



Command of Creation 2: Separate the waters

Genesis 1:6 *And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters Genesis 1:6 let it separate the waters from the waters.”*

Why have I listed two parts of one verse above? Is it one command or two? For me it comes down to progression. God began by creating the heavens and the earth. We know where the earth is but where exactly is heaven? There is so much to unpack in this verse. In our first command I said God’s glory (light) descended into the darkness on the earth and parted it. This theme is continued here in the second command. I think what is missed sometimes is the water. Some people talk about Genesis chapter 2 as a second creation. I personally think it’s an in-depth look into creation itself. Check out this:

Genesis 2:5-6 “Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.”

There are many arguments in the Bible. Just pick one from “is Jesus the Son of God” to “did God create everything in seven days?” One other argument is about the rain. It had never rained on the earth until the great flood. The scriptures say that the water sprang up to fill the earth. Did you notice the whole ground? I mention Genesis 2 because it describes what is going on in the first command. It never says that God created the water. I’m sure he did; however, the point of

this second command is (yet again) separation. God separated the darkness in the first command. While in the 2nd command He separates the water. Separates it how?

Here is speculation and common sense all rolled up into one. Some scholars believe it had never rained before the great flood. To further this point, they also believe that the planet was extremely tropical. Why do they believe that? It has to do with the picture that creation command 2 represents. God says “let there” be a dome in the midst. A what? This word “dome” can also be called a firmament. In English it means separation or a gap between. It appears that God made space between the water below and the water above. Those scholars I mentioned believe that there was a large body of water above the land and on the land. It was so misty and tropical that no rain was needed. I’m not even sure that anyone had ever seen the sun as we do. It was a tropical rainforest on steroids.

Genesis 7:11 *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.”*

In terms of Biblical logic, a huge body of water above the earth made sense. People lived for hundreds of years. After the great flood that changed. Did the great flood allow in harmful UV rays that cause aging? Look at Genesis 7 and see that water burst from below and from above. By the 2nd creation command, it fits so well. How to flood the earth 101? Have enough water available to do it. If God separated the waters below and above then it fits. It’s hard for people to believe in it. Yet, in the rainforest jungles it’s often misty, wet, and humid. I am fascinated by this part of the Bible. I don’t think the descriptions and words used here were written hap hazard. It’s done with attention to detail.

Genesis 1:7-8 *“So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.”*

I find it fascinating that people dish on the Bible for being unrealistic. Do we live in a vault between the earth and the sky? Well, in many ways we do. Generally speaking, were stuck here on earth. The amount of power required to escape and return to earth is incredible. We all know that an invisible ozone layer protects us from the sun. Equal to that is the relationship between the ozone, H₂O, and air. We live in a symbiotic dome that cycles water to keep us alive. It's a cycle kind of like a dome. I don't think that many realize how old this writing is. We're talking in the 4000-year range. I equally think the writing is smart. The point of creation flows from verse to verse. For so few words about creation, this chapter tells us a ton about the way things were.

Why does God deem it necessary to order the water to separate? Why did he command the light to separate the darkness? It's all about life. We need light to survive. We need the cycles of rain and evaporation to survive. The ozone is replenished by H₂O. The so-called dome protects us from the sun. These first two creation commands are brilliant. It may not have steel walls, but the dome is our home. We still have water above and water below. This earth has many underground springs. In the order of things, we first have light and then we have water. The God of the Bible knew what He was doing.