

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28



"The Expanse"

Gen. 1:6-8

Feb. 23, 2025

Gen 1:6-8

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

- First 3 words are a reminder that creation is by "divine fiat." The word fiat means a binding edict issued by a person in command. A divine decree.
- Here it means that God said it and it instantaneously happened.
- This second day of creation has caused a lot of "ink to be spilled" (spilled meaning "written") among, theologians, Bible teachers, and Bible commentators.
- The text is very clear –

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

"expanse" -

u'qr

raqiya (raw-kee-yah)

- "to stretch out", firmament
- "in the midst of the waters" – those that cover the earth.

Gen 1:2

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of **the deep**, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of **the waters**.

- This is an ocean that was very, very deep.
- God separates the waters in two – a bottom half and a top half and sticks a layer called "the expanse" in between the layers. Like baking a layered angel food cake . . .

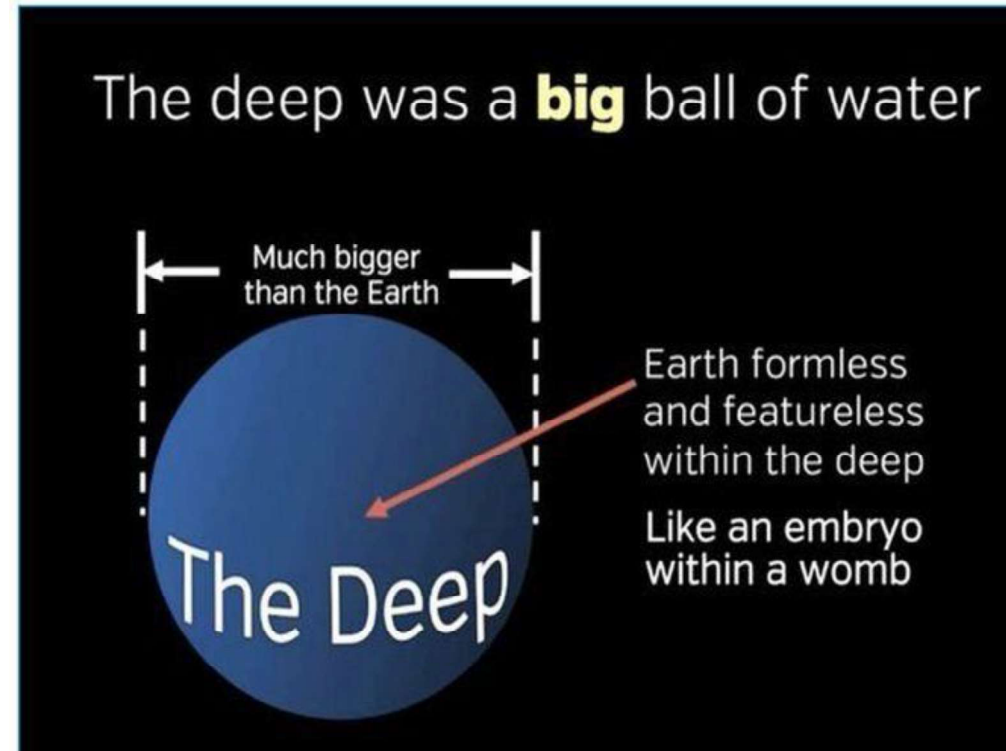
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- **Note:** vs. 6 is the general statement, vs. 7 is the detail.



7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

• How big is the “expanse”?

Gen 1:14-19

14 Then God said, "Let there be **lights in the expanse** of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

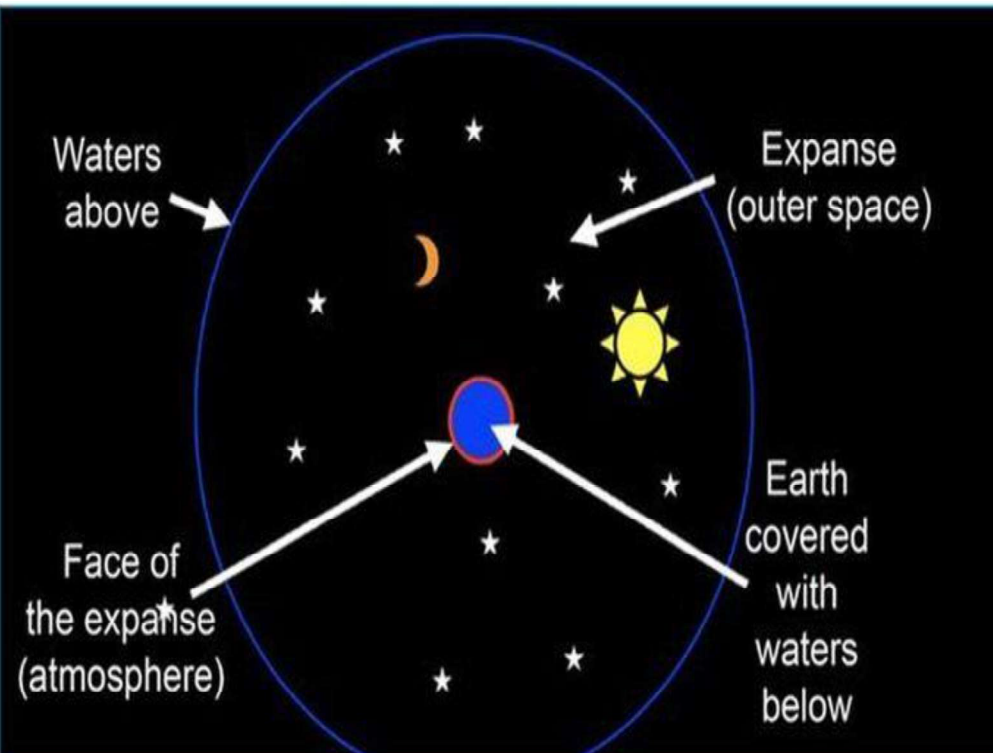
15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 God made the **two great lights**, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the **stars** also.

17 **God placed them in the expanse of the heavens** to give light on the earth,

18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.



7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

- We don't have a problem understanding the “waters below” – they became the oceans.
- We don't have a problem with the “expanse” – our sky, atmosphere, space, sun, moon, stars, galaxies that go to the end of the universe.
- The problem lies with the “waters above the expanse” – 1. where were they located? 2. Are they still there today?
- The short answer is – We don't know because Scripture doesn't tell us.
- Some say it is the clouds in the sky. But that theory doesn't “hold water.”
- Another “theory” is called the **“Water Canopy Theory”**.
- This says a water vapor or ice canopy enveloped the whole earth.
- It remained there until the flood when that water rained down on the earth in torrential rain and flooded the entire earth above the mountain tops.
- It served as a shield against damaging UV rays of sunlight.
- Explains long life of plants, animals (Dinosaurs), and man (over 900 years).
- First proposed by Jerome in 4th century. Today – 1961 – John Whitcomb and Henry Morris. But they later revealed the problems with the theory.
- The biggest problem with this theory is that it is redefining the word, “expanse” to mean only our atmosphere instead of all of space.
- Besides that, it also has some major problems that relate to heat, light, and pressure that would make a canopy impossible. It would cook the earth.

“If the writer of Genesis 1 had intended to say there was a water canopy in the space between the earth and the sun, he probably would have said the water was “in front of” the firmament for that is the way he describes the space between the earth and the sun (v. 20). Or, if he wanted to refer to a water canopy, he could have described the water as being “above the earth.” Or, he could have said the water was “between the heavens and the ground” (as in 2 Sam 18:9). Or, he could have said the water was “between the earth and between the heavens” (as in 1 Chr 21:16). In other words, the author could have readily and clearly described a water canopy if that is what he had intended to describe. But, he described no such thing because he was not referring to a water canopy at all . . .”

- Paul Seely

“I believe it will bring more glory to God if we will just acknowledge the fact that when “the water above the firmament” is left in its historical and biblical context and given its historical-grammatical meaning, that meaning which the church held until the Renaissance, it cannot mean either terrestrial clouds or a water canopy between the earth and the sun. It means rather a large body of water, a sea, above a solid firmament, which firmament serves as a roof to the universe and under which firmament are the sun, moon, and stars.”

- Paul Seely

Westminster Theological Journal

7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

Gen 7:11-12

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and **the floodgates of the sky (heaven - shamayim) were opened.**

12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

Gen 8:2

2 Also the fountains of the deep and the **floodgates of the sky (heaven - shamayim) were closed**, and the rain from the sky was restrained;

- “**and it was so.**” - Done. Fixed for the life of the universe. “Guaranteed warranty for the life of the product.”

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The 3 Heavens

3rd Heaven

(God's abode) - eg: Psa 2:4

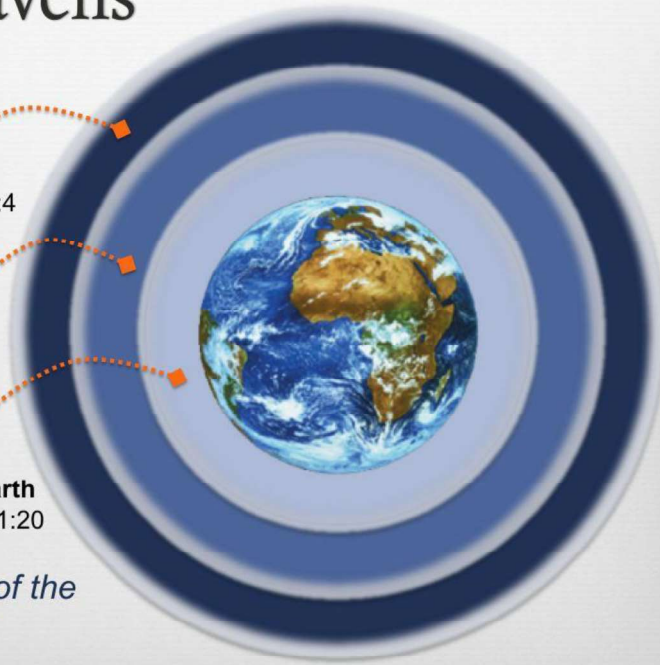
2nd Heaven

(Sun, Moon, and stars)
- eg: Gen 1:16-17

1st Heaven

(atmosphere above the earth
- Satan's rule) - eg: Gen 1:20

Eph 2:2 "prince of the
power of the air"



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- "evening/morning/2nd day – all happened in 24-hours.

Application

1. Ps 19:1

9 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

- Let's not miss the immensity of this 2nd day.
- What would happen if He used His arms?

2. The thought of "water" brings us to its use for the Christian life. Consider – John 4:13-14

3 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:38

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

Eph 5:26

26 . . . by the washing of water with the Word,

Ps 23:2

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.