

Apologetics Stuff

A Little Discussion...of Literal
Events...Literarily Covered in
Gen 1 - 9



The Biblical Text

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth existed waste and void, and darkness [was] over the face of the abyss, but the Spirit of God was roving over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light! And God saw the light, that [it was] good, so God distinguished between the light and the darkness. Then God named the light "day," and He named the darkness "night." Then there was evening, then there was morning, one day.

Gen 1.1-5

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the expanse and distinguished between the water under the expanse and the water over the expanse, then it was so. Then God called the expanse "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.

Gen 1.6-8

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry [land] appear," then it was so. Then God named the dry [land] "[earth/land]," and the gathered water He named "seas." And God saw that [it was] good. Then God said, "Let the land [cause the sprouting of] vegetation: plant yielding like seed, tree fruit making fruit after its kind with seed in it upon the earth, then it was so. So the earth was [set to produce] vegetation, plant yielding like seed according to its kind, and tree making fruit (with) seed in it according to its kind, then God saw that [it was] good. Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] third day.

Gen 1.9-13

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let there be lights in [the] expanse of the sky to distinguish between the day and the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be for lights in [the] expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth," then it was so. So God made the two great lights, the great[er] light for dominion of the day and the less[er] light for dominion of the night, and the stars. So God placed them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth, and to have dominion in the day and in the night and to distinguish between the light and the darkness. And God saw that [it was] good. Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] fourth day.

Gen 1.14-19

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let the water swarm with [a] swarm of living creature[s] and let flyers fly over the earth across the face of the expanse of the sky." So God created the great [sea] serpents and every living, creeping creature that swarms the water according to their kinds; and every winged flyer according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good. Then God enriched them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the water in the seas, and let the flyer multiply on the earth." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] fifth day.

Gen 1.20-23

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth [a] living creature to according to its kind: beast and creeper and creature of the earth according to its kind," then it was so. So God made the creature of the earth according to its kind, and the beast according to its kind, and every creeper of the ground according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good. Then God said, "Let Us make humanity in Our image, according to Our likeness, so they may rule over fish of the sea, and over flyer of the sky, and over the beast, and over all the earth, and over every creature creeping upon the earth. So God created humanity in His image; in [the] image of God He created them, male and female He created them.

Gen 1.24-27

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

Then God enriched them. Then God said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it and rule over fish of the sea, and over flyer of the sky, and over every creature creeping upon the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I give to you every plant producing seed that's upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which [the] fruit of [the] tree produces seed: let it be for food for you. And to every creature of the earth and to every flyer of the sky, and to every creeper upon the earth in which [is the] breath of life: every green plant for food," then it was so. And God saw all that He'd made, and behold: [it was] very good! Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] sixth day.

Gen 1.28-31

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

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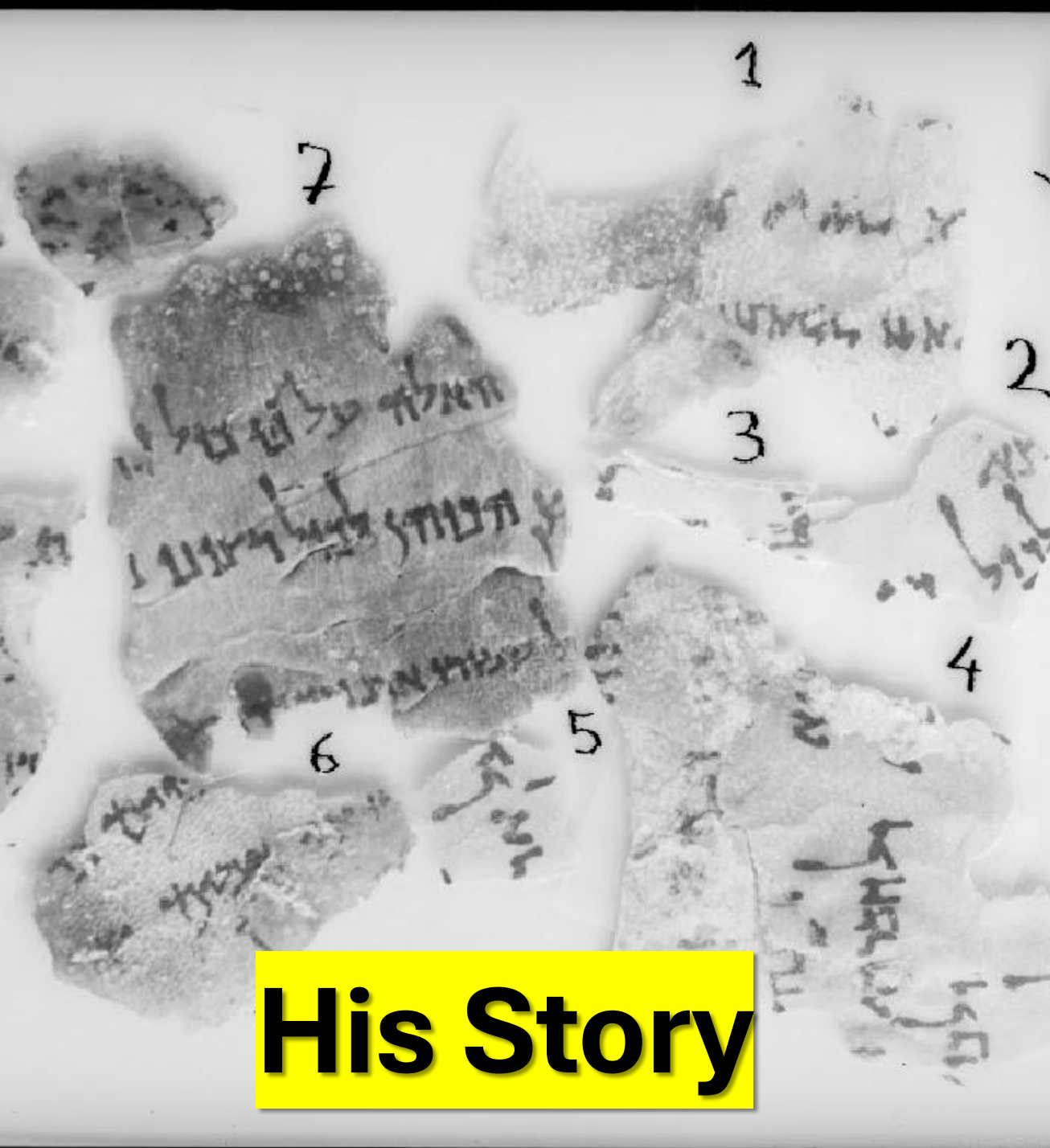
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Then the heavens and the earth were completed, and all [the] host of them. So God completed by the seventh day His work that He had done. So He desisted by the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God enriched the seventh day and consecrated it, because by it He had desisted from all His work that He had creatively done.

Gen 2.1-3

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC



His Story



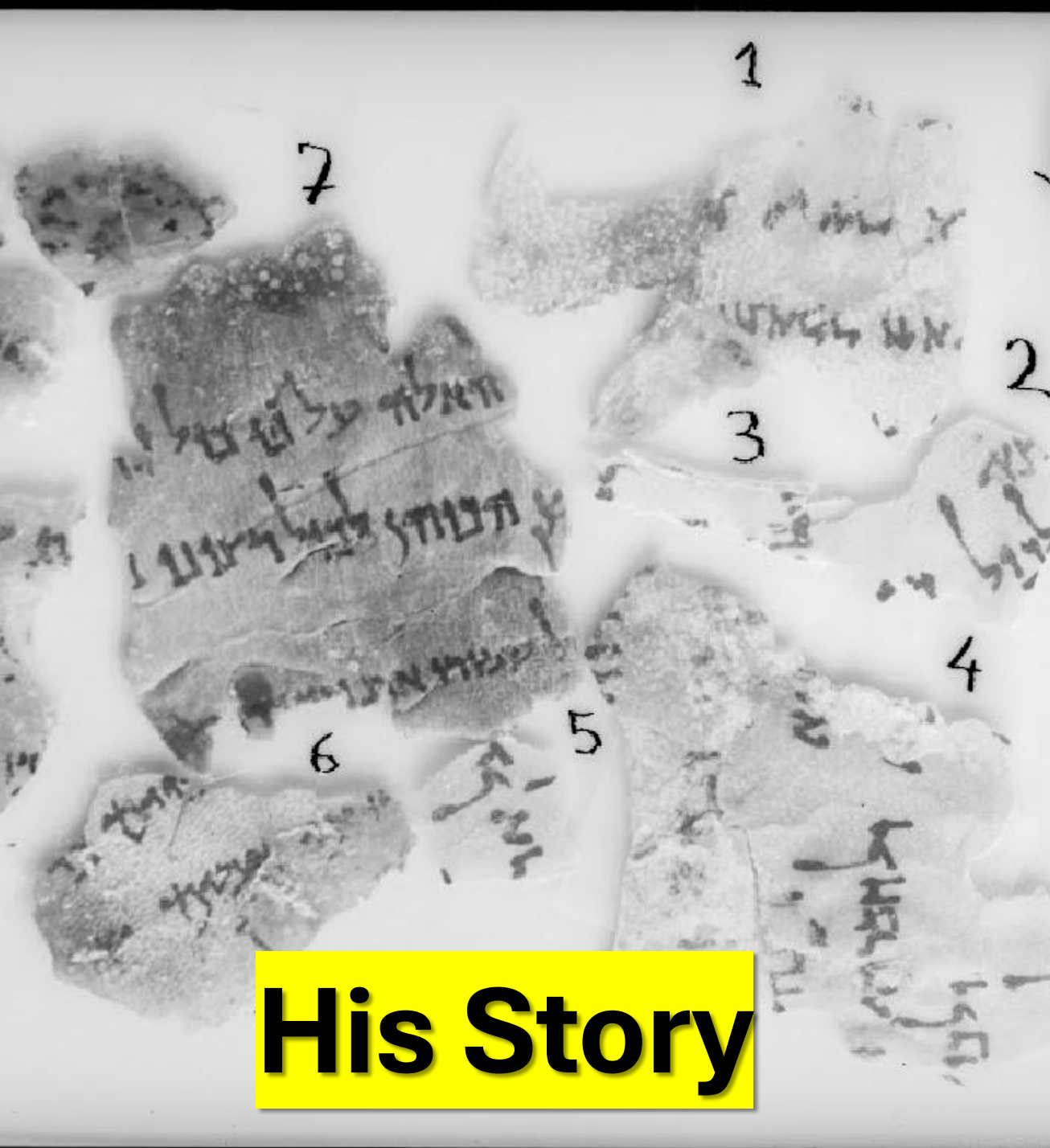
Our Story

The Modern Western Origin Story

Variations of 'here's a universe that's expanding; it might contract, too. There was a singularity that exploded matter into the universe, and some of that matter eventually formed the earth and life upon it, changing drastically over sufficiently long periods of time into what we observe today.'

Many Articles and Books

Lots of people; ca. 19th – 21st cent. AD



His Story



Our Story

But...the Demands of Philosophy?

- The argument by Hans Küng (1928-2021)
 - There's a lot of uncertainty about the universe but...
 - Denying the existence of God renders the concept of reality totally untrustworthy.
 - Nihilism would be the only safe option, which people can't maintain in practice.



But...the Demands of Philosophy?

- Kūng's Two choices
 - #1: Is there any room for trust in reality or not?

A) “either the universe is a 'home' for humanity full of meaning and value”

OR

B) “it is a sheer happenstance devoid of any transcendent purpose”



But...the Demands of Philosophy?

- K ng's Two choices
 - #2: If you chose 'fundamental trust,' then uncertain reality either...
 - A)** "has a ground and source that overcomes . . . absolute uncertainty" (it is ruled by divine providence)
 - OR
 - B)** "it does not" (it is ruled by chance)



But...the Demands of Philosophy?

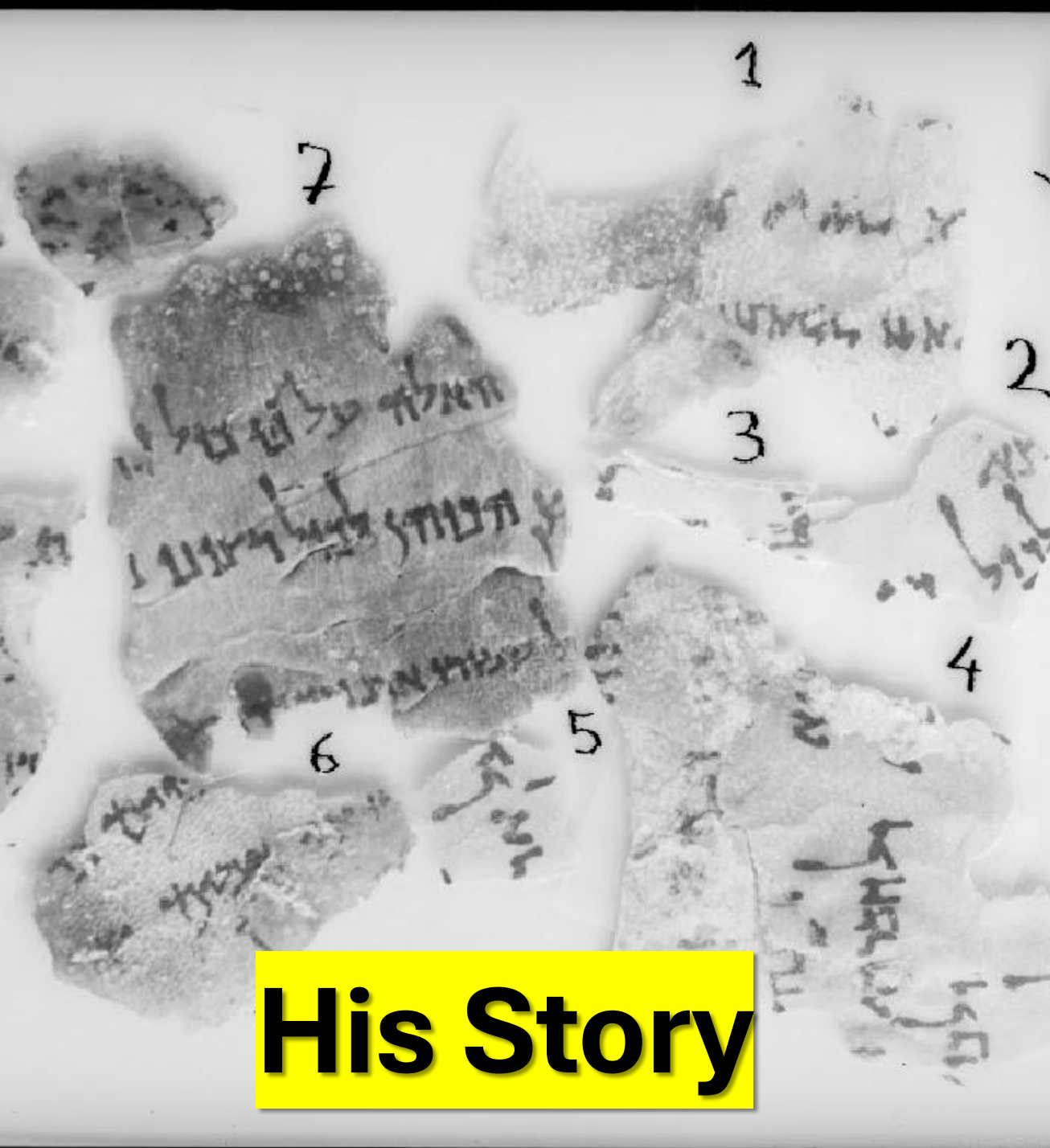
- Küng's Conclusion

- Atheism is an option, but

- “The choice to believe that reality is ruled by . . . God is rationally justified because it provides ground and support to fundamental trust, whereas atheism does not.”

- **Note for today:** Atheism, or anything that's built on atheism, rejects the supernatural, and remodels the natural, by ignoring our **own nature**.





His Story



Our Story

But...Believing the Big Bang & the Bible?



- Appealing to a wide Christian audience, but...
- Not exegetically robust and...
- Maybe a little “Procrustean” in practice...



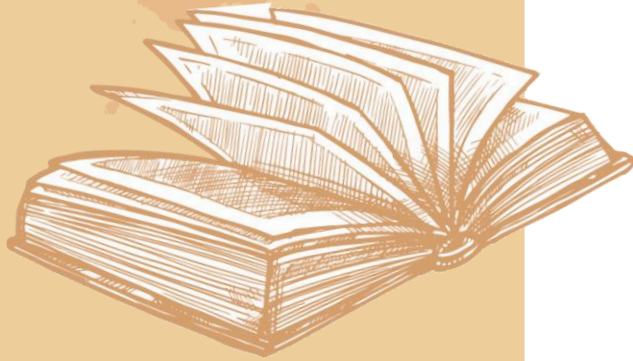
Enter Procrustes...

“[Theseus] slew Damastes, whom some call [Procrustes]. He had his dwelling beside the road, and made up two beds, one small and the other big; and offering hospitality to the passers-by, he laid the short men on the big bed and hammered them, to make them fit the bed; but the tall men he laid on the little bed and sawed off the portions of the body that projected beyond it.”

Pseudo-Apollodorus, *Epitome* 1.4,

1st - 2nd cent. AD

But...Believing the Big Bang & the Bible?

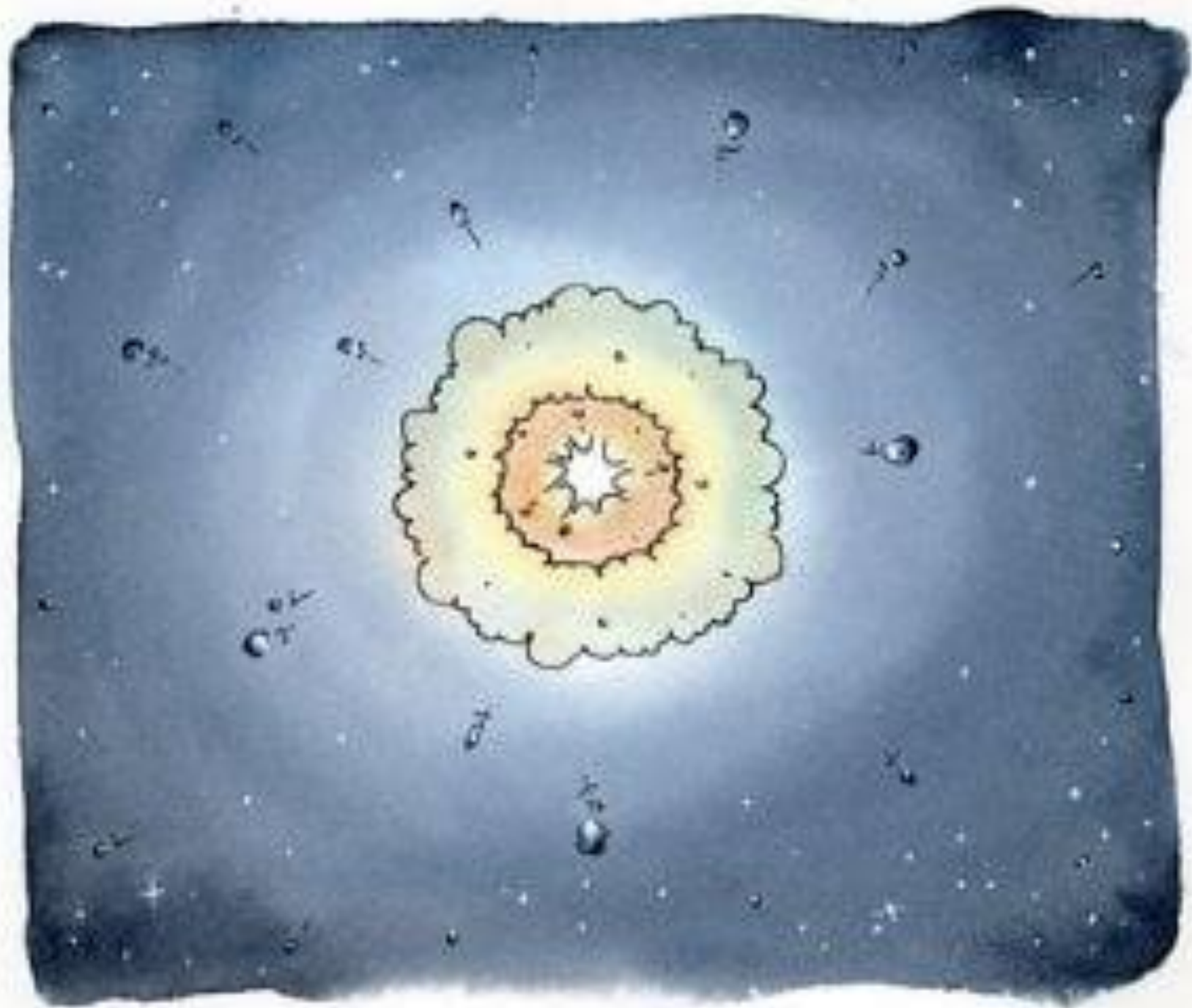


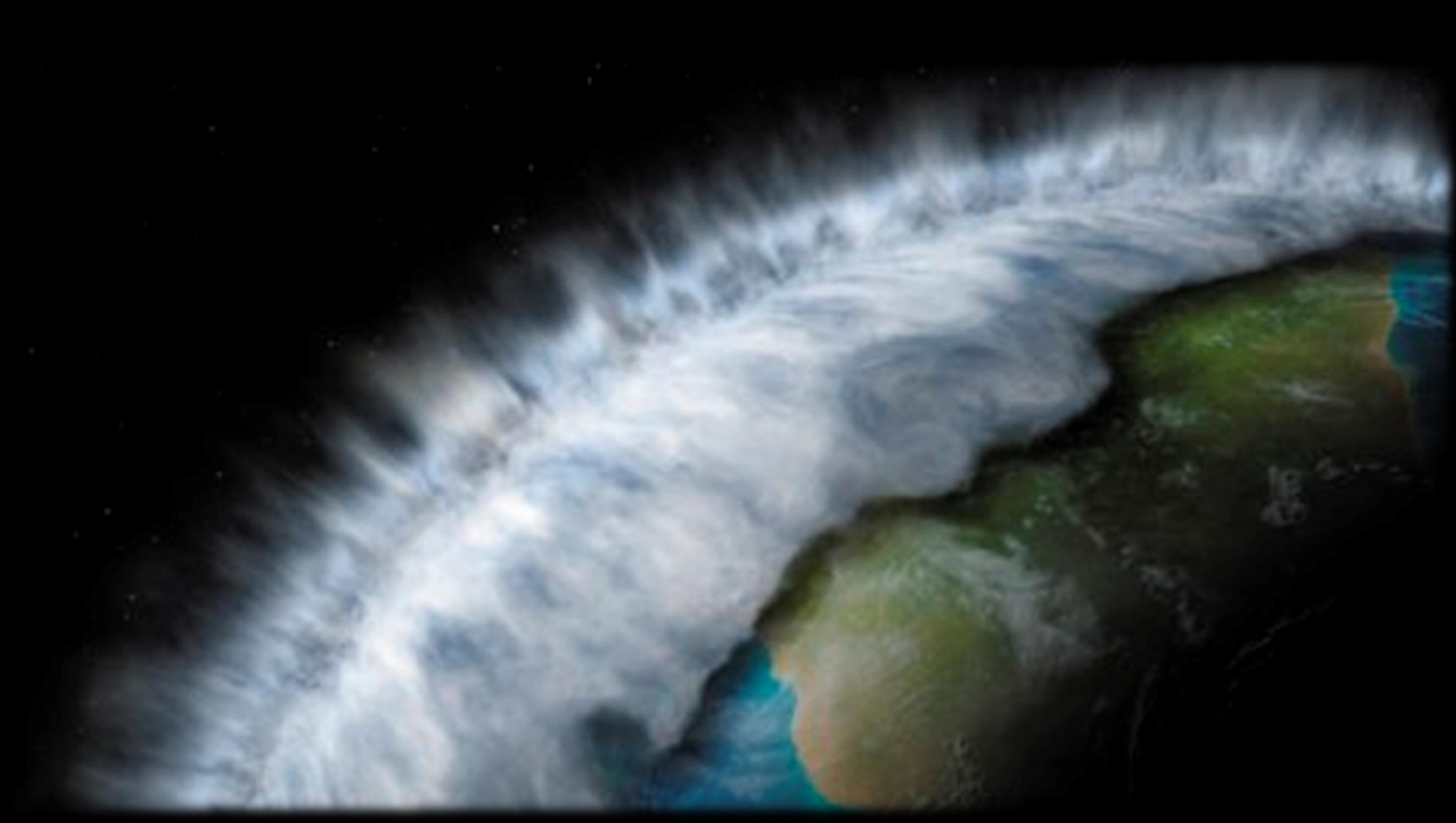
- Appealing to a wide Christian audience, but...
- Not exegetically robust and...
- Maybe a little “Procrustean” in practice...
- If you want this...do better?

Important Exegetical Things for Genesis 1

- Not written to us first, or to us alone
 - Written for their understanding before ours (i.e., *yom*/"day")
- Informs a Late Bronze Age cosmology
 - Earthbound viewshed (no NASA pictures)
- Anti-Chaotic/Anti-Competitive
 - Originally anti-pagan
 - Not great for universal natural selection (remember: philosophy!)
- Not Poetry, Not Scientific









The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let there be רָקִיעַ between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the רָקִיעַ and distinguished between the water under the רָקִיעַ and the water over the רָקִיעַ, then it was so.

Then God called the רָקִיעַ "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.

Gen 1.6-8

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

*Then God said, "Let there be an **expanse** between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the **expanse** and distinguished between the water under the **expanse** and the water over the **expanse**, then it was so. Then God called the **expanse** "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.*

Gen 1.6-8

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

*Then God said, "Let there be a **firmament** between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the **firmament** and distinguished between the water under the **firmament** and the water over the **firmament**, then it was so. Then God called the **firmament** "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.*

Gen 1.6-8

Moses; ca. 1430~1240 BC

The Biblical Text

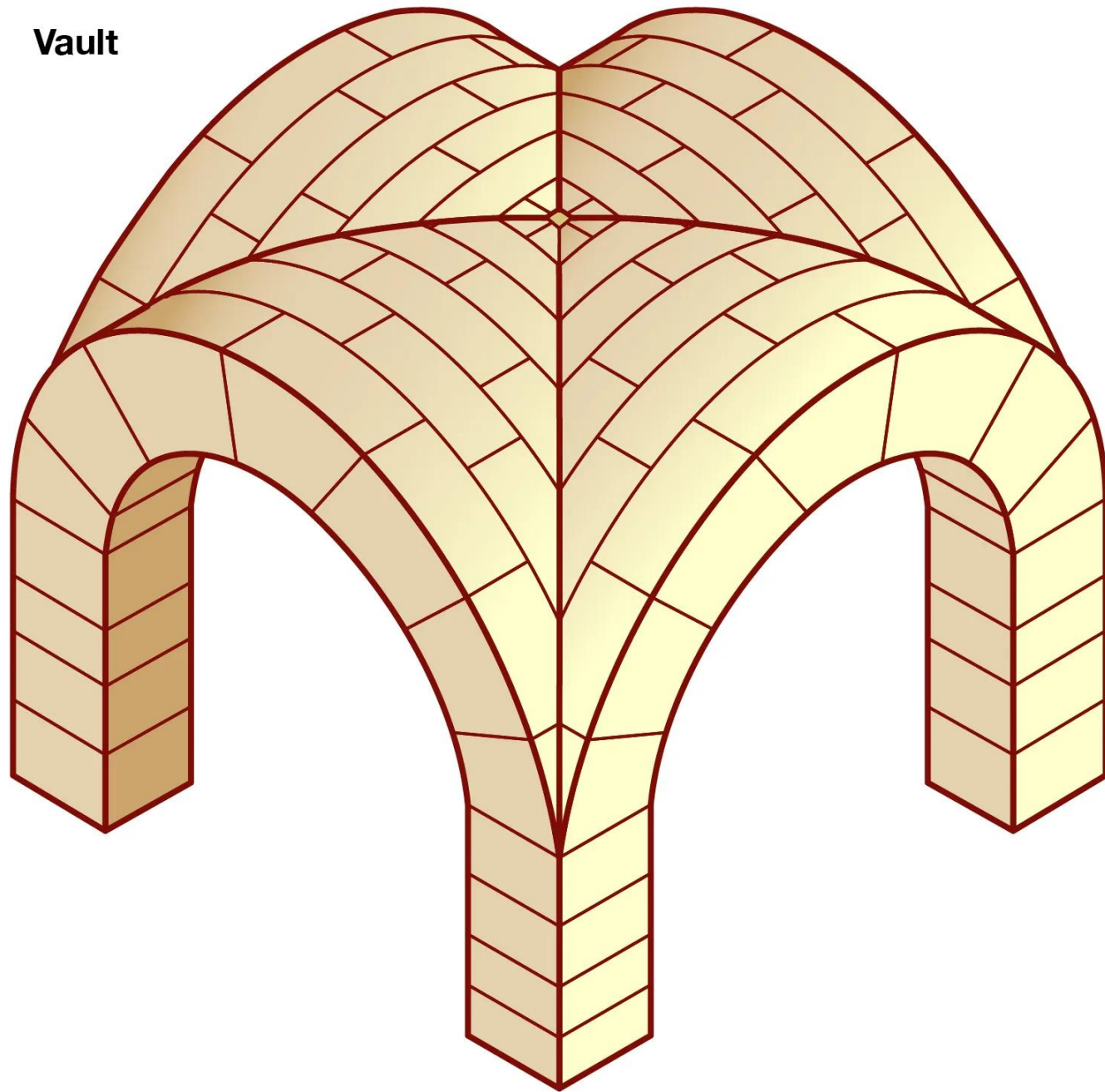
Then God said, "Let there be a vault between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the vault and distinguished between the water under the vault and the water over the vault, then it was so. Then God called the vault "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.

Gen 1.6-8

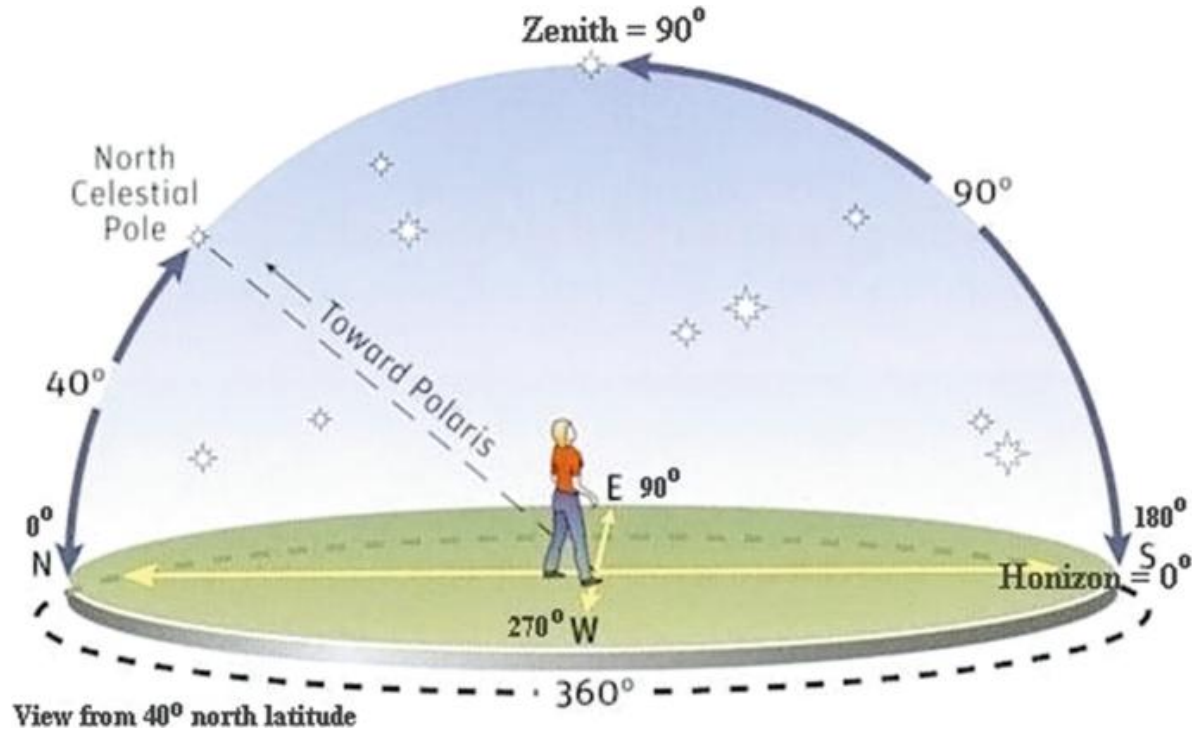
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Vault

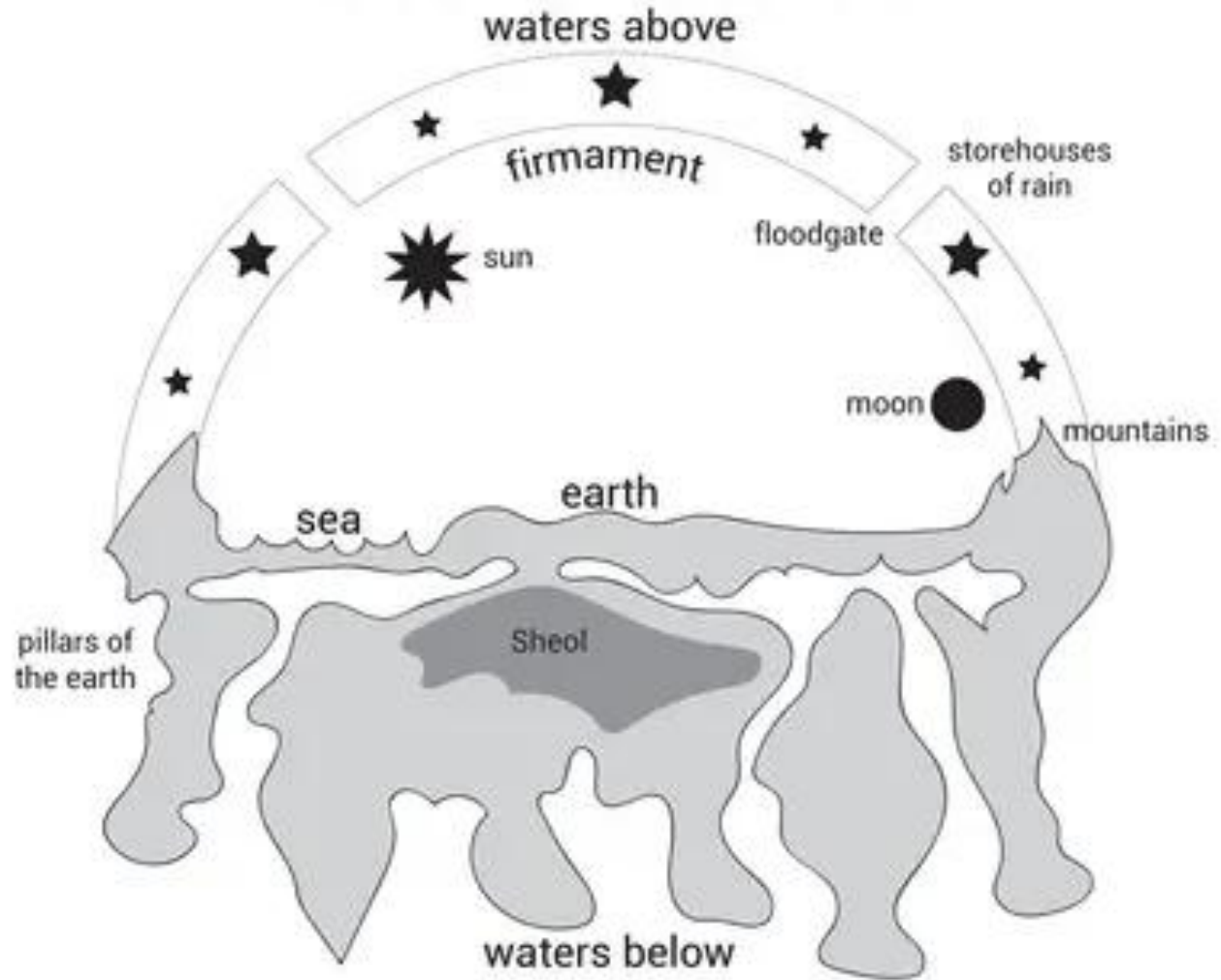


ASTRONOMY INSTRUCTIONS



2021 AD

ANCIENT NEAR EAST COSMOLOGY



1500+ BC

The Biblical Text

Then God said, "Let there be a vault between the water, and let it distinguish water from water. So God made the vault and distinguished between the water under the vault and the water over the vault, then it was so. Then God called the vault "sky." Then there was evening, then there was morning, [a] second day.

Gen 1.6-8

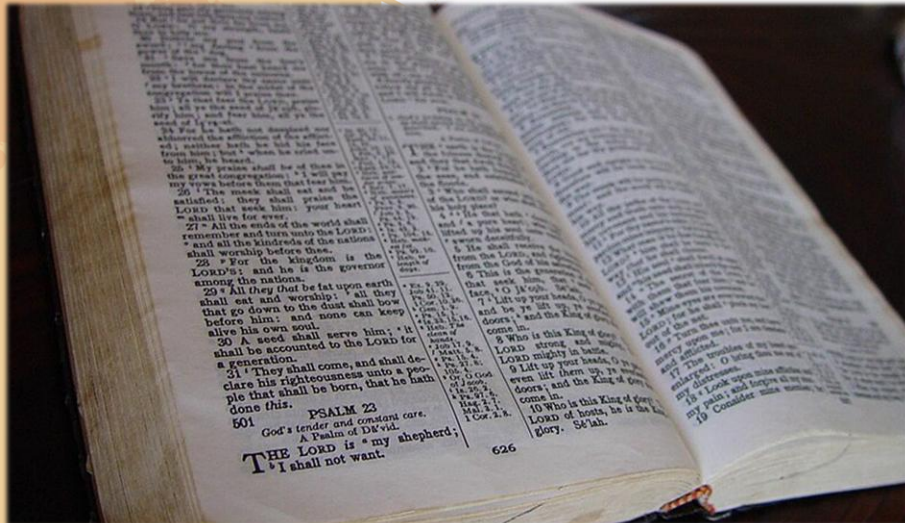
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- Not Poetry, Not Scientific
 - **"Calendar Narrative"?** (Cf. Exod 20.8-11)



The Lost Earth of Genesis 1-9

Approaching the
Primeval World

Geofacts & Ecofacts of the Primeval World of Genesis 1-9

- Universal, galactic, solar systemic, and planetary formation
- Planetary fertilization (advent of plants, animals, and sentient sapiens that can reproduce)
 - “Dinosaurs”
 - Primarily vegetarian sapiens
- Planetary Aquatic Submersion

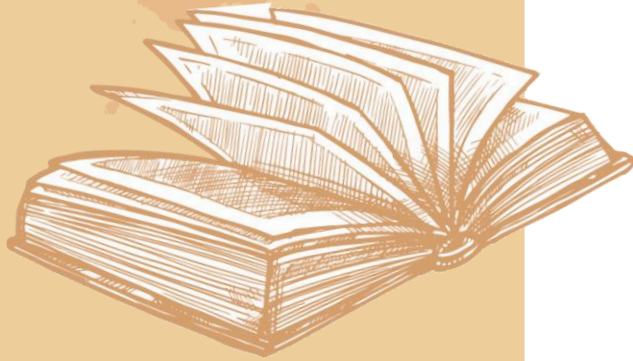
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Six days...But How Long Ago?

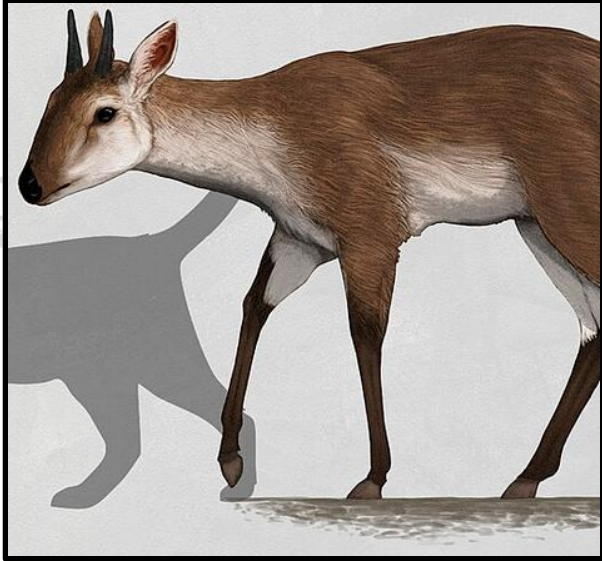


- I'm just beginning to be aware of this. Things to sort through include existing and future scholarship on...
 - Different types of genealogies in the Bible
 - Literary patterns of time keeping in ancient Near Eastern cultures
 - A detailed evaluation of methods used in the 17th century AD during a Christian push to date Earth
 - Archaeological models of human civilization
 - Restraining evolutionary assumptions
 - Statistical modeling for population growth

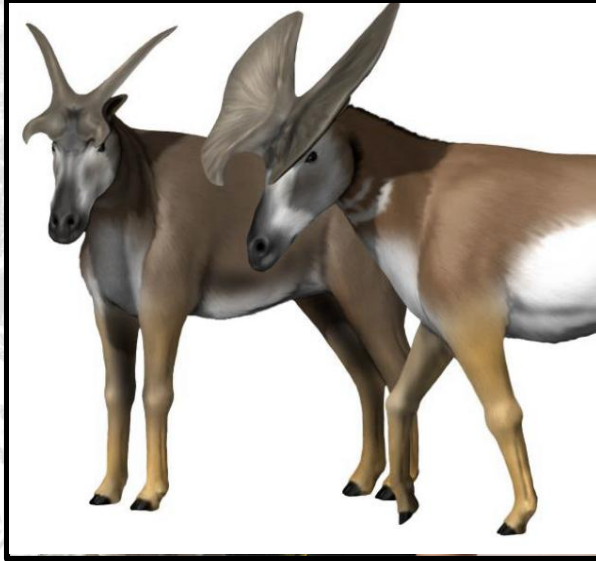




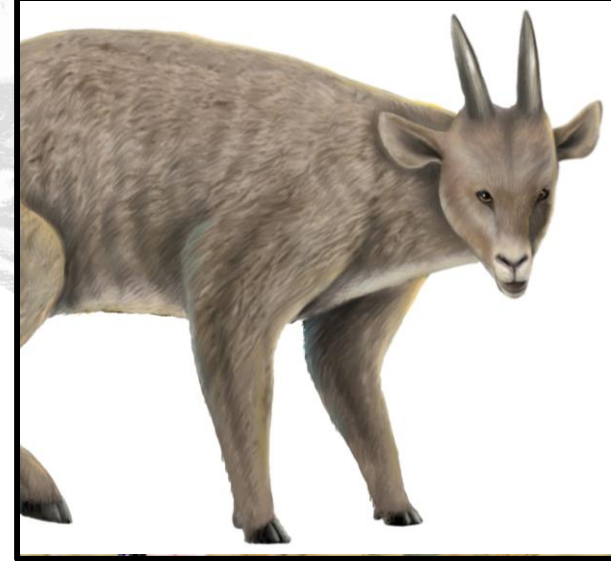
“Now Abel [was a] pastoralist of flocks.” –Gen 4.2



Eotragus



Prolibytherium



Myotragus

Bovidae

Antilopinae

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Gen 1.29-30

Then God said, "Behold, I give to you every plant producing seed that's upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which [the] fruit of [the] tree produces seed: let it be for food for you. And to every creature of the earth and to every flyer of the sky, and to every creeper upon the earth in which [is the] breath of life: every green plant for food," then it was so.

And fear of you and dread of you will be upon every creature of the earth and upon every flyer of the sky. Everything which [is] moving [on] the ground and every fish of the sea are given into your hand. Every moving [thing] that lives for you it will be food. Like [the] green plant, I now give to you everything.

Gen 9.2-3

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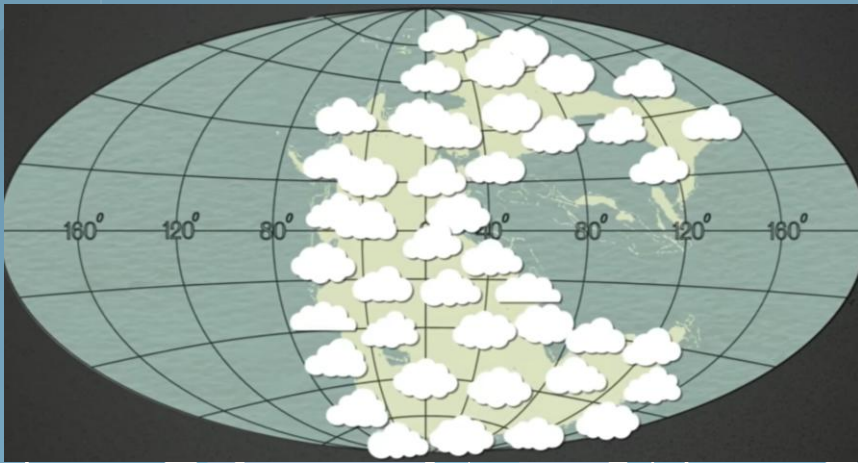
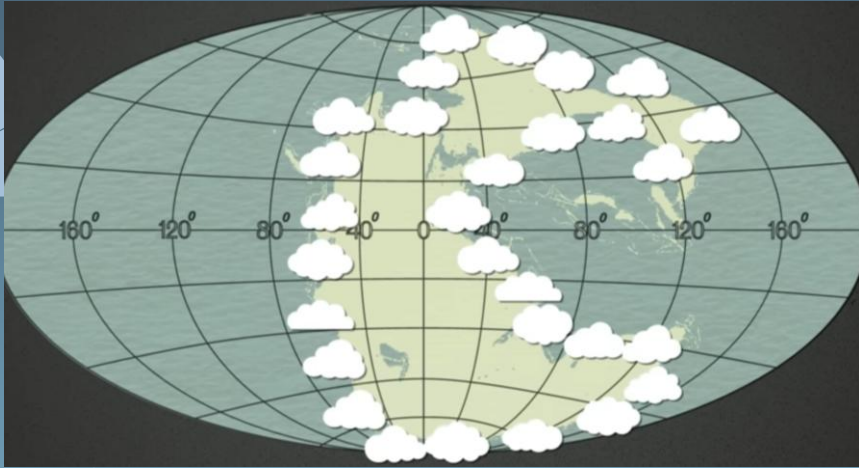
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Planetary Aquatic Submersion: Traditional Testimony

Planetary Aquatic Submersion: Positivist Testimony



“Carnian Pluvial Episode” Model

- Evident terrestrial wetness equal to 1–2 million years of heavy rain (uniformitarianism)
- Triggers significant changes to the surface of the planet and life upon it

Planetary Aquatic Submersion: Biblical Testimony

Gen 6–9/Historical Model

- Sentient society and culture already achieved
- No prior rain (apparently)
- ~370-day aquatic catastrophe (briefer, harsher, multidirectional)
- Text isn't focused on new phase of the planet, but on covenant





Artifacts of the Primeval World of Genesis 1-9?

- **No site on the surface of the earth could reasonably have survived the Flood intact**
 - Some skeletal remains could be intact because decomposition would have finished after the flood receded; older skeletons should not be intact
 - **The survival of anything we made beforehand in terms of craftsmanship, architecture, urbanism, or agriculture would be improbable**



“The Silurian Hypothesis”

Schmidt, Gavin A. and Adam Frank.

Cambridge University Press, 2018.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1473550418000095>

“The Silurian Hypothesis”

- Thought experiment: Could we detect an industrial civilization (like our own) if one arose in the distant past?
- From the Study: We would be dependent on observable material remains (archaeology), as well as the carbon, radioactive, & thermal footprint of the civilization
- From the Study: The lower the impact on the environment (means of work, production methods, agricultural strategies), the smaller the detectable footprint
- My biblical archaeological inference:
 - It's unreasonable to expect to find a sedimentary surface from the time between Adam and Noah; it would be too partial, and buried deep below later geological layers
 - Primeval life wasn't advanced enough for a lasting footprint

