

APOLOGETICS 10 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 2

GENESIS 1:3-8 – LIGHT AND DARKNESS / WATERS

INTRODUCTION

Apologetics - ἀπολογία apologia

The definition of Christian Apologetics is “the information that enables a believer to provide a defense for why a doctrine is believed.”

1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

So far, we have discussed the true age of the Earth. We have demonstrated that the biblical chronology has the Earth at less than 10,000 years. We also looked at the dating methods of naturalistic atheists and refuted their claims of data that prove an old age of the Earth. We also did an overview of 9 strong pieces of evidence that point to a young Earth.

In the last lesson, we refuted popular theories within Christendom that capitulate to naturalistic atheists regarding the age of the Earth and universe: Gap and Day-Age Theory.

GENESIS 1:3-5

Let there be light. Notice that there is no source. The sun, moon, and stars are not yet created. Light simply existed.

What is the method for creating light? God spoke; there was no movement, no physical activity, but speaking. Looking back into the moving over the deep, we really do not know why or what that accomplished, but in this first scenario, God only speaks, and there was light.

What is light? Light is a physical construct. Light does not have an independent value (independent from God). Light, like God, cannot be defined fully. It is waves, and it is particles. Light is not constant, and the speed of light is not constant. Light is affected by various forces and can be refracted and reflected. We know that the speed of light has been reducing, and it can be slowed to a near stop. We do not have the adequate understanding or maybe even the language to be able to define or explain light properly. There is more light than we can see, and some of the light spectrum we cannot see even with instruments. And yet, this is something that God created for our physical world.

Notice that God said let there be light, then God separated the light from the darkness. Again, we have no idea what this looked like, only that at first light completely saturated physical creation. The only thing we know is light from a physical source. When we see light, we look for the source of that light. When God created light, there was no physical source.

Then, God separated light from darkness. Darkness is used in verse 2, and the initial conditions were not some light or very faint light; there was no light. When God said let there be light, the waters were in complete darkness. God desired to contrast light and darkness and He separated light from darkness.

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We can try to figure this out; we can try to depict this on film or a painting, but as with light, this has no human definition, it only was recorded for our benefit. Why is this fact brought out? What significance does it carry? What happens at the end – not the end of the creation account but the very end. Revelation 21:22-25, 22:3-5 – When God renews heaven and earth, there will be no darkness.

Verse 5 continues to explain the light and the darkness by giving them names. The light He called “day,” and darkness He called “night.” God is the one who named them and gave them this distinction. Creation is not only about the act but also about sovereignty. When God gave Adam naming rights, God was granting him sovereignty over creation.

GENESIS 1:6-8

Day two focuses on the waters. God takes the waters and separates them, making something unique among the planets. Earth is the only place where we find water.

Notice that God does not say, “Let there be water.” In verse 2, we find that water is the initial material. This does not mean that God did not create the water; it means that God did not reveal the creation of the water.

Water is one of the most unusual, unique, and amazing “elements” in creation.

- Water is H₂O – dihydrogen monoxide.
- Two highly flammable gases when combined, put out a fire.
- Scientifically, water is the standard for temperature for Celsius (0° and 100°).
- Scientifically, 32°F/0°C is not the freezing point of water, it is the melting point.
- Water is the starting point for density.
- Pure water is completely tasteless and odorless.
- There are four stages of water, not three (plasma).
- Water, when it becomes a solid, becomes less dense than when it is a liquid (4 degrees).

During the winter, when lakes begin to freeze, the surface of the water freezes and then moves down toward deeper water; this explains why people can ice skate on or fall through a frozen lake. If ice were not able to float, the lake would freeze from the bottom up, killing all ecosystems living in the lake. However, ice floats, so the fish can survive under the surface of the ice during the winter. The surface of ice above a lake also shields lakes from the cold temperature outside and insulates the water beneath it, allowing the lake under the ice to stay liquid and maintain a temperature adequate for the ecosystems living in the lake to survive.

- Water is known as a universal solvent; it can dissolve or dissociate many particles.
- Water is both necessary and dangerous.
 - ◇ Erodes
 - ◇ Purifies
 - ◇ Refreshes

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- ◇ Drowns
- ◇ Without it – Everything dies
- ◇ Too much of it – Everything dies
- Why do we have humidity? If water is below 100° (212°), should it not be liquid?

Do we have a good understanding of water? We still, after many years of intense research, have a hard time really understanding the "why" behind the properties of water.

Psalm 104:1-13 - God created the waters in the clouds and on the earth. (v. 6). He controls their boundaries, and they obey His command. He appoints springs to break out and rain to fall at his bidding, thereby causing the earth to bring vegetation and food for man and animals.

On day two, God says, "Let there be an expanse." We must ask what this expanse is and what is its purpose. "רָקִיעַ *rāqīa'* (raw-key-ah)" is the word for *expanse*. In the KJV, it is translated as "firmament"; BBE – "solid arch"; NIV – "vault." In one commentary, they say it is a dome-like structure.

The verb is "רָקַע *rāqa'* (raw-khaw)," which means to press down hard, stamping down with the foot, to squish. The noun would then mean "that which is stretched out."

This firmament has been the topic of debate among many literal creationists. The typical understanding is that the firmament is the atmosphere. We can say from this passage that before day 2, the waters were all collected into one lump. Then God created a stretched-out "atmosphere" and put water above and below this expanse. Because God places the sun, moon, and stars in the firmament (14-19) and the birds fly in the firmament (20), we say that this is the sky and space. As we read, God called the expanse (firmament) "heavens."

This expanse is in the middle of, or the midst of, the waters. This leaves us to ask, "What on Earth did God do?"

The literal Hebrew of verse 6 states, "God said, let there be expanse in the midst, and let it be that which is dividing between waters from the waters. 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."

This is where the "Canopy Theory" comes into play. There is no consensus among Creationists about the canopy, and they go back and forth, poking holes into the theory. But if there is no canopy, then what does this mean? If it does not indicate a canopy, then the conclusion is the atmosphere is filled with water vapor, and the clouds are filled with water. This is true now, but in 2:5-6, there was a system when there was no rain, this is typically believed to have concluded at the flood. If the waters above indicate water vapor and clouds, why did it not rain?

Based on this firmament, I am convinced that there was/is water above the atmosphere. Now, looking into what we know about the pre-flood earth, we find evidence of a

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completely different ecosystem, which is partially explained by the Canopy Theory. After the flood, something changed.

1. The world was uniformly warm – a tropical environment from pole to pole.
2. No rain yet uniformly watered
3. Long life of man - indicates a reduction of harmful light (radiation)
4. Size of insects, plants, reptiles, and man
5. The amount of coal and oil left as an effect of the flood indicates a world that was full of plant and animal life on a larger scale than anything we can imagine.

The conclusion from day 2 is that we have a God who created a world where the water that we see as dangerous was contained and tamed, and only what was necessary was used to provide an ideal environment. This is also what He will do when He restores the world.

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.