

2.12.24

THE FIRMAMENT

Genesis 1:6-8

Bob's Input in Brown > **Pappy's Study Response in Blue***

1. Define the following words:

- Firmament > *The current English translation for an expanse God used in separating the waters and the heaven below the heavens from the waters and heavens above the earth.*
- Raqia > *SKY/EXPANSE- Raqia, Masculine Noun (Strong's #7549); Raqa, Verb (Strong's #7554).*
- steréōma > *that which has been made firm. the firmament, the arch of the sky, which in early times was thought to be solid. a fortified place.*
- Shamayim > *Shamayim (Hebrew: שָׁמַיִם šāmayīm, "heavens") is the dwelling place of God and other heavenly beings according to the Bible. It is one of three components of the biblical cosmology.*
- Chaqaq (*strong's concordance*): *khaw-kak' [Verb] to cut out, decree, inscribe, set, engrave, portray, govern*
- Chug (*strong's concordance*) > *[verb] to draw around, to make a circle*

2. Prepare a Brief Description of the “Canopy Model” or “Canopy Theory” > *The Canopy Theory is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible; rather, it is an interpretation some people have proposed to explain certain passages.*

3. Mention some possible theories about this model/theory > *It is my guess that this theory is or became a spin off of Isaiah 40:22 (which describes God as stretching out the heavens as/like a tent over the inhabitants of the earth.*

Genesis 1:14-17

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

Genesis 1:20

“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.”

Isaiah 40:22

“*It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:”

Jobe 37:18

“Hast thou with him spread out the sky, *which is* strong, *and* as a molten looking glass?”

Ezekiel 1:22 1:26

22 “And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.”

26 “And above the firmament that *was* over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *was* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.”

1 Samuel 2:8

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.”

Psalms 102:25

“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands.”

Proverbs 8:27

“When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:”

It seems obvious to me (*and most all modern bible teachers, scholars and theologians*) that the ancient Hebrew/Greek Scholars that were tasked with translating the Tanakh, Old Testament and especially Moses' Genesis, believed that the firmament was a "Solid, Dome-Like" expanse stretched out over the earth to separate the Heavens (*plural*) and waters above from the heaven (*singular*) and waters below.

This, in turn would no doubt then, lead them to hold to and live **under** (*no pun intended*) a completely different world view cosmology than we currently are taught and hold to be true as our modern worldview cosmology to be.

Without any further research study or debate, one should have to ask; "was not their worldview **shaped** (*no pun intended*) by their study of the Inspired, Inerrant, God Breathed word of the Holy Spirit or their own science and neighboring pagan cultures?

...or could we ourselves be guilty of doing that very same thing in allowing our current Worldview to define or be forced into our translations of the scriptures*

***Eisegesis vs Exegesis ?**

Do we think that God was not divinely involved in the transliterations of at least the Septuagint scholars who completed their translations to within 98% of the exact translation despite being totally apart from each other for approximately 15 years?

Is it not reasonable to think that if God took the time to inspire his word to the writers of His word, that He would also provide an accurate translation of it to a future people that He foreknew could not translate the original written word themselves?

Jeremiah 1:12

I believe the only way to resolve the contradiction between the Ancient Worldview and our current modern one is to consider the whole counsel of God's word, regardless and outside of what our modern science has claimed to have proven to us.

We must choose to either believe the literal translations found in the whole of God's word (not just Genesis) to form our views outside of modern science (unverifiable in God's word) say, claims or has proposed to teach us today.

Exegesis: *A legitimate interpretation which "reads out of" the text what the original author or authors meant to convey.*

***Eisegesis:** *Is when one reads into the text what the interpreter wishes to find or thinks he finds there. It expresses the reader's own subjective ideas, not the meaning which is in the text.*

In Summary

If we are to believe both the holy scriptures description of the earth that God had made along with what most of us subscribe to hold true with our modern worldview.

A worldview which science (*whom we confess does not hold the correct view of the earth's origin*) has claimed the Earth's cosmological makeup to be.

Then, to me the only compromise (*something we should always be afraid to do concerning God's word*) to be made to bring both views inline with each other is to stand on what GENESIS 1:14-18 states. That the Sun, Moon and all the Stars and Planets that we might see today, regardless of what science says are indeed inside the firmament.

This would tell me that **if** (*pun intended*) Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, he would have had to have done that traveling strictly inside the firmament and not outside it or into outer space as we are taught to believe. - selah

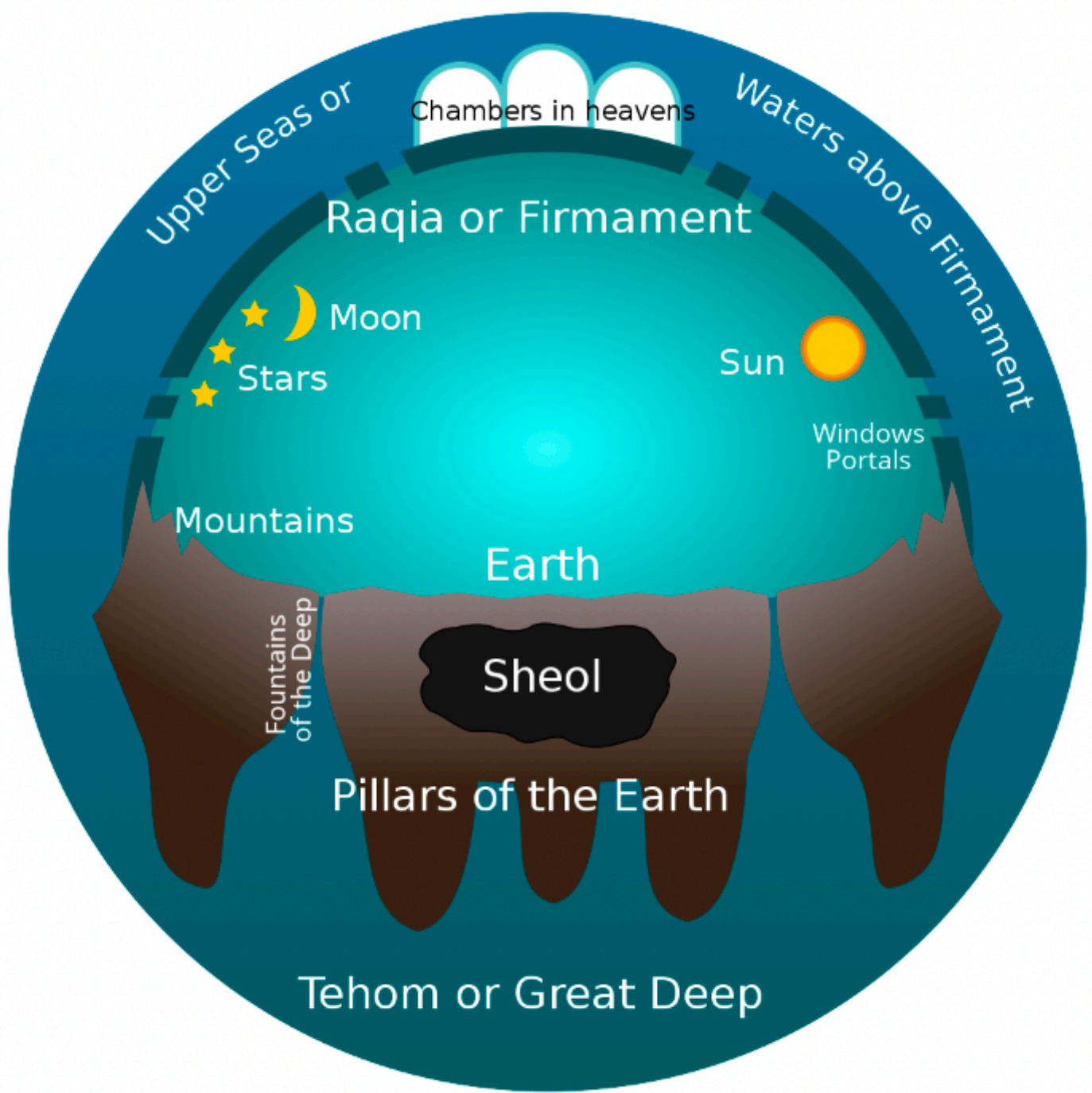
**Please note:*

All the answers, descriptions and commentary written above in "BLUE" are of my own interpretations and beliefs formed strictly out of my own personal research and mental rationale of my personal time reading and studying the Bible.

While I have learned a great deal from Skip and Bob through the many Bible Study meetings I've attended, the views in blue here are strictly my own and not a reflection on what they may or may not believe or hold to be true themselves.

I do however, thank God for them and everyone that is willing to discuss and study the scriptures together, without defamatory criticism for any one view or scriptural translations that one may have regardless of how foreign and unimaginable the conjecture opposes what most of us have been taught. -Bernard "Pappy" Molek

Possible Facsimile of what the Ancient Hebrew Scholars may have understood their worldview cosmology to be (based on the God Breathed scriptures they were translating)



Below is a graphic generated by Karbel Multimedia on behalf of Logos Bible Software most likely by or under the direction of Dr. Michael S. Heiser a very renown bible teacher and expert on the Ancient biblical worldview the early Hebrew scholars and much of the ancient pagan world held the earth to be then.

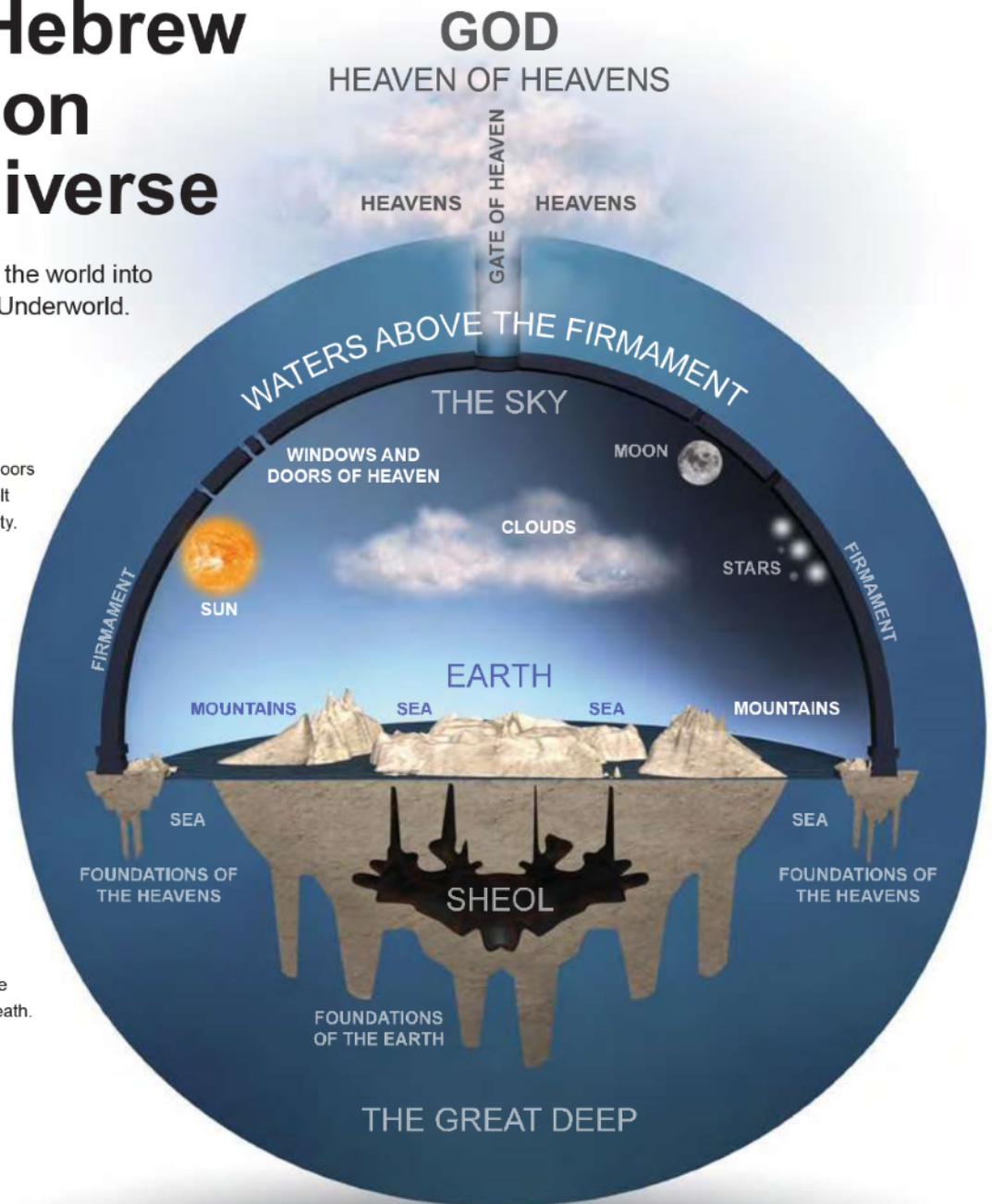
Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Universe

The ancient Israelites divided the world into Heaven, Earth, Sea, and the Underworld.

They viewed the sky as a vault resting on foundations—perhaps mountains—with doors and windows that let in the rain. God dwelt above the sky, hidden in cloud and majesty.

The world was viewed as a disk floating on the waters, secured or moored by pillars. The earth was the only known domain—the realm beyond it was considered unknowable.

The Underworld (Sheol) was a watery or dusty prison from which no one returned. Regarded as a physical place beneath the earth, it could be reached only through death.



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2012 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

More Scriptural Firmament and Descriptions of the Earth That God's word uses to describe the Cosmology of the Ancient Worldview of The Hebrew scholars:

POSTED HERE SOON!