THE FIRST DAY

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The Heavens

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word “heaven” is used in three different ways, sometimes called the first, second and third heaven: 2 Corinthians 12:2a

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven.

The first heaven, the sky: Genesis 1:20 And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”

The second heaven, what we call outer space: Genesis 22:17 “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.”

The third heaven, the dwelling place of God: I Kings 8:30 “And listen to the plea of your servant and your people Israel, when the pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear forgive.”

Nehemiah 9:6 “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them, and the host of heaven worships you.”

Hebrews 1:14 (NIV) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

On the first day God created the atmosphere, outer space and what we typically call heaven, the place where God and the angels reside. It seems that he also created all the angels on the first day. If they were created to serve humanity, their creation before the first day seems illogical, and they were there to observe what God did when He “laid the foundation of the earth…and “all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:1-7; 1:6; 2:1

The Bible says God created the heavens (the atmosphere), outer space (where the stars are) and heaven (His dwelling), on day one and that He created the sun, moon and stars on day four, a total contradiction of the evolutionary point of view.

The earth’s atmosphere is (amounts rounded) 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 1% argon, .035% carbon dioxide and just miniscule tracesel of several other gases. It is held in place by gravity, the force that attracts any physical body having mass (protons and neutrons) toward any other physical body having mass. The percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere is ideally suited for life.

The Earth

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Isaiah 45:18 (N(V) For this is what the LORD says – he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited – he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”

The Bible does not say the earth is the center of the universe, the galaxy or even our solar system. It does strongly imply that it is the most important location in the universe, because the Son of God became a man and lived a perfect life on earth and then died on a cross for the sins of the world.

God “formed the earth to be inhabited,” it was created as a dwelling place for mankind. Many of the unique features of the earth that make it a suitable place for human life have to do with its relationship to the sun and moon, but a few of them had to be established on the first day, such as the atmosphere and abundant water.

The Bible does not categorically state that the earth is a sphere, although sphere is one of the meanings of the Hebrew word usually translated “circle” in Isaiah 40:22a, “It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,”

There are 17 major translations of the Bible into Spanish. Most translate the Hebrew word in Isaiah 40:22 as “circle,” but three translate it “globo” (globe) and two translate it “orbo” (orb). The Latin Vulgate translation of Isaiah 40:22 uses a Latin word that can mean either circle or orb. An orb with a cross on top of it became a prominent Christian symbol in the Middle Ages.

Water

If the earth were a perfect sphere, no mountains or valleys, the oceans would cover the Earth to a depth of around 2 miles. Water expands when it freezes, so ice floats. The high surface tension of liquid water makes it effective in capillary action in soils, plants and biological systems. The existence of liquid water is essential for life as we know it.

Recent secular research has recently shown that there is probably more water under the Earth’s mantle than above it.

Light

Genesis 1:3-5 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Time is measured by the rotation of the Earth relative to its light source, which after day four was the Sun, and by how long it takes for the earth to revolve around the Sun. Time, as we measure it, began on the first day. Genesis 1:14 says the “lights in the expanse of the heavens” (are) “to separate the day from the night…and for days and years.”

Psalm 139:11&12 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me the night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

“God separated the light from the darkness.” The light source would have only shone on one half of the earth’s surface as the sun only shines on one half of the earth’s surface. Day and Night become distinct.

“And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.” God’s work of creation had begun. It is interesting that it says, “God saw that the light was good.” From this point on, light is usually a symbol of truth and goodness, and darkness is usually a symbol of deceit and evil.

Jon 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

John 3:19-21 “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Things to Remember

The first day includes the creation of the heavens (the atmosphere, outer space and God’s dwelling place) and the earth. The atmosphere was created with the perfect amount of oxygen for life.

The earth was created covered with water, another essential ingredient for life.

God also created light on the first day, and the Day and Night cycle began.

“The light was good.” Since then, light has been a symbol of good and darkness a symbol of evil. Jesus is the Light of the world. Anyone who wants to know the truth will come to him. Anyone who does not want to know the truth will not come to Him and will remain in the darkness.