

The Creation of the Heavens and Earth in the Bible

This is the seventh email in a series I call “*Three Stories of "the Beginnings: Origins of Different Worldviews & Values."* New emails build on previous emails, so you may want to review them from time to time. The entire series can be seen at the BHC website ([Click Here](#)). Below are some key points made in previous emails you need to be aware of to accurately understand this email.

- *The undivided intentional totality of the work of creation that is assigned to **ruach of God** (The Breath/Spirit of the Unnamed God in the first story in Genesis).*
- *When God speaks His breath/spirit flows/surges/rushes into the creation.*
- *God creates by changing things that exist.*
- *The first act of creation changed the darkness by creating the light of life.*
- *The Creator measures His actions by the TOV Standard to see if they are beautiful and pleasing to His eyes.*
- *Actions that are TOV “protect lives, preserve lives, make lives more functional and increase the quality of life.”*

In the Hebrew Scriptures, God's existence is as self-evident as life itself. *There is no notion of the origin of this God and He has no biography. God is at center stage and in the spotlight -- the sole source of power and life, and totally in control of his creation.* We are allowed to view this creation story from a vantage point that is terrestrial, remote and all-encompassing.

I began the first story in *Genesis* in the third email in this series, “*In the Beginning God!*” ([Click Here to Read](#)). That email ended with God creating the “*light of life*” and “*measuring it with His TOV Standard.*” Now I will continue the first story.

*God distinguished between the light and between the darkness.
God named “the light” “Day.”
“The darkness” God named “Night.”
And it was the evening and the morning Day One.
(Genesis 1:4b-5)*

After creating the “*light of life*” and measuring it with the **TOV Standard**, God viewed the new thing in light of what now existed and made distinctions between the things He saw. He then named the things He saw.

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- The “newly created light of life” was named “Day” and it appears in “the morning.”
- The “changed darkness” was named “Night” and it appears in “the evening.”
- “Night and Day together” are “a cycle of time called a Day.
- “Days are numbered” and that was “the creation of time.”

*And God said (His breath/spirit flows/surges/rushes into the creation),
“Let a solid dome-like structure exists in the midst of the waters,
and let it separate the waters from the waters.”*

*And God made the solid dome-like structure,
and it separated the waters which were under it from the waters above it.
And it existed.*

*And God named the solid dome-like structure “Heavens.”
It was the evening and the morning Day Two.
(Genesis 1:6-7)*

This time God decided to change the “deep water.” He spoke but the thing He was creating did not suddenly appear. After speaking, God made it – *but God did not measure it with His TOV Standard*. The reason He didn’t measure “*the solid dome-like structure*” was because it was not functioning yet to do what it had been to do.

However, we know that God did something that is not expressly stated in text because of what we learned about the creation of “*the light of light*.” God viewed the new thing -- “*the solid dome-like structure*” -- in light of what now existed and made distinctions between the things He saw. It was then that He named “*the solid dome-like structure*” – “*Heavens*.”

*And God said (His breath/spirit flows/surges/rushes into the creation),
“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place.
Let the dry thing appear.”
And it existed.*

*And God named “the dry thing” “Earth,”
and “the gathering together of the waters” He named “Seas.”
And God saw that it was TOV.*

This time God spoke and what He wanted to create happened without Him doing anything else.

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*His breath/spirit flows/surges/rushes into the waters
under (inside) the solid dome-like structure
and those waters gathered together into one place.*

Because **the solid dome-like structure** was in place, the waters inside it could move from one place to another and reveal “***the dry thing***” beneath them. God viewed “*the dry thing*” in light of what now existed and then named it “**Earth**” and “**the gathered waters**” He named “**Seas**.” Next, He measured what He saw with His **TOV Standard** and everything measured **TOV**.

*Now life was more protected, more preserved,
more functional and the quality of life increased
more that it was prior to these actions of the Creator.*

This bring us to the end of this email, but not the end of Day Three. Before I continue with this story, *I want to compare how this God created the Heavens and the Earth to the way Marduk created them in Enuma Elish.* Remember, these stories play central roles in the worldviews and values of two nations.

Shalom,
Jim Myers

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