

Day 1 – Heavens, Earth, & Light

- God created the heavens and the earth
- God said, let there be light, and there was light
- God divided the light from the darkness
- God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.

Day 2: Now Here! Atmosphere!

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."
⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

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- let it divide the waters from the waters."

⁷Thus God

- **made** the firmament, and
 - **divided**
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 - the waters which [were] above the firmament;
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⁸And God **called** the firmament Heaven.

So the evening and the morning were the second day.

1. God Continues to Speak and Creation Listens!

- God said, Let there be light, and it was so.
- God said, Let there be a firmament...and it was so.

Ps 33:6-9 ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2. What Did God Accomplish on Day 2?

- He _____ the firmament
- He _____ the waters by the firmament

3. What Is the "Firmament?"

- Meaning: a thinly stretched-out space
- 1:06-08 – Firmament (_____ – heaven #1 – the breathable atmosphere)
- 1:14-20 – Firmament of the heavens (_____ – heaven #2)

4. What Was Divided?

- the waters which [were] _____ the firmament from
- the waters which [were] _____ the firmament;

5. Firmament – a.k.a. "Heaven"

- And God called the firmament Heaven.

6. What Is Missing?

7. Creation is:

- Origination – _____ – bringing things into existence
- Organization – _____ – God drawing lines and establishing laws and rules of "nature"

Henry Morris – *The Genesis Record* (on the canopy theory)

The firmament referred to in this particular passage is obviously the atmosphere. Unfortunately the English word has been interpreted by many to refer to a solid dome across the sky; consequently this idea has been used by liberal critics as evidence of the “prescientific” out-look of Genesis. Neither the original Hebrew word nor any of the passages in which it occurs suggest such an idea, however. A “firmament” is simply “thin, stretched-out space.”

Separated by this firmament, or atmosphere, the two bodies of water henceforth were ready for their essential functions in sustaining future life on the earth. The actual process of separation was possibly implemented by converting a portion of the liquid water into the vapor state, perhaps through application of divine heat energy. The reactions so induced on the watery suspension also released the other gaseous components of the atmosphere, which became the “firmament” holding up the lighter water vapor above.

The “waters above the firmament” thus probably constituted a vast blanket of water vapor above the troposphere and possibly above the stratosphere as well, in the high-temperature region now known as the ionosphere, and extending far into space. They could not have been the clouds of water droplets which now float *in* the atmosphere, because the Scripture says they were “*above* the firmament.” Furthermore, there was no “rain upon the earth” in those days (Genesis 2:5), nor any “bow in the cloud” (Genesis 9:13), both of which must have been present if these upper waters represented merely the regime of clouds which functions in the present hydrologic economy.

The concept of an antediluvian water canopy over the earth has appeared in many writings, both ancient and modern. A number of writers have visualized it as a system of rings like those of the planet Saturn, composed possibly of ice particles orbiting the earth. Others have described it as an orbiting “shell” of ice or liquid water. Some have thought of it merely as dense banks of clouds surrounding the earth, possibly analogous to the cloud cover around the planet Venus (the latter, however, is now believed to be composed of carbon dioxide rather than water).

A vapor canopy seems more likely, however, both because of the inferred manner of its formation and because it would have to be transparent in order for the heavenly bodies to “give light upon the earth” and to “be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years” (Genesis 1:14, 15). Water vapor, even in vast amounts, is invisible, whereas clouds, fog, and so forth, are composed of minute droplets of liquid water and are therefore opaque.

Furthermore, a vapor canopy could be more easily maintained aloft and would serve much more effectively as a marvelous sustainer of vigorous life conditions on the earth. It can be shown that such a canopy would accomplish the following services, for example:

- (1) Since water vapor has the ability both to transmit incoming solar radiation and to retain and disperse much of the radiation reflected from the earth’s surface, it would serve as a global greenhouse, maintaining an essentially uniformly pleasant warm temperature all over the world.
- (2) With nearly uniform temperatures, great air-mass movements would be inhibited and windstorms would be unknown.
- (3) With no global air circulation, the hydrologic cycle of the present world could not be implemented and there could be no rain, except directly over the bodies of water from which it might have evaporated.
- (4) With no global air circulation, and therefore no turbulence or dust particles transported to the upper atmosphere, the water vapor in the canopy would have been stable and not precipitate itself.
- (5) The planet would have been maintained not only at uniform temperatures but also at comfortable uniform humidities by means of daily local evaporation and condensation (like dew, or ground fog) in each day-night cycle.
- (6) The combination of warm temperature and adequate moisture everywhere would be conducive later to extensive stands of lush vegetation all over the world, with no barren deserts or ice caps.
- (7) A vapor canopy would also be highly effective in filtering out ultraviolet radiations, cosmic rays, and other destructive energies from outer space. These are known to be the source of both somatic and genetic mutations, which decrease the viability of the individual and the species, respectively. Thus the canopy would contribute effectively to human and animal health and longevity.
- (8) Some have objected to the idea of a heavy vapor canopy because of the great increase in atmospheric pressure which it would cause at the earth’s surface. Rather than being a problem, however, this effect would contribute still further to health and longevity. Modern biomedical research is increasingly proving that such “hyperbaric” pressures are very effective in combating disease and in promoting good health generally. There should be no problem in organisms living under high external pressures, provided their internal pressures had time to adjust correspondingly.
- (9) Later, when needed, these upper waters would provide the reservoir from which God would send the great Flood, to save the godly remnant from the hopelessly corrupt population of that day (the content of water vapor in the present atmosphere, if all precipitated, would cover the earth only to a depth of about one inch).

Although the waters above the firmament were condensed and precipitated in the Flood, they will apparently be restored in the millennial earth and in the new earth which God will create. Psalm 148:4, 6 speaks of the “waters that be above the heavens” which, like the stars, will be established “for ever and ever.”¹

John MacArthur: *The Battle for the Beginning*

As the second day dawned, the earth was still covered with water. It probably had the appearance of a seething cauldron of mud, with no dry land and no breathable atmosphere. Its entire surface was a liquid soup of elements, predominantly water, situated in a spherical shape and hung on nothing in space (cf. Job 26:7). ...

I’m inclined to think it describes a unique atmospheric condition that existed prior to the Flood, because Scripture says that before the Flood there was no rain (Genesis 2:5), and at the Flood, the windows of heaven opened and the waters above contributed to the deluge that wiped out all life on earth except for the creatures Noah had taken on the ark (Genesis 7:11–12). ...

Notice that day two is the only day in which God does not expressly say of His work, “It was good” (cf. Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). Surely this is a significant omission. It cannot mean that the second day’s work was *not* good. But it does seem to imply that the work of day two was an incomplete step toward making the earth habitable. The stage of creation that began on day two wasn’t complete until day three, when dry land emerged from the water and the earth was made fit for living things. At that point, the world was finally shaped into a habitable condition, and then God pronounced His verdict: “It was good” (v. 10)....²

¹Morris, Henry M.: *The Genesis Record : A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Books, 1976, S. 58

²MacArthur, John: *The Battle for the Beginning : The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam*. Nashville, TN : W Pub. Group, 2001, S. 87