

# Biblical Earth Science and Astronomy

A 10-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

## Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

### About This Series

Biblical Earth Science and Astronomy is a 10-lesson series by Keith Blades in which he examines what the scriptures themselves teach about the structure, design, and purpose of the earth and the heavens. This is not a study in astrophysics, geology, or secular cosmology. It is an examination of what God says in his word about creation — approached through right division and dispensational understanding. Beginning with Proverbs 3 and the wisdom by which God founded the earth, Keith moves through Job 38, Psalm 104, Genesis 1, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, II Peter 3, and Revelation to build a comprehensive biblical picture of the three heavens, the structure of Eden, the role of angelic authorities, the effect of the flood on the heavens and earth, and the coming fire-judgment of the Day of the Lord's wrath. The series gives believers in the Dispensation of Grace a frame of reference for understanding what God has done, what Satan has usurped, and what will ultimately be gathered together in Christ in the dispensation of the fullness of times.



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### Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Introduction: what Biblical earth science is — and is not — and the wisdom foundation of creation (Proverbs 3 & 8)
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Job 38 and building terminology: the foundations, cornerstone, and measurements of the earth
<b>Lesson 3</b>	The three heavens: open firmament, closed firmament, and the third heaven where God dwells
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Design and function of each heaven: the curtain, the waters above, and the sun's circuit
<b>Lesson 5</b>	Jacob's ladder, the angels' home base on earth, and the geographical design of Eden
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Lucifer's fall, Satan's five 'I will' statements, and his usurpation of the second heaven
<b>Lesson 7</b>	Similarities between Eden and the third heaven; Ezekiel 28 and the covering cherub

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 8	Creatures of the heavens and earth: cherubims, seraphims, horses of fire, and God's rest
Lesson 9	The second heaven's structure and boundaries; principalities, powers, and the shape of the earth
Lesson 10	The flood (Part A) and Day of the Lord's wrath (Part B): judgment, fire, and the fullness of times

## Lesson Summaries

L1

### Introduction *The Bible as Our Textbook*

- This series examines what God says about the earth and heavens in scripture — not secular geology, astrophysics, or cosmology
- The goal is the most important kind of science: the knowledge of God's mind as revealed in his word

### Foundation Passage: Proverbs 3:13–20

- The LORD founded the earth 'by wisdom' and established the heavens 'by understanding' — creation was not capricious but purposeful
- Building terminology is woven into creation: God 'founded,' 'established,' and 'set in place' the heavens and earth
  - Proverbs 8:22–31 — Wisdom was present and active at creation, like a master craftsman
- Psalm 19 and the heavens declaring God's glory introduce the concept that the structure of creation communicates
- Genesis 1:1–2 provides the starting point: 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth' — singular 'heaven' and a formless earth

L2

### The Foundations of the Earth *Building Terminology in Job 38*

- Job 38 opens with God questioning Job out of the whirlwind about the foundations of the earth — using unmistakable building language

### Key Passage: Job 38:4–7

- 'Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?' — foundation, cornerstone, measurements, line stretched upon it
- The morning stars sang and the sons of God shouted for joy when the earth's cornerstone was laid — angels witnessed creation
- Psalm 104 confirms the foundations of the earth, which 'shall not be removed for ever'
- The 'ordinances of heaven' and their 'dominion in the earth' (Job 38:33) reveal a governing relationship between the heavens and earth
  - The earth has pillars, a foundation, and a cornerstone — language that presupposes purposeful architectural design
- These building concepts are not figurative ornament but provide the

interpretive key for understanding creation throughout scripture

L3

### The Structure of Creation *Three Heavens and the Firmaments*

- Psalm 104:1–2 — God stretches out the heavens like a curtain, like a tent: a structural image for the heavens

#### The Three Heavens Identified

- First heaven (open firmament): the atmosphere where birds fly, weather occurs, and the sun and moon are visible (Genesis 1:6–8)
- Second heaven (closed firmament): a distinct realm above the atmosphere, separated by a barrier — the domain of principalities and powers
- Third heaven: the dwelling place of God, where he sits enthroned and where the New Jerusalem exists
- Genesis 1:7 — ‘waters above the firmament’ establish that there is water stored above the second heaven in the third
  - II Corinthians 12:2 — Paul was caught up to the ‘third heaven’, confirming the distinction of realms
- The earth was ‘without form and void’ (Genesis 1:2): God’s forming and filling across six days reflects master-builder activity

L4

### The Three Heavens in Detail *Design and Function of Each Realm*

- The open firmament (first heaven) functions as the environment for life on earth: atmosphere, weather, light distribution, and the paths of the sun and moon
- The curtain of Psalm 104:2 is stretched out as a tent — the firmament serves as both boundary and canopy over the earth

#### The Sun’s Circuit (Psalm 19)

- The sun goes out from one end of the heavens and its circuit is unto the other end — it moves within the structure of the first heaven
- The closed firmament (second heaven) is a barrier that separates the first heaven from the third; it was originally a barrier to the earth
- The third heaven is where God dwells — a real, tangible place with mountains (Isaiah 14), a garden (Ezekiel 28), and a city (Hebrews 12:22)
  - The waters above the firmament (third heaven) are stored as the source of future hail and judgment (Job 38:22–23)
- Understanding the three heavens is essential for reading the prophets, the Psalms, and Revelation with accuracy

L5

### Angels, Eden, and Earth’s Design *Jacob’s Ladder and the Pattern of Heaven*

#### Key Passage: Genesis 28:12–14

- Jacob’s ladder is set upon the earth with its top reaching heaven — the angels ascend first, then descend: the earth is their base of origin
- This establishes that the angels’ home territory, in God’s original design, is the earth — not the heavens

- The garden of Eden (Genesis 2) was placed at the geographical center of God's purpose for the earth — four rivers flowing from it
- Psalm 48 — Mount Zion as the center of the earth; God's program with Israel is anchored to the land near Eden
  - The Promised Land is in the geographical region of the original Eden — this is not coincidental but by design
- God's plan called for the earth to be the dwelling place of man and angels together under his rule — a unified domain
- The pattern of the third heaven (God's house) is reproduced on the earth: tabernacle, temple, and ultimately the New Jerusalem on earth

L6

## Lucifer's Fall and Satan's Usurpation *The Second Heaven and the Policy of Evil*

### Key Passage: Isaiah 14:12–14

- Lucifer's five 'I will' statements outline his attempt to ascend from the earth to God's throne in the third heaven
  - 'I will ascend into heaven' — 'I will exalt my throne above the stars of God' — 'I will be like the most High'
- Lucifer was originally on the earth — his ascent was a usurpation of the second heaven as a base of operation
- Satan is now the 'prince of the power of the air' (Ephesians 2:2) — enthroned in the second heaven with his principalities and powers
- Ephesians 6:12 — 'principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, wicked spirits in the heavenly places'
- Revelation 12 — war in heaven: Satan and his angels are cast down; the second heaven is eventually cleared
  - Colossians 1:16 — all thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers were created by Christ and for Christ — Satan's occupation is temporary

L7

## Eden, the Garden of God, and the Third Heaven *Similarities Between Earth and Heaven*

- Ezekiel 28:13 — Satan was in 'Eden, the garden of God' in his original estate, covered with precious stones
- The 'holy mountain of God' (Ezekiel 28:14) is a reference to the mountain in the third heaven, not a mountain on earth

### Parallels Between Eden and the Third Heaven

- Both have a garden (Genesis 2; Ezekiel 28), a river (Genesis 2:10; Revelation 22:1), a tree of life (Genesis 3:24; Revelation 22:2), and precious stones
- Ezekiel 1 and 10 — the cherubims with four faces and four wings guard God's throne and reflect the original glory of Eden's keeper
- Isaiah 6 — seraphims with six wings attend the throne of God in the third heaven
  - The 'sense and sequence of edification': understanding these passages requires reading them in light of what God has already taught in earlier passages
- Revelation 21–22 — the New Jerusalem as the renewed and perfected Eden

brought to earth in the dispensation of the fullness of times

L8

### **Creatures of the Heavens and Earth** *Living Creatures, Angelic Armies, and God's Rest*

- Genesis 1:20–23 — fifth day: creatures of the sea and fowl of the air; the word 'created' reappears, marking a significant act

#### **Creatures of the Heavens**

- Isaiah 6 — seraphims with six wings; Ezekiel 1 and 10 — cherubims with four faces; Revelation 4 — four living creatures around the throne
- Genesis 1:24–25 — sixth day: cattle, beast of the earth, and creeping things — the earth populated with life
- II Kings 2:11 and 6:17 — horses of fire and chariots of fire: God's armies in the heavens are real and observable
  - Psalm 68, Habakkuk 3, and Revelation 19 — the Lord comes with his heavenly armies in power and glory

#### **God's Rest (Genesis 2:2–3; Isaiah 40)**

- God rested on the seventh day — not from weariness but because creation was complete and operating as designed; Isaiah 40 confirms he does not faint or tire

L9

### **The Second Heaven: Structure and Boundaries** *Principalities, Powers, and the Shape of the Earth*

- Psalm 115:16 — 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men' — a clear division of domains

#### **The Stories of the Second Heaven**

- Amos 9:6 — 'stories' built in the second heaven; Genesis 6 and Ezekiel 42 also use three-level (story) architecture
- Colossians 1:16 and Ephesians 1:21 — governmental authorities: thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers fill the second heaven
- Daniel 10 — Gabriel was withstood 21 days by the prince of Persia — real spiritual warfare occurring in the second heaven
  - Job 38:19–24 — paths of light and darkness, treasuries of snow and hail — features of the third heaven beyond the second

#### **The Shape of the Earth**

- Job 26:7 — 'He hangeth the earth upon nothing' — the earth is suspended in space; Psalm 139:15 — the 'lowest parts of the earth' indicating a spheroid form

L10

### **The Flood, the Fire, and the Coming Judgment** *Part A and Part B of God's Wrath Against Ungodliness*

- II Peter 3:5–7 — the 'heavens of old' and the world that perished by water (Part A) vs. the current heavens and earth reserved unto fire (Part B)

#### **Part A: The Flood**

- Genesis 7:11 — the fountains of the great deep broken up and the windows

of heaven opened: judgment from both earth and sky

- The flood altered the heavens and earth; Job 9:1–10 speaks in past tense of the earth shaken from its place and the sun commanded not to rise
- Jude 6 — the angels who left their first estate precipitated the flood; the flood removed the barrier between the first and second heavens

#### **Part B: The Day of the Lord's Wrath**

- Isaiah 24:1–6, 17–23 — the windows on high opened again; hail and fire; the earth reeling like a drunkard; the sun and moon confounded
- Revelation 6:12–17 — the sixth seal: the heaven departs as a scroll, mountains and islands moved; men hiding from the wrath of the Lamb
  - Ephesians 1:9–10 — the dispensation of the fullness of times: all things in heaven and earth gathered together in one in Christ

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## **Key Doctrinal Distinctions**

### **What Biblical Earth Science Is — and Is Not**

Keith establishes from the outset that this series does not engage secular astrophysics, geology, or cosmology. The subject is what God says about the earth and heavens in his word — understood through right division. The Bible is the most reliable and ultimate source of knowledge about the structure and purpose of creation. Science, at its best, observes; scripture reveals.

### **The Three Heavens: Distinct Domains with Distinct Purposes**

Throughout the series Keith distinguishes the three heavens with precision: (1) the open firmament, or atmosphere, where life on earth operates; (2) the closed firmament, or second heaven, a distinct realm above the atmosphere currently occupied by Satan's governmental hierarchy; and (3) the third heaven, the dwelling place of God, the location of the New Jerusalem, and the ultimate source of the waters above the firmament. Confusing these three realms leads to misreading virtually every passage that touches on the heavens.

### **Building Terminology and the Design of Creation**

God's use of building language throughout scripture — foundations, cornerstone, measurements, pillars, stories, curtain, doors, windows — is not decorative metaphor. Keith shows that these terms describe the literal architecture of creation as God himself designed it. Proverbs 3:13–20, Job 38, and Psalm 104 are the primary texts establishing this framework, which then unlocks Ezekiel, Isaiah, Revelation, and dozens of other passages.

### **Part A and Part B: God's Two-Stage Judgment Against Ungodliness**

Keith draws from II Peter 3 and Jude to establish that God's judgments against the ungodliness of this world come in two stages. Part A — the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Exodus judgments — altered the heavens and earth and set types for what is coming. Part B — the Day of the Lord's wrath —

will bring the fire judgment that Peter, Isaiah 24, and Revelation describe, plunging the earth back to a formless state before the new heavens and earth are established.

### The Scoffers of II Peter 3 and Dispensational Ignorance

The scoffers of II Peter 3:4 are not evolutionists. They are individuals within Israel’s remnant who deny the promise of the Lord’s coming because they are willingly ignorant of the flood’s significance and, more fundamentally, ignorant of the intervening dispensation of grace that has suspended God’s prophetic program with Israel. They believe in creation and know the fathers — their problem is denying what the prophets said about the Day of the Lord’s wrath.

## Key Scripture References

<b>Proverbs 3:13–20</b>	Wisdom and understanding as the foundation by which God created the earth and established the heavens
<b>Proverbs 8:22–31</b>	Wisdom present at creation as a master craftsman; rejoicing in the habitable part of the earth
<b>Psalms 104:1–5</b>	God stretches out the heavens like a curtain; lays the foundations of the earth so it cannot be moved
<b>Job 9:7</b>	God commanded the sun not to rise and sealed up the stars — Job speaks in past tense of the flood’s darkening effect on the heavens
<b>Job 38:4–7</b>	God questions Job: ‘Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?’ — cornerstone and morning stars
<b>Job 38:22–23</b>	Treasuries of snow and hail reserved for the time of trouble and the day of battle and war
<b>Job 38:31–33</b>	The ordinances of heaven (Pleiades, Orion, Arcturus, Mazzaroth) and their dominion set in the earth
<b>Job 26:7</b>	‘He hangeth the earth upon nothing’ — the earth suspended in space, consistent with a spheroid form
<b>Genesis 1:1–2</b>	God creates ‘the heaven’ (singular) and the earth; the earth without form and void; Spirit moves on the waters
<b>Genesis 7:11</b>	Fountains of the great deep broken up and windows of heaven opened at the beginning of the flood
<b>Genesis 28:12–14</b>	Jacob’s ladder: angels ascending first, then descending — the earth is their base of origin
<b>Isaiah 14:12–14</b>	Lucifer’s five ‘I will’ statements and his ascent into the second heaven to usurp God’s throne
<b>Amos 9:6</b>	‘Stories’ built in the second heaven — a three-level structure corresponding to the tiers of angelic authority
<b>Colossians 1:16</b>	All thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers created by Christ and for

	Christ
<b>Ephesians 1:9–10</b>	The mystery of God's will: the dispensation of the fullness of times — all things in Christ, in heaven and earth
<b>Ephesians 6:12</b>	Principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and wicked spirits in the heavenly places
<b>Daniel 10:12–13</b>	Gabriel withstood 21 days by the prince of Persia — real governmental warfare in the second heaven
<b>II Peter 3:5–7</b>	Heavens of old and the world that perished by water; current heavens and earth reserved unto fire
<b>Isaiah 24:17–18</b>	Windows from on high opened in the Day of the Lord; foundations of the earth shaken
<b>Revelation 6:12–17</b>	Sixth seal: great earthquake, sun black, moon as blood, heaven departs as a scroll, wrath of the Lamb

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