

disk, contracting still further, became the hot sun. The gaseous outer portion of the disk, magnetically connected to the spinning sun, moved outward and cooled, condensing to form the orbiting planets.

There are three reasons why I mention this particular scientific theory:

- (1) Most of the contemporary theories of the origin of the solar system are similar to the Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory.
- (2) This theory is not in conflict with the Biblical facts, but fits them rather well. The dark, tenuous, disk-shaped-nebula concept fits rather well with the Biblical statement, "And the earth was without form (or unformed), and empty; and darkness was upon the face of the deep."
- (3) This theory fits the scientific data quite well.

This fourth event, the creation of our solar system, provided for both light and for day and night, since it is the earth's rotating motion in relation to the sun that gives us the alternating periods of daylight and darkness which we know as day and night. This is in perfect accord with the scriptural account in which we read, "And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night." (Genesis 1:3-5)

Event #5 (recorded in Genesis 1:6-8) -- God's Mediate Creation of the earth's atmosphere, and the subsequent separation of water above the surface of the earth from water covering the surface of the earth.

The word translated "firmament" in Genesis 1:6, 7, 8 -- רָקִיעַ (raqiya) means "that which is stretched out, an expanse." Our proposal is that this expanse was the atmosphere, or what we call the sky (in the near sense of that word). In verse 8 of Genesis 1, God calls this expanse "heaven."

Our present atmosphere is a rather thin blanket covering the surface of the earth to a height of about 100 miles. It is comprised of nitrogen (78%), oxygen (20.9%), water vapor, and small amounts of argon, carbon dioxide, neon, helium, methane, and other gases. It should be noted that nitrogen and oxygen comprise 98.9% of the total volume of atmospheric gases.