

The Bible and Creation

Creation: Days Two to Four

Genesis 1:6-19

Howard Dial

Introduction

1. The earth was spinning on its axis.
2. The earth was still dominantly watery.
3. Waters in ancient Near Eastern creation literature

I. Day Two: The Firmament (1:6-8)

- Lower waters were separated from upper waters.
- Lower waters served as a water base for living flesh and for earth processes.
- Upper waters (“the waters which were above the firmament”)
 - Vapor canopy? – A protective canopy that remained in place until the Flood of Noah’s time
 - Currently, the pitfalls of the canopy model have grown to such an extent that most researchers have abandoned the model. For example, if a canopy existed and collapsed at the time of the Flood to supply the rainfall, the latent heat of condensation would have boiled the atmosphere! And a viable canopy would not have had enough water vapor in it to sustain 40 days and nights of torrential global rain. Aside from the scientific analysis, there may be a much bigger issue at play: if the canopy really was part of earth’s atmosphere, then all the stars, sun, and moon would have been created within the earth’s atmosphere. (Bodie Hodge, AIG)
 - Why is this? A closer look at Genesis 1:14 reveals that the “waters above” may very well be much farther out—if they still exist today. The entirety of the stars, including our own sun (the greater light) and moon (lesser light) could not possibly be in our atmosphere since they were made “in the expanse.” (Bodie Hodge, *The Collapse of the Canopy Model*)

- Water vapor that continually floats above the earth's atmosphere
- Firmament (“Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”)
 - “Thin, stretched-out space” – the atmosphere
 - Troposphere (10 miles)
 - Stratosphere (30 miles)
 - Mesosphere (50 miles)
 - Thermosphere

II. Day Three: The Seas and Dry Land (1:9-13)

- Continents emerge
 - Surfaces of solid earth appeared above the waters.
 - Crust (5-20 miles), Mantle (1800 miles), outer core (1,400 miles), inner core (800 miles)
 - “Intricate network of channels and reservoirs opened up in the crust to receive waters retreating off the rising continents.” H. Morris
- Plant life
 - A blanket of fertile soil
 - Three main orders of plant life: grasses, herbs, and trees
 - Sudden appearance and the creative work of God (e.g., instantaneous multiplying of the loaves and fishes, Jn. 6:11).
 - “After its kind” (ten times in Genesis 1) – Some parallel to our word “species.” Refers to subdivisions within types of life. There were amazing potentialities for diversification placed by God within these “kinds.”
 - These kinds have never evolved or merged into each other by crossing over the divinely established lines of demarcation.

III. Day Four: Luminaries (1:14-19)

- Lights in the heavens appear
 - Language of appearance
- Geocentric not heliocentric. The earth is the most important planet in the universe from the spiritual standpoint.
- The sun, moon, and stars were created after the earth. God, not the sun, is the earth's creator.
 - “And it was so” – six times in Genesis 1 (vv. 7, 9, 11, 15, 24, 30). What God says, He also does. The firm, fixed, established condition of the stellar universe is to exalt God as the Creator and move us to worship Him.
- The earth therefore was supernaturally created. It did not evolve. In contrast to the theory that the earth was thrown off from the sun or that both (sun and earth) condensed from a gigantic “proto-sun” of whirling dust and gas billions of years ago.
 - “He made the stars also” – Moses put this act into a subordinate role.
- It is safe to assume that there is no conscious life on any other planet anywhere in the universe.
- The lights in the heavens are for “signs.”
 - Faith (Psa. 8, 19; Rom. 1:14-20)
 - Weather (Matt. 16:2,3)
 - Prophecy (Matt. 2:2; Lk. 21:25)
 - Judgment (Joel 2:30,31; Matt. 24:29)

- Also, a means of directions for long journeys (e.g., a sextant measures the angular distance between any two points, such as the sun and the horizon. Stars help in navigation.)

How should we then worship?

The reality of God as our Creator should evoke praise from His creatures (Rev. 4:11).

- We must not lose contact with creation, not to worship it, but to draw us outward and upward to God.
- We are to live in awe of God. “We owe him our total and unfeigned obedience and devotion.” Frances Schaeffer