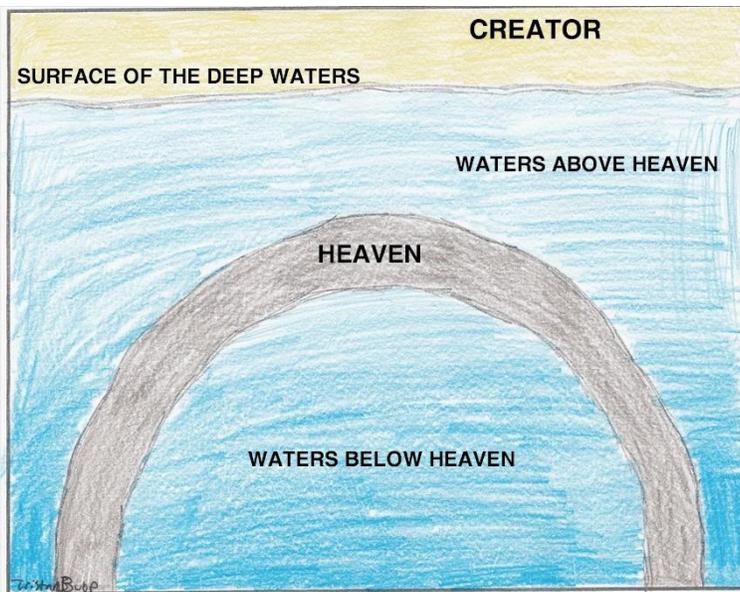


Spending Eternity Embedded in a Solid Dome

There are lots of stories we could tell about things that happened on our almost three decades long journey together (*Jeffrey Leynor and Jim Myers*). In my religion, *Christianity*, we spend a lot of time talking about “*going to heaven*” after we die and spending eternity there. In Jeffrey’s religion, *Judaism*, people talk about “*the world to come*,” but not with any details.

Christians, especially after deaths and funerals, often spend lots of elaborating on how they envision certain events will unfold in Heaven. For example, *meeting up again with deceased family members and friends – and hanging out together again*. Or going to visit God and asking those questions humans are incapable of answering. That “*friendliness with God*” idea sounds strange to members of some *Christian denominations*, but *members of other denominations – and loners with their own custom made belief systems* – often talk about God as if he is their **BFF** (*best friend forever*).

Anyway, one story I remember very well took place when Jeffrey and I had been studying and translating the Hebrew text of the first chapter of Genesis. Earlier I had my grandson draw what I described the creation was like at the end of each day of creation. I will never forget his face the moment I surprised him by handing him the drawing of “*the end of the second day*.”



Jeffrey look at the picture and then a “*Jeffrey smile*” came across his face. Then he looked directly at me and said, “*So, that’s where you are going to spend eternity – embedded in that solid dome-like structure!*”

Below is Genesis 1:7-8 (KJV):

“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. And God called the firmament, ‘Heaven.””

Take a close look at the word “*firmament*” – **firm+a+ment**.” The Hebrew word means “*a solid object, like a beaten out metal plate*.” This is the first appearance of the word “*Heaven*” in the *Jewish Tanakh* and *Christian Bible*. “*Heaven*” is a *solid dome-like structure* like the one pictured above! However, “**Heaven**” is also a “**Meme-Structure**” and if you have read our module called [It’s All About the Memes](#) you know what that means. But don’t be surprised if you hear Jeffrey ask someone, “*So you are going to spend eternity embedded in a solid dome?*”