

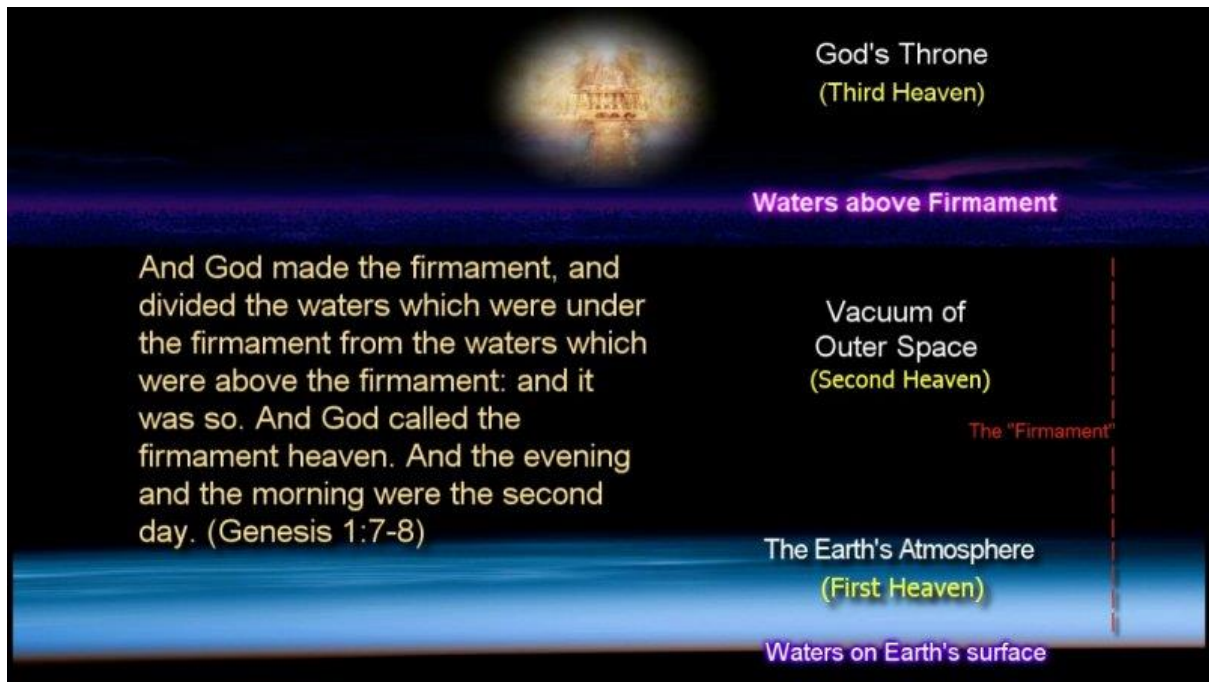
14. Creation Pen and Brush: YHWH Looks Down



Thinking back to a previous article on what YHWH deemed was good about His creation, I want to look further at the following part of Creation:

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷ Thus 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. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

When YHWH makes comment on the darkness in verses 3-5 of Genesis Chapter One, we read that YHWH has no comment of approval on the darkness but only that: *God saw the light, that it was good* (Gen 1:4). It would seem that He had similar *feelings* about His setting of the firmament which divides *the waters from the waters*; again there is no comment. So why might that be? When YHWH placed the firmament to divide the two sets of waters, the waters above the firmament were below YHWH's throne and heavenly realm and, together with the firmament, created a barrier between the Holy Third Heaven and the First Heaven; home to humankind.



From the *Bible, Genesis and Geology Ministry* we read: *"The Third Heaven is above this upper "Sea," and this higher sea is below the Throne of God: "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 4:6 KJV). Therefore, this particular "Sea" above the firmament is above the known physical universe. Since the sun, moon and stars are "in" the firmament this Sea MUST be above them. This is difficult for the science of man to fathom, but it is a Scriptural fact on cosmology. It represents a firm and impassable barrier between the world of man (below) and the abode of God (above)."*

YHWH had a reason to place the firmament between His realm and ours – it meant that we could never reach His domain but neither could the fallen angels led by ha satan, which we read about in Genesis Chapter Six. So *"the sea of separation placed between the world above and the world below was not good, but necessary. It would not be until the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross that a way would be made for crossing that barrier (the sea, or waters, above the firmament)."* [Bible, Genesis and Geology Ministry].

In John Chapter 10 we are shown that Yeshua has the answer to crossing the barrier between YHWH and humankind when He says, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."*



³¹ *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

So YHWH, at the end of Day Six, looked down at everything that He had created and saw that *it was very good*.

YHWH has provided for all our needs; a protective firmament, daylight and night-time, heavenly luminaries, land and seas/water, trees and vegetation and creatures of every kind. Then above everything YHWH had positioned His Holy Throne so that He could view all of His creation and especially, of course, humankind – *The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men (Psalm 33v13). For he looks throughout the whole earth and sees everything under the heavens (Job 28v24).*

In a previous post I discussed my thoughts on how Polaris could be an indicator of the position of YHWH's throne. If this were the case, then YHWH would truly have a prime position to view His Creation so that we, indeed, would seem like grasshoppers according to Isaiah 40 v 22 – *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*



The fact *is* that YHWH is in a prime position to view humankind; we cannot hide from His gaze no matter what we might wish to believe. We read in Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible that:

For his eyes are upon the ways of man (Job 34v21.) Which denotes the omniscience of God, which reaches to every man, to every individual, and to all men in general; and to their ways, to every step taken by them, to the whole of their lives and conversations, and every action of them; to all their internal and external ways and goings; perhaps the former may be meant in this, and the latter in the following clause. This may denote all their inward thoughts, the workings of their mind, the imaginations of their heart; all their secret purposes, designs, and schemes; and all the desires and affections of their soul; and all these, whether good or bad: *and he seeth all his goings; the whole of his walk and conversation, conduct and behaviour; all his external ways, works, and actions; and these whether of good or bad men (Psalm 139v1).*

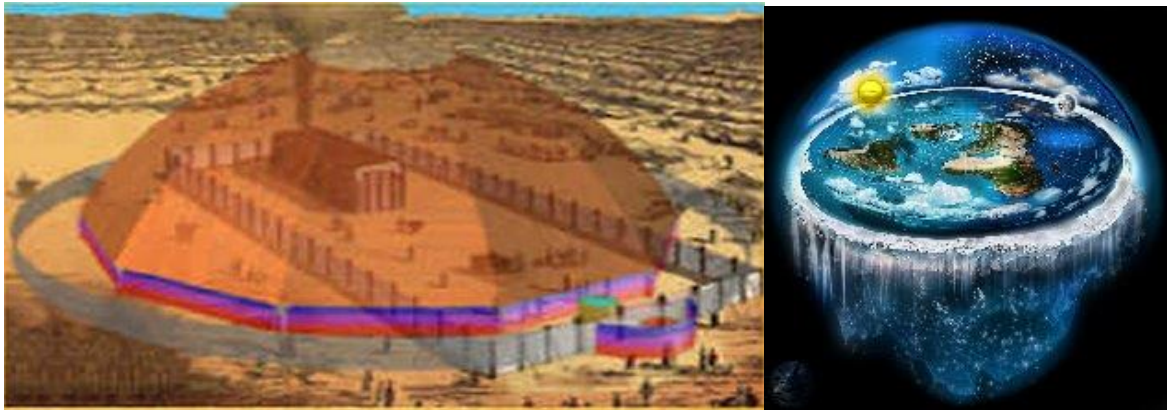
And whilst He is looking down upon the earth, He longs for humankind to seek for Him, for us to realise His presence and for us to recognise His amazing Creation and to be thankful for this caring act by the Almighty: *The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God (Psalm 14v2).* This brings to mind the very first verses of Genesis Chapter One where we see in v 2b: *and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* YHWH wanted to create humankind within a carefully constructed environment where He could connect with His creation in an intimate and nurturing capacity. After all, YHWH is the ultimate father-figure who longs for us to reach out to Him each day.



Thinking back to a previous post when I wrote about the pillars of the earth and how they hold up the Earth and the firmament, I need to address how some scholars say that the pillars refer to men, as in the term *pillars of society*; they particularly refer to the verse in 1 Samuel 2:8: *He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them he has set the world.* But if the pillars in the bible are men, then why does Hebrew cosmology show pillars holding earth? Fair point, you may say.

I have often pondered on what YHWH's Holy Tabernacle might look like and whether His plan for this would somehow fit in with His creation of the Earth. In the biblical description of the tabernacle we read about the precise plans which YHWH gave to Moses; YHWH was very insistent that His plans were followed exactly (Exodus 25:9 - *Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.*), and we may wonder why this is. What if YHWH wanted to mirror His creation through the building of the tabernacle? The Hebrews served at a sanctuary that was a copy and shadow of what is in heaven and this is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: *"See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain"* (Hebrews 8:5). With this thought in mind, I did some research and came across an interesting article which I would like to share.

From veritasmc.org we read: *For the longest time Biblical scholars and theologians have leaned on their own understanding and gave a depiction of what the Tabernacle looked like, and that interpretation was not ever tested to see if it actually stood up to what the Bible actually says, and so it stayed that way, unchallenged, until a guy called Andy Hoy came along, and being a structural engineer by trade, and a Christian, he decided to have a closer look at the popularized design of a rectangular structure because in order for it to work that way guy wires had to be added for stability so it wouldn't be blown over in the first strong desert wind; this rectangular structure is still in all the books to this day as being the correct depiction that was endorsed by modern Biblical scholars and theologians. Boy, were they wrong! Their model, it turns out, was utterly flawed and not in keeping with what God commanded at all, which is to be expected when people lean to their own understanding and don't prayerfully seek God's plan. So Andy Hoy set about to follow the God-given design to the letter and in the process turned the theological world on its proverbial head. Not only did the final product not look at all like the long-held depiction of what the Tabernacle looked like, but it turned out radically different--- In the design of the Tabernacle in the wilderness YHWH, who does not waste time with inaccuracies, was demonstrating His design for the earth, right down to the top vent. The design of the Tabernacle exactly replicates the domed firmament, which to the Hebrews wasn't an earth-shattering revelation as they already knew the earth to be a level plane with a solid domed firmament, so when the design of the Tabernacle was given it was completely reasonable to them for it to be as such - a type of miniature version of the Creation model, right down to the gateway to Heaven that resides behind Polaris, the north star. As a side note, Polaris is the only "star" that is fixed while all others rotate around it. The Book of Enoch describes that what surrounds the throne of God is living fire, which is symbolized by the pillar of fire in the wilderness.*



Further reading about Hoy and his description of the tabernacle in an article in Israel 365 News we find that the tabernacle was likely to be an enormous circular structure six stories tall! *When Hoy read the sections in Exodus dealing with the construction of the Tabernacle, listing in detail the materials used, it raised many questions for him. He was familiar with the full-scale models of the Tabernacle at Timna Park and Ariel in Israel, and realized that there were many discrepancies between these examples and the Biblical text, most scholarly theories describing the Tabernacle as a rectangular tent. The 11 sheets described in the Bible, each measuring four cubits by 30, were attached to each other, with loops on opposite edges. Using the loops to attach the sheets, the Bible instructs to join all sheets together into a single sheet, and to fold the eleventh sheet back over upon itself: "Five curtains shall be coupled together one to another; and the other five curtains shall be coupled one to another." Exodus 26:3 It is traditionally assumed that these curtains are joined together in a top-to-bottom arrangement to make one large rectangular sheet that becomes a rectangular tent. This rendition, however, fails to comply with the exact Exodus specifications, which offers no provisions for un-joined edges, and describes all sheets as having loop joints on both edges.*

Hoy approached this as an engineering problem. The sum of the 11 sheets, measuring 30 cubits, minus the end sheet overlap, and minus the nominal one cubit overlap adjustment is expressed as $([30 \times 11] - [30 / 2] - 1)$.

"And as for the overhanging part that remaineth of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remaineth over shall hang over the back of the Tabernacle." Exodus 26:12

Hoy's 'eureka' moment came when he realized that the final length arranged to enclose a circle would give a circumference of 314 cubits, which is a near perfect multiple of the mathematical constant known as Pi or π . The dimensions for the courtyard created by this circular arrangement conform perfectly to the Biblical description of being exactly 100 cubits "long" (i.e., in diameter), with the north and south portions each measuring 50 cubits "wide" (i.e., radius). The Tabernacle enclosed, constructed in a similar manner, became a decagon. "Who makes a tent that is four layers thick in the desert, with walls made out of beams two feet thick?" Hoy asked rhetorically. "The rectangular version uses a lot of material they just don't have permission in the Bible to use," he explained to Breaking Israel News.

He was also perplexed by the methods most scholarly works described for construction of the walls for the courtyard, describing walls made of solid timber connected by rods.

“It’s cumbersome, and uses a lot more wood than listed in the Bible. The biggest problem comes in using silver as a base for the timbers,” Hoy noted. “They were permitted 100 talents of silver, weighing a total of four tons. Making the bases out of silver would require many more tons of silver that were just not accounted for in the Bible. As an engineer, I understood the silver and brass as being used for struts, as part of a dome’s structure.” Hoy envisioned a circle of linen and wool sheets capped by a huge leather enclosure. Using his engineering skills and adhering to the exact quantities of wood and silver specified in the Bible, he designed a tent similar to the traditional yurts used in Mongolia. Hoy’s version, based on the Bible’s technical instructions, is an astounding six stories tall.

Hoy has created a complete set of plans for the circular Tabernacle on design software, down to the tiniest hardware, in the hopes of creating a scale model based on his circular concept. He has spent hundreds of hours checking his theory from an engineering perspective and also for Biblical adherence.

There are many practical reasons Hoy believes in a circular Tabernacle.

“Practically, a yurt stands up better to high winds than a square tent,” Hoy stated. “It makes more sense to order the tribes in a circular camp than in rectangles with gaps in the corners. Also, the Tabernacle impressed the other nations. A six-story tall dome would certainly do that.”

His trip to Israel has two purposes: to investigate archaeological clues to substantiate his theory of a circular Tabernacle and to gain support for it. The Tabernacle accompanied the Jews wandering in the desert, but stood in Shiloh for over 300 years. As a theoretically portable structure dismantled 3,000 years ago, the first goal is improbable at best.

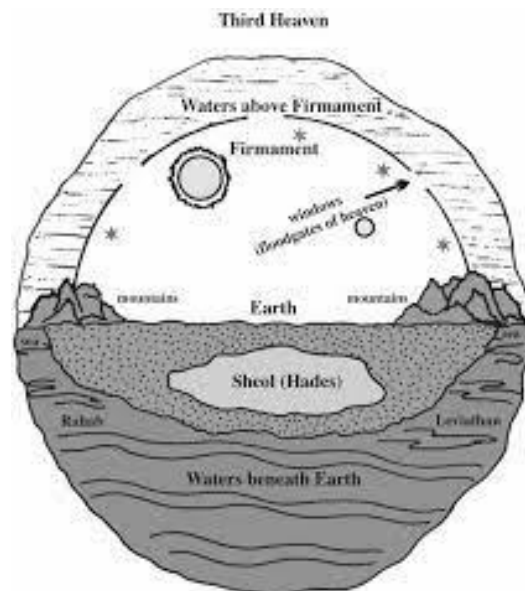


So thinking about the tabernacle as a mirror of YHWH’s creation, we can imagine Hoy’s interpretation as we read some verses from Psalm 104:

² *Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.*³ *Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his*

chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:⁴ Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:⁵ Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.⁶ Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.⁷ At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.⁸ They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.⁹ Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

I underlined a few of the words and I could have gone further, but for this post I will concentrate on these elements. As Hoy shows a stretched curtain on the tabernacle, so the psalmist depicts *the heavens* stretched out *like a curtain*. The beams holding the tabernacle curtain are in YHWH's creation explained as the *beams of his chambers laid in the waters*. The stability of YHWH's creation of the earth can be seen in the words where we see that the *foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever*. So in summary the earth has the heavens stretched over it, beams (pillars) holding it and a firm foundation which cannot be moved. The Hebrews knew what this looked like:



And then there is this verse in the bible: *Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof* (Isaiah 24:1). This is where we see that YHWH can *turn the earth upside down and scatter all on it*...this does not work very well with a ball shaped earth, does it? But with a *snow globe* type scenario, the earth can be easily turned and shaken by our mighty Father!



In the times we are living in today, it would be prudent for us to remember just how great a Father in Heaven we have. He is able to help us in whatever situation we are in if we only call out to Him and remember His power and majesty. Also we should remember how much He loves His creation and His children; He sent His beloved Son to the earth to teach us all of YHWH's ways and to die for our iniquities so that His precious blood would cover us and make us pure and spotless in the Father's gaze.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:3

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. John 1:10

Yvonne

