

BIBLE ADVENTURE 3:
CREATION - Firmaments Old and New
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Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, “Let there be a firmament (or vault) in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament, and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

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Discovery Treasures:

In Bible Adventures 1 and 2 we discovered that God created the HEAVENS...but in this Adventure we see that He also created a firmament (or vault), and He called *the* firmament Heaven. Do you find it interesting that God created the HEAVENS, then He created *a* firmament and called it HEAVEN?

Let's dig a little deeper for a discovery. The Bible says that God created a firmament to divide waters from waters. According to some Bible scholars the Earth was apparently covered in water, and surrounded by vapor (clouds). God created the firmament to become the “space” (sky) between the waters. After the separation, the waters above the earth provided a protective greenhouse over the Earth. The space between the water-covered Earth and the clouds is the space, or firmament, God called Heaven.

FIRMAMENT: Heaven or sky. An expanse.
The space between the stars and the planets.

By using the definition of firmament we can better understand the difference between the HEAVENS and HEAVEN. The HEAVENS are the firmaments (skies/expanses) between the stars and the planets all throughout the universe. HEAVEN is the firmament (space) between the earth and the blue of the sky.

EXPANSE: An uninterrupted space or area, a wide extend to anything.
Something that is spread out, especially over a relatively large area.

What happens when someone passes away? I believe their body is buried or cremated, and their spirit goes to the current Heaven. The Bible tells us that the spirits of the people who believe in Jesus depart when they pass from this earth. (Psalm 146:4)

Did you know that God promised to create a NEW HEAVEN? An awesome place where we can live with God for eternity if we've accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. How cool is that? The new HEAVEN (for sure) is filled with God's glory! There will be no more crying, no more sorrow, no more death, and no more pain because the former things will have all passed away (Revelation 21).

When God created the first HEAVEN He created a place that is perfect, joyous and peaceful, and beyond our comprehension because of sin. It's a place God calls home.

Often times we wonder why bad things happen on this Earth to people who believe in God. Earth, as we know it now, is full of sin, fear, death, disasters, and evil. But great news! God is with us to help us through every situation of every day. No matter how big or how small the problem may seem to us, God is right beside us to guide us through.

God doesn't always just make the problem stop and never return. More often than not He leads us through the problems, and by going through them we learn valuable lessons here on Earth. These valuable lessons help us share God with others going through the same kinds of trials.

Sometimes we tend to focus on just the "bad" things on this EARTH. Rest assured, God did not make these things happen. It's the sin of this world that has brought about the disasters and catastrophes. But did you know that God promised not only a new HEAVEN, but also a new EARTH! Let that sink in.

So yeah...there's really going to be not only a new HEAVEN, but also a new EARTH! When I stop and think about it I imagine being able to snowboard without falling or getting frost bite. I imagine being able to surf and not have to even think about sharks! I imagine camping without mosquitoes. And then I imagine hiking mountains without the fear of falling over the edge. And whether those things are there or not, I'm sure whatever God has for us on the new EARTH will be amazing!

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CREATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize Genesis 1:6-8

On a separate sheet of paper, draw a line in the middle. On the top half draw your idea of what the first earth and heaven looked like before the firmament. And on the lower half draw your idea of what the new HEAVEN and the new EARTH will look like.

What are some of your favorite things that you hope to find on the new EARTH? (examples: what kind of animals, activities, shops, trees, flowers, houses etc.)

Get your imagination and creative juices flowing! Do you think that God will have stuff in the new HEAVEN and on the new EARTH that we don't know about? If so, describe some of those things to each other.

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TIME TO TALK TO GOD:

Say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for creating Heaven. Living forever in Heaven with You is what I want to do. I am willing to change my ways to Your ways. I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Please forgive me for my sins. Thank you for opening my heart to follow Jesus so that I may live forever with You in Heaven. Amen.