

The Book of Genesis

Lesson 3

Chapter 1:6 - 13

On the first day of creation, the LORD hung the earth in space as a ball covered with water. The LORD's gush of energy on the first day caused this ball of water called earth to spin perpetually. But the energy that is causing this movement not only affects the earth; it effects all of creation, including the heavens and what we call outer space.

The water was covering an earthen core as depicted in Figure 12. The core contained all the material needed to form all the land and sub-structures of all the continents of our world today. Day two focused totally on dividing the seawater into two parts with a permanent expanse between the two.

Separation of the Waters

Genesis 1:6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And 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 And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

In the story of day two, the word expanse is used five times in dealing with the manipulation of the water that was created on day one. In some English versions, the word firmament is used instead of expanse. Neither word expresses the accurate meaning of the original word *raga*. The Hebrew word means "solid." When the Lord made the separation, the waters above became an invisible barrier, not like a piece of steel or wood. It is an immovable and permanent separation that we call the atmosphere. Even though this solid expanse is present, in God's wonderful ecology of creation, the heavy drops of water sink to gather below the expanse to form the oceans on the earth and the lighter vapors float into the expanse of the atmosphere. A solid atmosphere is formed between the ocean and space which can never be filled with ocean water again.

For a visual understanding of the division of the water, Figures 11, 12 and 13 are the same size. Figure 13 appears to be smaller but it is not. The dark blue represents the waters below and the graduated light blue represents the waters above that we call the atmosphere. The point at which the waters below meet the atmosphere is the location of the invisible expanse or firmament.

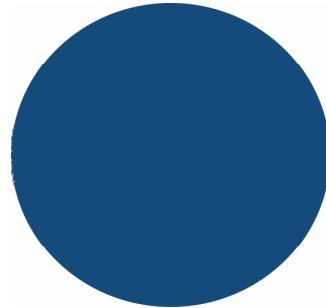


Figure 11: The Earth hung in space on the first day as a water covered ball

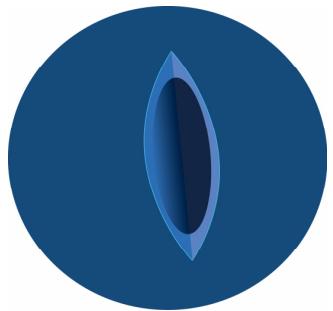


Figure 12: On the first day, the LORD placed an earthen core beneath the water that covered the earth.

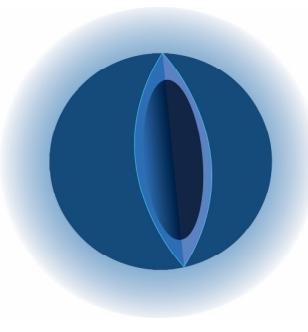


Figure 13: The seawater is divided forming the waters above, called the expanse, and the waters below the expanse, called the oceans.

The earth's atmosphere is roughly 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and the remaining 1% is made up of other gases. The atmosphere is thickest at the earth's surface and thins as it reaches toward space. Scientists have divided the atmosphere into five layers to explain the importance of the various functions of each layer.

The **first level** is the troposphere and it includes more than half of earth's atmosphere. Humans live in this level and most of the weather events occur in it such as storms, thunder, lightning and clear skies.

The **second level** is called the stratosphere. In our time, jets fly in this layer because it is extremely stable. It is in this layer that we begin to see the fallacy of our attempt to subdivide the atmosphere, which God made as one unit. The uplifts of major thunderstorms drive the dangerous clouds from the troposphere into this layer attributing to perilous commercial flight at times. Scientists also call the troposphere the ozone layer because of its high level of O₃ (ozone) although the O₃ volume is small in comparison to all the other gases in the atmosphere. Ninety percent of all the ozone is in this layer. Ozone absorbs most of the harmful light spectrum UVB rays radiating from the sun. From where did the O₃ come? It was in the water that was turned into the atmosphere.

Scientists call the **third layer** the mesosphere. In this layer most meteors and rock fragments burn up as they try to enter the earth's atmosphere. It protects the earth's surface from most potential space material that is drawn into the earth's gravitational pull. This layer contains a tremendous amount of unbound, non-ionized atoms of sodium and thus it is often called the sodium layer. In this layer, meteors begin to burn as they head toward the surface of the earth. From where did the sodium in this layer come? It was in the original seawater that changed into the atmosphere.

The **fourth layer** is the thermosphere. As a reference, the space shuttle orbits in this layer. The temperature has become increasingly cooler with altitude from the surface of the earth into this layer; however, above 124 miles there are relatively few molecules to absorb the solar energy from the sun and the temperature can easily reach 1830 degrees.

The **final layer** is called the exosphere. Air exists in this layer but it is extremely thin and barely detectable. A particle can travel at ballistic speeds for hundreds of miles before colliding with another particle. It extends to the vacuum of space where, theoretically, no air exists. Some scientists deny the existence of this layer because it is virtually empty.

Separating the atmosphere into layers easily distorts the true design of God's creation. In verses 6-8, Moses records how on the second day, the LORD separated the hundreds of miles high water into the waters below and the waters above. Chemicals are present in the seawater He created to form the atmosphere. Seawater is 96.5% H₂O. The other 3.5% is a salt compound made of 55% chloride, 30.6% sodium, 7.7% sulfate, 3.7% magnesium, 1.2% calcium, 1.1% potassium and .07% of other chemicals. A portion of the seawater was left as it was created on the first day to form the waters of the oceans. Another portion of the water was used to create the solid, stable atmosphere that we live in filled with nitrogen and oxygen as well as the areas of ozone and sodium that protect us from above. Everything in the atmosphere was created from the original seawater of the first day.

Besides the salt component in seawater, scientists report the following dissolved gases in the seawater: 78 % nitrogen, 21 % oxygen, 94% argon, .03% carbon, .01% hydrogen. Uniquely, the nitrogen and oxygen are virtually the same in both seawater and the air we breathe. Furthermore, both nitrogen and oxygen must be attached to H₂O to operate correctly in both the atmosphere and the oceans. Therefore, on the second day, the LORD separated the waters with a solid eternal expanse or dividing line so that aquatic life can live below the surface of the water and non-aquatic life can live above the surface.

Amazingly, every molecule of seawater eventually evaporates and rises into the solid expanse in the form of vapor to water the ground and ultimately travel back to the sea and repeats the process. It is amazing that every molecule of air we breathe has circulated from the deepest depths of the ocean to the highest heights of the atmosphere and repeated the process in perpetual motion countless numbers of times through the centuries.

With the waters separated, the second day of creation was concluded.



Figure 15: The LORD reforms the core of the earth causing it to push through the ocean waters to form the dry lands

Formation of the Dry Land and the Oceans

Genesis 1:9 Then God said, " Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.¹⁰ And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

With the beginning of the third day, God decided to mold and shape the spinning earth to allow the dry lands to appear. In order to do this, the waters began to shift and the core of land material at its center began to protrude through the water, reforming earthen material as seen in Figure 15. In that figure, the dry lands of the earth are shown protruding through the waters just as we know them today. Some theologians hold that today's view of the dry lands did not occur until after the recession of the waters after the flood in Noah's day. In other words, they believe the map of the world would have looked more like Figure 16 on the third day before the flood rather than Figure 17, as we know the earth today.

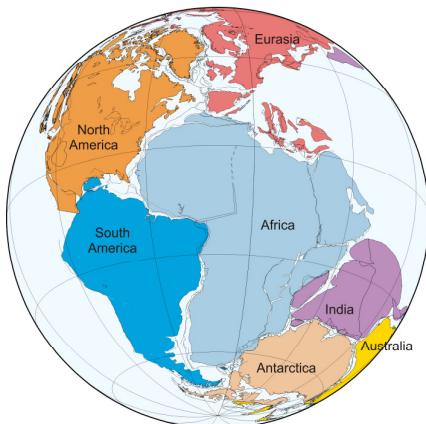


Figure 16: Because the Scripture states that the waters were gathered into one place, some theologians believe the dry land was in one place too. This picture pulls the continents together across one side of the earth stretching from the north to the south poles.



Figure 17: Some theologians believe that during the flood of Noah's day, the dry land was divided into what the earth looks like today. This picture shows how the continents were moved apart in accordance with the current design of the tectonic plates.

Vegetation on the Land

Genesis 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

To complete the work of the third day, the LORD covered all the earth with plant life. The coverage of the earth was not a slow process; it was immediate and every kind of plant that has ever existed was present in all stages of vegetative life. Fruit-bearing trees were dropping their ripe fruit to allow it to germinate and grow another tree. The cedars of Lebanon, redwoods of California and the pine trees of Texas stood mighty and tall with hundreds of sap rings in each trunk. The berries were ready to be eaten, the fruit was ready to be picked and the lettuce was ready to be gathered. The Spanish moss hung from the trees, the algae found its home in the waters, the mold was on the north side of the structures, and everything looked as if it had been growing for a million years; yet, it was all one day old. This vegetation was necessary for the rest of God's creation to exist. Plant life does not need animal life to survive. It needs carbon dioxide, but the life cycle of plants can produce all the carbon dioxide it needs for its purposes. Plants use carbon dioxide to create sugars which we usually call carbohydrates. In the process of producing the sugars, a byproduct is produced called oxygen. According to God, it was all good!



Figure 18: To conclude the third day the LORD fills all the land with vegetation