

The Ocean In The Sky

This is one of the strangest things that I have ever found in the Bible, and its implications are staggering. Until I started researching this issue I had no idea how strange these verses really were. This is truly a Biblical oddity – and it occurs in one of the best-known passages of the Bible. The only reason we miss it is because we're not really paying attention.

Take a look at it for yourself:

Genesis 1:6: “And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And 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.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

Verse 7 is very straightforward: on the second day of creation God divided the waters that were under the sky *from the waters that were above the sky*. That's a bit odd, isn't it? After all, there aren't any waters above the sky. That is a well-established fact and it's not up for debate. There is no ocean in the sky.

Some people have suggested that the Bible is just referring to clouds. After all, clouds are made of water vapor and there is a whole lot of water vapor in the sky. That sounds like a great theory, until you get to this verse:

Genesis 1:14: “And God said, **Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven** to di-

vide 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,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.”

On the second day of creation God made the firmament to divide two great bodies of water. On the fourth day of creation God put the Sun, Moon, and stars right in the firmament itself. Since the Sun, Moon, and Stars are in the firmament, and since there is a body of water under the firmament *and a body of water above the firmament*, that can only mean that the entire universe is actually surrounded by a body of water. In other words, if you went to the edge of the universe and peered beyond it, you would find an ocean.

But that’s not all. Do you see the word “firm” in FIRMa-ment? The Hebrew word for “firmament” literally means something that is hard and has been beaten out (like a sheet of copper). You can look it up yourself: “firmament” is Strong’s #7549, and according to my Lexicon it means “broad plates which have been beaten out”. It refers to something *solid*. This means that the firmament is a *solid* barrier.

Some people have suggested that the firmament was some kind of water canopy that used to encircle the Earth above the atmosphere. There are several problems with this popular theory: not only would such a canopy be a gross violation of numerous physical laws, but the Bible clearly says that the Sun, Moon, and stars are *within* the firmament, and that the body of water was

above them. Even if there was a water canopy that surrounded the Earth, it would obviously *not* be above the Sun, Moon, and stars. The canopy theory simply does not satisfy the text. What the Bible actually says is pretty straightforward: there is a solid boundary around the universe, and beyond that boundary lies a vast expanse of water.

I know how strange this sounds, but we need to keep in mind that this “ocean in the sky” is mentioned outside the book of Genesis. For example:

Psalm 148:4: “Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and **ye waters that be above the heavens.**”

The waters above the heavens! There’s another reference to that mysterious ocean. The psalmist is clear that there are waters *above* the heavens. Just as Genesis said, these waters are literally above the stars.

This verse is also a bit odd, if you stop and think about it:

Exodus 20:11: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, **the sea**, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

If you read Genesis 1:10 you will see that God called the waters on the Earth *Seas* – plural. This makes sense because the Earth has more than one body of water. Exodus 20:11, though, doesn’t refer to “Seas”; instead it refers to one single body of water. This body of water is also apparently separate from the heaven and the earth, since it is listed as being distinct from both of them. God lists the heaven, the earth, and “the sea”. That looks a lot like a reference to the waters that are above the firmament.

What if this solid “firmament” layer is actually the boundary between the Universe and the place where God lives? After all, we find a very curious “sea of glass” in the throne room of God:

Revelation 4:6: “And before the throne there was a **sea of glass like unto crystal**: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”

Revelation 15:2: “And I saw as it were a **sea of glass** mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”

How do we know that this “sea of glass” is somehow connected to the firmament? Because *that is exactly how the book of Ezekiel describes it*:

Ezekiel 1:22: “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.”

Ezekiel tells us that the firmament *is like crystal* – and Revelation 4:6 describes the sea of glass *in exactly that same term*.

There’s one more curious thing about this sea that is above the firmament: one day it will be done away with. This is what the book of Revelation has to say about it:

Revelation 21:1: “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and **there was no more sea.**”

Notice that this passage does not refer to “seas”, but to a singular sea. Notice also the categories that are involved: there is

the heaven, the earth, and the sea – as if the sea is somehow separate and distinct from both of them.

Why would there be no more sea? Well, consider this: right now the firmament divides the land of God from the land of Men. We desperately need that divider because mankind is simply not holy enough to live with God. One day, though, God will judge mankind and put a final end to sin and death. He will then remake the universe and dwell with mankind forever. When that day comes there will no longer need to be a dividing firmament or a sea. It will have served its purpose and its time will have ended.

There is one last point that I would like to bring up. On each day of creation the Lord looked at His work and pronounced it either “good” or “very good”. The only time God did not do that was on the second day of creation, when God made the firmament. If the firmament does divide the land of man from the land of God then we can see why God did not call it good. The firmament was a necessary evil – a protective barrier between a holy God and unholy men. One day, though, that barrier will no longer be needed – and when that day comes things will finally be *good*.

