

Literal Metaphors

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The FLAT (phlat) Earthers use this passage to promote a molten glass dome over the earth and call that the firmament. They pretend that this is an impenetrable substance when the verse they quote does not say this at all.

Job 37:18, “Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?”

The trouble here is the word “as” is not the same word as “is”. The word “as” is a comparative word used in typology that shows the likeness. The word “like” is also the same type of word. So in the passage “...as a molten looking glass...” is not saying “...is a molten looking glass...” in fact just the opposite. The facts are in the passage, the words that are in comparison are the verbs: “molten” and “spread” and “strong”. The “looking glass” is a comparison to “the sky” but there is no equal or “is” in the passage to make them the SAME. To say they are the SAME is to court disaster in doctrine.

This sort of thing happens all the time in the Bible, and when people do NOT figure on the “as” or “like” to be comparative instead of “IS” then they produce a cult teaching. Things that are NOT the same are different. This is a way of teaching the Bible through similitudes. All the parables use this to teach something that cannot be seen with something that can be seen.

Hosea 12:10, “I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”

A similitude is what an allegory is and also a parable: Galatians 4:24, “Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.” God uses these things in the Bible to instruct in things that are invisible by things that are visible. Romans 1:20, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

Psalms 78:2, “I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:” and when God really wants to shake things up: He makes the parable a riddle: Ezekiel 17:2, “Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;” for His good reasons.

The trouble is we don't like it when God says something that is hard to understand. It is a bit confusing to us finite beings. Ezekiel 20:49, “Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?” So the disciples fulfilled this prophecy: Matthew 13:10-15, “And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore

speaking I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.” And the Lord answered then from the prophecy of Isaiah: Isaiah 6:9-10, “And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.”

The truth is that God has to hid from some people what He was doing because they were in league with Satan and so things were kept from Satan for a good reason.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16, “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

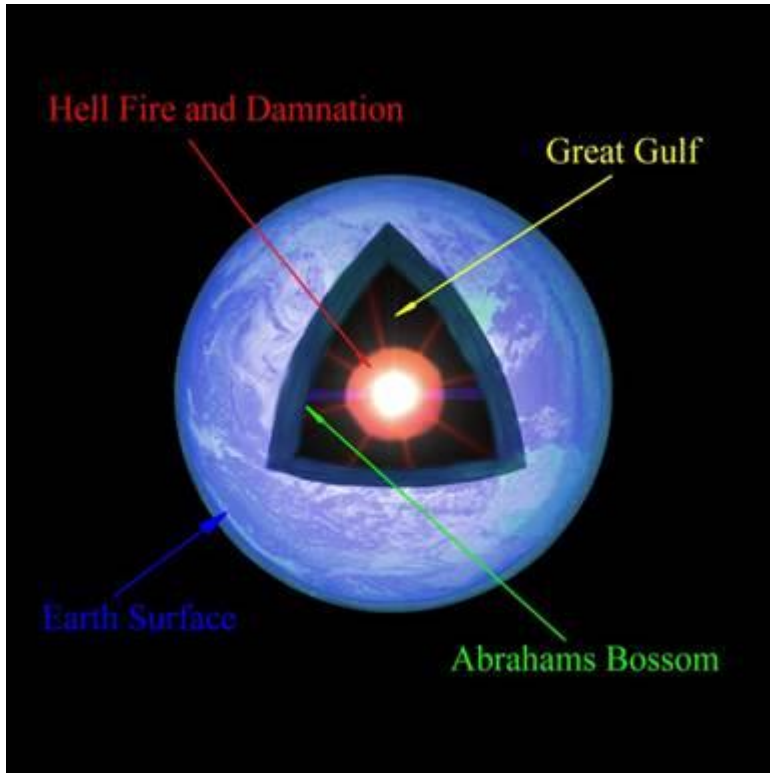
In particular look at verse 8, “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

1 Corinthians 4:5, “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

Ephesians 3:7-12, “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”

Colossians 1:26-29, “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”

So, the issues where certain passages containing “like” or “as” are subject to a deeper meaning, and NEVER means “IS” else you MISS the actual meaning and the words of God become the lie that you are teaching others. In this case, that the earth is flat, when it is NOT.



The facts remain that the earth is NOT flat or there is no “heart of the earth” and the location of hell is arbitrary. The “dome” goes all around the earth in reality not just a partial dome that connects to the earth, any more than hell connects to Abraham’s bosom.

There is an issue with anyone that forces the Bible to say something that it doesn’t say. The facts do not support a flat earth anywhere in the Bible.

Just because someone says it does, is not proof that it does without looking closely at what they are saying and what the Bible actually does Say.

There is good reason to belie that the “flat earth” nonsense is a rouse to through many off track in their Christian walk. Dealing with this issue from the Bible Believing view will dispense with it and show it for what it is. Going along with it is what causes believers to falter, and become so engaged with it that it becomes all consuming. This is an earmark of a cult.

If you want more information please see my web site for this and many other topics of Bible Study.

