

Correct and Mistaken Views of the Bible by Young-Earth Creationists

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Introduction

Young-Earth creationists (YECs) are those Christians who support the view that the Earth is 6,000 years old and that Noah's Flood was global and deposited the sedimentary layers in the Grand Canyon. In support of their view, they quote the following scriptural verses.

The first is: 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

A second is that it is infallible truth, as God never tells lies (Titus 1:2).

2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

A third is that the Apostle Peter sternly warned against these modern-day scoffers because of their false philosophy (2 Peter 3:3-6).

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

A fourth is: how can these Christian geologists reject Jesus’ clear teaching (when Jesus is “the truth” [John 14:6])

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

A fifth is that just as his second coming will be global, the flood was a global event that “swept them all away” (Matthew 24:36-39)?

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

On the basis of these scriptures, how can Christians who are old-Earth creationists possibly disagree with the views of the YECs?

Contrasting views of the old-Earth creationists

But the scripture referred to in 2 Timothy 3:16 is the Torah (the first 5 books of the bible; Paul's bible), and it correctly says that the theology expressed in this scripture is *useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness* but not in correcting science because the Bible was not written to be a science textbook.

Of course, God does not lie (Titus 1:2) because God is not a liar in his theology.

In 2 Peter 3:3-6 what is expressed is the early view of a three-tier universe (**Figure 1**) in which there was supposedly water above a solid firmament and water below.

2. Ancient Science (3-Tier Universe)

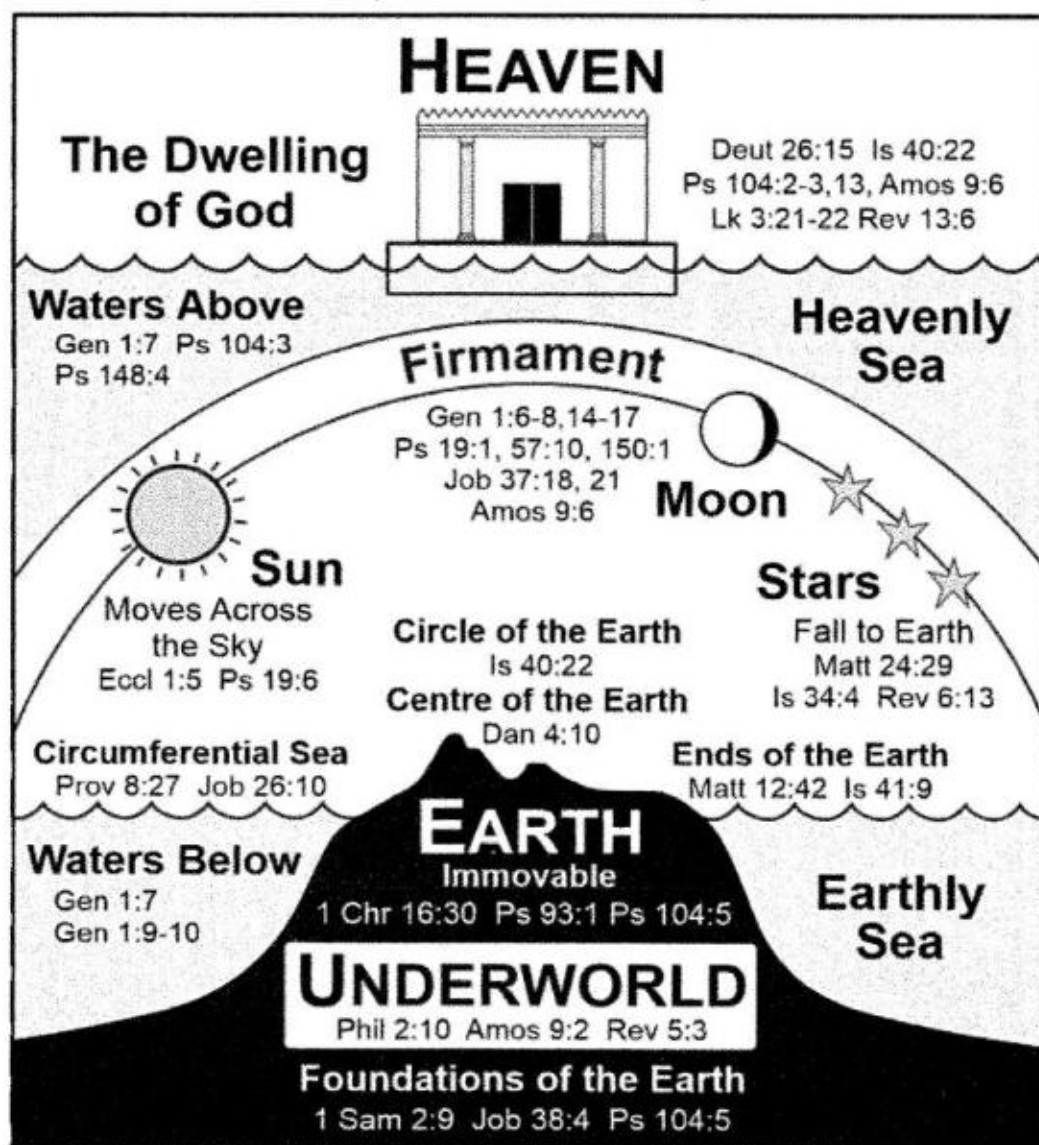


Figure 1. The three-tier universe.

The three-tier universe

In the three-tier universe there is a solid dome (the firmament) in the sky over the Earth above which is heaven where God dwells and below which is the Earth surrounded by

an earthly sea. In this model God was believed to be in a fixed place in a temple, but in modern Christianity Jesus taught that God is not fixed in heaven but is everywhere on Earth and can be in every human via the Holy Spirit. Below the Earth is the underworld and above the firmament is also a heavenly sea (the waters above). The waters above were the source of rain. In this model the sun and moon moved around below the firmament, and the sun travelled across the sky from east to west (Eccl 1:5, Ps 19:6). Sometimes stars fell from the sky (Matt 12:42, Is 41:9). Early Hebrews believed that the Earth was immovable (1 Chr 16:30, Ps 93:1, Ps 104:5). This made logical sense because they did not understand or know about the law of gravity. That is, if the Earth was a globe and spinning on its axis like a bicycle wheel, a Hebrew person living in Mesopotamia would be turning at a rate of nearly 900 mph. If that were true, that Hebrew person would think that he/she would be thrown off the Earth like mud going off a spinning bicycle tire. Because that did not happen, logically to this Hebrew person the Earth must be fixed in space.

In this three-tier model, early Hebrews living in Mesopotamia believed that the Earth was essentially flat instead of a globe although mountains occurred on the flat Earth (as shown on **Figure 1**) like the Zagros Mountains which they could see to the east in Iran. However, they had no idea of the lateral extent of the “earthly sea.” To them it seemingly had no visible limit in its extent except that it extended to the horizon.

However, early sailors were afraid as they sailed away from shorelines and saw land disappear below the horizon that they would fall off the Earth and not get back to the shore.

On the basis of the above observations and thinking, Genesis 1 and 2 presents an ancient view of the universe and Earth that made sense to the early Hebrews. But in our modern times because many Christians want to make the Bible the Word of God and perfect, many Christians make attempts to make Genesis 1 and 2 and the three-tier universe model concord with modern science.

The water in Noah's flood cannot be from the waters above on the basis of the following article.

Noah's flood: Is the source of its water from the waters above? [Nr103WatersAbove2.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Of course, Jesus speaks the truth in John 14:6, but in Matthew 24:36-39 Jesus says that Noah's flood existed in which people were drowned, but He did not say specifically that this flood was global in extent. There are more than 30 scientific reasons why this Flood cannot be global in extent and deposited the sedimentary rocks in the Grand Canyon as described in the following four articles

Twenty-one Reasons Noah's Worldwide Flood Never Happened [Nr38Reasons.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Response to Ken Ham and YouTube Comments by Andrew Snelling [Nr42Response.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

11 Biological Reasons Young-Earth Creationists' Worldwide Flood Never Happened [Nr45Biological.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Position Statement: Science, Bible, Noah's Flood, and Evolution [Nr102Position.pdf](#)

Furthermore, Noah's flood cannot have been global because no matter how powerful a hurricane was that produced this flood, the ocean waves generated by it have circular motions with no significant lateral translation of the water molecules that can erode the Earth's bedrock by the tiny circles at the bottom of waves, move sedimentary particles, or suspend them for transport across great distances, say as far as the Grand Canyon. See **Figure 2**.

Waves –circular motion

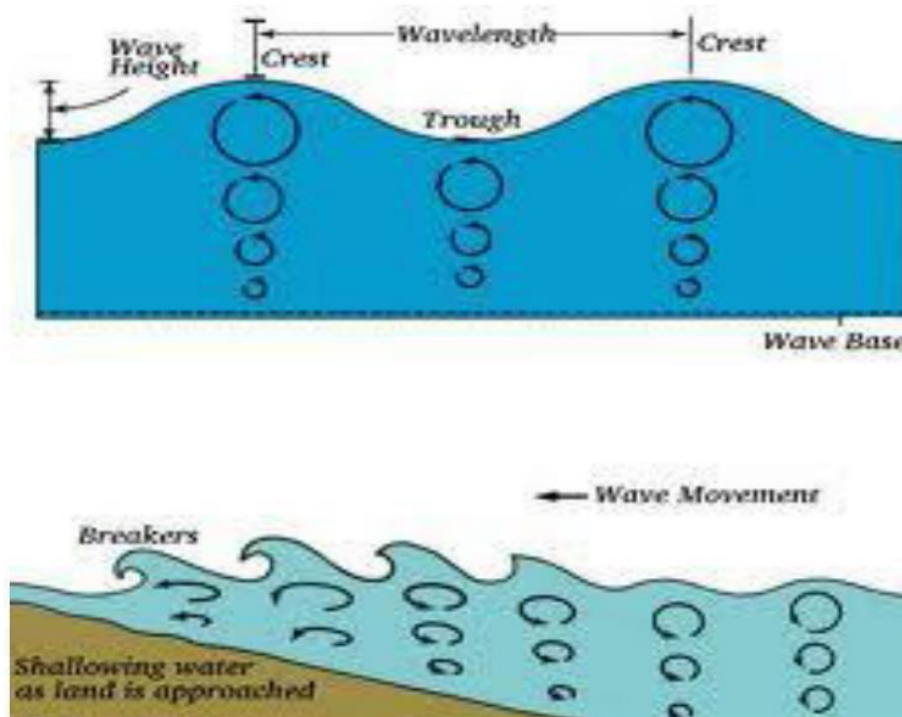


Figure. 2. Circular motion of waves in the ocean produced by hurricanes.

What is scientifically apparent is that Noah's flood was local in southeastern Mesopotamia, and the "great fountains of the deep" have a local explanation as described in the following two articles.

Yes, Noah's Flood May Have Happened, But Not Over the Whole Earth [Flood 2 \(csun.edu\)](http://csun.edu/Flood2)

Fountains of the Great Deep and Noah's Flood
[Nr64Fountains.pdf \(csun.edu\)](http://csun.edu/Nr64Fountains.pdf)

On the basis of all of the observations above, Christians who are old-Earth creationists have valid reasons for why they are also Christians attempting to follow the teachings of Jesus as I also am doing. My own Christian witness is at the following links.

Salt, Pepper, and Blah. [OPPOSITION TO CREATIONISM 8 of 9](#)

A Christian Geologist Explains Why the Earth Cannot Be 6,000 Years Old [Nr74Christian.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#) and [Nr75Christian.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

If interested, the reader of this article can find additional articles among 40 topics at this link: [Nr122Resources5.pdf](#)

The basis for all these additional articles is because of what Paul wrote to Timothy in Timothy 6:20-21.

Timothy, protect what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"—

That is, Paul commands Timothy to avoid what is falsely called science by the YECs.