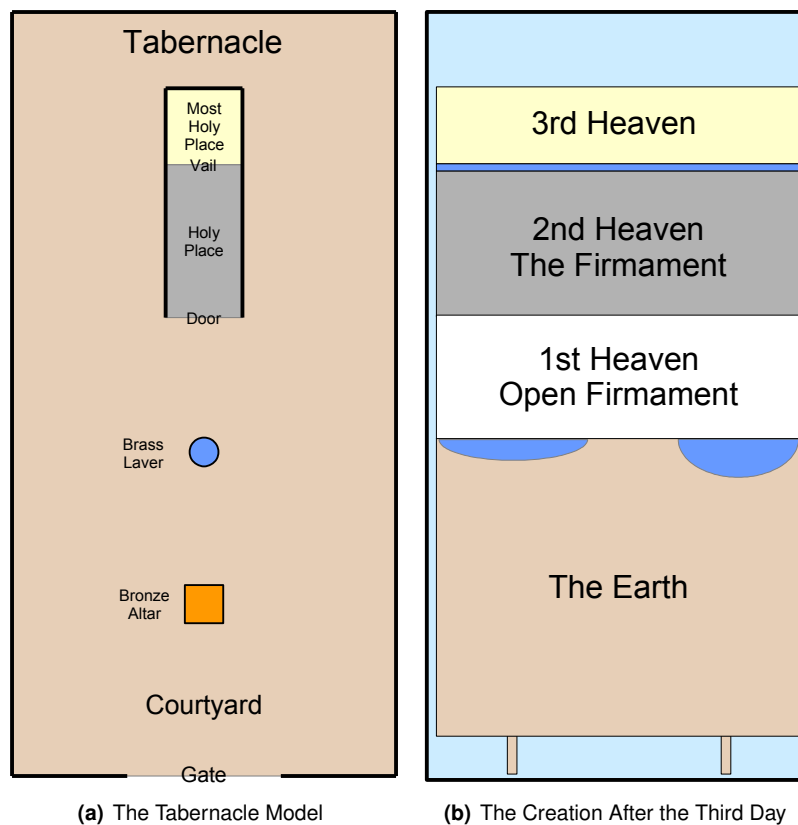


Figure 8.1: (a) shows the tabernacle model. (b) shows the creation after the third day. The structure of the creation is almost complete.

Leviticus 26:19

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

That's interesting. Is that another coincidence? Well, you will also find this one:

Deuteronomy 28:23

23 And thy heaven that [is] over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee [shall be] iron.

Ok, perhaps not. But, here's a tricky hint involving the temple:

Matthew 23:35

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

This says that blood was shed on the earth between the temple and the altar. The altar was supposed to be pretty close to the temple (refer to Figure 5.3). The temple is really just the permanent version of the tabernacle. So, let's see what is between the tabernacle and the altar:

Exodus 40:7

7 And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

As a type, the surface of the earth is between the tabernacle and the altar, exactly where the laver suggests it is in the model. If you think that I contrived that, then I got very lucky!

8.2 The Extents of the Earth

The creation is referenced in three dimensions: breadth, length, and height/depth. Height and depth are just opposites.

Ephesians 3:18

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

The earth is referred to in two dimensions:

Genesis 13:17

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Job 38:18

18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

Revelation 21:16

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Job 11:7-9

7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?
8 [It is] as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?
9 The measure thereof [is] longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

8.3 Four Corners and Four Winds

The earth is referred to as having 4 corners and 4 winds:

Revelation 7:1

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

This verse should remind you of the 4 cherubims under the firmament in *Ezekiel*. Some want to argue that the earth must be flat to have 4 corners. While it may be true that the earth is flat and has 4 corners, this is not how the scripture is using the term.

Isaiah 11:12

12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Let's see that the 4 corners can be a relative expression:

Ezekiel 7:2

2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

Four quarters is used in the same way:

Revelation 20:8

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea.

Jeremiah 49:36

36 And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

1 Chronicles 9:24

24 In four quarters were the porters, toward the east, west, north, and south.

Here, the word translated "quarters" often means spirit or wind. It is also translated "side" once.

Luke 13:29

29 And they shall come from the east, and [from] the west, and from the north, and [from] the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

I think all of these terms just mean the 4 directions. Collectively, 4 corners or quarters generally mean “everywhere” or “remote places”.

8.4 The Ends of the Earth

The “ends of the earth” is a similar expression for “remote places”. There are other variations.

Deuteronomy 13:7

7 [Namely], of the gods of the people which [are] round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth;

Deuteronomy 28:49

49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, [as swift] as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

Isaiah 43:5-6

5 Fear not: for I [am] with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;
6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

Job 28:24

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, [and] seeth under the whole heaven;

Job 37:2-3

2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound [that] goeth out of his mouth.
3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

Jeremiah 51:15-16

15 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding.
16 When he uttereth [his] voice, [there is] a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Daniel 4:10-11

10 Thus [were] the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof [was] great.
11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

1 Samuel 2:10

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Psalms 135:7

7 He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.

Proverbs 30:4

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and what [is] his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Deuteronomy 4:32

32 For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and [ask] from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been [any such thing] as this great thing [is], or hath been heard like it?

Here is “uttermost parts of the earth”:

Psalms 2:8

8 Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession.

Isaiah 24:16

16 From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, [even] glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

Matthew 12:42

42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon [is] here.

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

“Uttermost parts of...”:

Psalms 139:9

9 [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Nehemiah 1:9

9 But [if] ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, [yet] will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Luke 17:24

24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one [part] under heaven, shineth unto the other [part] under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

8.5 Water Under the Earth

Does “water under the earth” mean the water on which the earth sits (i.e., its foundation)?

Exodus 20:4

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth:

Deuteronomy 5:8

8 Thou shalt not make thee [any] graven image, [or] any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the waters beneath the earth:

Deuteronomy 4:18

18 The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that [is] in the waters beneath the earth:

Fish are in the seas. Apparently, the seas are “under the earth”. If the earth does sit upon water, then perhaps those waters and the seas are connected.

2 Samuel 22:16

16 And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

Psalms 18:15

15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

I don't know if those verses are relevant. The idea of water under the earth is discussed further in Section 11.6 when discussing hell.

8.6 Revisiting Challenging Passages

Now, we will revisit some challenging passages.

Job 26:7

7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.

We concluded that the earth hangs on nothing because it was submerged in water. Now, the earth is lifted up and sits upon the water.

2 Peter 3:5-6

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Once founded, the earth is in the water and out of the water. These scriptures seem to make sense at this point. You will have to decide for yourself.

Next, we will revisit that the earth is a "circle". Here is the verse that gives that description.

Isaiah 40:22

22 [It is] he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof [are] as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

The argument often given for saying that "circle" means "sphere" is that there is not a Hebrew word for "sphere". That's a really lame argument by the way. That claims that God did not make a word that he needed. But let's see a word that could mean *sphere*:

Isaiah 22:18

18 He will surely violently turn and toss thee [like] a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory [shall be] the shame of thy lord's house.

So, we have a Hebrew word that is translated "ball". The same author wrote both verses, so, while scripture really comes from God, the earthly writer wasn't challenged for a word that could mean "ball". To better understand what a circle is, refer to Section B.2, where we use the concordance to better understand the word.

Figure 8.2 presents us with two pictures that are argued to be the "circle of the earth". Figure 8.2(a) really is circular. It also has 4 corners, by the way. Figure 8.2(b) only looks circular since it is a picture on a page. God would see it in three dimensions.

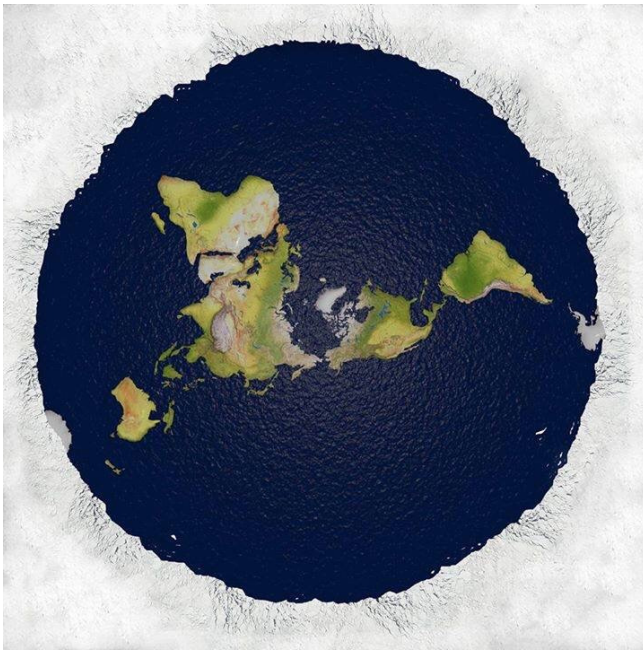
Finally, we have a strange phrase: "the habitable part of his earth":

Proverbs 8:31

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights [were] with the sons of men.

Many will argue that the "habitable" part excludes: the seas (but those aren't part of the earth anyway) and the mountains, the deserts, and the arctic/antarctic. Although we do find animals (and people) in many of those places. But, what about way beyond Antarctica?

Figure 8.3 shows an ice wall of Antarctica. If the earth extends beyond Antarctica as suggested in Figure 8.2(a), then eventually there is a place where the heat and light of the sun does not reach. We certainly do not know if that is true. A globe doesn't have this aspect.



(a) The Circular Flat Earth



(b) The Globe Earth

Figure 8.2: (a) This picture shows what might be a circular earth. (b) This picture shows a spherical earth. Try as you might, but a sphere is not a circle. Both images are computer generated. One of them has millions of dollars invested in making it look real. Wouldn't it be nice to have a real photograph of the earth?



Figure 8.3: What might lie far beyond the Antarctica shores or ice wall? Is it an inhabitable wilderness?

Conclusions

Is what follows a summary of creation?

Psalms 104:1-10

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.
- 2 Who coverest [thyself] with light as [with] a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:
- 3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:
- 4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:
- 5 [Who] laid the foundations of the earth, [that] it should not be removed for ever.
- 6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as [with] a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.
- 8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.
- 9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.
- 10 He sendeth the springs into the valleys, [which] run among the hills.

When the earth was created, it was without form and under water:

Genesis 1:2

- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

But now he has formed the dry land (or earth):

Psalms 95:4-5

- 4 In his hand [are] the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills [is] his also.
- 5 The sea [is] his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry [land].

The earth was founded on the seas on the third day. Science isn't telling you what the Bible teaches.

The Fourth Day

The fourth day essentially populates the firmament with lights. Let's see the relevant verses.

Genesis 1:14-18

- 14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also.
 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good.

The lights dictate day and night. They are also for signs. The word translated as “seasons” can also mean *appointed times*, but should also denote repetition. What are the greater light and the lesser light?

Psalms 136:7-9

- 7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
 8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy [endureth] for ever:
 9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

The sun is the greater light, as we would think. So, the moon and stars rule by night—they are the lesser light. The bible usually provides definitions for the words used.

9.1 The Biblical Clock

Let's see cycles in the creation:

Ecclesiastes 1:4-10

- 4 [One] generation passeth away, and [another] generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.
 5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.
 6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.
 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea [is] not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.
 8 All things [are] full of labour; man cannot utter [it]: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.
 9 The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done [is] that which shall be done: and [there is] no new [thing] under the sun.
 10 Is there [any] thing whereof it may be said, See, this [is] new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

The sun, the wind, and the waters in the seas operate in cycles. We know there are other things that cycle as well (e.g., the moon and the stars). Is this what the “circle of the earth” is? or is it simply a geometric reference?

Figure 9.1 draws attention to the purpose of the lights in the heavens. Consider this:

- The sun keeps track of the hour of the day,
- the moon keeps track of the day of the month, and
- the stars, or constellations, keep track of what month it is.

The sun also tells us that a year has passed as it completes its spiraling journey. That gives us the seasons.

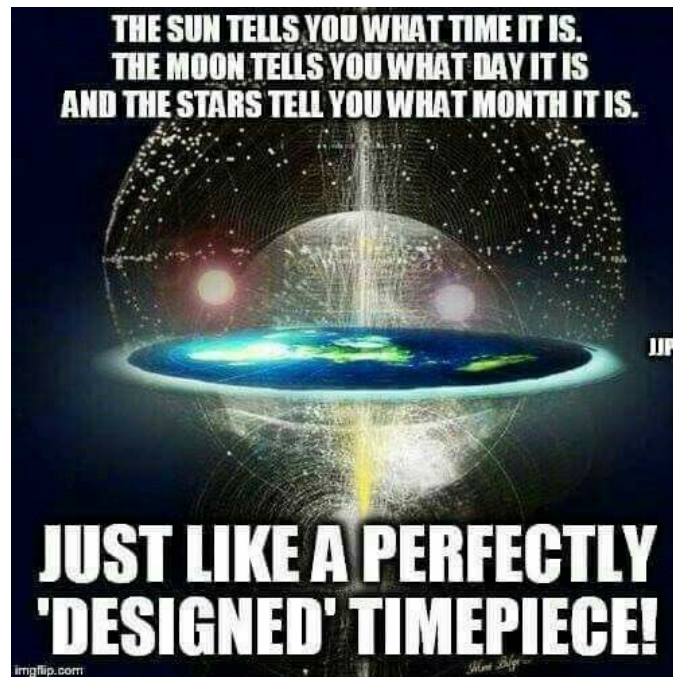


Figure 9.1: The lights in the firmament are for signs and for seasons. It is God’s way for man to tell time.

In a later chapter, we will see some speculations as to why the months and years do not line up. Maybe they once did. Were there seasons before the flood?

Genesis 8:22

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

9.2 The Ordinances In Heaven

God has established ordinances, or laws, in the heavens. Let’s see that.

Job 38:31-33

31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?
 32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
 33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

It isn’t clear what *Mazzaroth* is. Is it a particular constellation, and, therefore, it would be visible at night in a particular time of year? Or, is it what we call the *zodiac*, or all of the constellations? We will visit this topic in Appendix D. It also says there are ordinances in heaven, and they have dominion over the earth.

Psalms 8:3

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Jeremiah 31:35-37

- 35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, [and] the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts [is] his name:
- 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, [then] the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.
- 37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

The ordinances are forever.

Psalms 89:36-37

- 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.
- 37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and [as] a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

- 1 To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Exodus 13:10

- 10 Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

Israel had appointed feasts to observe each year. They occurred on specific days of specific months each year. They needed a calendar to know when. That's what the lights in the firmament were for.

Numbers 9:2-3

- 2 Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season.
- 3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.

Daniel 2:21

- 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

This is said about God. When did he do that? One example is Exodus 12:2 when he tells Israel that the current month would be the first month to Israel. A couple of other examples might be found in Section 12.2.

9.3 The Sun

As we saw in Genesis 1:16, God made the greater light to rule the day, and that light is the sun. But is it really the greater light? Astronomy would tell you no. Figure 9.2(a) shows you the supposed sizes of stars. I think I am going to believe God and not astronomy.

Psalms 19:4-6

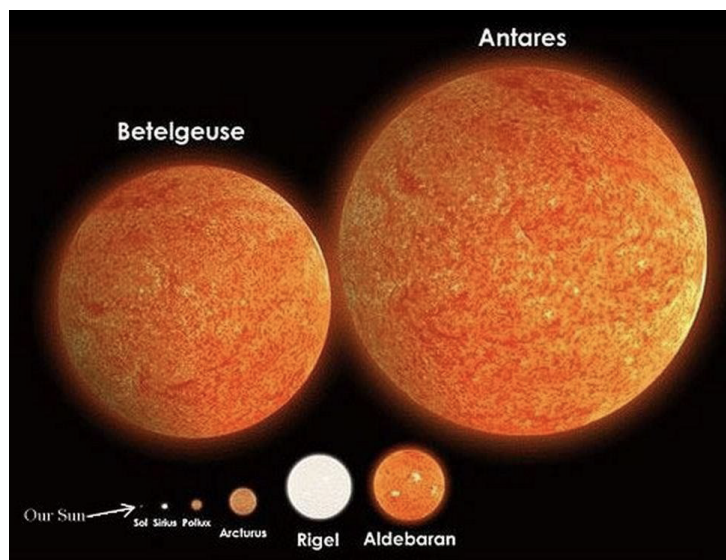
- 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- 5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
- 6 His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Psalms 19:4-6 says that the sun is as a strong man who runs a race. So, does the earth go around the sun in a circle, or does the sun go around in a circle above the earth? The latter might not make sense to you if you are not familiar with some "flat earth" principles. Figure 9.2(b) shows an example of how the sun goes around in a circle above the earth. See Chapter 3 for information on the flat earth model.

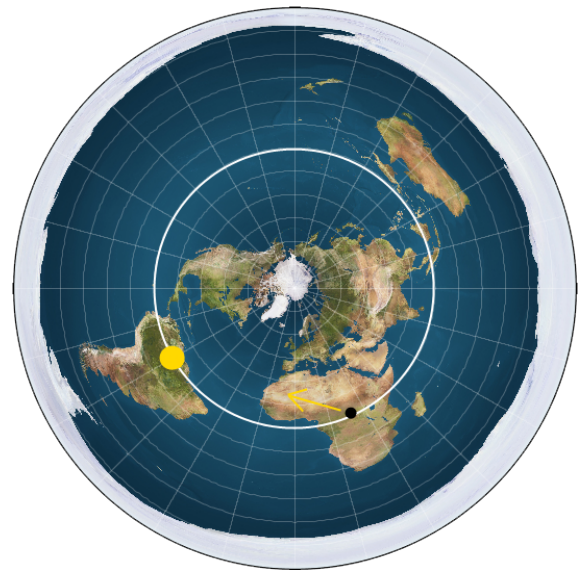
Psalms 104:19

- 19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

The sun rises and goes down due to perspective. Again, this is discussed in Chapter 3.



(a) Which is the Greater Light



(b) The Sun's Circuit

Figure 9.2: (a) Is the sun the greater light or not? Astronomy will explain that the sun looks bigger because it is closer. So, it's not the greater light then. (b) The sun circles, or really spirals, above the flat earth. The moon does as well.

9.4 The Moon

Psalms 104:19 above also says that the moon is appointed for seasons. This is essentially the means for Israel to measure months. New moons were to be times of celebration.

2 Chronicles 8:13

13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, [even] in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

Psalms 72:5

5 They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

Psalms 148:3

3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psalms 81:3

3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.

Scripture teaches that the moon is an emitter, not a reflector:

Isaiah 13:10

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Ezekiel 32:7

7 And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.

Matthew 24:29

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mark 13:24

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

In Figure 9.3, the poster argues that the moon shouldn't have an even brightness across its face if it is reflecting the sun's light off its spherical surface. While it wouldn't be as drastic as the "spotlight" effect on the shiny globe, there would be a distinguishable intensity difference.



Figure 9.3: The Moon Is an Emitter, Not a Reflector

The direction of the moon's light is always toward the sun. It could be an electromagnetic effect, but that is just my speculation. This is how the gases in the atmosphere give off light. Perhaps it is the cause of the "northern lights" as well. No one knows of any "southern lights".

It is also interesting to note that some have researched the moon's light and the shadow that comes from it. The temperature is warmer in the shadow compared to outside of it.

The moon's light is a type of the believer's light. Many bad teachers say that believers reflect the light of Jesus, but that is clearly against what scripture says. Of course, this is spiritual light.

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 13:43

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Daniel 12:3

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

9.5 The Stars

The stars are lights. They are many, and they have names.

Job 22:12

12 [Is] not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!

Psalms 147:4

4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by [their] names.

Genesis 15:5

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Hebrews 11:12

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, [so many] as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

1 Corinthians 15:41

41 [There is] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for [one] star differeth from [another] star in glory.

Stars have courses:

Judges 5:20

20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

Does Figure 9.4 demonstrate the courses of the stars?



Figure 9.4: The Stars in Their Courses

A few of the stars' names appear in scripture. Other names refer to groups of stars. There is more discussion on that topic in Appendix D.

Amos 5:8

8 [Seek him] that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD [is] his name:

The "seven stars" is probably a reference to Pleiades.

Job 9:9

9 Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

Job 38:31

31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

Some teach that the "sweet influences" of Pleiades is gravity. That is absurd! Even in the false cosmology, how could something so far away have a positive influence on anything on the earth?

9.6 The Planets

The word *planet* means “wandering star”. Planets are not lumps of rock lit up by the sun. The earth certainly is not a planet. Wandering stars do not follow the courses of the other stars.

2 Kings 23:5

5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

Note the use of “planets” in the previous passage. Compare it to the use of “stars” in the next.

Deuteronomy 4:19

19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, [even] all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Confirm the usage of the words: the sun, the moon, the stars/planets, and all the host of heaven. This confirms that planets are stars. “Wandering stars” even occurs as a phrase in the bible. But, this is referring to false teachers.

Jude 13

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Conclusions

The lights in the heaven give light to the earth. They also operate as a big clock. Israel was to use them for appointed times.

Here are some speculations.

- What causes a solar eclipse? The moon is closer to the earth than the sun. The moon sometimes blocks the sun’s light. Their spiraling paths cause the variations in the eclipses.
- What causes a lunar eclipse? I do not know.¹ I have heard someone give an electromagnetic explanation. Because of the shape of the sun’s magnetic field, the moon goes dark in a certain spot.
- What are comets, meteors, and asteroids? These may be ice remnants of the flood. This is further discussed in Section 12.1.

¹My inability to explain it does not “prove” heliocentrism. Also, some flat earthers believe an invisible object causes the lunar eclipse. This is a dumb way to get out of it.

The Completed Creation

We quickly cover the scriptures for the last three days of creation week. There is nothing done with respect to the structure. Then we will review many scriptures related to elements of the open firmament.

10.1 The Fifth Day

Genesis 1:20-23

- 20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl [that] may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.
- 21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.
- 22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.
- 23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

The most curious thing stated is that the waters brought forth the fowl. Perhaps these waters are in the clouds rather than in the seas.

10.2 The Sixth Day

Genesis 1:24-31

- 24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.
- 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.
- 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- 27 So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.
- 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so.
- 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Knowing that God has an image and that angels are created in that same image on the second day, the best explanation for verse 26 is that God is speaking to the angels, who participate in what God is doing. Verse 27 clearly states that man is created in God's (i.e., his own) image. Tradition uses verse 26 to teach that God is multiple persons. This is a deep study of its own.

10.3 The Seventh Day

Genesis 2:1-3	
1	Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
2	And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
3	And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

We note that everything is now finished. This too should be evidence against a “gap theory”. Also, there is reference to multiple heavens (in contrast to Genesis 1:1). It is interesting that the seventh day is sanctified, or set apart, by putting the description of it in a chapter separate from the other days.

Figure 10.1 illustrates a comparison between the tabernacle model and the creation structure. Creation week does not mention hell. Nonetheless, we will talk about that in the next chapter.

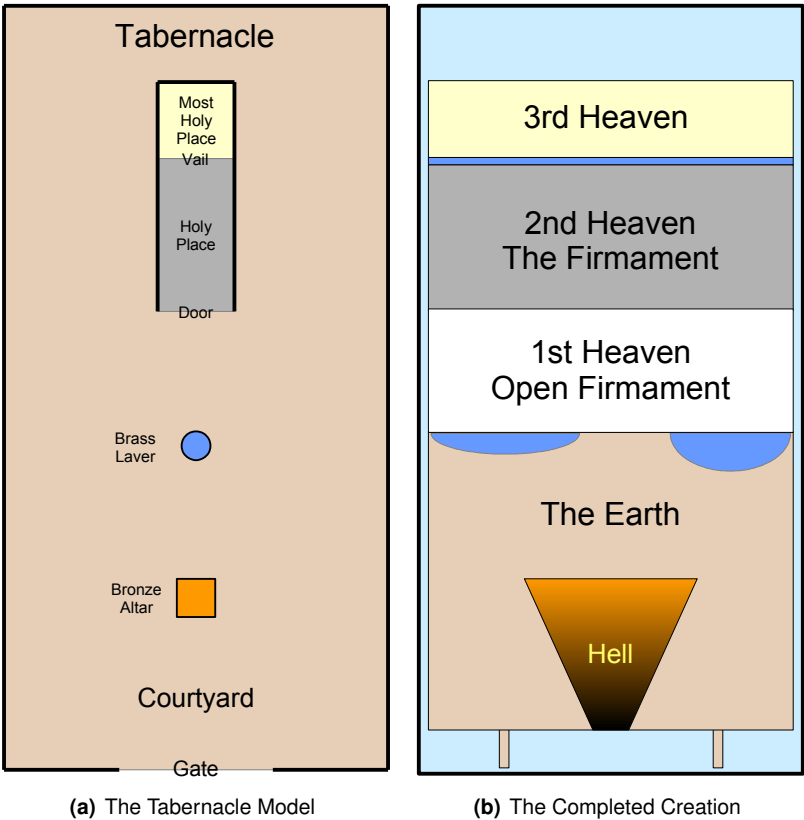


Figure 10.1: (a) This figure shows the tabernacle model with the relevant areas and elements. (b) This figure shows the completed creation with alignment to the tabernacle.

10.4 Revisiting the Open Firmament

Little is said about the open firmament on the fifth day, yet there is much scripture about the elements of it. We will only see some of them here. It is easy to search for the same words given here to find more.

Storehouses and Treasuries

The temple has storehouses and treasuries (that was mentioned briefly in Section 4.6). Let's see what is in these.

Psalms 33:7

7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

So, there is water in there. It is rain:

Deuteronomy 28:12

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Psalms 135:6-7

6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, [that] did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

7 He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.

So, the wind is there too.

Jeremiah 10:13

13 When he uttereth his voice, [there is] a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Clouds

Clouds are evidently formed on the second day, given the descriptions surrounding it:

Proverbs 8:27-29

27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

Proverbs 30:4

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and what [is] his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Bounding the waters in a garment is evidently describing clouds. The next two verses makes that clear.

Job 26:8-9

8 He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.

9 He holdeth back the face of his throne, [and] spreadeth his cloud upon it.

Job 38:8-9

8 Or [who] shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, [as if] it had issued out of the womb?

9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

A swaddling band holds something firmly. The "darkness" is attributed to be doing this.

Job 38:34-37

34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?

35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we [are]?

36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

37 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,

It appears that the clouds are the "bottles of heaven".

Rain

There are many verses about rain.

Job 28:24-27

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, [and] seeth under the whole heaven;
 25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.
 26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:
 27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

God had a decree for the rain. The clouds are present from the beginning. But when was the first rain?

Genesis 2:5-6

5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and [there was] not a man to till the ground.
 6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

As we should know, *Genesis* is written by Moses long after it happened. Many will also say that it hadn't rained until the flood. Let's see the connection between rain and tilling the ground.

Genesis 7:4

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

We will discuss the flood in Section 12.1. But, let's talk about the first rain now.

Genesis 3:17-18

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed [is] the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat [of] it all the days of thy life;
 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Because of Adam's sin, God curses the ground. It was going to bring forth thorns and thistles. It still produced crops, but it was more difficult. This next verse makes the connection between the rain and the crops.

Isaiah 5:5-6

5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; [and] break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:
 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

The rain was withheld and the briers and thorns grew instead of the crops. Cain is told something similar when he is cursed for killing Abel: the ground won't yield her strength.

Genesis 4:12

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Leviticus 26:19-20

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:
 20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

The prophecy of a curse has similar language. The curse actually occurred in the time of Elijah, when he withholds the rain.

1 Kings 17:1

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, [who was] of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, [As] the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

James 5:17-18

- 17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.
 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Genesis 5:29

- 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This [same] shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Noah's name means that there will be relief from the curse. Once the flood comes (bringing much rain), the curse is removed from the ground.

Genesis 8:21

- 21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart [is] evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Genesis 9:13-15

- 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.
 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:
 15 And I will remember my covenant, which [is] between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God institutes the rainbow as a sign that he has remembered the covenant that he established after the flood. So, it was God's design that there be rain. The clouds are there from the beginning. But man's sin results in God withholding the rain.

Hail

Hail is frozen rain. It is quite a weapon. Like rain, hail is stored in treasures.

Job 38:22-23

- 22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

Job 38:28-29

- 28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
 29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

The hoary frost of heaven might be snow, which also is ice.

Joshua 10:11

- 11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, [and] were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: [they were] more which died with hailstones than [they] whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

The stones are hailstones—big hailstones. Israel was to execute judgment by stoning the guilty. That is what God is doing here. God was helping Israel wipe out the wicked in Canaan. There were giants present then. See more about this event in Section 12.2.

Psalms 18:11-13

- 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him [were] dark waters [and] thick clouds of the skies.
 12 At the brightness [that was] before him his thick clouds passed, hail [stones] and coals of fire.
 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail [stones] and coals of fire.

What are the coals of fire coming down?

Ezekiel 38:22

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that [are] with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Revelation 8:7

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

Revelation 11:19

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The greatest stoning by hail is still to come:

Revelation 16:21

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Four Winds

As we saw in Section 8.3, the four winds are just winds from the four directions. Often, they more generically mean “remote places”.

Ezekiel 37:9

9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

Daniel 7:2

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Daniel 8:8

8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

Daniel 11:4

4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Zechariah 2:6

6 Ho, ho, [come forth], and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD.

Matthew 24:31

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:27

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Whirlwinds

A whirlwind is God’s chariot in the heavens. It is also a weapon of war.

Ezekiel 1:4

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness [was] about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

Zechariah 9:14

14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

Ezekiel 1, 3, 9, 10, and 11 mention wheels associated with God's chariot. Maybe this is what the wheels are:

Isaiah 5:28

28 Whose arrows [are] sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:

Jeremiah 4:13

13 Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots [shall be] as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.

Isaiah 66:15

15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Thunder and Lightning

Fire from heaven is usually lightning. Thunder accompanies it.

Job 38:25

25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;

Psalms 18:14

14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

Exodus 9:23-24

23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.
24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Psalms 78:48

48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.

Genesis 19:24

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Conclusions

Nothing structurally was added to the creations on days 5-7. So, instead, we reviewed the elements of the open firmament. These are treasures that God has stored up. Much of it is used for war against the wicked.

Hell

We will study hell in the creation. There are a few words related to hell: (1) paradise, or Abraham's bosom, (2) the pit, and (3) the bottomless pit. In the new testament, there are two Greek words translated as hell: *hades* and *gehenna*. The latter word and the lake of fire will be discussed in Section 14.2. Finally, many teach that *tartarus* is another part of hell. But, that word is not in the bible. It is discussed in Appendix C.

11.1 What Is Hell?

Hell is the place of the dead; both the righteous. . . :

Proverbs 15:24

24 The way of life [is] above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

Psalms 86:13

13 For great [is] thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

...and the wicked:

Psalms 9:17

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.

God's presence is there:

Psalms 139:7-8

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there].

11.2 Where Is Hell?

Hell is in the heart of the earth:

Matthew 12:40

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

We will see more about Jonas (or, Jonah) later in the chapter. Figure 11.1 shows the tabernacle model and the completed creation. Hell is where the bronze altar is and would correspond to the middle of the earth. It isn't clear when hell is created.

In the earthly tabernacle, God could see the altar from the most holy place. Destruction is associated with hell.

Proverbs 15:11

11 Hell and destruction [are] before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

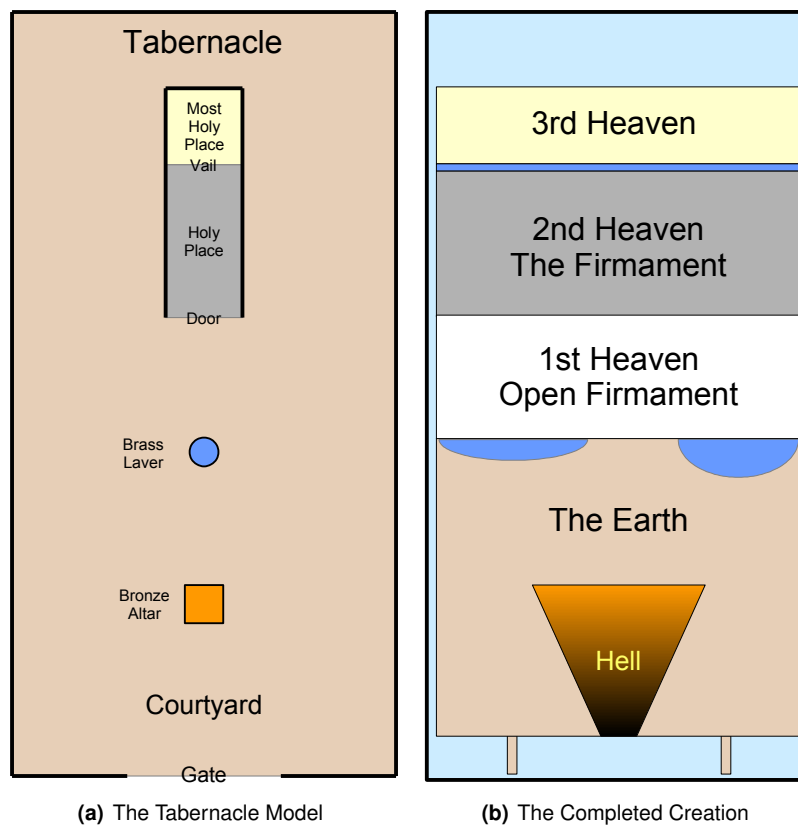


Figure 11.1: Figure 10.1 is repeated here for convenience. **(a)** Hell corresponds to the bronze altar in the tabernacle model. **(b)** Hell is in the heart of the earth.

Job 26:6

6 Hell [is] naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

Proverbs 27:20

20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Hell is also referred to as the *lower parts of the earth*:

Ephesians 4:9-10

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Psalms 63:9

9 But those [that] seek my soul, to destroy [it], shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

Hell is also called the pit.

Ezekiel 26:20

20 When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

Yet another term is the *nether parts of the earth*:

Ezekiel 31:14-18

- 14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.
- 15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.
- 16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.
- 17 They also went down into hell with him unto [them that be] slain with the sword; and [they that were] his arm, [that] dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen.
- 18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with [them that be] slain by the sword. This [is] Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 32:18

- 18 Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, [even] her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit.

Ezekiel 32:24

- 24 There [is] Elam and all her multitude round about her grave, all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which are gone down uncircumcised into the nether parts of the earth, which caused their terror in the land of the living; yet have they borne their shame with them that go down to the pit.

Hell grows:

Isaiah 5:14

- 14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Could that be the cause of earthquakes?

Habakkuk 2:5

- 5 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, [he is] a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and [is] as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Isaiah 14:9

- 9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet [thee] at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, [even] all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

11.3 The Gates of Hell

Just as the tabernacle has a gate, there are gates to death and hell.

Psalms 9:13

- 13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble [which I suffer] of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:

Matthew 16:18

- 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Psalms 107:18

- 18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

Isaiah 38:10

10 I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

11.4 Paradise

Because there are righteous in hell, there is a separated place for them. One name for it is *paradise*:

Luke 23:43

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The righteous know that their souls will not be left in hell. They look forward to a resurrection to life.

Psalms 16:10

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:27

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:31

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Paradise is also called *Abraham's bosom*. This is probably because Israel's hope rested in God's promise to Abraham.

Luke 16:19-31

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.
 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that [would come] from thence.
 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

It is hard to imagine a place where both the righteous and wicked can see each other and talk to each other. But there is an impassible gulf, or chasm, between them. Angels escort the righteous here. We can only assume that they bring the wicked here and lock them up. While only souls, the wicked are tormented by a flame. They also can talk to one another.

Figure 11.2 provides a notional view of Abraham's bosom and the pit of hell. Other scriptures reference the righteous here.

Revelation 5:2-4

- 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?
- 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.
- 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

We should only expect that the righteous would have a chance to open the book mentioned in *Revelation*. Some do not believe that the righteous are still in Abraham's bosom when the tribulation of *Revelation* comes. This is discussed further in Chapter 15.

Revelation 5:13

- 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

This verse probably addresses both the righteous and wicked:

Philippians 2:10

- 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

When we read Matthew 12:49 earlier in the chapter, we saw that it referenced Jonah. Let's see what *Jonah* has to say:

Jonah 2:2-6

- 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, [and] thou heardest my voice.
- 3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.
- 4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.
- 5 The waters compassed me about, [even] to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.
- 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars [was] about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

Some teach that Jonah didn't die, but remained alive inside the fish, or whale. Well, then it would not be a very good type of Jesus dying. You can tell Jonah died by the language in the passage. Jonah went to the paradise part of hell and was raised to (mortal) life. God has not raised any wicked. They will be raised to eternal judgment later in time.

11.5 The Bottomless Pit

Now let's see that the pit is bottomless. Figure 11.2 is drawn like a funnel so that it has a hole going all the way through the earth. Therefore, it has no bottom. Below it, perhaps, is water. We'll see scriptures about the relationship between the pit and the deep shortly.

Revelation 9:1-2

- 1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.
- 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

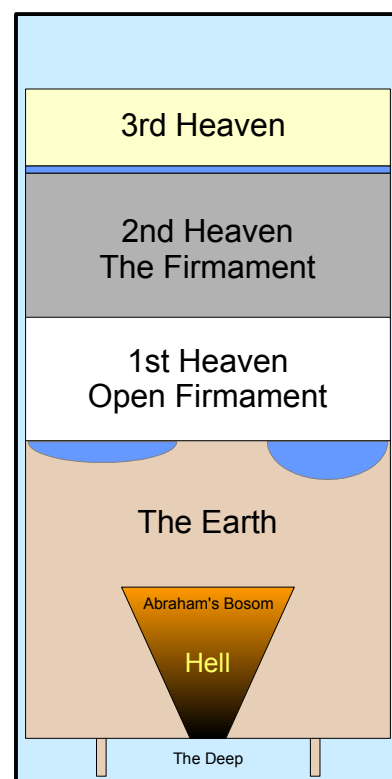


Figure 11.2: Some Details of Hell

The angels, or devils, that died in the flood are put into the bottomless pit at various times. In the tribulation, they will be let out again. A study on angels is required to understand this complicated topic.

Revelation 9:11

11 And they had a king over them, [which is] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue [is] Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath [his] name Apollyon.

Revelation 11:7

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Revelation 17:8

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 20:1-3

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Satan is locked up in the bottomless pit during the millennium. The bottomless pit is still hell. We know this since Satan is told that he will be cast down to hell in Isaiah 14:15 and 2 Peter 2:4 (see Appendix C for the latter verse).

11.6 The Pit and the Deep

When Jesus is casting out devils during his ministry, he may be sending them to the bottomless pit. It may be that there is water at the end of that pit. This is a tough topic, but let's see what we can learn.

Luke 8:31

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Parallel passages in *Matthew* and *Mark* do not mention the deep. The passage certainly could be a reference to the nearby Sea of Galilee. But we will see more references to "the deep" shortly. We saw earlier that numerous devils are let out of the bottomless pit in the time of the tribulation. They may have been sent there by Jesus and his disciples.

Romans 10:7

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

We clearly know where Jesus went when he died. The same Greek word translated "deep" in the previous two passages is also translated "bottomless pit".

Other passages provide more connection between hell and the deep.

Job 38:16-17

16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?
17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Psalms 88:6

6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.

Psalms 69:15

15 Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

These are tough but interesting passages. Are there waters on the way down to hell? or waters in hell?

Psalms 148:7

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

Dragons might be thought of as “sea monsters” (whatever that would mean). It is also describes devils. Is there just dark water below the bottomless pit? Is it boiling hot? Is it total darkness?

Conclusions

Hell is a place for the dead. Both the righteous and the wicked went there in the old testament. Only the wicked go there in the new testament.

Part IV

After Creation

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Once creation is complete, there are still many scriptures that refer to it. Some are simply miracles within the creation (e.g., Noah's flood). Others reference changes to the creation. Yet another collection of scriptures are misinterpreted as changes to the creation.

Miracles in the Creation

Here, we will look at some miracles that involve the structure of creation. These will include the flood and some other events involving the sun and moon. All of these are hard to explain on a globe (making them even greater miracles). We already reviewed the parting of the Red Sea and the Jordan river in Section 6.2. Those are not repeated here.

12.1 The Flood

Before we discuss the flood, we need to remember that there is water above the heaven.

Genesis 1:6-7

- 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so.

Psalms 148:4

- 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that [be] above the heavens.

Psalms 29:10

- 10 The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.

God tells Noah it is going to rain before the flood comes. Recall that it had not rained on the earth before this (refer to Section 10.4).

Genesis 7:4

- 4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

Genesis 7:11-12

- 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.
12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

What are the fountains of the great deep? What are the windows of heaven?

Proverbs 8:27-29

- 27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:
28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:
29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

So, here we have “fountains of the deep” mentioned. *Proverbs* says there were strengthened; *Genesis* says they were broken up. That sounds like water frozen into ice and then broken up and likely melted. Are the sides of creation that correspond to the area of the open firmament broken up? If so, this would allow water to come crashing over the earth in giant waves. So, what about the windows of heaven? A couple of verses mention this.

2 Kings 7:1-2

- 1 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time [shall] a measure of fine flour [be sold] for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.
- 2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, [if] the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see [it] with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

Malachi 3:10

- 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it].

The previous passages don't seem to be too helpful. They appear to be figurative. So, we will consider other scriptures that describe windows. The ark and the temple had windows. Windows are in walls. Perhaps, these windows are in the 2nd heaven. Remember, there is water above it. Consider this passage:

Psalms 78:23-25

- 23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,
- 24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.
- 25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

The previous passage says that there are doors of heaven (akin to the temple, not the tabernacle). Manna is angels' food. Angels are in the 2nd heaven. So, like the manna, water must be coming down from the 2nd heaven. One possible source is the water above it. It doesn't make sense that the manna is coming directly from the clouds. Angels wouldn't keep their bread in the 1st heaven.

Now let's see the account of the flood:

Genesis 7:17-24

- 17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.
- 18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.
- 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that [were] under the whole heaven, were covered.
- 20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.
- 21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:
- 22 All in whose nostrils [was] the breath of life, of all that [was] in the dry [land], died.
- 23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained [alive], and they that [were] with him in the ark.
- 24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:1-3

- 1 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that [was] with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;
- 2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;
- 3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

My only real comment is that there is a LOT of water! A couple of other verses reference the flood.

Psalms 104:5-9

- 5 [Who] laid the foundations of the earth, [that] it should not be removed for ever.
 6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as [with] a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.
 7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.
 8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.
 9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Amos 9:6

- 6 [It is] he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD [is] his name.

Impacts of the Flood

The flood removed the wicked from the earth. Not only men, but the angels that came down to the earth to corrupt the seed. Some think that this verse has some connection to the flood:

Revelation 20:11-13

- 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

What dead are in the sea? Could these be a reference to the angels killed in the flood? They seem to be cast into the deep. Then, we have this challenging verse:

Job 26:5

- 5 Dead [things] are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof.

I can't explain that one.

What if water (or, just as likely, ice) came down from the 2nd heaven during the flood? What would it do to things in the 2nd heaven? Perhaps this is what caused the craters on the moon. Figure 12.1 shows the moon and its craters. The water in the form of ice could be the source of comets or meteors? Could it have also impacted the sun (just what are sun spots?)?



Figure 12.1: The Cratered Moon

No Tectonic Plates

Geology teaches that there are tectonic plates that cause earthquakes. Probably not, but who knows? Christians want to confirm tectonic plates from scriptures. This is clearly wrong. They will reference verses below:

Genesis 10:32

32 These [are] the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

Genesis 10:25

25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one [was] Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name [was] Joktan.

Genesis 10:5

5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

1 Chronicles 1:19

19 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of the one [was] Peleg; because in his days the earth was divided: and his brother's name [was] Joktan.

They want to teach that these verses are talking about the continents of the earth being divided. That's not what these are about. Genesis 10 teaches how the nations of the earth came to be. The main story is at the beginning of Genesis 11. The earth is divided into nations by languages; Genesis 10:5 says that. It is in the time of Peleg that the story of the tower of Babel occurs. Notice what Genesis 11:1 says:

Genesis 11:1

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

The "earth" was of one language. That means the people of it. When it says that the earth was divided, that means the people of the earth were divided. Genesis 10:32 says that the nations were divided. This is caused by the judgment at the time of Babel, which occurs a few hundred years after the flood. Believers need to learn how to study.

12.2 Signs in the Heavens

Let's see what signs in the heavens are:

Luke 12:54-56

54 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

55 And when [ye see] the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

56 [Ye] hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

Matthew 16:1-3

1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, [It will be] fair weather: for the sky is red.

3 And in the morning, [It will be] foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O [ye] hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not [discern] the signs of the times?

People look for meaning in the sky based on what they see. Note this isn't the same as a sign from God, which is the kind of thing we will look into. A sign has a doctrine associated with it. It is not just a show that says "Look at what I can do!"

No Rain

Let's see a better sign. Leviticus 26 teaches Israel about promises and curses. One of the curses says this:

Leviticus 26:19

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

This means that there will be no rain and a corresponding famine. This occurs in the time of Elijah and is summarized in *James*.

James 5:17-18

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

The lack of rain was a sign in that it confirmed the judgment spoken by God in Leviticus 26.

Darkness Over the Land

When Jesus is on the cross, there darkness over the land:

Matthew 27:45

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Mark 15:33

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Luke 23:44-45

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

Pay attention to what *Luke* says. In verse 44, it says that there was darkness over all the earth. In verse 45, it says, "And the sun was darkened. . .". So were have a darkness separate from a diminished light from the sun. This is probably spiritual darkness.

Luke says "all the earth", but the other passages tells us that it was probably local to Israel. Anyway, some will say that this event is caused by an eclipse. It probably was not because it lasts for 3 hours and covers a large area. If you want it to be an eclipse, you need help for this next one:

Exodus 10:21-23

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness [which] may be felt.

22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Were either of these caused by intense cloud cover? Perhaps, the point is that they are signs for what is going on. Both of these speak of the judgment of God. Don't get focused on trying to figure out how God did it.

The Sun and Moon Stand Still

One of the more spectacular miracles isn't really a sign. But it does show God's approval of what is going on.

Joshua 10:12-14

12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. [Is] not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Israel was killing the wicked people of the land. There were giants among these people, and Joshua was intent on getting them all. Notice that Joshua commands the sun and moon to stand still. He doesn't command the earth to stop rotating. God isn't honoring his intent because Joshua doesn't understand. Joshua does understand the creation. The scripture says that this was Joshua's idea and God hearkened to it. God hearkened to it because he wanted Israel to kill the giants in the land. Many cultures report a long day or a long night, depending on where they were on the earth.

Now, there is prophecy of something like this happening again:

Habakkuk 3:11

11 The sun [and] moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, [and] at the shining of thy glittering spear.

So, what happened in the time of Joshua has become a sign for something like it during the second coming. Both the sun and moon stopped because they are part of God's clock. It is likely the stars stopped too, but they are not visible during the day.

The Sun Reverses Direction

This miracle is just as intriguing as the previous, and this one is called a sign.

2 Kings 20:8-11

8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What [shall be] the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?
 9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?
 10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.
 11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

Hezekiah was told that he was going to die. He prayed to God, and the prayer was answered. God told him that he would live 15 more years. I don't know why Hezekiah didn't believe the news, but he is given a sign that God will do what he said. Hezekiah picks the more miraculous: the sun will move backwards in the sky. This story is repeated in *Isaiah*:

Isaiah 38:7-8

7 And this [shall be] a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken;
 8 Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

In the heliocentric model, the earth would have to back up in its orbit. I wonder what that would feel like? No worry—that's not how it works anyway. As a result of this event, Psalms 120-134 are written as 15 Songs of Degrees (one for each year added to Hezekiah's life, not for the number of degrees on the sundial that the shadow moved).

Research will show that many cultures changed their calendars some time after this event. Calendar adjustments included leap years. Israel evidently added a leap month every few years. It is difficult to get good information here.

The next verse is strange:

Jeremiah 10:2

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

I have wondered if this has anything to do with what we read previously. The time between the ministries of Isaiah and Jeremiah is about 100 years, so they may be unrelated. Are the heathen, or Gentiles, dismayed because their calendars are messed up? "The way of the heathen" may refer to trying to divine the future by looking at the stars. If the "clock" in the heavens was changed, the result might be quite disturbing for them. I don't really know what the passage refers to.

12.2.1 The Shepherding Star

Next is a very special miracle.

Matthew 2:1-10

- 1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
- 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
- 3 When Herod the king had heard [these things], he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
- 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- 6 And thou Bethlehem, [in] the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
- 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
- 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found [him], bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
- 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

First, how do the wise men know what to look for? Daniel probably taught the Babylonian astrologers (reference Daniel 2:48). Daniel's 70 weeks gives them an idea of when (reference Daniel 9:24-27). As we already know, pagan idolaters look for signs in the heavens. This verse may also have been a factor:

Numbers 24:17

- 17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

While the wise men plainly see the star, evidently no one else does (or it isn't something easy to discern). The wise men have arrived when Jesus is between 1 and 2 years old. He is no longer in Bethlehem, but back home in Nazareth. The star leads them from Jerusalem to Nazareth. That sounds supernatural. The bible doesn't explain it because such things are not for believers (believers are supposed to believe what God says).

Conclusions

We looked at a few miracles that involved the creation. Again, these are more miraculous on a globe. The vain imagination says: "But God can do anything!!!" A few more things will be described during the second coming in an upcoming chapter.

Stability and Government

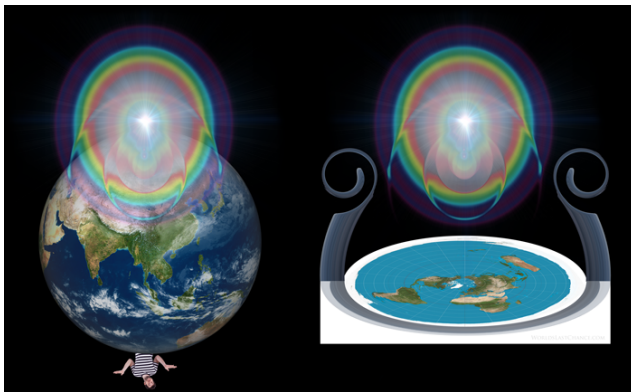
Believers want to argue the creation with verses like these:

Revelation 6:13-14

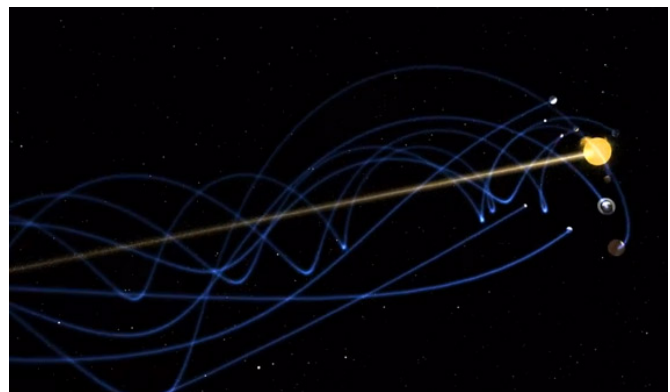
- 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.
14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

They'll say that stars can't fall to the earth if they are bigger than the earth; therefore, what astronomy is telling us isn't true. Or, you can't witness some events from the other side of the earth.

Figure 13.1 demonstrates such arguments and evidence that you can encounter. Those that want the heliocentric model will invariably add to scripture. When a verse says that the earth does not move, someone might add "...out of its orbit!". Yikes!



(a) The Heaven Rolled Together as a Scroll



(b) The Earth that Does Move

Figure 13.1: There are a number of scriptures that should not be used to argue the structure of the creation. (a) This image attempts to use Revelation 6:14 to justify the flat earth. (b) This image attempts to refute the heliocentric model based on verses that say that the earth does not move. But there are also verses that say that the earth does move!

Christians need to learn how to study their bibles better (and get the right bible). The many strange phrases that we will see are always explained elsewhere in scripture. Many of the problematic verses deal with people and government.

We will look at several problematic words and phrases: (1) moved / removed, (2) shaken / tremble, (3) be stable / established / founded, (4) melted / dissolved, (5) rolled together, (6) reel to and fro, and (7) Pass away. Other verses will clarify what these mean.

13.1 The People Are the Foundations

Sometimes, it is people that are the foundations. The righteous shall not be moved. But, the wicket shall.

Proverbs 10:30

30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

Proverbs 12:3

3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

Psalms 96:9-11

9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.
10 Say among the heathen [that] the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

1 Chronicles 16:30

30 Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Micah 6:2

2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

Psalms 11:3-4

3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?
4 The LORD [is] in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne [is] in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Isaiah 58:12

12 And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Proverbs 10:25

25 As the whirlwind passeth, so [is] the wicked no [more]: but the righteous [is] an everlasting foundation.

Job 22:15-16

15 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?
16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:

Haggai 2:6-7

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it [is] a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry [land];
7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 12:25-29

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape], if we turn away from him that [speaketh] from heaven:
26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
27 And this [word], Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.
28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:
29 For our God [is] a consuming fire.

People can be pillars:

Galatians 2:9

9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we [should go] unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Remember a church is likened to a building:

Revelation 3:12

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name.

1 Timothy 3:15

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

This verse starts out talking about people, but then it transitions to a comparison to a structure.

1 Samuel 2:8

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, [and] lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set [them] among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth [are] the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

Now we should properly interpret a judgment:

Job 26:11

11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

Job 9:5-6

5 Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.
6 Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.

13.2 It's About Government

These reference government:

Psalms 46:1-11

1 God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
3 [Though] the waters thereof roar [and] be troubled, [though] the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.
4 [There is] a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy [place] of the tabernacles of the most High.
5 God [is] in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, [and that] right early.
6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
7 The LORD of hosts [is] with us; the God of Jacob [is] our refuge. Selah.
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.
9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.
10 Be still, and know that I [am] God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
11 The LORD of hosts [is] with us; the God of Jacob [is] our refuge. Selah.

Note that verse 2 says that the earth is removed, but verse 5 says that the city of God is not moved. Verse 6 says that kingdoms were moved, and the earth melted. Mountains are kingdoms. Hills are smaller kingdoms.

Matthew 17:20

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 21:21

21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this [which is done] to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

Jesus teaches his disciples that they must have faith in order to remove a mountain (i.e., the Roman empire). They must have faith in his death on the cross.

1 Corinthians 13:2

2 And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Isaiah 54:10

10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

The next passage teaches us what “burned” can mean:

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;
 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.
 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Here, “burned” means to be judged of no value. It is not a literal fire. The next passage teaches us what “dissolved” can mean:

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

1 For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.
 4 For we that are in [this] tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Here, “dissolved” means to do away with the old in order to replace it with something new. “Our earthly house” (i.e., our mortal body) is replaced by a “house which is from heaven” (i.e., our resurrection body). Nothing is consumed by acid!

Now let's see the terms in action:

Isaiah 34:4

4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling [fig] from the fig tree.

The host of heaven refers to the angels. When you are done with a scroll, you roll it up and (possibly) throw it away. The “heavens” indirectly refers to their government there. You need good understanding of who angels are and what they are doing.

Revelation 6:13-14

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.
 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

This is where the angels are cast out of heaven:

Revelation 12:7-8

- 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Isaiah 24:18-23

- 18 And it shall come to pass, [that] he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.
19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.
20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.
21 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones [that are] on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.
22 And they shall be gathered together, [as] prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.
23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

The earth reeled to and fro, but here it is people that do the same:

Psalms 107:26-27

- 26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.
27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

Psalms 75:2-3

- 2 When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly.
3 The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it. Selah.

13.3 New Heavens and New Earth

All of these refer to the new governments that will be put in place when Jesus returns.

Isaiah 65:17

- 17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22

- 22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2 Peter 3:10-13

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
11 [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,
12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13 is commonly blown out of proportion and described as World War III.

Matthew 24:32-35

- 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer [is] nigh:
- 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, [even] at the doors.
- 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.
- 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Mark 13:28-31

- 28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:
- 29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors.
- 30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.
- 31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:29-33

- 29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;
- 30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.
- 31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.
- 32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.
- 33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Psalms 102:25-28

- 25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens [are] the work of thy hands.
- 26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:
- 27 But thou [art] the same, and thy years shall have no end.
- 28 The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

Hebrews 1:10-12

- 10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:
- 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
- 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

The next two passages are almost the same, but there are some small differences. They describe Jesus' return.

2 Samuel 22:8-16

- 8 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.
- 9 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
- 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness [was] under his feet.
- 11 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.
- 12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, [and] thick clouds of the skies.
- 13 Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.
- 14 The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.
- 15 And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.
- 16 And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

Psalms 18:7-15

- 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.
 8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness [was] under his feet.
 10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.
 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him [were] dark waters [and] thick clouds of the skies.
 12 At the brightness [that was] before him his thick clouds passed, hail [stones] and coals of fire.
 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail [stones] and coals of fire.
 14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.
 15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

You should read all of Psalm 82 since it is very short. The verse below describes the governments of the earth being out of course because of the angels, or gods, that rule over them. Understanding what angels are doing is key to this verse.

Psalms 82:5

- 5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Job 38:13 is often used to prove the flat earth since God is supposedly going to pick up the earth by its ends. But that is not what is going to happen here.

Job 38:12-13

- 12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; [and] caused the dayspring to know his place;
 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

The stars falling from heaven are the angels being cast out:

Matthew 24:29

- 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mark 13:25

- 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Luke 21:25-26

- 25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;
 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

13.4 God's Government Won't Be Moved

God's government won't be moved. But man's government will be moved. How else can you explain verses that say that the earth won't be moved and verses that do?

Psalms 93:1

- 1 The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, [wherewith] he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Psalms 99:1

- 1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth [between] the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Psalms 104:5

- 5 [Who] laid the foundations of the earth, [that] it should not be removed for ever.

Isaiah 13:13

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Jeremiah 49:21

21 The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea.

Jeremiah 50:46

46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.

Joel 2:10

10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

Joel 3:15-16

15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.
16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD [will be] the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Isaiah 64:1

1 Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence,

Psalms 77:18

18 The voice of thy thunder [was] in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

Psalms 115:16

16 The heaven, [even] the heavens, [are] the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

Conclusions

Hopefully, you see how the Bible sometimes talks. Some of these aspects can be literal. There are earthquakes that shake the earth. But the earth itself really doesn't move!

The Second Coming

We will look at a many scriptures concerning the second coming. Those concerning the new governments will not be repeated here (see Chapter 13). There will be some miraculous things occurring at this time. One significant addition to the creation will be the fire of Tophet that burns down to hell to create the lake of fire.

14.1 Signs in the Heavens

Most of what we will read takes place in the area around Israel. Unfortunately, most teach that it is World War III. Jesus will return in a three day aerial attack on the enemies of Israel around them. This will include a whirlwind in a great storm. This in itself may cause the darkness described. There may be other times of darkness that precede that.

Joel 2:31

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Matthew 24:29

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mark 13:24-25

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,
25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Luke 21:25

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Acts 2:20

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

Revelation 8:12

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Something similar was done to Egypt in the past. That wasn't a world war.

Ezekiel 32:7-8

- 7 And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.
- 8 All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD.

Don't get tripped up by the symbolic language in the book of *Revelation*.

Revelation 9:1-3

- 1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.
- 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.
- 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Smoke may be another cause of darkening the sun, moon, and stars. But, evidently, the sun and moon will be intensified.

Revelation 16:8

- 8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Isaiah 30:26

- 26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Isaiah 49:10

- 10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

14.2 Tophet

Some will point out that there are two Greek words for hell in the new testament: *hades* and *gehenna*. Both are translated "hell" and the translation is fine. While trying to appear smart, those who talk about "gehenna" miss what it is really about. *Gehenna* is a combination of two Hebrew words: *Ge* and *Hinnom*, meaning, the valley of (the son of) Hinnom. We will see that that phrase is in our English Bible. It is also called *Tophet*.

2 Kings 23:10

- 10 And he defiled Topheth, which [is] in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

2 Kings 23:1-20 tells how king Josiah destroyed idolatry. You need to read that. *Jeremiah* mentions Tophet several times. This is now during the time of the beginning of Israel's captivity.

Jeremiah 7:31-32

- 31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which [is] in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded [them] not, neither came it into my heart.
- 32 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

God was furious with the idolatry that took place there.

Jeremiah 19:11-15

- 11 And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as [one] breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury [them] in Tophet, till [there be] no place to bury.
- 12 Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and [even] make this city as Tophet:
- 13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.
- 14 Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD'S house; and said to all the people,
- 15 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words.

Tophet will be a place of fierce judgment. Several prophecies describe this aspect of the 2nd coming:

Isaiah 30:27-33

- 27 Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning [with] his anger, and the burden [thereof is] heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:
- 28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and [there shall be] a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing [them] to err.
- 29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night [when] a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.
- 30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of [his] anger, and [with] the flame of a devouring fire, [with] scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.
- 31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, [which] smote with a rod.
- 32 And [in] every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, [it] shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.
- 33 For Tophet [is] ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made [it] deep [and] large: the pile thereof [is] fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

Nahum 1:5

- 5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

Deuteronomy 32 provides more detail, but here is the verse that we are interested in from there.

Deuteronomy 32:22

- 22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Isaiah tells us what will happen in the millennium:

Isaiah 66:22-24

- 22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.
- 23 And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.
- 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

So, Tophet is a shaft in the earth down to hell! *Isaiah* 66:24 links us to a passage in *Mark*:

Mark 9:43-49

- 43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:
- 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.
- 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:
- 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.
- 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:
- 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.
- 49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

Those so judged will be cast into this pit alive. Many of the new testament verses with *gehenna* in the Greek are referring to this shaft.

Matthew 5:29-30

- 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:22

- 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 10:28

- 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 23:15

- 15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Matthew 23:33

- 33 [Ye] serpents, [ye] generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

14.3 The Lake of Fire

The “lake of fire” does not occur in the bible very often. In fact, that phrase only occurs in *Revelation*. But this helps us understand when it is created.

Revelation 19:20

- 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Note that here, it is “a” lake of fire and not “the” lake of fire. The beast and false prophet are cast in at a time that coincides with Christ’s return. Of course, his return is what burned a fire down to hell.

Revelation 20:10

- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The lake of fire is still around at the end of the millennium. And, of course, it will still be around at the time of the great white throne judgment:

Revelation 20:13-15

- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

- 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Figure 14.1 shows the creation with the shaft (i.e., Tophet) that burns down to hell and forms the lake of fire. Take note of this passage:

Revelation 14:10-11

- 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:
- 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Those cast into Tophet burn in the presence of Jesus. That means they are cast into that pit that is on or in the earth, and they burn during the millennium. But contrast is with the next passage:

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

- 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

These are burned in the lake of fire “from” the presence of Jesus forever. Death and hell are also cast into this fire, which is not on the earth. Anyone that was in the pit previously will certainly be here now.

There are a number of passages that talk about “outer darkness”. It isn’t clear if these Jews are going into Tophet.

Matthew 8:12

- 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13

- 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast [him] into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51

- 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint [him] his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30

- 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

All of the previous passages said “weeping and gnashing of teeth”. Contrast that with the following that say “wailing and gnashing of teeth”. The reference to the furnace of fire make it clear that this is Tophet.

Matthew 13:42

- 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

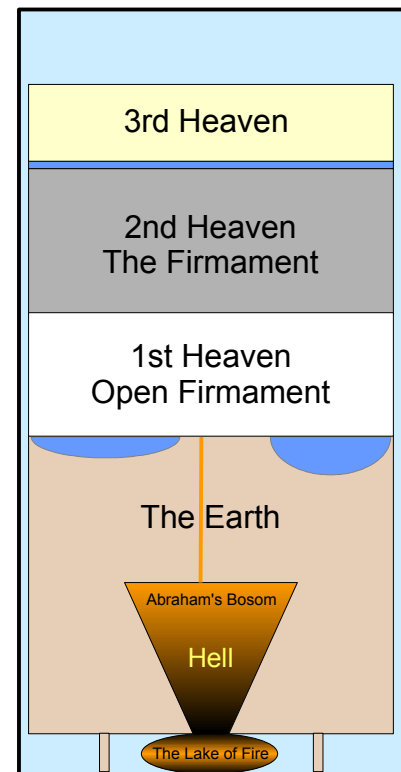


Figure 14.1: Tophet and the Lake of Fire

Matthew 13:50

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The parable of the net in Matthew 13:47-50 probably aligns with the sheep and goats judgment in Matthew 25. The “goats” are cast into Tophet. The everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels is the lake of fire:

Matthew 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Jude 13

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

14.4 A New Heaven and a New Earth

It isn't clear whether or not there are structural changes after the great white throne judgment. Is this talking about new governments?

Revelation 21:1-2

- 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The new Jerusalem will come down out of the 2nd heaven. It is so large, it could not really sit on a globe earth!

Revelation 21:16

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

12,000 furlongs is about 1,500 miles. This is almost twice the distance from the Nile to the Euphrates

Revelation 21:23-25

- 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof.
- 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
- 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

We shouldn't think that the sun and moon are gone since they are ordinances forever.

Isaiah 60:19-20

- 19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.
- 20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Revelation 22:5

- 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Conclusions

There are many scriptures about the 2nd coming. We only looked at a few as examples with creation impacts. Much of the language is symbolic, so care must be taken. We also looked at scriptures related to Tophet, which people insist on calling *gehenna*. Stick with the English! The associated fire burns down to hell and creates the lake of fire.

Who's Where?

Where are the old testament believers? Where are the new testament Jews that are dead? Where are the dead members of the body of Christ? Some will say that all are in heaven. If so, which one? Most will say that all are in the 3rd heaven. Let's look into that.

So, where is paradise?

Luke 23:43

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

In Section 11.4, we saw scriptures that linked paradise to Abraham's bosom. This is clearly in hell, or the heart of the earth. Next. . .

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

- 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
- 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

In a vision, Paul went to paradise, which he said is in the 3rd heaven. Many teach that those in Abraham's bosom have been taken to the "new location of paradise". Shouldn't there be some scripture that talks about this relocation? Or is it all based upon the word *paradise*.

Revelation 2:7

- 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

In a vision, John goes to heaven. At the end of the vision he sees the New Jerusalem come down out of heaven. Most assume this is the 3rd heaven. We have pretty clearly shown that it is not.

So, again, where is paradise? To answer this question, you need to know how to rightly divide the scriptures (see Section A.5). We will see that just as there are 3 churches in scripture, there may be 3 places that the dead in those churches reside.

15.1 The "Leading Captivity Captive" Misteaching

The next passage is mistaught to bring the believers in Abraham's bosom up to the 3rd heaven:

Ephesians 4:8-10

- 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
- 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
- 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

First of all, the believers in Abraham's bosom aren't captives. The prison is the torment part of hell. As should always be done, let's see how scripture defines the meaning of a word or phrase, in this case: "led captivity captive".

Judges 5:12

12 Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.

No one took anyone to the 3rd heaven in the time of the book of *Judges*. This passage is going to explain it:

Isaiah 14:2

2 And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

This says that the captors will be taken captive. It's that simple.

Ephesians 4:8-10 is talking about wicked captors. Jesus has ascended above all authorities. This would include the fallen angels. Let's see other confirmation:

1 Peter 3:22

22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Colossians 2:15

15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Ephesians 3:10

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [places] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

The same is said about wicked men persecuting the Jews in the tribulation:

Revelation 13:10

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

There are others who teach that those in Abraham's bosom were taken to the 3rd heaven without misusing "leading captivity captive". They might use passages in *Hebrews* instead.

15.2 The 3rd Heaven

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 clearly indicates that there is a paradise in the 3rd heaven. I believe that Paul is telling us the destination of our church, the body of Christ. All of the following scriptures are consistent in this matter:

1 Corinthians 12:27

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

2 Corinthians 5:8

8 We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1

1 For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Paul also said in 2 Corinthians 12:4 that he couldn't repeat what he heard while in the 3rd heaven in the vision. You would expect that he couldn't tell you what he saw either. Compare that to a multitude of scriptures describing visions of heaven. These must be the 2nd heaven. Knowing that the creation is patterned after the tabernacle is a key to understanding this. Understanding God's progressive revelation of himself is another factor.

15.3 The 2nd Heaven

Now, let's see another paradise mentioned:

Revelation 2:7

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

This paradise has the tree of life in it. The next two passages tell us where it is.

Revelation 21:2

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 22:2

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.

The tree of life is in the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven at the end of the millennium. Until then, it is in heaven. This heaven is the 2nd heaven.

Now, some will find verses in *Hebrews* that they will use to teach that all Jews are not only in heaven, but in the 3rd heaven. The former idea isn't teaching that using the "captivity captive" error, but it is still probably incorrect. The latter idea is just the bad assumption that everyone is going to the 3rd heaven. This comes from not understanding the creation and what God is doing with the various churches.

Another bad assumption about which heaven that John sees in *Revelation* is that the throne that he sees is in the 3rd heaven. Let's see multiple verses that show that there is a throne in the 2nd heaven.

Ezekiel 1:26

26 And above the firmament that [was] over their heads [was] the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne [was] the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

Ezekiel 10:1

1 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Ezekiel 1:26 says that there is a throne above the firmament. That would mean that there is a throne above the 2nd heaven. Ezekiel 10:1 says that there is a throne in the firmament. The next passage will confirm that there is a throne in the 2nd heaven:

1 Kings 22:19

19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

This verse describes the angels around the LORD, who is sitting on a throne. The angels are in the 2nd heaven. Whether or not there are some that can go into the 3rd heaven is not clear. But this says "all the host of heaven". Let's get more confirmation of where John went.

Revelation 4:1-5

- 1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne.
- 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.
- 4 And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.
- 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

John went through a door and there is a door into the holy place, or the 2nd heaven. Besides the throne, there are seven lamps of fire. The tabernacle's holy place had the same thing (refer to Exodus 25:37 in Section 5.3).

Let's get even more confirmation. In verse 4, there are 24 elders around the throne. If we count the one sitting on the throne (that's Jesus), there are 25. The next passage tells us more.

Ezekiel 8:16

- 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, [were] about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

Ezekiel has a vision of the corrupt priests in the temple. The 25 men are the high priest and the heads of the 24 courses of priests. 1 Chronicles 24 describes how David divided the priesthood into 24 courses, or groups, and naming the head of each course. The priests worked in the temple's holy place. Only the high priest went into the most holy place (and only once a year). According to Hebrews 3:1, Jesus is Israel's high priest in the new order of priesthood under the new covenant.

Let's see that what John sees is where the angels assemble:

Job 1:6

- 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 2:1

- 1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Compare that with where Israel assembled in the wilderness:

Deuteronomy 31:14-15

- 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.
- 15 And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

In the resurrection, men will be equal to the angels:

Matthew 22:30

- 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Mark 12:25

- 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

Luke 20:36

- 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

While the elders in the vision are not resurrected yet, this is where the new testament Jews are going (rather than to Abraham's bosom).

Now, here is a speculation: It might be that resurrected Jews will be replacing the fallen angels, rather than the body of Christ (there is really no scripture for latter, although many teach it). Here are a few scriptures that feed the speculation:

John 3:12

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you [of] heavenly things?

Jesus said that he had some new teaching. If you think about it, no one in the old testament looked to go to heaven. Israel is meant to be a people of the earth.

Genesis 22:17

17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Abraham is given a promise of numerous descendants with two analogies given. The *sand of the sea* is indicative of Israel on the earth. But what about the *stars of heaven*. Some will say this is the body of Christ, but it can't be since our church is not mentioned in prophecy. *Daniel* says something interesting:

Daniel 12:2-3

- 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt.
3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

This says that those that are resurrected to life will shine as the brightness of the firmament. That seems to come out of nowhere... until you consider what Jesus said above. Next, *John* talks about the angels ascending and descending from the earth.

John 1:51

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Since those in the resurrection are equal to the angels, perhaps this is speaking of Jews (again, as a replacement for the fallen angels).

Perhaps Jesus' new teaching may shed light on the meaning of the "kingdom of heaven":

Matthew 3:2

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Rather than concluding that the "kingdom of heaven" is the kingdom from heaven down on the earth, perhaps it means that Israel's kingdom extends up to heaven. Consider more verses.

Matthew 5:12

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 19:21

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me.

Hebrews 3:1-2

- 1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses [was faithful] in all his house.

So Israel has a *heavenly calling*. Just what is that? I'm telling you what I think. Now, the high priest has access to the most holy place. And as Jesus' body, this is where we shall be. But Israel isn't the same organization.

Hebrews 4:14-16

- 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession.
- 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.
- 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Deuteronomy 28:1

- 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe [and] to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Israel is to be high above all nations. That means they will have a position of authority above the nations. But, perhaps it is also literal.

Several passages in *Hebrews* have a lot to say about the heavens:

Hebrews 8:1-5

- 1 Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
- 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.
- 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore [it is] of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.
- 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:
- 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 9:6-7

- 6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service [of God].
- 7 But into the second [went] the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and [for] the errors of the people:

Hebrews 9:11

- 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 9:22-26

- 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
- 23 [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
- 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
- 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;
- 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:19-21

- 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
- 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
- 21 And [having] an high priest over the house of God;

Hebrews 11:13-16

- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of [them], and embraced [them], and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
- 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that [country] from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.
- 16 But now they desire a better [country], that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 12:22-24

- 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel.

I won't comment since the verses are powerful on their own.

15.4 Abraham's Bosom

I think that those in Abraham's bosom are still there. These verses suggest that they are still there:

Revelation 5:2-4

- 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?
- 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.
- 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

Certainly, no wicked man would be able to open the book spoken of. It would have to refer to a righteous man. The verse is telling us that no righteous man can open the book.

Revelation 5:13

- 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Again, I would find it strange for wicked men to be praising Jesus. But, even the wicked will bow:

Philippians 2:10

- 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

But, concerning those in Abraham's bosom, why move them to heaven? They are waiting to be resurrected to the earth. This verse is definitive if you believe what it says:

Acts 2:34

- 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Acts 2 is written after Jesus' resurrection. It says, "David **is** not ascended". It does not say that he **had** not ascended. Some argue the tense is based upon when David said it. But the quote from the old testament has nothing to do with him ascending anyway. Again, no one in the old testament was looking to go to heaven.

Some will say that two men went to heaven in the old testament: Enoch and Elijah. But this verse says that this is not so:

John 3:13

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.

The claim that Elijah went to heaven is based upon this verse:

2 Kings 2:1

1 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

But careful study will reveal that this verse occurs later in time than the previous:

2 Chronicles 21:12

12 And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,

So, Elijah only went to the first heaven and immediately back to the earth (there is other evidence for that statement, but it is not given here). He eventually died. As for Enoch:

Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch was translated to Abraham's bosom.

Conclusions

So, it appears that there are multiple paradises. It may be that there is one for each church. There really is no need to put everyone in one place. God has had different programs over time and has kept things separate. It may be that after the great white throne judgment that these distinctions won't be necessary.

Part V

Appendices

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The appendices contain various supporting materials for the main text. Christians need the right bible, need to trust that bible, and need to learn how to study. Some appendices highlight these needs. Some incorrect cosmologies are also shown here so that the reader can be exposed to what else is being taught. You can agree with them if you like.

A

The Need for the Right Bible

The majority of Christians are babes in Christ. Like a real child, they don't know that and cannot be told that. If it is true for you, you can use that as an opportunity to mature. Or, you can cast this reproof aside and continue on in whatever you are doing.

A few necessary steps for becoming very mature are:

- Getting the right bible,
- learning to rightly divide, and
- learning how to study advanced topics.

I will not devote much space to these topics since this is not what the book is about. But it will help you see (1) why you have never heard what is in this book before and (2) why you may have trouble receiving what it teaches. Believe me: it will be easier to get mad and toss this book aside!

There is only one Bible in English today, and it has been around for over 400 years. It's called the *King James Bible* and not the "King James Version". If you don't understand the issues concerning the Bible, this demonstrates your immaturity. If you misunderstand the issues concerning the Bible, perhaps you are an older person that is still immature. If you are willing to take note that there is a bible issue, you can look into that and mature. This appendix will only highlight some of the issues; it will not teach the fullness of the topic.

God promised that he would preserve his word. If you believed a man that said that we cannot have God's pure word today, then you've made the wrong decision and believed a liar. Once you believe that God has preserved his word, you'll understand that it can be translated into other languages. Again, this will not be proven here.

God does not need multiple versions of his word in English. It is the devil who provides a bible buffet. If you use the phrase "King James Only" to accuse someone that agrees with what I am saying, that too highlights that you don't understand the issue. The *King James Bible* is the English bible that comes from the correct source text. There were English bibles before it; there have been none after it.

You have the freedom to use a corrupt bible. I started my Christian life using one. If you use the wrong Bible, you are not going to understand some of the concepts that are critical to understanding the creation. There are several examples below. There is one more example in Appendix C.

A.1 The Prophets or Isaiah?

The simplest example of showing that other bibles have errors is to look at:

Mark 1:2-3
2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

This passage quotes two prophets. Verse 2 quotes Malachi 3:1. Verse 3 quotes Isaiah 40:3. If your bible says that Isaiah said or wrote both of these, you have a glaring error in your bible. If so, you may have footnotes giving the two references. The original Greek text is wrong because it has been corrupted. You may feel that you are smart enough to look past problems like this, but there will be other things that you don't know to look past.

A.2 Heaven or Heavens?

The bible begins stating that the beginning of creation starts with one heaven:

Genesis 1:1
1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

If your bible says “heavens”, you are already off course. If your bible doesn’t even have the word “heaven” at all, your doomed. Part III of this book demonstrates why there is one heaven in *Genesis* 1:1 and multiple heavens after the second day. Thus, there are multiple heavens when the creation is complete:

Genesis 2:1
1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

A.3 Stories or a Dome?

If you look at creation pictures on the Internet, you will see that many of them show a dome over the earth (Appendix F shows some). Is that in the Bible? Yes, if you have the wrong one. Here is what the Amplified Bible says for Amos 9:6:



It is He who builds His upper chambers in the heavens and has established His vaulted dome (the firmament of heaven) over the earth, He who calls to the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth—the Lord is His name.

The word “dome” appears there. There are other corrupt bibles with the word dome as well. But let’s see what the proper bible says:

Amos 9:6
6 [It is] he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD [is] his name.

We will see that the heavens are three parallel stories according to scripture. A dome is the wrong structure given what the words in the proper bible mean. This is another example of the importance of having the right bible!

A.4 Who Is Job?

If you want to understand the creation better, then you need to understand who Job is and why he wrote a book. Job is a son of Issachar, which makes him an Israelite, or a Jew:

Genesis 46:13
13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.

If you have a bad bible, Job’s name might not appear in this verse in your bible. It may appear as “Jashub”. If so, that has happened because someone has possibly edited the Hebrew text, or decided not to translate the name properly (putting “Jashub” instead). The concordance for this word even has a bad description:

yob (H3102)
Perhaps a form of H3103, but more probably by erroneous transcription for H3437; Job, an Israelite: - Job.

Of course, H3437 is the Hebrew word translated “Jashub”. This demonstrates the corruption that is in the concordance.

Now, Jashub does appear later in scripture. Here are two passages:

Numbers 26:23-24
23 [Of] the sons of Issachar after their families: [of] Tola, the family of the Tolaites: of Pua, the family of the Punites:
24 Of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites: of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

¹Note that we are quoting a corrupt bible here!

1 Chronicles 7:1

1 Now the sons of Issachar [were], Tola, and Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four.

This is why some think they are “correcting the bible”. They are immature in that respect. Job is given a new name, Jashub, after the ordeal recorded in Job. This ordeal occurs some time between the family of Israel going down to Egypt and the nation of Israel coming out. The book of *Job* is the first book of the bible written and the Jews had it.

A.5 The Need to Rightly Divide

Even if you have a *King James Bible*, you need to know how to rightly divide God’s word:

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Most bibles do not even translate the end of the verse this way. We’re not talking about dividing “truth” from “error”. We’re talking about dividing “truth” from “truth”. What does that mean? It is about dividing “prophecy” from “mystery”. Most babes in Christ have never even heard of that before.

The “mystery” part of the bible comes solely through Paul (in the books *Romans* through *Philemon*). The “prophecy” part of the bible is everything else. Most Christians have never heard of such a thing and will refuse to hear it!

Figure A.1 demonstrates right division and additional aspects of further maturity. The figure references this verse:

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

I hope you will look into these matters if they are unknown to you. Chances are that you won’t hear about them in your church. You can still read this book, but you may struggle with the content.

A.6 Studying Advanced Bible Topics

Once you have the right bible and you know how to rightly divide, you need to learn how to study and not just read. I’m going to be more helpful here since we will be doing that in this book. I will demonstrate how to study in a few areas of trying to understand an advanced topic.

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

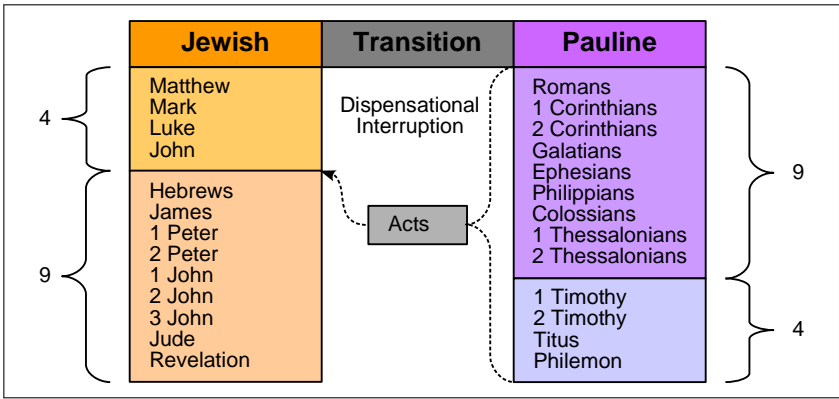
- 12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.
- 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

Verse 12 tells you that studying is a lot of work; it will wear you out. Verse 13 says that you need to read this whole book and not quit part way through. Next, the bible is going to tell you how to study!

Isaiah 28:9-10

- 9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts.
- 10 For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little:

In order to grow up (and not be a babe drinking milk), you need to learn how to study topics where the verses are scattered.



(a) Structure of the New Testament

	Doctrine	Reproof	Correction	
His Coming	1 & 2 Thessalonians			
The Church	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Meat for Adults
The Cross	Romans	1 & 2 Corinthians	Galatians	Milk for Babes

(b) Structure of Paul's Church Epistles

	Doctrine	Reproof	Correction	
His Coming	Revelation			
The Church	2 Peter	1, 2, & 3 John	Jude	Meat for Adults
The Cross	Hebrews	James	1 Peter	Milk for Babes

(c) Structure of the Hebrew Church Epistles

Figure A.1: (a) This diagram shows how the New Testament books are rightly divided. The book of *Acts* explains what happened to Israel during the transition to the dispensation of grace. Paul's books are divided into 9 church epistles and 4 pastoral epistles. The Jewish books are divided into 4 gospel accounts (or, leadership books) and 9 church epistles. (b) This diagram shows how Paul's church epistles are organized according to 2 Timothy 3:16. There is structure to the pastoral epistles, although it is not shown. (c) This diagram shows how the Hebrew epistles are similarly organized. The gospel accounts have a chronological structure, which is also not shown.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14
11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

This confirms what *Isaiah* said: we compare spiritual things with spiritual. The bible defines what words mean by context. Sometimes you find the definition of a word elsewhere or by reading a group of verses. The Holy Ghost doesn't give you understanding by simply reading. It gives understanding by reading, re-reading, and further studying. Then the "aha!" moment might come. My explanations might "click in place" for you or they might not. If not, then you have work to do (rather than concluding that I am wrong).

2 Timothy 4:3-4

- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Babes in Christ have itching ears. They want to be told what to believe and they want those things to be miraculous! They want to be part of the big crowd. But God's word often brings you into isolation from the larger group.

Proverbs 29:1

- 1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth [his] neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

As you hear the truth and reject it, you harden your heart. You will see a lot of scriptures in this book. They might not make much sense at first. Studying will cause you to look at the verses in your bible and pondering them over time.

B

Using a Concordance While Studying

A concordance is a great study aid if it is used correctly. A concordance is essentially an index of words in the Hebrew or Greek. For each word, there is

- a simplistic definition,
- an optional and possibly incomplete list of English words or phrases that are translated from the word, and
- a list of scripture references for each translated word or phrase.

Two examples will be demonstrated in this chapter. There is one more example in Appendix C.

A concordance is not a source of truth. Neither is a dictionary. The bible is the source of truth and seeing how else a word is translated in the bible is the best way to gain understanding. If you are using a concordance to correct the bible, you are seriously off course. This is what some people with corrupt bibles do. If you have a *King James Bible*, you have a book that needs no correction (assuming the publisher didn't introduce typographical mistakes).

You don't need to know Hebrew or Greek to use a concordance effectively. If you think learning those languages is going to give you better understanding of the bible, you are wasting your time. You could spend all of that time studying the English bible instead. If you learn from someone who goes to the Hebrew or Greek regularly, then you need a different teacher. That teacher doesn't understand the bible issue and doesn't trust his bible (see Appendix A).

Learn how to use an on-line concordance since flipping around an actual book may be too tedious to be productive.

B.1 Without Form

Let's see the word translated "without form". First, we need a verse using it.

Genesis 1:2

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The phrase "without form" comes from the Hebrew word *tohu* shown below. In the concordance numbering, the Hebrew words begin with the letter "H" and the Greek words with "G". Sometimes the definition in the concordance lists the translated words (like here), but many times it does not. You may have to look through the list of translated words in order to gain that understanding. I am not showing all of the references containing the Hebrew word. But we will see a couple of examples.

tohu (H8414)

From an unused root meaning to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), that is, desert; figuratively a worthless thing; adverbially in vain: - confusion, empty place, without form, nothing, (thing of) nought, vain, vanity, waste, wilderness.

Translated as: vain, vanity, confusion, without form, nothing, nought, wilderness, empty place, waste

Jeremiah 4:23 has the word translated "without form" as well. Genesis 1:2 gives context to Jeremiah 4:23, not the other way around (those who teach the reverse are often teaching the gap theory).

Jeremiah 4:23

23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, [it was] without form, and void; and the heavens, and they [had] no light.

The word is also translated “empty place”, as in Job 26:7.

Job 26:7

7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Study provides the opportunity to determine if Genesis 1:2 and Job 26:7 are related. My conclusion is that they are.

B.2 Circle

Searching for the word “circle” in the bible reveals only one verse. Thus, there is a lot of dispute over whether *circle* means “circle” or “sphere” (. . . that is as stupid as it sounds).

Isaiah 40:22

22 [It is] he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof [are] as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

The word translated *circle* comes from the Hebrew word *chug*. Concordance information is below.

***chug* (H2329)**

From H2328; a circle: - circle, circuit, compassive

Translated as: circle, circuit, compass

This entry shows a relation to another Hebrew word H2328 (which I am not going to discuss). *Chug* is also translated once as “circuit” and once as “compass”. Here are the two verses:

Job 22:14

14 Thick clouds [are] a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.

Proverbs 8:27

27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

These two translations of the word give us pretty good understanding that a “circle” is a two-dimensional concept, not a three-dimensional one. Since there are only 3 uses of the Hebrew word, we can do some additional investigation starting from the English.

Searching for the word “circuit” will reveal 4 instances of the word. There are 3 other Hebrew words that are translated circuit. Looking at these can provide more insight.

Searching for the word “compass” is far more complicated. If you allow suffixes to the word, you will get results you don’t want, like “compassion”. *Compass* can be a noun and a verb. So, this takes more diligence.

Hopefully, you decided that a circle is a circle and not a sphere long before you set out to study other words translated compass. Section 8.6 discusses another word that could have been used if the earth was a sphere.

People teach “circle means sphere” because they want that meaning. None of the study techniques will lead you to that conclusion on their own. The preconception exists because they start with the lie that heliocentrism teaches.

C

Tartarus Is Not in the Bible

Many people who teach about the creation, or at least about hell, will talk about a place called “Tartarus”. Tartarus isn’t in the bible, although corrupt bibles put it in. We will briefly look at this problem. There is an even bigger problem about angels being there until the great white throne judgment, but that will be addressed in the study about angels.

The verse that brings up Tartarus is:

2 Peter 2:4									
4	For	if	God	spared	not	the	angels	that	sinned,
								but	cast [them] down to hell,
									and delivered [them] into chains
									of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

As you can see, the word “Tartarus” is clearly not there. The word is introduced by teachers going to the Greek language. But, as we will see, that too is erroneous.

C.1 Do We Have to Go to the Greek?

We have God’s pure word in English, so why are we going to the Greek? Well, someone went to the Greek and introduced the error, so we need to do the same to expose the error. If you stick to the King James Bible, this problem wouldn’t exist. Below is 2 Peter 2:4 with Strong’s Concordance numbers shown.¹

2 Peter 2:4 (with Strong’s Numbers)									
For	if	God	spared	not	the	angels	that	sinned,	but
G1063	G1487	G2316	G5339	G3756		G32		G264	G235
									cast <i>them</i> down to hell,
									G5020
and delivered	<i>them</i> into chains		of darkness,	to be reserved	unto	judgment;			
G3860	G4577		G2217	G5083	G1519	G2920			

Where we see “cast *them* down to hell”, we see G5020 below it. This one Greek word is translated as a phrase with a word added. What someone might teach is that the word for “hell” is Tartarus. Well, where are all of the other words in the phrase coming from? Let’s look at G5020 in the concordance:

<i>tartaroo</i> (G5020)
From <i>Tartaros</i> (the deepest abyss of Hades); to incarcerate in eternal torment: - cast down to hell

Tartaroo comes from *tartaros*. Note that *tartaros* does not have a Strong’s number. Compare that to *yob* in Section A.4 or to *chug* in Section B.2, each of which comes from another word that has a Strong’s Number. That alone tells you that *tartaros* isn’t in the bible (it doesn’t have a number assigned to it!). If you know much about grammar, you’ll probably guess that *tartaros* is a noun (because it is a place) and that *tartaroo* is a verb. Let’s get confirmation of that.

¹ Words in italics are words added by the translators. Some bible resources use brackets [] instead.

C.2 What Do Bad Bibles Say?

First, let's see what the Greek words are that the *King James Bible* uses. It is translated from the "Textus Receptus" which is written in Common Greek. This was the language of the people in the time of the writing of the New Testament.

2 Peter 2:4 (King James Bible)										
For	if	God	spared	not	the angels	that sinned,	but	cast <i>them</i> down to hell,	and delivered	
gar	ei	theos	pheidomai	ou	aggelos	hamartano	alla	tartaroo	paradidomi	
<i>them</i> into chains		of darkness,		to be reserved		unto	judgment;			
seira		zaphos		tereo		eis	krisis			

Next, let's see what the Greek words are that the *New International Version* uses. It is translated from the "Minority Texts" which are written in Classical Greek. This was **not** the language of the people in the time of the writing of the New Testament. These texts were produced much later than the proper texts.

2 Peter 2:4 (New International Version)										
For	if	God	did not	spare	angels	when they sinned,	but	sent them to hell, ^[a]	putting them	
gar	ei	theos	ouk	epheisato	angelon	hamartesan ton	alla	tartaros	paredoken	
in chains		of darkness, ^[b]		to be held		for	judgment;			
seirais		zophou		teroumenous		eis	krisin			
footnotes: ^[a] Greek: <i>Tartarus</i> . ^[b] Some manuscripts: "in gloomy dungeons"										

It is clear that *tartaros* is translated as a verb phrase, similarly to the *King James Bible*. However, someone has added a footnote that says that the word is "Tartarus". Well, someone lied right there! Then another footnote is added that says that "darkness" might also be "gloomy dungeons" (which would mean that a different Greek word was used). But darkness is not a dungeon.

Let's see how various translations confuse the meaning of the verse. Problematic words are highlighted in bold.

Version	Text
American Standard Version	For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
Amplified Bible	For if God did not [even] spare angels that sinned, but threw them into hell and sent them to pits of gloom to be kept [there] for judgment;
Holman Christian Standard Bible	For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment;
The Living Bible	For God did not spare even the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell, chained in gloomy caves and darkness until the judgment day.
New American Standard Bible	For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, held for judgment;
New International Version	For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;
New Living Translation	For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment.
Revised Standard Version	For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment;
Young's Literal Translation	For if God messengers who sinned did not spare, but with chains of thick gloom, having cast [them] down to Tartarus , did deliver [them] to judgment, having been reserved,

If you want to argue about "Tartarus" at all, the English phrase for it could be "the bottomless pit". However, it is a different Greek word that is translated as that. The bottomless pit is the lowest part of hell, but 2 Peter 2:4 isn't focused on where; it is focused on the action of the casting down.

D

The Mazzaroth

There are many that believe that there is a message from God in the stars. While this may be true, it does not come directly from the bible. What is in this appendix comes primarily from a book, *The Witness of the Stars*, by E.W. Bullinger. Since that is a copyrighted book, much of the video study based on it will not be repeated here. But, the scriptures and the pictures from that study will be included.

We will begin with this verse:

Psalms 19:1

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Figure D.1 is supposedly a picture from a telescope. But it looks a *Computer Generated Image* (CGI) to me. Many Christians who want to intertwine the truth of scripture with the lie of astronomy will try to defend this as the glory of God, stating just how vast and wonderful the universe is. But it is not the goal of astronomy to declare the glory of God!



Figure D.1: This is supposedly a deep field image from the Hubble telescope. However, it clearly shows the artifacts of a CGI. Is this what Psalms 19:1 is referring to?

Let's see what Bullinger's book is about and then what the scripture says.

D.1 What Is the Mazzaroth?

The word *Mazzaroth* only occurs once in the Bible. Let's see the verse:

Job 38:32

32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

Its meaning is unclear, but it is often interpreted as the Zodiac. While the Zodiac may be a corruption that probably started at the time of Babel, it appears to be a corruption of something that God created. The word "zodiac" comes from the word *sodi*, which means "the way". The idea is that the structures of the stars tell a story. This story would have been important to the patriarchs (i.e., those in the book of *Genesis*). Perhaps, that is why it is mentioned in the book of *Job* (refer to Section A.4).

Now, let's see more context in Psalms 19:

Psalms 19:1-6

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- 5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
- 6 His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Both day and night should be telling us something. The stars are mostly only seen at night. Perhaps you can figure out something more.

Next, we will see that the stars have names.

Psalms 147:4

- 4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by [their] names.

Isaiah 40:26

- 26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these [things], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that [he is] strong in power; not one faileth.

A few names appear in scripture. Some of the names are groups of stars.

Job 9:9

- 9 Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

Job 38:31-32

- 31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?
- 32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

Amos 5:8

- 8 [Seek him] that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD [is] his name:

Job 26:13

- 13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

In scripture, the names that God gives have meaning. The names of the stars may tell the story of the Mazzaroth. The names of the stars still carry the theme of the story. It is at this point that we depart from scripture since there are not many named stars in the bible.

There are 12 major constellations, each with 3 minor constellations (or, decans). Artwork helps us see the meaning of the constellations. The artwork derives from the names of the stars, not the positions of the stars relative to one another.

Figure D.2 shows an example constellation: Virgo. There are 3 views of the constellation. The artwork view is the most useful for telling the story of the Mazzaroth.

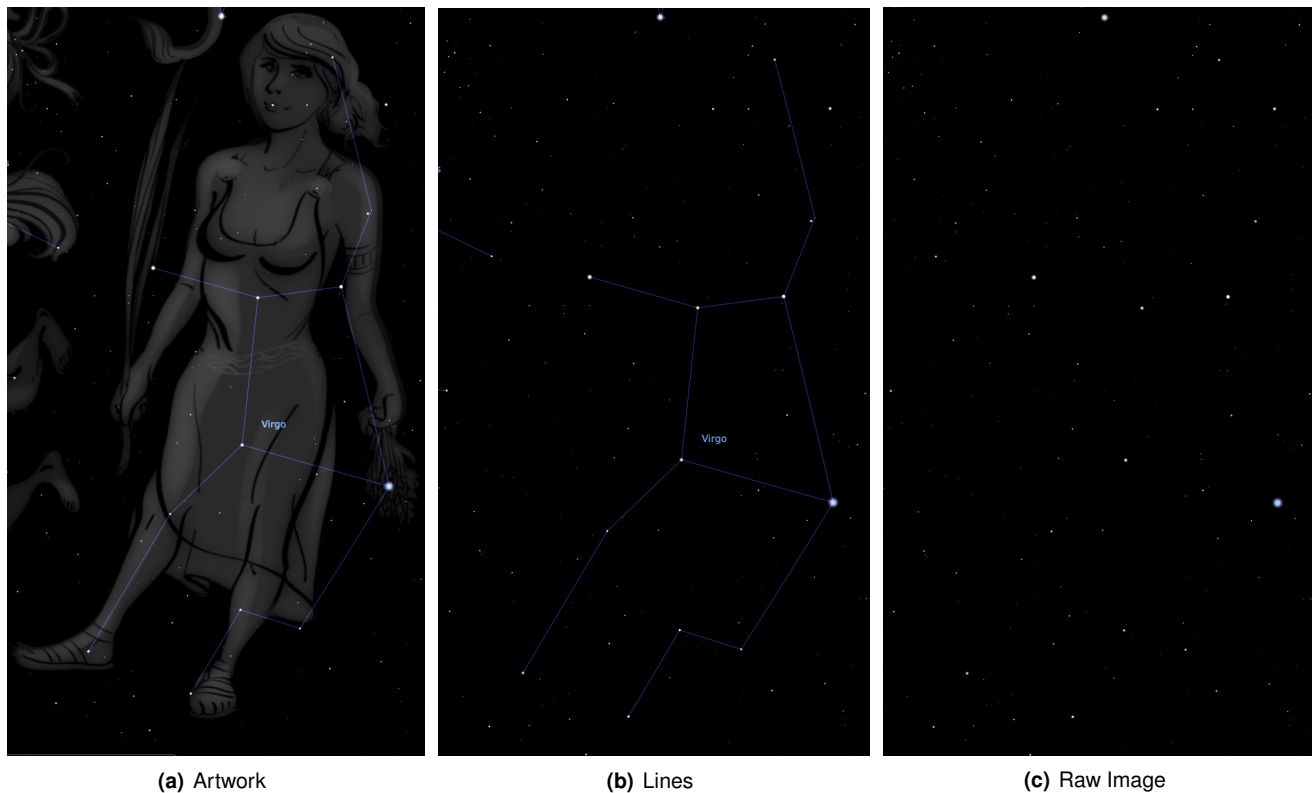


Figure D.2: Here are three views of Virgo. **(a)** shows the artwork, which primarily comes from the artist's imagination. **(b)** shows the lines connecting the related stars. This too involves a little imagination, but much of it comes from the names of the stars. **(c)** shows the raw image. Of course, you can't tell much from this.

D.2 The Constellations

Here are the 12 constellations, followed by their 3 decans:

1. Virgo: Coma, Centaurus, Bootes
2. Libra: Crux, Lupus, Corona
3. Scorpio: Serpens, Ophiuchus, Hercules
4. Sagittarius: Lyra, Ara, Draco
5. Capricornus: Sagitta, Aquila, Delphinus
6. Aquarius: Piscis Australis, Pegasus, Cygnus
7. Pisces: The Band, Andromeda, Cepheus
8. Aries: Cassiopeia, Cetus, Perseus
9. Taurus: Orion, Eridanus, Auriga
10. Gemini: Lepus, Canis Major, Canis Minor
11. Cancer: Ursa Minor, Ursa Major, Argo
12. Leo: Hydra, Crater, Corvus

Figure D.3 shows E.W. Bullinger's "planisphere" containing all of the artwork for these star groupings.

This is where the omissions in this appendix begin. The video study discussed each constellation and decan, giving example star names and implied meanings. A zoomed view of each star grouping was displayed in order to assist in understanding the interpretation.



Figure D.3: Bullinger's planisphere shows all the artwork for the 12 constellations and their corresponding decans.

D.3 The Message in the Stars

Now, we will simply summarize the messages of the constellations:

1. Virgo: The Seed of the Woman, The Desire of Nations, The Man of Double Nature in Humiliation, The Exalted Shepherd and Harvester
 2. Libra: The Price to be Paid, The Cross to be Endured, The Victim Slain, The Crown Purchased
 3. Scorpio: The Conflict, The Serpent's Coils, The Struggle with the Enemy, The toiling Vanquisher of Evil
 4. Sagittarius: The Doubled-Natured One Triumphant, He Gladdens the Heavens, He Builds Fires of Punishment, He Casts down the Dragon
 5. Capricornus: Life out of Death, The Arrow of God, Pierced and Failing, Springing up Again in Abundant Life
 6. Aquarius: Life-waters from on High, Drinking in the Heavenly Food, Carrying the Good News, Bearing aloft the Cross over the Earth
 7. Pisces: Multiplication of Redeemer's People, Upheld and governed by the Lamb, The intended Bride bound and exposed, The Bridegroom exalted
 8. Aries: The Lamb found worthy, The Bride released and making ready, Satan bound, The Breaker triumphing
 9. Taurus: The invincible Ruler come, The sublime Vanquisher, The River of Judgment, The all-ruling Shepherd
 10. Gemini: The Marriage of the Lamb, The Enemy trodden down, The Prince coming in Glory, His princely following
 11. Cancer: The Possession secured, Lesser fold: the Church of the first born, Greater fold: Israel, Safe folding into a Everlasting Kingdom
 12. Leo: The King rending, The Serpent fleeing, The Bowl of Wrath upon him, His carcass devoured
- I won't comment on these messages and leave it to you to read the book. My opinion is that there is probably something to this.

D.4 Interesting Observations

Figure D.4 suggests an interesting observation. If the solar system and galaxy are moving, why haven't the constellations changed in a few thousand years? Could they have changed? Do we have records from a few thousand years ago to compare to?

The constellations align with the sun's cycle. They don't drift over time like the moon. The constellations may have been for the Gentiles, but they have been corrupted at Babel. Israel is not really taught these in scripture.

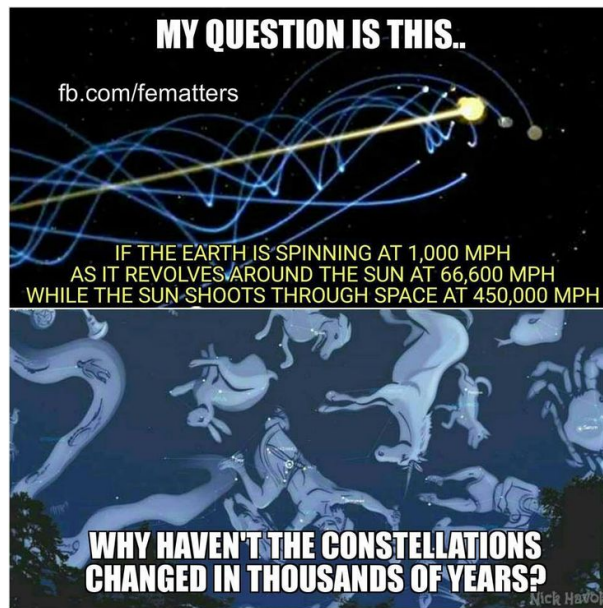


Figure D.4: Why Don't the Constellations Change?

Notice how many are mentioned in *Job*, which predates Israel as a nation. Remember the wise men who followed the star.

The sphinx has the head of a woman and the body of a lion. Is the “head of a woman” Virgo and the “body of a lion” Leo?

D.5 The Glory of God

Let's see what the bible says about the glory of God.

Isaiah 42:8

8 I [am] the LORD: that [is] my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Ezekiel 43:1-5

- 1 Afterward he brought me to the gate, [even] the gate that looketh toward the east:
- 2 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice [was] like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.
- 3 And [it was] according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, [even] according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions [were] like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face.
- 4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect [is] toward the east.
- 5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.

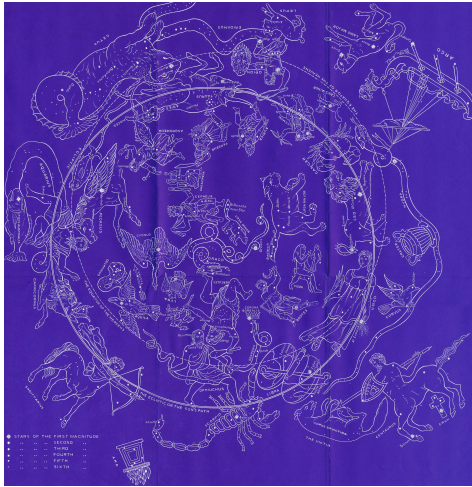
Ezekiel 40-48 is about various things in the millennium. In Ezekiel 43, verse 2 says that “the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east”. That refers to Jesus Christ.

If *Ezekiel* wasn't clear, the next verse should be. The “Father of glory” is the Father of the Son, which is Jesus Christ.

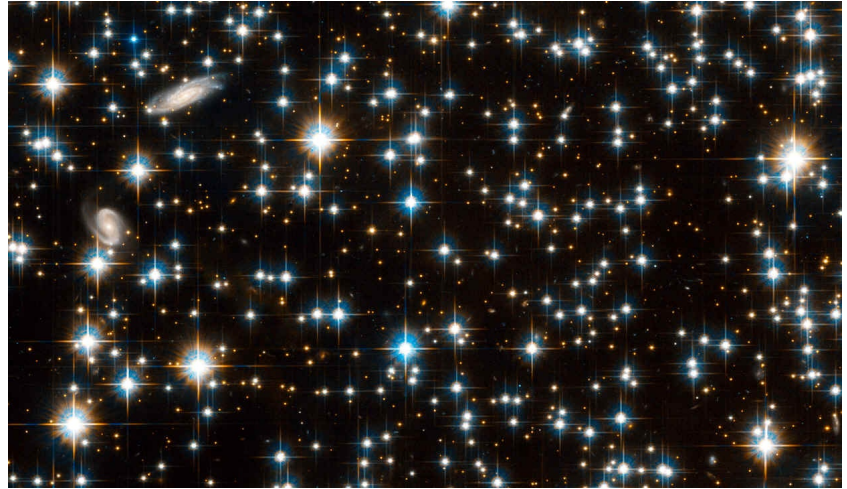
Ephesians 1:17

- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Figure D.5 presents us with the question: How do the heavens declare the glory of God? Is it the witness of the stars? Or, is it a multitude of stars and galaxies in a vast, relatively empty, universe? You can decide what you believe, but the bible has declared the answer.



(a) The Witness of the Stars



(b) CGI of Outer Space

Figure D.5: Which Is the Glory of God?

E

Creation Week as a Pattern for History

This is the short version of a longer video study. Creation week is a pattern for history. That means that something that occurs during creation week symbolizes something in history. Previously, we saw this verse:

Proverbs 9:1

1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

We said that this may be a model for 7000 years of time. That verse might take the 7 days of creation and then might apply this prophetic verse:

2 Peter 3:8

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

To really understand the patterns here, you need to see a timeline of bible history. That is part of the longer video study, and it will not be repeated here. Table E.1 gives a general summary about some events that occur near 1000 year intervals.

Table E.1: Summary of History

Year	Event
0	Adam created
1000	Enoch translated
2000	Abraham called
3000	David reigns
4000	Jesus is born
5000	-
6000	Kingdom begins
7000	Final judgment

Don't require that what is shown occurs exactly on the dates given. Also, the explanations given might not be the only ones that could be given.

The First Day: Years 0-1000

On the first day, God separated the light from the darkness. Let's see what this might represent. The first 1000 years is hard to typify since there is so little detail given in *Genesis*. The interesting thing that occurs near the end of the 1000 years is that Enoch is translated to paradise. Jude 14 said that Enoch prophesied that the LORD would come with 10,000 saints. Was that shortly after Enoch was taken? Was it at the time of the flood? Was it speaking of the second coming?

It would make the most sense that he was speaking of a soon-to-come judgment. Perhaps it was the flood, but that would still be more that 650 year later. Maybe it followed soon after his translation. This is the speculation that

I will make. It takes an understanding that the fallen angels are delivered into chains of darkness (2 Peter 2:4). God separated light (possibly the loyal angels) from darkness (possibly the fallen angels). This is discussed more in a study on angels. If you don't like this explanation, you'll need to come up with your own.

The Second Day: Years 1000-2000

On the second day, God divides the waters with a firmament. In the second 1000 years, God divides the old world from the current world with a flood. That one should be easier to accept.

The Third Day: Years 2000-3000

On the third day, God lifts up the earth out of the sea. The sea is a type of the heathen, or Gentiles. The earth is a type of Israel. In the third 1000 years, God calls Abraham and starts forming a nation from him. That nation is Israel.

The Fourth Day: Years 3000-4000

On the fourth day, God creates lights in the heaven to govern the earth. At the beginning of the 1000 years, David reigns over Israel. God elevates Solomon's reign to be witnessed by the Gentiles. At the end of the 1000 years, Jesus is born. He is the LORD from heaven that will reign over the earth.

The number 12 is symbolic of Israel. There are 12 constellations in the stars and 12 months in the year.

The Fifth Day: Years 4000-5000

On the fifth day, the waters brought forth life. Jesus said he would give living water. This could symbolize the life that came from Israel believing and being baptized.

The dispensation of grace begins and we should refrain from trying to make a symbol in prophecy for something in the mystery. Paul would sometimes tell us that a prophecy is fulfilled in the dispensation of grace, but, of course, it must also be fulfilled outside of it. The waters represent the Gentiles, and so you have life going to them by the gospel of grace.

The Sixth Day: Years 5000-6000

On the sixth day, man is created. At the end of this 1000 years, the man of sin will come. Shortly thereafter, the Son of Man will come again.

The Seventh Day: Years 6000-7000

On the seventh day, God rested. During this 1000 years, the earth will have rest from the corrupt governments of the angels and man.

F

Other Cosmologies

This appendix discusses some other cosmologies. One is based upon the tabernacle model, but presuming a globe earth. The others are flat-earth domes.

F.1 Another Tabernacle-Based Cosmology

Figure F.1 shows a tabernacle-based creation, but assumes a globe earth. I will describe it the way I heard it taught. The presenter teaches the gap theory, but I will omit that since it is clearly refuted by Exodus 20:11.

The creation begins with the heaven and the earth. The heaven is represented by the largest rectangle. The earth is assumed to be a globe earth from the beginning. The heaven is completely flooded with water.

The firmament is created, and it has the earth inside it. The consequence is that the earth, as well as hell, is in the second heaven. Who needs to “want” to go to heaven? You’re already there! I challenge you to find a verse in the *King James Bible* where the earth is in heaven. Note that “under” heaven is not “in” heaven. At some point, the triangular region is added. I know of no scripture that adds the 3rd heaven above the heaven of Genesis 1:1.

There are several problems with this cosmology. (1) There is a door in the veil. The door of the tabernacle is the means to go from outside the tent to inside the tent. It is not the door into the most holy place.

(2) The lake of fire should not exist yet. If it is not there, then the tabernacle model is violated.

(3) The scale of the tabernacle is not kept. If the firmament is millions or billions of light years in size, imagine how big the courtyard of the tabernacle should be. That would mean a lot of water below the firmament.

(4) The alignment of the veil to water above the firmament and the laver to water below the firmament just doesn’t make sense.

(5) How does someone on the bottom side of the globe look up to heaven to pray to God?

I’ve heard the presenter of this view say that he changed his mind about the apex at the top of the creation, so I won’t bother with that not being a rectangular shape. The easy take away is that you have to want the globe in

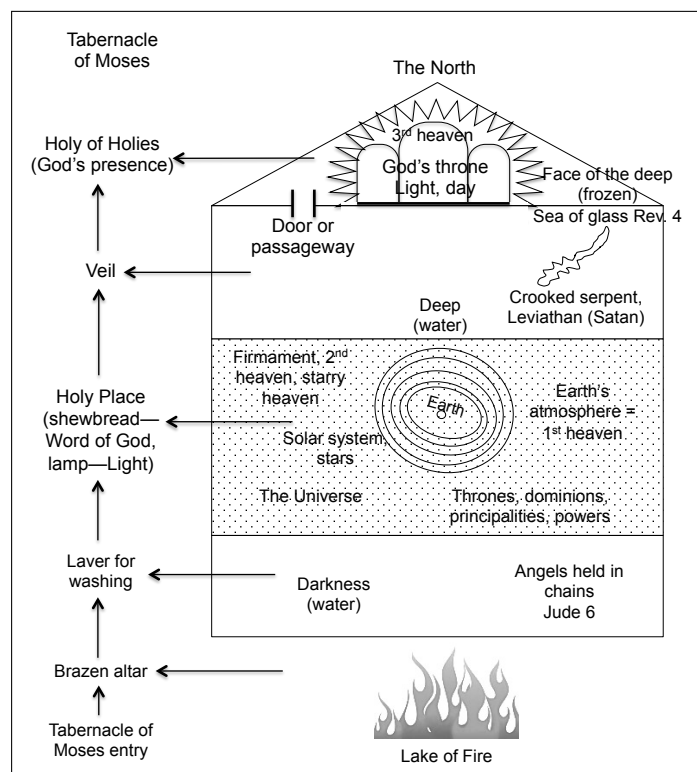


Figure F.1: A Globe-Earth Tabernacle-Based Cosmology

order to teach this cosmology. The thing that is right is that it is trying to structure the creation after the tabernacle. Although is the teaching tends to stray from the model often.

Figure F.2 is a book that presents the same model as discussed in Figure F.1. Since it is a book, it has more information than can be observed in Figure F.1 and from the original presenter talking about it in a 30-minute television study. I assume that the author learned the tabernacle model from the same presenter previously mentioned. It has many scriptures, but does not really cover enough. When you leave verses out, it can be easier to establish the wrong teaching.

One of the intriguing parts in the book concerns God and his relationship to eternity. I have essentially taught the same thing since it sounds good.

However, I think the book has the same flaws previously discussed. The common argument concerning the reference to a circle in Isaiah 40:22 is made: “circle means sphere”. People teach that because they want it to mean that. The other common argument concerns Job 26:7: the earth hangs upon nothing because it is in outer space.

To me, the cover says it all about this cosmology. This concerns 2 Peter 3:5. It is probably impossible to come up with a good explanation for this verse for a globe view. What clearly doesn't make sense is that the stars are present in the picture. That means that it is at least the fourth day. The scripture does not describe taking away the water at this point.

I do praise this brother for the work he has done. I got some benefit from reading it. He has the tabernacle model as a foundation. But reconciling all of the creation-related scriptures will likely reveal the flaws in the view. You can find the book on the Internet and obtain it with any donation.



Figure F.2: A Book on Creation

F.2 Dome Cosmologies

I always wondered why there were so many dome drawings. They don't teach the tabernacle model, although they are accidentally close to it. Before I had a proper English bible, I had a New International Version. It didn't have the word *dome* in it either.

Figure F.3 shows one particular bible that does have it: the Amplified Bible. Refer to Section A.3 for a discussion of the relevant verse.

While this drawing has a lot of nice features, it has a few other flaws. The new Jerusalem is not likely to be in the 3rd heaven. Hell is supposed to be in the heart of the earth, so the earth should extend down much further than it does. The pillars are a good feature. The word “Tartarus” is not in the bible, and it is not a place in hell (refer to Appendix C). The lake of fire should not exist yet, although this could be where it will eventually be.

Figure F.4 shows some more domes. Many people are trying. They just need the right bible!

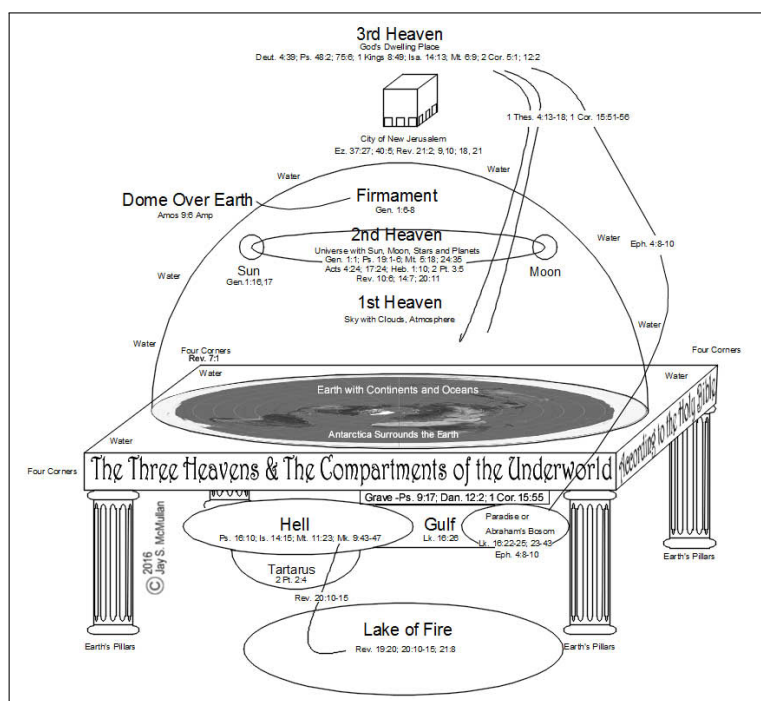
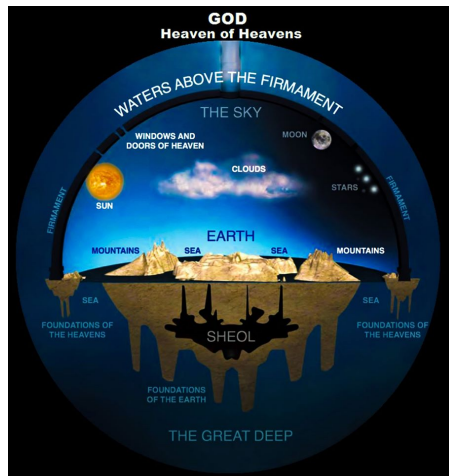
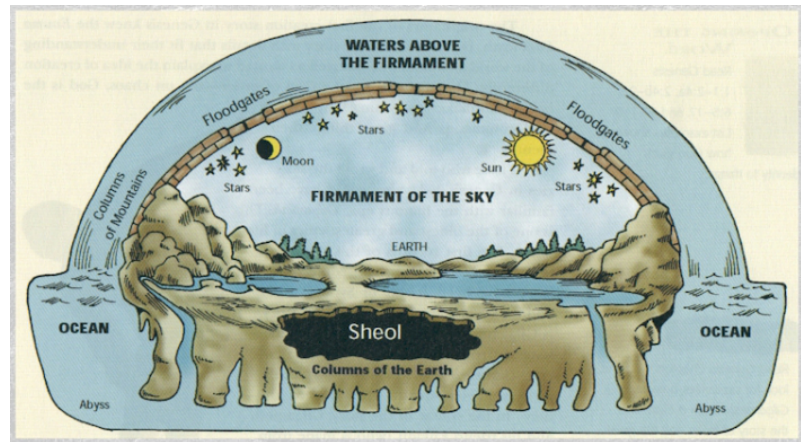


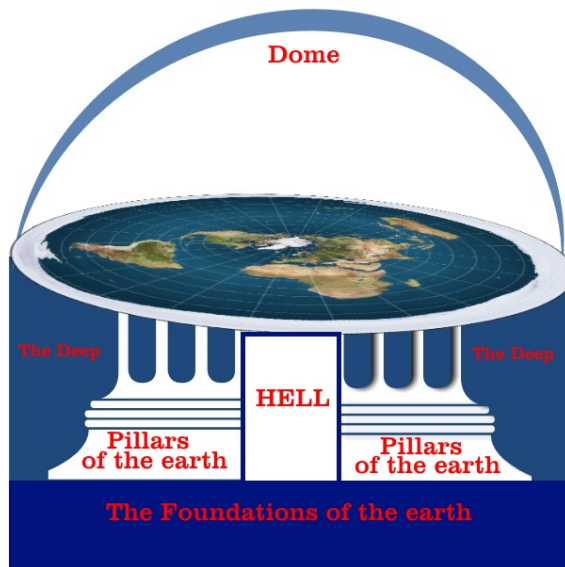
Figure F.3: An Example Dome Cosmology



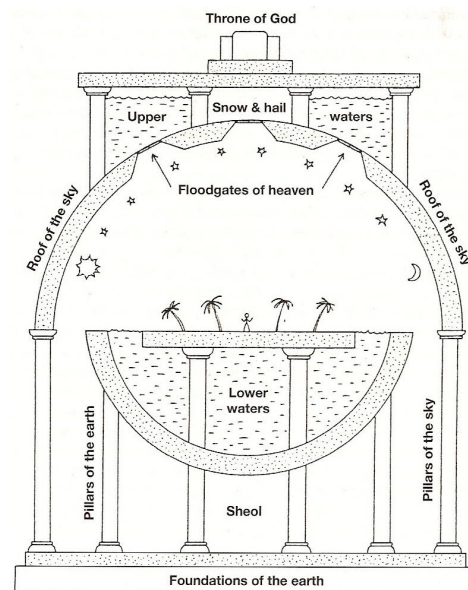
(a)



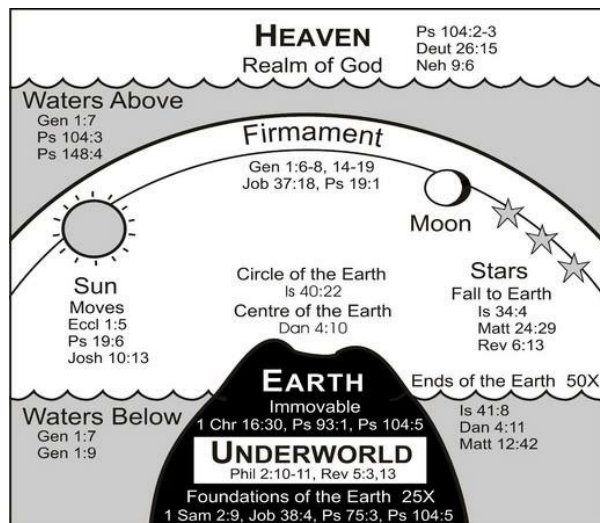
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

Figure F.4: More Domes. Dome cosmologies are a consequence of bad bibles. Both (a) and (b) are similar. They should really use “hell” rather than “sheol” (why use the Hebrew word?). (c) is a bit primitive, but more explicitly shows the flat earth. (d) is interesting but problematic. Again, why use “Sheol”. Hell is supposed to be in the heart of the earth. I wouldn’t put the treasures of the snow and hail above the 2nd heaven. (e) is interesting although simple. The many verse references are good.



Conclusion

The bible teaches that the creation is patterned after the tabernacle. It was God's intention that he tabernacle in his creation and with his creation. The tabernacle leads us to understand what the three heavens are (i.e., parallel floors). It also enables us to understand the earth and hell.

The following conclusions should be drawn from the main chapters:

- The creation is patterned after the tabernacle
- The earth is not in heaven (or "outer space")
- The earth is not a planet (it is not a wandering star)
- The earth is not a sphere—it is relatively flat
- The earth is founded upon the seas and does not move
- The earth is bigger than the sun
- The moon shines its own light (it is not a reflector)
- Planets are wandering stars that also shine their own light
- The lights in the heaven move in circuits above the earth
- The lights are God's clock for man
- The glory of God is Jesus (not a simply bunch of stars in the 2nd heaven)

It is easy to conclude that astronomy is a false science. You can't marry the truth with that lie either.

It is freeing to understand what the creation really is. I will be excited to learn more after the resurrection and rapture of the body of Christ. There will be multitudes of Christians who will finally be learning the reality of the creation at that time.

Hopefully, you can apply what you have learned here in the other challenging areas of the bible, namely angels, end times, and God himself. You should be opened up to many simpler topics as well. Congratulations! You made it through this very challenging topic!

Index of Bible Verses

This index of bible verses is provided so that you can quickly find where passages appear. The index is organized by book name. Each book name is followed by an ordered list of chapters, followed by the verse(s) cited. Each reference is followed by the page(s) on which it appears. In the soft copy, the page numbers are hyperlinks. Boldface page numbers, if any, refer to references to verses rather than quoted verses.

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Colophon

Production

This book was typeset in \LaTeX using the *memoir* document class and numerous supporting packages. It was formatted to get as much text onto the page as possible, so there is almost no room for the reader's notes on a printed copy. There are free PDF readers that allow annotations (i.e., highlighting and comments) to be added.

Figure Generation

All of the drawn figures in this book were created in the Apache OpenOffice Draw program.

Back Cover Artwork

The caricature of the author was drawn by the well-known artist Jan van Haasteren as a favor to Els Rooswinkel, who maintains a web site dedicated to puzzles with artwork drawn by Jan. Tom originally created a version of this web site and handed it over to Els, who developed the site far beyond its initial content. In appreciation of Tom's effort, Els asked Jan to draw him.



Tom Wilson has assembled an extensive collection of scriptures that explain the biblical creation. You'll need to put aside the lies that you have been taught by astronomy and traditions. This book will show you how the creation is patterned after the tabernacle, with a few elements of the temple included. The relevant bible verse are organized for you, so that you can draw your conclusions.

There is also an index of scripture references so that you can find where certain passages are discussed in the presentation of the biblical creation. All of this information is put at your fingertips because God wants today's church—the body of Christ—to know and understand his creation.

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