

# THE BIBLE & ANCIENT SCIENCE

## 2. ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY/GEOLOGY

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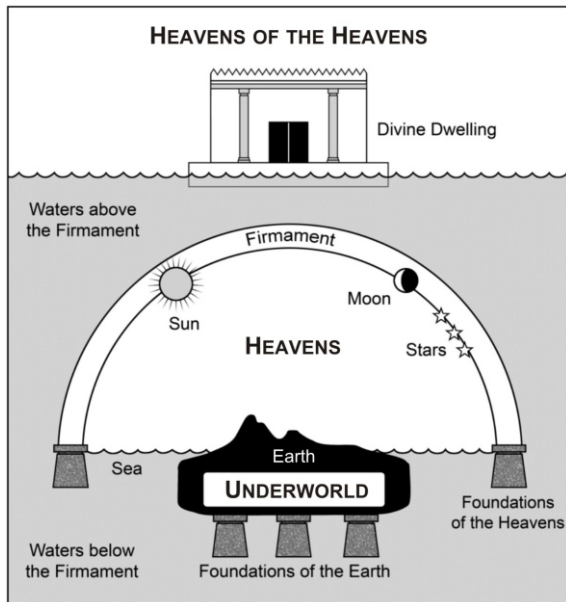
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### Scientific Concordism

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



### Phenomenological Perspectives of Nature

<p><b>ANCIENT</b> Unaided Physical Senses Literal &amp; Actual Sun Rising/Setting</p>	<p><b>MODERN</b> Aided by Scientific Instruments Appearance of Sun "Rising/Setting"</p>
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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.

### Features of the Earth from an Ancient Phenomenological Perspective

#### 1. Earth is Immovable

The world is firmly established; **it cannot move.**  
1 Chr 16:30; Ps 93:1, 96:10

#### 2. Earth set on Foundations

God set the earth on its **foundations**; it can never be moved.  
Ps 104:5

Stated 20X. Like legs of a table

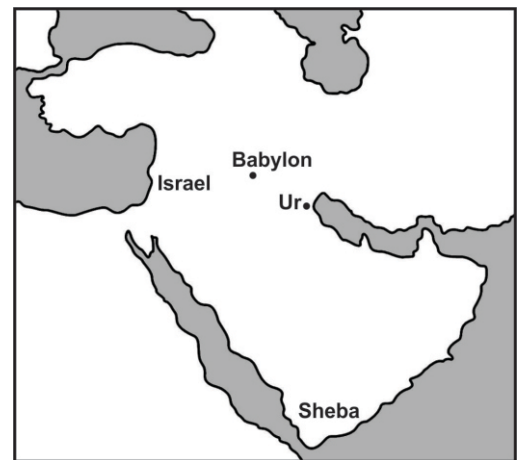
▣ IMPLIES a flat earth

#### 3. Earth Surrounded by Circumferential Sea

LOGICAL notion. Due to the phenomena of:

- travellers in the ancient Near East (ANE) eventually came to a body of water
- visual impact of horizon

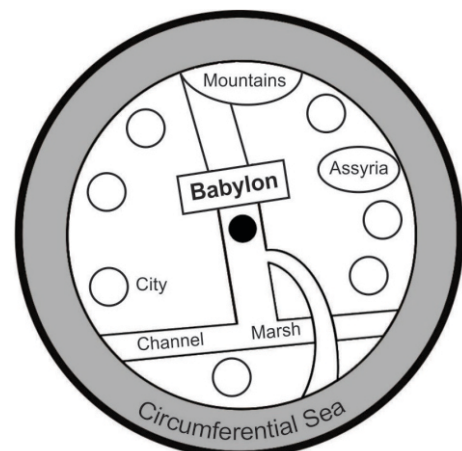
### Geography of the Ancient Near East (ANE)



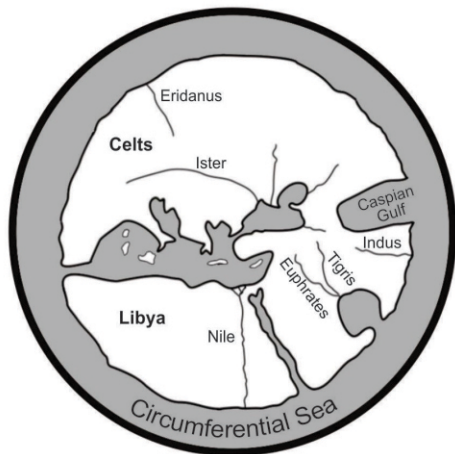
### Creation of Circumferential Sea

God inscribed a **circle** on the surface of the deep.  
Prov 8:27. *Proverbs Creation Account* (8:22-31)  
God inscribed a **circle** on the surface of the waters.  
Job 26:10. *Job Creation Account* (26:7-14)

### Babylonian World Map (6<sup>th</sup> century BC)



## Greek World Map (6<sup>th</sup> century BC)



### 4. Earth is Circular

EXPLICITLY stated in Scripture

God sits enthroned above the **circle of the earth**.  
Is 40:22

#### Classic Proof-Text

Christians claim that this verse refers to the outline of the earth from outer space & is proof that the Bible states the earth is spherical

#### READ THE ENTIRE VERSE!

God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, *its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.* Isa 40:22

universe like a tent with domed canopy & flat floor

IMPLICITLY stated in Scripture

There was a tree at the **centre of the earth**, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven and it was visible to **the ends of the whole earth.**" Dan 4:10-11

Only makes sense in a 3-Tier Universe:

with a flat earth could one see the tree from "the ends of the whole earth"

ie, shoreline of circumferential sea

impossible with a spherical earth

Babylon called the "centre of earth"

the tree & Babylon are not at the centre of a spherical earth which is 10,000 F!!!

### 5. Earth has Ends

Stated 50X

But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend, you whom I have taken from the **ends of the earth**, and called from its remotest parts [Ur]. Is 41:8-9  
Abraham from Ur (S. Mesopotamia) Gen 11:31  
Ur at shoreline of the circumferential sea

Jesus: The Queen of the South [Sheba] will rise at the judgment with this generation & condemn it; for she came from the **ends of the earth** to listen to Solomon's wisdom. Matt 12:42  
Sheba in the SW corner of Arabia

### 6. Earth has an Underworld

OLD TESTAMENT: *she'ol* 65X

The ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them ...

they went down into **the underworld**. Num 16:31-33

NEW TESTAMENT: *hades* 20X

Jesus: "You Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will go **down to hades.**" Lk 10:15

Also called *katachthonios*

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

[1] in heaven and,

[2] on earth and,

[3] in the **underworld**,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:10-11

ΚΑΤΑΧΘΟΝΙΟΣ underworld, subterranean world

ΚΑΤΑ = down    ΧΘΟΝΙΟΣ = chthonic realm  
*kata*                    *chthonios*

### 7. Earth is Flat

NO passage in Scripture states: "The earth is flat."

Flat earth clearly IMPLIED in Scripture:

The devil took Jesus to a **very high mountain** & showed Him **ALL the kingdoms of the world.**

Matt 4:8

#### Earth-Dearth Argument

IF Scientific Concordism were true, and

IF God wanted to reveal scientific facts ahead of time,

THEN one would reasonably expect God to at least reveal the shape of the earth

EG, comparing it to ball, orange, etc.

**Hebrew** *'eres*

earth, land 2500 X in Old Testament

never referred to as a sphere or ball

**Greek** *gē*

earth, land 250 X in New Testament

never referred to as a sphere or ball

## Conclusions

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

[www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure](http://www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure)

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

*I Love Jesus & I Accept Evolution* (2009)

[www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure/ancient\\_science.pdf](http://www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure/ancient_science.pdf)