Flat Earth: The Firmament, Cosmoloy, Space, and the Bible

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As I continue down this most exciting journey of cosmology and figuring out how things really work out there, I am continually pulled back to the truth of the Bible on this topic. Every time someone presents a view that opposes the Biblical position on cosmology, it starts to fall apart, or does not sufficiently convince me to move away. Do I have any biases? Yes, indeed. I believe that the Bible is true. In times past I used to somewhat suppress certain scriptures to help me cope in a world that opposed them and presented weird options, but as I age, I realize this is absolutely the wrong approach and that I can confidently continue to stand on the Bible in every aspect of my life: spiritually, physically, scientifically, etc. There are two camps of Bible believers, I have noticed: the first camp says 'you don't have to think about this stuff, just believe, brother" whilst the other camp (of which I'm obviously part) says "Don't just believe it but inquisitively question and marvel at how all this works". An example to demonstrate the two camps would be the scripture where Jesus walks on water. The first camp would say 'Don't think, just believe' whereas I would say "Believe, then marvel at the omnipotent God who dominated the physical realm, then consider, for pure interests sake, what natural/physical laws or norms were trampled for this miracle to occur!" The more I investigate what God has done, the more I marvel. And with that background, let's continue. Today I had a eureka moment while I was meditating on Genesis 1. I'm not entirely sure how I have seen so many videos about this, read these verses countless times, and yet never quite 'seen' it, but that seems to to be how the Word of God works.

> And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 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. (Genesis 1:6-7)

The key is the word firmament so first click this link here to study this word from the original language before continuing. Now, take a minute (promise it doesn't take much more) before reading my comments and really visualize what is happening here. Here's what I see happening, and feel free to correct me in the comments below as usual, if I'm off base:

- There is at the start a unified mass of water
- Then, a firm, supportive, strong firmament is created and inserted somewhere in the middle of this mass of water
- The firmament is raised way up thereby dividing the waters below from those above the firmament thereby leaving a vast space in between being the space in which we live and our atmosphere (or atmos-dome if you don't like the round earth vocab)

A while back I stumbled across what I thought was one of the funniest things ever - some dude out there actually thought that there was water up where space was purported to be. Water? In space? Give me a break! But now I truly have to consider this theory based on the above. Then, as it would be, I stumbled across something incredibly relevant to this topic. A 'star in a jar'. Take a moment, and while watching this video, consider how many interesting connections can be made to the scriptures: [embed]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSIPolpvjBY[/embed] I just happened to be in Matthew chapter 1 on the same day as Genesis 1 (God bless those Bible-in-a-year programs!) and the wise men leave Herod and behold a star was there to lead them. Was this a new star? Sure seems to be. But

how could that be? Based on the star in a jar, it would take nothing more than concentrated sound on a bubble in water to provide this convenient beacon of hope. But the moment I considered this I asked another question: What exactly is the purpose of the stars? I noticed in this scripture the purpose of that star was to guide the wise men to the birth place of Jesus. But what about the rest? The answer is found here:

> 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: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 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. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 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. (Genesis 1: 14-18)

The whole Bible is about *purpose*. Everything has a purpose: life, death, joy, pain, suffering, sickness, marriage, child birth, blah, blah and blah. Although our minds aren't able to understand the fullness of the purpose, there is a purpose, no doubt. With the stars, moon, and sun, however, he didn't leave anything to the imagination. He told us straight up why he made them and here is the bullet list:

- to divide the day from the night "Oh look, stars. It's night time. Cool."
- for signs: a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.:—mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token. "Look! A star leading us to the birthplace of Jesus!" or "Woah. Look at the stars... man. There MUST be a God!"
- for seasons: appointed place, appointed time, etc "Look at the stars. It must be June."
- for days: a 24 hour day, a period of time, a measurement of time, etc "Hey, it's 4pm."
- for years: a measurement of time, a year. "I am 37 years old now."

And so the stars in general, and the star the wise men saw, fulfilled and continue to fulfil their purpose for which they were intended. Some believers responded to my proposal that the firmament may still be there with water above it, by saying that the firmament was destroyed at the point of Noah's flood and that's where the water came from (when the whole dome collapsed). But from my understanding and study, the Bible didn't say that it was 'destroyed'. It said the 'windows of heaven were opened and the fountains of the deep'. It's an assumption to believe it was fully destroyed versus a hole (literally translated to a 'window') opening in parts and letting the waters from above through into the space where we are below the firmament.

> 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. (Genesis 7:11)

The word 'window' above means "lattice, window, sluice" and from my understanding, windows were designed to be opened and closed so it's a much stronger argument to believe that the firmament is still there and the windows were simply opened and closed at some point. Let's look at Genesis 1:14-18 again:

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I have only one point of study left that I need to somehow find the answer to. In English the above is translated to 'in' the firmament. However, when I looked up the original there is no translation for the preposition 'in'. So could the physical location of the stars, moon and sun be below or above the firmament (the stars)? Possibly. I currently tend to favour the position that all of it sits either *in* in the firmament or behind it. Let's keep the journey going, shall we? Keywords: Space, Stars, Moon, Sun, cosmology, firmament, flood, canopy, windows of heaven, star in a jar, creation, Genesis, Bible

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