



Bible Doctrines II - Survey

Physical Creation

I. A BASIC BREAKDOWN

- A. The Universe
- B. The Earth
- C. Physical Life

II. THE UNIVERSE

A. The Worlds

1. The illumination of worlds
 - a. The Bible only uses the plural form *worlds* on two occasions (Hebrews 1:2). Those educated to critically study the scripture suggest that the word should be ages and is indicative of multiple periods of time.
 - b. In these two passages, we learn the following:
 - (1) The worlds were made by the Son (Hebrews 1:2).
 - (2) The worlds were framed by the word of God (Hebrews 11:3).
 - (3) The worlds can be seen (Hebrews 11:3).
2. A deeper understanding
 - a. All things considered, it would appear the worlds are not ages, but physical creations existing outside of the world we know.
 - b. It is possible that this is explained simply by studying two phrases.
 - (1) “The world to come” (Matthew 12:32; Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30; Hebrews 2:5; Hebrews 6:5)
 - (2) “This world” (Matthew 12:32; Matthew 13:22, 40; Mark 4:19; Luke 16:8; Luke 20:34; *John 8:23; John 9:39; John 11:9; John 12:25, 31; *John 13:1; John 14:30; John 16:11; *John 18:36; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 1:20; 1 Corinthians 2:6, 8; 1 Corinthians 3:18-19; 1 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 7:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; *Ephesians 1:21; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Timothy 6:7, 17; James 2:5; 1 John 3:17; 1 John 4:17; *Revelation 11:15)
 - (3) Note: It would also be wise to consider the phrase “the world” (see John 16:28; John 17:11-18; John 18:37; Romans 5:12; Romans 10:18; 1 Timothy 3:16) and understand the world in which we live and function had a definite starting point (Psalm 90:2; John 17:5, 24; Ephesians 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:20), is temporary (Galatians 1:4; Titus 2:12), and has a definite ending (1 Corinthians 7:31; 1 John 2:17). It should also be understood that the world can be descriptive of the people living on earth (2 Peter 2:5).



B. The Heavens

1. The basics

a. Their number

- (1) There are heavens (Genesis 2:1, 4; 1 Chronicles 16:26; Job 9:8; Psalm 8:3; Psalm 33:6; Ephesians 4:10; Hebrews 4:14).
- (2) Paul identifies what we most commonly think of as heaven when he spoke of the “third heaven” (2 Corinthians 12:2).

b. Their description

- (1) The third heaven (Genesis 1:1)—God’s dwelling-place (Deuteronomy 26:15; Psalm 33:13; 2 Corinthians 12:2)
- (2) The second heaven (Genesis 1:6-8)—outer space (Genesis 26:4; Exodus 32:13; Deuteronomy 4:19; Isaiah 13:10)
- (3) The first heaven—the atmosphere, where the fowl fly (Genesis 7:23; Job 35:11; Psalm 79:2; Psalm 104:12; Matthew 6:26; Revelation 19:17).

2. The hosts

a. The word *host* has various and sometimes opposing definitions.

- (1) It can be one who receives guests.
- (2) It can be one who is a guest or one who sojourns.
- (3) It can be a multitude, especially an army organized for war.

b. Depending upon the heaven set forth, different beings or items can be identified as the host(s) or host(s) of heaven (Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 45:12).

- (1) In the second heaven, the host of heaven can refer to the sun, moon, or stars (Deuteronomy 4:19; Deuteronomy 17:3; Isaiah 34:4; Jeremiah 8:2) or potentially planets (2 Kings 23:5).
- (2) In the third heaven, the host of heaven can refer to the spiritual beings round the throne (1 Kings 22:19; 2 Chronicles 18:18).
- (3) When the immediate context does not dictate which host is being declared, it should be considered that men often worshipped that which they could see and therefore it is likely that the second heaven and its host is being addressed (see Job 31:26-28; 2 Kings 17:16; 2 Kings 21:3, 5; 2 Kings 23:4-5; 2 Chronicles 33:3, 5; Jeremiah 19:13; Jeremiah 33:22; Zephaniah 1:5; Acts 7:42; see also 2 Kings 23:11; Ezekiel 8:16).

c. A breakdown of the various hosts in the second heaven

(1) The sun

a) The categorization of the sun

- i) It is first identified as the greater light (Genesis 1:16).
- ii) The scripture identifies the start of the day as the spring of the day (1 Samuel 9:26; see Judges 19:25).



- iii) As the ruler of the day, the sun is known as “the dayspring” (Job 38:12) or “the day star” (2 Peter 1:19). There is also a connection between the “morning star” (Revelation 2:28; Revelation 22:16) and Jesus who is also known as “the Sun of righteousness” (Malachi 4:2).
- iv) These connections demonstrate that the Bible categorizes the sun as a star (see also 1 Corinthians 15:41).
- b) The creation of the sun
 - i) On the first day of creation, God said, “Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). And from that day on there was an evening and a morning for each day of creation (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13). However, it was not until the fourth day of creation that our normal means of having a morning and evening—the sun—was created.
 - ii) In order to create the order of days and nights on the earth, God established a pattern of evening and morning for the days of creation. Initially, He did this by command. When it was time for the evening, He turned the light down. When it was time for morning, He turned the light up. This was not a problem for Him since He was the direct source for the light.
 - iii) On the fourth day of creation, as the creation of man drew near, God created natural means (the sun, moon, and stars) by which man could distinguish the days from the nights. These are still in effect today.
- c) The effects of the sun (Genesis 1:14)
 - i) Light and heat
 - (a) Light
 - (i) The sun was assigned to rule the day and supply its light (Genesis 1:14-16; Jeremiah 31:35).
 - (ii) The rising of the sun brought the light of the morning (2 Samuel 23:4).
 - (iii) When the sun went down, the earth was darkened (Genesis 15:17).
 - (iv) The light offered was because the sun shone (2 Kings 3:22; Job 31:26; Matthew 17:2; Revelation 1:16).



- (v) Note: Studies show the natural light of the sun is good for the eyes (Ecclesiastes 11:7).
- (b) Heat (Exodus 16:21; 1 Samuel 11:9; Nehemiah 7:3; Psalm 19:6; Isaiah 49:10; Jonah 4:8; Matthew 13:6; James 1:11; Revelation 7:16)
- ii) Signs (see Jeremiah 10:2)
- iii) Seasons; This would include growth of fruits in their seasons (Deuteronomy 33:14)
- iv) Time (days and years); Note: It indicates the hours of the day by the shadow on a dial (Isaiah 38:8).
- v) Darkening the human skin (Song of Solomon 1:6)
- d) The cycle of the sun (Psalm 19:4-6; Ecclesiastes 1:5)
 - i) Broad (Psalm 113:3; Ecclesiastes 1:5)
 - (a) Rising of the sun
 - (b) Going down of the same
 - ii) More specific
 - (a) It rises (Genesis 19:23).
 - (b) It sets (Genesis 28:11).
 - (c) It goes down (Genesis 15:12).
 - iii) Most specific
 - (a) It is down (Leviticus 22:7; Deuteronomy 23:11; Joshua 8:29; 2 Samuel 3:35).
 - (b) It rises (Numbers 21:11; Joshua 1:15; Joshua 19:12, 27, 34; Psalm 50:1; Psalm 104:22; Psalm 113:3; Isaiah 41:25; Isaiah 45:6; Isaiah 59:19; Jonah 4:8; Malachi 1:11; Matthew 5:45; James 1:11).
 - (i) In the east (Numbers 2:3; Numbers 34:15)
 - (ii) In the morning (Judges 9:33; 2 Samuel 23:4; Mark 16:2)
 - (c) It is risen (Genesis 19:23).
 - (d) It is set (Genesis 28:11; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:40).
 - (i) In the west
 - (ii) In the evening (Mark 1:32)
 - (e) It goes down (Genesis 15:12, 17; Exodus 17:12; Exodus 22:26; Joshua 1:4; Joshua 10:27; Judges 14:18; Judges 19:14; 2 Samuel 2:24; 1 Kings 22:36; Psalm 50:1; Psalm 104:19; Psalm 113:3; Daniel 6:14; Amos 8:9; Micah 3:6; Malachi 1:11).
 - (i) In the west (Deuteronomy 11:30; Joshua 1:4; Isaiah 45:6; Isaiah 59:19)
 - (ii) In the evening (Deuteronomy 16:6)



- (2) The moon
 - a) The categorization of the moon
 - i) It is first identified as the lesser light (Genesis 1:16).
 - ii) It would appear that it, like the sun, is identified as a star (1 Corinthians 15:41; see also Psalm 148:3).
 - b) The creation of the moon—It was created on the fourth day along with the sun and stars (Genesis 1:14-19).
 - c) The effects of the moon (Genesis 1:14)
 - i) Light
 - (a) The moon is the lesser light (Genesis 1:16).
 - (b) The moon is often attributed with having light or shining (Job 25:5; Job 31:26; Isaiah 13:10; Isaiah 30:26; Isaiah 60:19; Jeremiah 31:35; Ezekiel 32:7; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24; Revelation 21:23).
 - ii) Signs
 - iii) Seasons (Psalm 104:19; see Deuteronomy 33:14)
 - iv) Time; Note: The phrase “new moon(s)” appears twenty-one times in scripture. It involves the beginning of a new month with the moon renewing itself every month. Whereas Sabbaths marked the end of a week, a new moon marked the beginning of a month (Isaiah 66:23; Amos 8:5; Colossians 2:16).
 - v) Ocean movement (Jeremiah 31:35)
 - d) The cycle of the moon
- (3) The stars
 - a) The classification of stars
 - i) Fixed stars; the bodies in outer space similar to our sun usually referred to as stars today
 - ii) Wandering stars (Jude 1:13)
 - (a) Stars that drastically change position in the sky
 - (b) Usually a reference to the planets
 - iii) Falling stars; comets and asteroids (Matthew 24:29)
 - b) The creation of the stars
 - i) God made the stars (Genesis 1:16).
 - ii) They were ordained by God to rule in the heavens (Psalm 8:3; Psalm 136:9; Jeremiah 31:35).
 - iii) God put them at great heights (Job 22:12).
 - (a) Ancient astronomers thought the stars were not all that high but were placed on a dome above earth.
 - (b) The builders of the tower of Babel thought they could build a tower to reach heaven (Genesis 11:4).



- (c) Modern science has determined that the closest star (not counting planets) is 4.3 light years, or about 25 trillion miles, away from us.
- iv) They differ in magnitude (1 Corinthians 15:41).
- v) God will seal them up (Job 9:7; Ezekiel 32:7).
- c) The numbering of the stars
 - i) Human reckoning
 - (a) By the human eye; one account from the time before the invention of the telescope counted about 4,000 stars in the sky.
 - (b) With the aid of telescopes; we now know stars to number into the countless millions.
 - ii) Divine account
 - (a) A number so large that it cannot be numbered by man and is comparable to the number of the promised seed given to Abraham (Genesis 15:5; Genesis 26:4; Nehemiah 9:23)
 - (b) The seven stars (Amos 5:8); likely refers to the constellation known as Pleiades since it is also known as the “seven stars” (see Job 9:9; Job 38:31).
 - (c) The eleven stars (Genesis 37:9-10)
 - (i) As dreamed by Joseph
 - (ii) A reference to his eleven brothers
 - (iii) But perhaps also a reference to the wandering stars known as planets
 - (iv) The International Astronomical Union made a proposal at a meeting in Prague on August 22, 2006, to change the number of recognized planets from nine to twelve. The proposal was sent to committees for consideration.
 - (v) The twelve planets would, of course, include the earth. Since we are viewing them from the earth, it would not be one of the wandering stars considered by Joseph. Therefore, it may be that science is beginning to catch up with the Bible.
- d) The naming of the stars
 - i) As named by God (Psalm 147:4)
 - ii) By the greatness of His might (Isaiah 40:26)
- (4) The planets (see notes above and 2 Kings 23:5)