

# **The Invisible Kingdom**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 1:6-8.

B. Many Christians find it best to avoid the teachings of Genesis 1.

C. Science today desperately needs Genesis 1 in order to understand reality. Science and revelation need each other.

II. God moving throughout the universe is characteristic of all of revelation—He is moving towards a goal.

## III. Principles of interpretation.

A. The timing of creation is not specified in the creation account. The days are likely references to seasons.

B. The material universe is a reflection of a spiritual reality.

IV. The movement of evening to morning reflects a movement from ignorance to understanding.

## V. God stretched out the atmosphere.

A. The primary function of the atmosphere is not to support life but to provide a platform for the suspension of billions of gallons of water above the earth.

B. Without the atmosphere's ability to sustain great amounts of water above there would be no life below.

C. There is a theory that the earth was surrounded by a water canopy before the flood that created more ideal living conditions. Perhaps it was the collapse of this canopy that caused the flood.

D. The spiritual reality.

1. There were heavenly waters and earthly waters.

2. Waters are a picture of life. (Revelation 17:15)

3. There is life in the present scene and there is life to come.

4. Blessing falls upon the just and unjust in the present situation to lead men to repentance.

5. Blessings decrease to the unbeliever but they increase to the believer who is open to the spiritual atmosphere about him.

6. Just as the water vapor invisibly travels to the heavens, so too one day the believer will go to heaven invisibly as well.

7. All this is designed to teach that there is a life to come.

E. Death is regarded as an enemy invader.

VI. The movement from evening to morning.

A. It is a period of incompleteness moving to completeness.

B. There was light and darkness—that is, there was both good and evil.

1. Throughout life, discernment will need to be exercised.

2. Life demands choices between these opposite poles.

C. There is a life now and a life to come.

1. The sickness of our day is the result of forgetting these facts.

2. The world seeks instant happiness.

3. This life is to find its fulfillment in the next life.

**Application questions:**

1. In what ways have you failed to notice the spiritual reality all around you? What steps can you take to grow in this area?

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2. Who do you know that exemplifies living for the life to come? How do they accomplish this?

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3. What examples come to mind of blessings decreasing for an unbeliever over time? Explain.

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