

The Twelfth Apostle and Our Stationary Earth

by Jeremy James



We are all human and we all make mistakes. This is probably why the Book of Proverbs enjoins us over and over again to be willing to take correction. Indeed, the Bible tells us that a wise man is not only willing but *eager* to be corrected:

**"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
(Proverbs 9:8-9)**

How many of our brothers and sisters respond to correction in this way! I doubt whether many Bible-believing Christians today are being taught according to this principle. It should be the meat and substance of our Christian life – for how else can we grow in understanding? – but the easygoing tolerance and live-and-let-live attitude that prevails in most churches today is highly resistant to correction. Many who profess to be Christian are greatly offended by any hint of admonition or reproof.

Watch!

In this series of papers we frequently raise issues that have a direct bearing on our understanding and interpretation of God's Word. Christ told us to *Watch!* And this means comparing and contrasting world events – "**the signs of the times**" (**Matthew 16:3**) – with the prophetic element of God's Word. If we are to do this correctly we must continually bear in mind that the Great Deceiver will do all he can to disguise or camouflage these signs. He wants to bend Bible prophecy to his advantage and lead righteous men astray. Thus there is an onus on all true believers to continually test everything against the rigor and purity of God's Word, even if this means admitting from time to time that we were wrong.



I recently came across an amusing example of our natural human reluctance to admit our mistakes. Pastor David Cloud, who has published many excellent works on true Biblical Christianity, issued an email message to his subscribers on 9 March 2017 in which he explained why Matthias, not the Apostle Paul, was the twelfth apostle. Though he did not advert to the fact, he had issued much the same message on 24 July 2013. He began by citing the view expressed by George Sayles Bishop in 1910:

"The one who takes Judas' vacant place is Paul, not Matthias. Matthias was the suggestion of Peter, and Peter made mistakes. He made a mistake when he said: 'Be it far from Thee, Lord.' He made a mistake when he denied his Master. He made a mistake at Antioch when he overturned the Gospel and taught circumcision: 'Building again the things which he had destroyed.' 'I withstood him to the face,' says Paul 'because he was to be blamed.' Impetuous Peter steps forward to make an apostle. He gives the Lord, so to say, a choice between two, Matthias and Justus.

The lot falls on Matthias and they number him with the twelve and that is the last that is heard of him. The Lord keeps silent. By and by, He comes down from heaven and, Himself in Person, adds to the original eleven, another twelfth apostle, 'one born out of due time.' ... The twelfth name on the 'twelve foundations' of the New Jerusalem will not be that of Matthias but that of Paul: not only an apostle but 'not a whit behind the very Chiefest apostles' though in himself, nothing" (*The Doctrines of Grace*, New York: Gospel Publishing House, 1910, p. 373).

He then gave several reasons to show why this view is untenable, which in summary state:

First, the Bible specifically says that Matthew was "numbered with the eleven".

Second, most of the apostles are not mentioned again by name in Scripture.

Third, Paul did not meet the standards set out in Acts 1:21-22.

Fourth, Paul was distinguished from the other apostles by Scripture itself.

Fifth, Paul called the other apostles, "the twelve."

[The complete text of the case made by Pastor Cloud may be found in **Appendix A.**]

To these five perfectly valid reasons we may add a sixth:

John 20:19-24 states that Christ appeared to the Apostles on Resurrection Sunday:

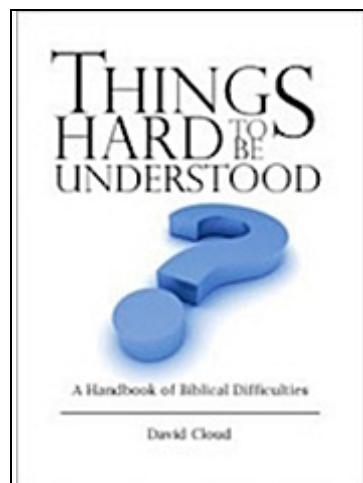
"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you...But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came"

Luke 24:33 confirms that eleven Apostles were present:

"And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them..."

Notice that Thomas was absent and yet eleven Apostles were present. How could this be if Judas was also absent? [12 minus 1 (Judas) minus 1 (Thomas) = 10]. Thomas had to wait eight days before finally meeting the risen Christ. This meant the replacement for Judas, namely Matthias, was also present and acknowledged as such by the Holy Spirit.

What Pastor Cloud does not say is that, in his book, **Things Hard to be Understood**, he supported the case made by George Sayles Bishop [See pages 227-228 of the fourth edition, May 2006. The book was first published in 1996.] For many years he taught the opposite of what he is now teaching, but he does not advert to this. His stout defense of the correct Biblical position is commendable and there is no obvious reason why he should not reveal that he once held the same view as Bishop.



The Real Issue

This may seem a fairly minor matter – and it is – but it points to something of much greater importance, namely the surprising reluctance by many faithful preachers and pastors today, men who hold firmly to the literal truth of God's Word, to admit when they have been wrong. This certainly holds in relation to cosmology. For example Pastor Cloud teaches that the earth is a globe moving through space, even though the Bible plainly teaches that the earth is both stationary and flat. Many other Baptist and Evangelical pastors are of the same opinion, despite the fact that several papers have appeared in recent years which show that the cosmology of Scripture differs radically from the one taught by NASA.

Up to fifty years ago or thereabouts, the average person would have had difficulty contesting the worldview taught by modern astronomy. But today we have no excuse. Most people can obtain access to a telescope with a magnification x100. If they used it to survey the moon they would see immediately that it cannot possibly be more than a few thousand miles above the earth – and certainly not a quarter of a million miles away!

The telescopic lenses on many modern cameras can pick out detail 50-60 miles away across the surface of a lake or bay, proving beyond all doubt that the earth cannot possibly be curved. A great many people would have taken plane journeys between destinations several thousands of miles apart, where the journey time in both directions is much the same. This would be impossible if the earth was 'spinning' on its 'axis'!

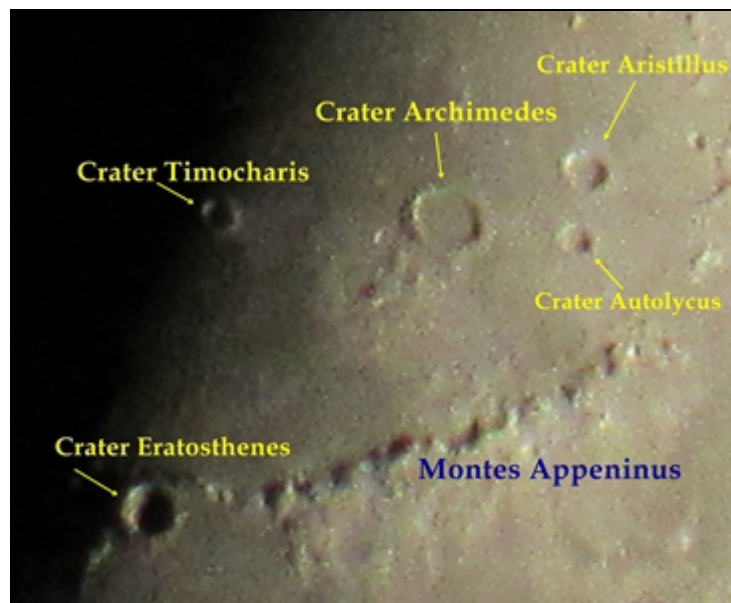


Photo of the moon's surface, taken from my bedroom window using a Canon camera [PowerShot SX530 (October 9, 2016)].

The moon is no more than 4,000 miles or so above the earth.

We observe the full moon every month, with perfect regularity, but this would be impossible if the moon was in orbit around a rotating earth. The only way a specific location on earth can have a full moon at regular intervals is if the earth itself is stationary.

Christians have been foxed and deceived by clever humanists. They are told that when a ball rolls across the surface of a table, that the ball moves relative to the table, which is true, and that the table moves relative to the ball, which is absurd! This is the kind of nonsense that lures otherwise sensible people into believing the earth is in motion relative to the sun, when it isn't. The earth is absolutely stationary, just as the Bible states. When Joshua called on the **sun** to stop, the sun stopped. He didn't call on the earth to stop, because the earth was not moving! He called on the sun to stop because **it** was moving.

Read and believe God's Word! It leaves no doubt in the matter! If a literal-grammatical interpretation – the only true hermeneutic among God's people – is applied consistently, then the following verses, along with many others [see **Appendix B**], point emphatically to a flat, stationary earth, a moving sun, and a sky populated with stars or lights, not galaxies:

"...for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them." – 1 Samuel 2:8.

"Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." – Psalm 104:5.

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

"Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?" – Job 37:18



"Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD." – Jeremiah 31:37

"Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." – 1 Chronicles 16:30.

"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved." – Psalm 93:1

"Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." – Psalm 104:5.

"Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." – Isaiah 13:13

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." – Isaiah 34:4

"The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth" – Daniel 4:11

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time." – Luke 4:5

"Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." – Joshua 10:12-13



"The heavens declare the glory of God... In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." – Psalm 19:1, 4-6

"Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down." – Isaiah 38:8

"The sun and moon stood still in their habitation." – Habakkuk 3:11

Measuring the foundations of the earth

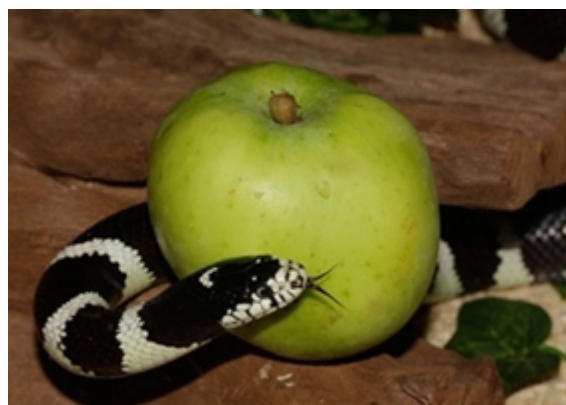
It is a great tragedy for the church that men who truly love God's Word and who have long fought the good fight are still reluctant to believe God's account of His own creation. They know that Jonah was swallowed by a great whale-fish, that Elijah was taken bodily into the sky in a supernatural chariot, that the flood covered the entire earth, and that the world was created and populated over a period of six actual days, and yet they deny God's Word, in effect, when they accept the fanciful cosmology proposed by NASA!

Jeremiah said that Israel will survive for as long as man is unable to measure the foundations of the earth:

**"Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured,
and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath,
I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all
that they have done, saith the LORD."
– Jeremiah 31:37**

How long is that? Forever, dear reader, forever. This tells us that man has never been able to measure the foundations of the earth, and never will. The earth is not a sphere. There are no satellites in 'orbit' around it. Man has never been in 'outer space' because if he had he would already have determined and measured with great precision "the foundations of the earth". He would also have measured "heaven above," but the Bible tells us that he will never do that either.

So, who do you believe, God or NASA?



Facing the Challenge

I know this is a very challenging subject. It is doubtful whether any rational person can address it and not feel disorientated. But, as Christians, there is an onus on us to correctly interpret and uphold God's Word, even if it means confronting some very unpalatable facts.

If you are coming across this subject for the first time, please see our earlier papers on Biblical cosmology, which are listed in **Appendix C**.

Remember the words of James: **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."** If you have already decided that the flat, stationary earth is nothing but foolishness, then you are unlikely to hear what God is telling you. Remember also the words of Solomon: **"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."** (Proverbs 18:13)

We live in a time of extraordinary evil and bewildering deception. We should not be surprised, therefore, if the Enemy has concealed spiritual landmines everywhere he can, including places our grandparents would never have imagined. It behoves us to tread very carefully, to exercise the utmost discernment, and to check everything against the literal truth of God's Word:

**"I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when
I shall have learned thy righteous judgments."
– Psalm 119:7**

**Jeremy James
Ireland
March 12th, 2017**

For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

APPENDIX A

Text of message by Pastor David Cloud.

Who Is the Twelfth Apostle?

March 9, 2017

ACTS 1:26 — "And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

Revelation 21:14 says there are 12 apostles whose names are in the foundations of the eternal city of God, the New Jerusalem. Also Matthew 19:28 says there are apostles who will sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

Who is the 12th apostle that takes Judas' place? Matthias or Paul? Sixteen times Paul said that he was an apostle. He was personally called of God for this (2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1).

The argument that Paul took the place of Judas as the 12th apostle is made as follows by George Sayles Bishop:

"The one who takes Judas' vacant place is Paul, not Matthias. Matthias was the suggestion of Peter, and Peter made mistakes. He made a mistake when he said: 'Be it far from Thee, Lord.' He made a mistake when he denied his Master. He made a mistake at Antioch when he overturned the gospel and taught circumcision: 'Building again the things which he had destroyed.' 'I withstood him to the face,' says Paul 'because he was to be blamed.' Impetuous Peter steps forward to make an apostle. He gives the Lord, so to say, a choice between two, Matthias and Justus. The lot falls on Matthias and they number him with the twelve and that is the last that is heard of him. The Lord keeps silent. By and by, He comes down from heaven and, Himself in Person, adds to the original eleven, another twelfth apostle, 'one born out of due time.' ... The twelfth name on the 'twelve foundations' of the New Jerusalem will not be that of Matthias but that of Paul: not only an apostle but 'not a whit behind the very Chiefest apostles' though in himself, nothing" (*The Doctrines of Grace*, New York: Gospel Publishing House, 1910, p. 373).

We disagree with this for the following reasons:

First, the Bible specifically says that Matthew was "numbered with the eleven" (Acts 1:26). Twelve verses are devoted to this scene. While it is true that Peter made mistakes, the Bible plainly identifies the mistakes. The situation in Acts 1 is different. It is not merely Peter acting on a personal whim, it is the entire 11 acting in one accord with the other brethren assembled together. Twelve verses of Scripture are devoted to this scene and there is no hint that they are acting contrary to God's will. In fact, they are acting in accordance with prophecy (Acts 1:20; Psalm 109:8). And they were acting prayerfully (Acts 1:24-25).

Second, while it is true that Matthias is not mentioned by name again in Scripture, it is also true that most of the apostles are not mentioned again by name. When the apostles are mentioned thereafter in Acts 2:37, 42, 43; 4:33, 35, 36, 37; 5:12, 18; 11:1; 15:2, etc., Matthias was doubtless one of them because he had been elected to that position.

Third, Paul did not meet the standards set out in Acts 1:21-22.

Fourth, Paul was distinguished from the other apostles in Scripture itself. Paul was the apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; Gal. 1:16; 2:7-8; Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 2:7). While Paul preached to Jews, his special calling was to establish the first Gentile churches across the Roman Empire.

Fifth, Paul called the other apostles "the twelve" (1 Cor. 15:5).

We believe, therefore, that Paul's place of authority in Christ's earthly kingdom will continue to be associated particularly with Gentile saints.

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Passages in the Bible relating to Cosmology

Categories

The foundations of the earth

The waters above

The waters below

The firmament

The non-movement of the earth

The stretching-out of the heavens

The flat, stretched-out earth

The movement of the sun

The self-luminous moon

The fixed stars and the "wandering" stars

Geocentric spatial relations

The foundations of the earth

"...for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them." – 1 Samuel 2:8.

"Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble."
– Job 9:6

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." – Job 38:4.

"Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof" – Job 38:6.

"The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it." – Psalm 75:3

"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands." – Psalm 102:25.

"Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." – Psalm 104:5.

"The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens." – Proverbs 3:19.

"...for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake." – Isaiah 24:18

"Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?" – Isaiah 40:21.

"Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together." – Isaiah 48:13.

"And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth." – Isaiah 51:13.

"Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD." – Jeremiah 31:37

"...the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth." – Zechariah 12:1.

"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands." – Hebrews 1:10.

The waters above

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

"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." – Genesis 1:7

"He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies." – Psalm 18:11

"Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters" – Psalm 104:3

"Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens." – Psalm 148:4

"Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?" – Proverbs 30:4

[This is a reference to Christ in the Old Testament and his participation in the work of Creation. The "binding of the waters" would seem to refer to the firmament and its role in restraining the waters above.]

"When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures." – Jeremiah 51:16

The waters below

"He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end." – Job 26:10

"Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?" – Job 38:16

"He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses." – Psalm 33:7

"When there were no depths, I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water." – Proverbs 8:24

"When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men." – Proverbs 8:27-31

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." – Revelation 14:7

The firmament

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

"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." – Genesis 1:7

"And God called the firmament Heaven." – Genesis 1:8

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so... And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth"
– Genesis 1:14-15, 17

"Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are! And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud? Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven." – Job 22:12-14

[If we take *circuit* (chuwg) to mean compass or circle, then this passage may be referring to the circularity of the firmament.]

"Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?" – Job 37:18

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." – Psalm 19:1

"Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters" – Psalm 104:3

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power." – Psalm 150:1

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in." – Isaiah 40:22.

[The *circle* here is likely a reference to the vault above the earth. The inhabitants of the earth dwell beneath a great vault that stretches over them like a tent.]

"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. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." – Ezekiel 1:22-26

"Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne." – Ezekiel 10:1

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."
– Daniel 12:3

The non-movement of the earth [except in judgment]

"Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." – 1 Chronicles 16:30.

"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." – Psalm 33:8-9

[Barnes would translate verse 9 as follows: "For he spake, and it was; he commanded and it stood forth."]

"And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever." – Psalm 78:69.

[The word *palaces* does not appear in the Hebrew. The first part should probably read "And he built his sanctuary on high..." He also built it like the earth which he had established forever. The Hebrew word here for *established* is yacad, meaning 'to lay a foundation.']

"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished [*yacad*], that it cannot be moved." – Psalm 93:1

"Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." – Psalm 104:5.

[The original Hebrew word for *removed* in this verse is mowt, meaning (per Strong's H4131) "to slip, shake, fall" or, per Gesenius, "to totter, to shake".]

"Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth." – Psalm 119:90

[The original Hebrew word for *abideth* in this verse is amad, meaning (per Gesenius) "to stand firm, to remain, to endure".]

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." – Isaiah 66:1

"Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool." – Acts 7:49

[Since a throne remains in the same location, these last two verses show that the earth does not move. Also, as regards comparative size, the earth lies beneath the third heaven as a footstool lies beneath a throne. Therefore it cannot be a tiny speck in the vast depths of space as modern astronomy alleges.]

[the earth moves only in times of judgment]

"Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble."
– Job 9:6

"The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved." – Psalm 99:1

"Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." – Isaiah 13:13

"The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." – Isaiah 24:19-20

[The original Hebrew word for *cottage* in this verse is meluwnah, which can mean (per Gesenius) "a suspended bed" or hammock.]

The stretching-out of the heavens

"Which alone spreadeth out the heavens..." – Job 9:8

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." – Job 26:7.

"Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?" – Job 37:18

"Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain."
– Psalm 104:1-2.

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."
– Isaiah 34:4

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in." – Isaiah 40:22.

[The original Hebrew word for *circle* in this verse is chuwg, which Strong [H2329] defines as a "circle, circuit, compass". Elsewhere (22:18) Isaiah used the Hebrew word duwr to mean "ball" (sphere), so he is unlikely to be referring here to a ball or sphere.]

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:" – Isaiah 42:5

[Both the heavens and the earth are "stretched out." According to Gesenius the original Hebrew word for "spread forth" in this verse – raqa – means "to spread out by beating." Elsewhere (34:4) the heavens are referred to as a scroll. In one case the action is akin to the unrolling of a parchment (and its subsequent rolling together), while in the other it is akin to the flattening out of a sheet of metal by hammering.]

"I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself" – Isaiah 44:24

"I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded."
– Isaiah 45:12

"Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together."
– Isaiah 48:13

"And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth..." – Isaiah 51:13

"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."
– Jeremiah 10:12 (See also Jeremiah 51:15)

The flat, stretched-out earth

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." – Job 26:7

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." – Psalm 103:11-12

[This must refer to a flat earth, where east and west never meet.]

"To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth forever." – Psalm 136:6

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." – Isaiah 11:12

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:" – Isaiah 42:5

"I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself" – Isaiah 44:24

"The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth" – Daniel 4:11

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;"
– Matthew 4:8

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time." – Luke 4:5

The movement of the sun

"Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." – Joshua 10:12-13

[Note that Joshua orders the sun and the moon to stand still, not the earth and the moon.]

"So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might." – Judges 5:31

"Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars." – Job 9:7

[In this verse Job illustrates the awesome power of God by showing that He can cause the sun to stop moving and prevent the stars from giving their light.]

"The heavens declare the glory of God... In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." – Psalm 19:1, 4-6

"He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down." – Psalm 104:19

[The sun cannot reasonably be said to know its going down if it is not in real motion.]

"The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hastens to his place where he arose." – Ecclesiastes 1:5

"For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." – Isaiah 13:10

"Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down." – Isaiah 38:8

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day" – Amos 8:9

"The sun and moon stood still in their habitation." – Habakkuk 3:11

[The prophet records that the sun and the moon stood still, not the earth and the moon.]

The self-luminous moon

"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." – Genesis 1:16

"And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon..." – Deuteronomy 33:14

"If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness"
– Job 31:26

"He appointed the moon for seasons..." – Psalm 104:19

"The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth forever."
– Psalm 136:9

"For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." – Isaiah 13:10

"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously." – Isaiah 24:23

"Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." – Isaiah 30:26

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." – Isaiah 60:19

"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night"
– Jeremiah 31:35

"And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light." – Ezekiel 32:7

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light" – Matthew 24:29

"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory."
– 1 Corinthians 15:41

"... and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood" – Revelation 6:12

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."
– Revelation 21:23

The fixed stars and the "wandering" stars

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 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. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth. 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." – Genesis 1:14-18

"They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." – Judges 5:20

"Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are! And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud? Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven." – Job 22:12-14

"The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever."
– Psalm 136:9

"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."
– Psalm 147:4

"For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." – Isaiah 13:10

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."
– Isaiah 34:4

"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth."
– Isaiah 40:26

"I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded."
– Isaiah 45:12

"The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:"
– Joel 2:10

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" – Matthew 24:29

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring" – Luke 21:25

"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory."
– 1 Corinthians 15:41

"Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." – Jude 1:13

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." – Revelation 6:14

"And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise." – Revelation 8:14

"And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth" – Revelation 12:4

[These two verses refer to a third part of the stars. In the latter verse, they are generally understood to refer to the company of angels that rebelled. Stars and angels are so closely associated throughout God's Word that there may be some otherwise unexplained connection between them.]

Geocentric spatial relations

It is impossible to do justice to Biblical cosmology without taking into account the hundreds of passages throughout the Bible that are plainly geocentric and whose natural meanings imply a common frame of reference that embraces both heaven and earth. The billions of miles of space, which modern astronomers propose, are in sharp conflict with the spatial framework used in the Bible. The earth of the Bible is inconceivably larger than the sun in absolute terms. It is impossible to reconcile Biblical cosmology – how God describes His own Creation – with the bizarre 'cosmos' of modern astronomy, where the earth could not possibly be more pathetic or insignificant. Indeed, the more pronouncements that NASA and its allies make about the 'cosmos' the more stridently they contradict the Biblical account. It is always the same small pool of self-appointed 'experts' who make these outlandish declarations, with no hard evidence whatever to back them up.

Christians need to ask themselves why they believe the picture of heaven and earth portrayed by NASA, not simply because it conflicts with the Biblical narrative but because this secretive, Masonic organization continues to spew forth nonsensical pronouncements that mock God's Word. Do you seriously think the earth is in danger of being destroyed by a giant asteroid? Do you seriously believe the earth is spinning on its 'axis' at 1,000 miles an hour? Do you seriously believe there is 'intelligent life' in the 'depths' of space? Do you seriously believe that two men wearing nylon pyjamas landed on the moon in an aluminum can in 1969? The ONLY evidence you have for any of this is the relentless propaganda engineered by NASA, Hollywood, the big television corporations, and the mainstream media. Why are Christians willing to set aside God's Word and believe an alternative account of reality for which they possess not one shred of objective, verifiable evidence?

Ascending and descending

"And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded... Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

– Genesis 11:5-7

"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it." – Genesis 28:12

"Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended?" – Proverbs 30:4.

"For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth" – Psalm 102:19

"Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke." – Psalm 144:5 [See also "He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet." – 2 Samuel 22:10]

[The LORD "bowed" [stretched out or bent (like a bow)] the heavens and "came down", an action that began in the third heaven and continued past the firmament to the mountains below.]

"Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence." – Isaiah 64:1

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." – Daniel 7:27

"For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." – Micah 1:3

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." – John 3:13.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." – Acts 4:12

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." – Acts 7:55-56

APPENDIX C

Papers in this series on Cosmology and Earth History

The Illuminati are Using Sham Science and Bogus Theories to Deceive Mankind

The Dark Art of Deception: Why Dinosaurs are a Hoax

A Simple Scientific Proof that the Earth is Flat

Biblical Cosmology as the LORD in His Mercy has Revealed

How to Distinguish Biblical Reality from Satan's Alternative Reality

The Tent We all Dwell In – Why the Sky is Blue

The Host of Heaven and Our Stationary Earth: The Great Cosmological Lie

Fatal Flaws in the Gap Theory: Why the Earth and the Heavens are around Six Thousand Years Old

The Blackest Black You Have Ever Seen: The So-called *International Space Station* is Playing with Reality

Why Explosive Nuclear Devices May Not Exist

True Cosmology: The Earth that the LORD God of All Creation Made for His Son

The Jesuit-controlled ET Deception is Rapidly Taking Shape

The Great Nephilim Deception: Why Christians are Being Tricked into Believing in ETs and UFOs

The Shameless Fraud known as Darwinian Evolution

These may all be found on the website www.zephaniah.eu