

# “THE WATERS ABOVE AND BELOW”

Genesis 1:6-13

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## INTRODUCTION

God does not quit on his Creation until He is finished, just as He does not quit on His new creation in us: Phil. 1:6. **We want Him to say to us: “It is good!”**

In this passage we begin to notice that God makes everything after its kind.

Likewise God makes us according to his purpose and we need to accept his limitations put upon us.

## ACCEPT YOUR DIVINELY APPOINTED LIMITATIONS AND WORSHIP THE CREATOR AND NOT CREATION.

### DAY TWO OF CREATION

#### I. THE CREATION OF THE ‘FIRMAMENT’

- A. What It Is-- that which is beaten out or stretched out above the earth; as we see in verse 8 it is the equivalent of “heaven.” [This of course is the lower heaven or atmosphere.] The Scriptures make three comparisons: curtain, transparent work of sapphire, a molten looking glass.
- B. What It Does – separates the waters: Two Views—Waters in the clouds; waters above the atmosphere—the Canopy Theory; I hold to the **Canopy Theory** for the following reasons:
1. The primary meaning of the word “above” –v. 7.
  2. The atmosphere is said to be in the midst of waters, not vice versa (6).
  3. The Hebrews knew the difference between waters coming from clouds in the atmosphere and water above the atmosphere (Jer. 10:13; Job 37:11; Ps. 77:17).
  4. Many ancient stories describe such vast stores of waters above the atmosphere.
  5. The firmament is said to divide between waters in liquid form, one of which is the “deep” of verse 2 —not droplets or clouds. Here we have two liquid oceans!
  6. Moses does not use any of the six words for “clouds.” The word here is the ordinary one for “water.” No clouds are mentioned in connection with this water.
  7. Moses corrects nature myths.
  8. There is not enough water in the atmosphere to sustain 40 days and nights of rain worldwide – only about enough for 20 inches of rain.
  9. The incidental details of Genesis all seem to fit this theory:
    - A mist – not rain (2:5-6)
    - No rainbow (9:13)
    - No widely varied seasons prior to the flood (8:22)
    - Ancient longevity
    - Noah’s unexpected drunkenness in chapter 9-- likely due partly to the increased speed of fermentation after the flood.

Does Psalm 148:4 this prove this view? No.

#### C. Detailed fulfillment

1. “God made” –v. 7; this means the same as “create” as we see when we compare vv. 21 with 25, and 26 with 27.
2. “And it was so” –v. 7; here it comes in a different order than we see in vv. 9, 11, 15, and 24. The variations of style indicate the authenticity of this account.
3. “Then came evening then came morning – day 2.”
  - Note once again that God works during the day.
  - Let us be of the day also.
  - The night truly does belong to wickedness and its practices and subjects.

## DAY THREE OF CREATION

### II. THE SEPARATION OF DRY LAND AND WATER (1:9-10)

- A. The Action – “the deep” is said to be in one place, indicating interconnected seas
  - Included in this divine creative act would be the formation of lakes, rivers, etc.
  - *We must realize that the waters of trouble in our lives also have boundaries!*
- B. The Naming
  - 1. Dry Land—“Earth”
  - 2. Gathering of waters—“Seas”
- C. The Satisfaction—“it was good.”

### III. THE CREATION OF VEGETATION (11-13)

- A. The Method Used—“the earth sprouts”, “the earth brought forth”
  - Should we regard the earth here as the immediate agent of creation?
  - Is the creation of plant life merely accelerated growth?
  - Could this be a description of evolution?

**The answer to all these questions is emphatic no!**

  - Cf. 2:8 – God planted.
  - Cf. 1:20 with 1:21 and 1:24 with 1:25 – **animals did not grow from the earth!**
  - Rather, the earth is the source of origin and continued growth for both plant life and animal life.
  - The same is true of the sea for aquatic life.
- B. The Means of Reproduction
  - 1. Seeds
    - Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
    - The obvious and correct answer is **the chicken!**
    - Here we see that plants produce seeds.
    - Notice the three classes of plants mentioned:
      - a. Grass-like vegetation
      - b. Seed bearing plants
      - c. Fruit trees with seeds in the fruit
    - Once again, notice that these plants were created with the appearance of age – the same is true of the earth itself.
  - 2. After Their Kinds (vv. 11 & 12)
    - There are variations within a kind—e.g. dogs.
    - A “kind” at times may represent the species, genus, or even the family. But we must not try to extend it beyond the family.
    - This expression is used 10 times in Genesis.
    - See I Corinthians 15:38-39 for the permanence of these “kinds.”

## CONCLUSION

God has made everything beautiful and has fit everything into a perfectly synchronized creation. All things are dependent upon others and do not exist totally independently.

God is a great God and has made a magnificent creation – despite man’s sin and the resulting corruption of the creation.

Likewise God has formed his new creation and continues to do so and fits together each person as part of his divine project. Each one has his place and responsibility, and must stay within the realm of God’s purpose for his life and ministry.

**ACCEPT YOUR DIVINELY APPOINTED LIMITATIONS AND WORSHIP THE CREATOR AND NOT CREATION.**