

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #5

### Genesis 1:6-8

Although scientists are, in many ways, just beginning to better understand our universe, scientific meteorology is very accurate when it states that the atmosphere is comprised of a great amount of water .

### **THE MAJESTIC GOD IS THE GREAT CREATOR OF ALL EXISTENCES, INCLUDING ALL WATER .**

We saw in verse 1 that God created the heavens and the earth. We saw in verse 2 that the earth which God created was in a primitive, chaotic condition. We saw in verses 3-5 that God began the process of bringing systematic order to the heavens and the earth and the first creative work in the process was that of light, in which He divided the darkness.

In **Genesis 1:2**, we learn that the heavens and the earth were initially formless and empty. As we journey through the chapter, we are learning that in six days, God created everything necessary to give form to things without form and give filling to things empty. As we have suggested, the first three days of creation remedy the formlessness and the last three days remedy the emptiness .

In each of the days in which God creates something, there seems to be a fourfold pattern:

- 1) There is the creative word spoken by God – **1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 26**
- 2) There is the report of the word's powerful effect – What God speaks happens.
- 3) There is the Sovereign naming of the things God created – specifically given by God.
- 4) There is the numbering of each day and what God did on each day.

Now the creation of the heavens and earth and the light and darkness occurred on Day # 1 .  
**1:1-5**; Exodus 20:11. Now Creative Day #2 has to do with God putting water in the atmosphere.

### **VERB #1 – What God said on Day #2. 1:6**

The verb “said” is a Hebrew word that refers to speaking in the sense of bringing something to light (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 60). Obviously in this creation narrative, the bringing to light is much more than must verbal illumination, it refers to a command for creation . It is impossible to bring to light an understanding of something that doesn't exist, so to have the speech be valid, God must create what He speaks or it is verbal nonsense.

### **Creative Work #1 – The creation of the expanse . 1:6a**

The word “expanse” or “firmament” is the key word of this section, occurring once in verse 6, three times in verse 7 and once in verse 8. The Hebrew word seems to suggest something spread out above the earth.

From a careful study of Scripture we learn a good deal of information about this:

- 1) We know from **Genesis 1:6** the location of the expanse – “in the midst of the waters.”
- 2) We know from **Genesis 1:8** the name of the expanse – “heaven.”
- 3) We know from **Genesis 1:14-15** the content of the expanse – “sun” “moon” “stars.”
- 4) We know from **Genesis 1:20** the expanse is above the earth
- 5) We know from Job 26:8-11; Psalm 148:4 there is space above that separates earth from water.
- 6) We know from Psalm 19:1 that this expanse displays the glory of God.

Taking all of these facts into consideration we conclude that **the firmament or expanse is an expanse of space which includes everything open above us and our atmosphere, which has been created by God in the middle of two major spheres of water, which separates the waters above from the waters below.**

### **Creative Work #2** – The division of the “expanse” or “firmament”. **1:6b**

The verb “separate” or “divide” (v. 6, 7, 14) is a Hiphil participle which means God caused this division to be one of continual permanence. The “expanse” which separates the two great water regions is one that continues to exist. Our atmosphere permanently exists because God caused it to permanently exist.

### **VERB #2 – What God made on Day #2. 1:7**

The word “made” indicates that this was a constructive production of God, which He, Himself, made. The way God made this atmosphere was by separating one area of water from another. He separated the waters below the expanse from the waters above the expanse and He did this by the expanse. In other words **the division of waters became the atmosphere expanse. The heavenly atmosphere is the great divide between two great areas of water .**

The implications of this passage are both scientific and staggering. For years scientists have known that water exists in the atmosphere. What they have not been able to completely determine is where the water comes from. Scientists know that “clouds“ are one source of moisture, something Scripture clearly affirms – Job 26:8; 36:27-29; 37:11; Psalm 77:17; Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16. However, the Bible also affirms from Psalm 148:4; **Genesis 7:11-12**, Amos 9:6 that apparently there is a vast liquid vault of water that exists above the clouds and the heavens. Joseph C. Dillow, a scientist from Vienna, Austria, called this vault “A literal liquid celestial ocean” (Joseph Dillow, *The Waters Above*, p. 51).

The reality of some major watery existence above has been validated by at least ten predictions from scientific geophysics, which have been confirmed by rock formations. All ten can only be validated if there was and still is water above (Dillow, pp. 138-139).

1. A greenhouse effect demanded water above- scientists claim rock formations prove at one time the earth was uniformly tropical.
2. High present day concentration of He3 demanded waters above – a high level of hydrogen in our atmosphere demands water.

3. Increased atmospheric pressure demands waters above - the amount of water in the Atmosphere determines pressure. Bones discovered indicate there are large animals that would require special air pressure for survival.
4. Shielding from cosmic radiation demands waters above – water is what shields the earth from radiation from the sun.
5. A global flood demands waters above- a global flood demands billions of tons of water and there are evidences of a flood. **Genesis 7:11-12** - water came from sky 40 days and nights.
6. Volcanic ash missed with glacial ice demands waters above – volcanic ash discoveries which have been embedded in ice demands some water put them there.
7. A sudden and permanent temperature drop in the polar regions demands water above - Hundreds of thousands of frozen animals, who were frozen in mid-motion in the Arctic indicates tremendous amount of water.
8. Fewer meteorites in pre-flood strata demands waters above - in older geological formations, no signs of any meteor has been found.
9. Residual amounts of water in the stratosphere today demands water above – rockets fired at high altitudes reveal that high amounts of water still exist in the ionosphere (31-250 miles above the earth’s surface).
10. Changes in appearance of heavenly bodies demands water above - evidence today indicates more stars are visible and the sun is brighter and hotter, indicating less water.

What God created in the expanse or firmament an atmosphere that separated one sphere of water from another sphere of water. **What we learn here is that when God created the heavens and the earth, He created enough water to support all of His existences through all of time.**

The water He sends from above is water he has stored high above the atmosphere. He commands the clouds to form and directs their movement according to His good pleasure. This water resource continues to exist (Psalm 148:4-6) and every time you seen the rain you are seeing water that is coming from the watery vaults of God, stored somewhere above our atmosphere.

The words at the end of verse 7 – “it was so” indicate that the expanse was created just exactly as God wanted it.

### **VERB #3 – What God named the expanse or firmament He made on Day #2. 1:8**

The name God gave to the expanse or firmament was heaven , literally heavens .

According to Scripture there are three distinct heavens:

- 1) Where God’s Throne is located at the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven (II Corinthians 12:2; Revelation 4:2);
- 2) Where the stars and planets exist (Isaiah 13:10; **Genesis 1:17**);

The noun “heavens” refers to where the galaxies are and where the birds fly. When you gaze into the sky, you are gazing at the expanse created by God in **Genesis 1:6-8**.

According to John 1:14, Jesus Christ came and visibly declared the Glory of God.

According to John 17:20-22, one who believes on Christ becomes a partaker of the Glory of God.

According to Ephesians 1:12, believes’ lives are to reflect the Glory of God.

Do we declare the glory of God and do we show forth God’s handiwork?