

THE BIBLE & ANCIENT SCIENCE

3. ANCIENT ASTRONOMY

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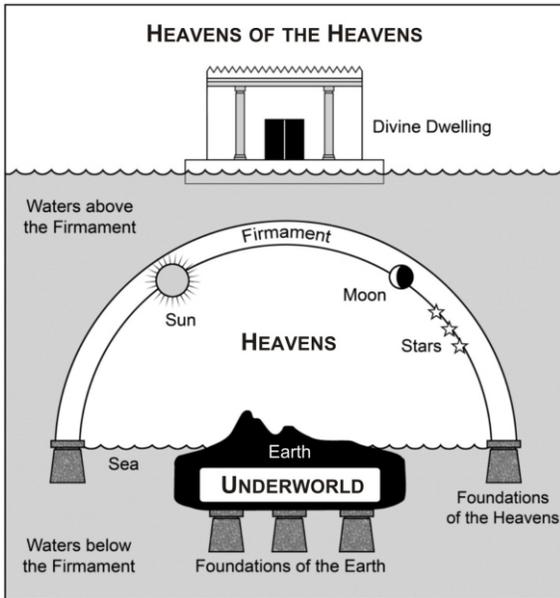
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Scientific Concordism

ASSUMPTION:

- the facts of science align with the Bible.
- that God revealed scientific facts in the Bible 1000s of years before their discovery by modern science.

The 3-Tier Universe



Features of the Heavens from an Ancient Phenomenological Perspective

1. Sun Moves across the Sky Daily

The sun rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other [end]. Ps 19:6

The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. Eccl 1:5

2. The Firmament (Heavenly Dome)

2ND DAY OF CREATION: God said, "Let there be a **firmament** between the waters to separate the water from the water." So God made a **firmament** and separated the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. And it was so. God called the **firmament** 'heavens.' There was evening, & there was morning—The Second Day. Gen 1:6-8

GREEK

στερεωμα *stereōma*
firmament, dome of heaven
στερεος *stereos*
hard, firm

HEBREW

רָקִיעַ *rāqīa'*
firmament, dome of heaven
רָקַע *rāqa'*
to flatten, stamp down

Context of pounding metals:

They hammered out [*rāqa*] thin sheets of gold. Ex 39:3

Context of creating the heavens:

Can you join God in spreading out [*rāqa*] the skies, **hard** as a mirror of **cast bronze**?

Job 37:18

Phenomenological Perspectives of Nature

ANCIENT Unaided Physical Senses Literal & Actual Sun Rising/Setting	MODERN Aided by Scientific Instruments Appearance of Sun "Rising/Setting"
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PHENOMENOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

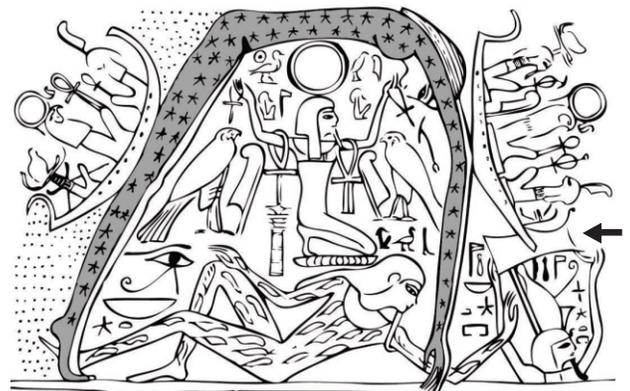
Message-Incident Principle



Principle of Accommodation

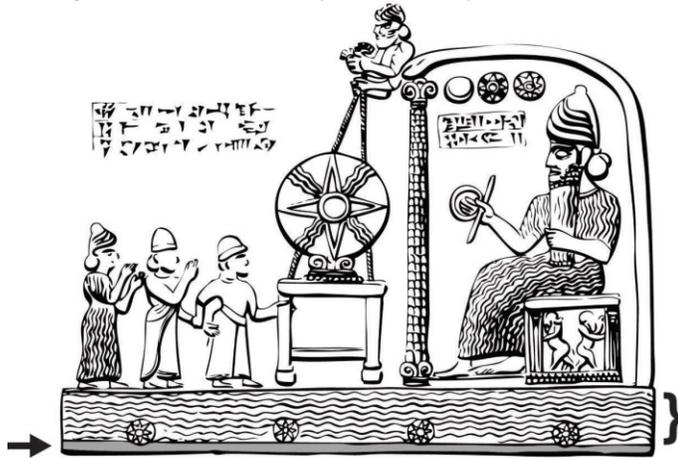
The concept that God descended to the level of ancient people and used their ancient understanding of nature in Biblical revelation.

Egyptian 3-Tier Universe (1570-1085 BC)



Firmament is shaded. Sun god Re moves across heavenly sea in a boat & enters the opening to the underworld in lower right corner (arrow)

Mesopotamian Heavens (885-850 BC)



Firmament (shaded & arrow) supports star & heavenly sea (bracket). Sun god Shamash is seated.

3. The Waters Above (Heavenly Sea)

2ND DAY OF CREATION: So God made a firmament and separated the **water under** the firmament from the **water above** the firmament. Gen 1:7

HEBREW

אֵימַיִם *-ayim* dual ending
used for things occurring in nature in PAIRS

מַיִם *mayim* waters
600 X in Old Testament. Only in DUAL
THUS two bodies of water in nature:

- (1) "waters above" in heaven
- (2) "waters below" on earth

Waters Above NOT vapour, mist, humidity, clouds.

The writer had these well-known words (respectively):
'ed (Gen 2:6) *nasi'* (Jer 10:13) 'ānān (Gen 9:13)

God stretches out the **heavens** like a tent and lays the beams of His upper chambers on their **waters**.

Ps 104:2-3

4. The Foundations & Ends of the Heavens

The foundations of the heavens shook & trembled.

2 Sam 22:8

The sun rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other.

Ps 19:6

5. The Sun, Moon & Stars IN the Firmament

4TH DAY OF CREATION: God said, "Let there be lights **in the firmament** of the heaven to separate the day from the night, & LET THEM SERVE as signs to mark the seasons and days and years, let them be lights **in the firmament** of the heaven to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them **in the firmament** of the heaven to give light on the earth, to govern the day & the night, and to separate light from darkness. God saw it was good. There was evening, and there was morning—The Fourth Day.

☛ DON'T you serve the heavens, Gen 1:14-19
the heavens will serve you!

6. Falling Stars & Rolling Up of the Heavens

Jesus: The stars will fall from heaven & the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Matt 24:29

The heaven receded like a scroll, rolling up. Rev 6:14

7. The Heavens: Lower Heavens & Upper Heavens

HEBREW

שָׁמַיִם *shāmayim* heavens

400 X in Old Testament. Only in DUAL

THUS two PHYSICAL heavens in nature:

- (1) lower heavens
- (2) upper heavens

THE LOWER HEAVENS

The Firmament

God called the firmament 'heavens.' Gen 1:7

The Air Space

God formed out of the ground ... all the birds of the heavens. Gen 2:19

The Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heavens.

Dan 7:13

THE UPPER HEAVENS

God's Dwelling Place

a real PHYSICAL place just overhead

☛ NOT in another dimension

To God: Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling place, and bless your people Israel. Deut 26:15

God stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of His upper chambers on their waters.

Ps 104:2-3

שָׁמַיִם שָׁמַיִם *shāmayim shāmayim*

heavens of heavens; highest heavens

God made [1] the heavens [lower heavens], [2] the heavens of heavens [upper heavens]

with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Neh 9:6

Conclusions

1. The Bible has an ancient understanding of the structure & operation of the heavens.
2. The ancient astronomy in the Bible is based on **ancient phenomenological perspective** of the heavens.
3. Scientific Concordism **FAILS**.
4. In order to understand the structure and operation of the heavens, we need to open the **Book of God's Works** & do the science.

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Book Chapter: "Ancient Science in the Bible"
from Denis Lamoureux's

I Love Jesus & I Accept Evolution (2009)

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