

When The Foundations Were Formed

(Genesis 1:6-13)

*"Where were you when I **laid the foundation** of my earth? Tell me, since you're so informed!" (Job 38:4, ISV)
"You who **laid the foundations** of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever." (Psalm 104:5)*

I. He Created the Sky ("firmament" or "the atmospheric heaven") **Gen. 1:6-8**

The word "firmament" comes from the Hebrew word *ragia*, literally meaning "to stretch out" or "to hammer out." Speaking of the threads of gold in the garments of the high priest, Exodus 39:3 reads, "And they **beat the gold into thin sheets** and cut it into threads, to work it in with the blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and the fine linen, into artistic designs."

Anne Graham Lotz writes, "When God separated the waters below from the waters above, forming an atmosphere in between, He increased the earth's diameter by approximately 120 miles.¹ Apparently this involved the formation of a type of vapor canopy over the earth. It may have appeared something like the ice rings around the planet Saturn or the cloud cover that shrouds Venus.² The vapor canopy would have made the earth like a greenhouse. On the earth, under the canopy, there would have been no great air-mass movements, no hurricanes, no tornadoes, no monsoons, no typhoons, no rain, no thunderstorms. The canopy would have served as a giant terrarium, with the dew condensing and watering the earth, making rain unnecessary while maintaining uniform temperature^{3,4}

Isaiah 40:22, "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, **Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.**"

Jonathan Sarfati (PhD in physical chemistry), author of "The Genesis Account" (young-earth creationist), whose dissertation was on the subject of spectroscopy (the study of how radiation interacts with matter) believes we should no longer see "water vapor canopy" in **Genesis 1:6-8. He believes if this happened, it would cook the earth, due to how the sun would interact with the water. He does not believe it would protect the planet, but it would harm the planet.**⁵ Therefore, creationists should not be dogmatic on what is the precise nature of the "firmament."

Gen. 1:14-17 says the stars were set "in the firmament", and **Gen. 1:20** says the birds fly "across the face" of this firmament.

¹ This increase in diameter is derived from the 1995 Information Please Almanac (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995), page 332, which notes that the earth's atmospheric blend of 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and 1 percent trace gases extends to a height of about sixty miles above sea level.

² If it was a type of cloud cover, it was transparent by the fourth day when the sun, moon, and stars became visible from Planet Earth.

³ We do know that Adam and Eve were perfectly comfortable without clothes (see Gen. 3:7).

⁴ Anne Graham Lotz, *God's Story: Finding Meaning for Your Life through Knowing God* (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999), 12.

⁵ See Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account* (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2015), 158-160.

II. **He Created the Seas** (separating waters from waters) **Gen. 1:9-10**

Genesis 1:6, “let it divide the waters from the waters.” The waters below refer to the oceans, the seas, the rivers, and the streams. The waters below are transported to the waters above through the process of evaporation. **Psalm 148:4**, “Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And **you waters above the heavens!**”

“Matthew Maury is considered the father of modern oceanography. In Richmond, Virginia, there is a statue of Mr. Maury. In one hand he holds the maps of the world, and in the other hand he holds a Bible. He was a devout Christian, and he saw no inconsistency between true science and a belief in a divine Creator. On one occasion, Mr. Maury was ill, and his oldest son read **Psalm 8:5-8** to him, which reads, “**For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.**” After hearing the Psalm, Mr. Maury asked his son to read it again. His son read it again, “**through the paths of the seas.**” Mr. Maury then said, “**If the Bible says there are paths of the sea, then they must be there. If they are there, I will find them.**” He did find them. Ocean liners now use the paths he found to navigate global waters. Shipping companies save thousands and thousands of dollars because their ships use the sea paths mentioned in **Psalm 8** and discovered by Matthew Maury.”⁶

Read **Job 38:8-11** and **Psalm 104:5-9**.

III. **He Created the Surface** (the land or ground) **Gen. 1:9-10**

Genesis 1:9-10 hints at one land mass before the Flood. “[A] creation scientist, Antonio Snider-Pellegrini (1802-1885), first proposed in 1858 that a land mass broke up catastrophically during the Genesis Flood and separated into our continents... Alfred Wegener (1880-1930) proposed a slower form of separation, and based it on the fit of continents like a jigsaw, and some similarities in rock formations and fossils.”⁷

2 Peter 3:5, “For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, **and the earth standing out of water and in the water.**”

IV. **He Created the Shrubs and Seeds** (vegetation, plants, fruit, grass, etc.) **Gen. 1:11-13**

Henry Morris writes: “It should also be mentioned that the formation of plants, even in such complex forms as fruit trees, occurred before the creation of any form of animal life. This, of course, is quite logical, but it does flatly contradict the accepted evolutionary system, which has marine animals, both invertebrates and vertebrates, evolving hundreds of millions of years before the evolution of fruit trees and other higher plants. Furthermore, many plants require pollination by insects, but insects were not made until the sixth day of creation, which argues against the possibility that the days of creation could have been long ages. The idea of theistic evolution is counter to the biblical record of creation in practically every passage.”⁸

Considerations for a Young Earth⁹:

- 1) The salt levels in the ocean.
- 2) The sediment levels in the ocean.
- 3) The erosion rates of the continents.
- 4) The decaying magnetic field.
- 5) The presence of carbon 14 in fossils and coal.
- 6) The inconsistencies of radiometric dating.
- 7) The soft tissue in fossils.

⁶ Vines, *24/7: The Genesis Account of Creation* (3H Publishing Company, 2005), 89.

⁷ Sarfati, 164.

⁸ Morris, *The Genesis Record*, 64, as quoted in John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning* (Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001), 100.

⁹ Ken Keathley and Mark Rooker, *40 Questions about Creation and Evolution* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2014), 191-192.