The Tent We All Dwell In: Why the Sky is Blue

by Jeremy James

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in"
- Isaiah 40:22

In our previous paper, **'The Host of Heaven and Our Stationary Earth: The Great Cosmological Lie'**, we saw how the sun and moon follow their respective circuits above the flat plane of the earth, the sun at an elevation of 3550 miles and the moon at 3370 miles.

This raises an interesting question. If the sun is in motion beneath the firmament, not above it, then how do we explain why the sky is blue?

The conventional view

Let's look first at the traditional scientific explanation, which states that the blueness of the sky is caused by a phenomenon known as Rayleigh Scattering. This alleges that the white light from the sun is slightly absorbed by the atmosphere at it passes through it, but that this occurs mainly in the shorter wavelengths at the blue end of the spectrum. The atmosphere comprises mostly nitrogen and oxygen molecules which just happen to be the right size to deflect light at these shorter frequencies. This scattering effect takes place throughout the atmosphere and gives rise to its distinctive – and very beautiful – blue color.

Here is how the website, sciencemadesimple.com, describes this phenomenon:

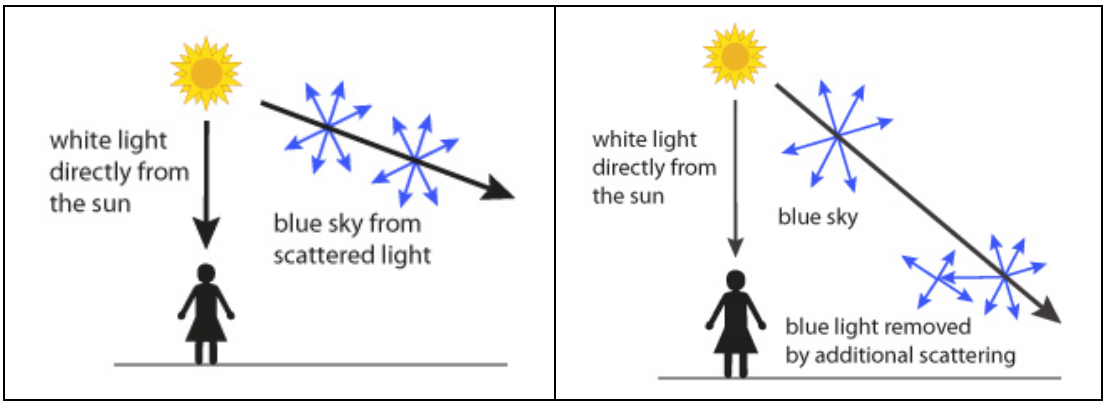
> "As light moves through the atmosphere, most of the longer wavelengths pass straight through. Little of the red, orange and yellow light is affected by the air. However, much of the shorter wavelength light is absorbed by the gas molecules. The absorbed blue light is then radiated in different directions. It gets scattered all around the sky. Whichever direction you look, some of this scattered blue light reaches you. Since you see the blue light from everywhere overhead, the sky looks blue."

The UK Meteorological Office website, metoffice.gov.uk, gives a similar explanation:

> "When the sun's light reaches the Earth's atmosphere it is scattered, or deflected, by the tiny molecules of gas (mostly nitrogen and oxygen) in the air. Because these molecules are much smaller than the wavelength of visible light, the amount of scattering depends on the wavelength...Shorter wavelengths (violet and blue) are scattered the most strongly, so more of the blue light is scattered towards our eyes than the other colours. You might wonder why the sky doesn't actually look purple, since violet light is scattered even more strongly than blue. This is because there isn't as much violet in sunlight to start with, and our eyes are much more sensitive to blue."

Both websites also draw attention to the fact that the blueness of the sky is slightly paler near the horizon and offer the same explanation for this phenomenon. The sciencemadesimple website states:

> As you look closer to the horizon, the sky appears much paler in color. To reach you, the scattered blue light must pass through more air. Some of it gets scattered away again in other directions. Less blue light reaches your eyes. The color of the sky near the horizon appears paler or white.



Serious flaws

The Rayleigh Effect may have satisfied the scientific community, but it has several serious flaws:

1. The light falling directly on the woman in the graphic is white, which means it contains an equal amount of all the color frequencies. None of the blue component has been scattered or washed out – if it had then the light would not be white. If the scattering effect is common to all parts of the sky, which it must be, then the light reaching the surface of the earth can never be perfectly white.

2. The scattering effect should also work on wavelengths shorter than blue, to wit indigo and violet. So why doesn't the sky look purple? The explanation offered by the UK Meteorological Office is amusingly illogical:

   > "You might wonder why the sky doesn't actually look purple, since violet light is scattered even more strongly than blue. This is because there isn't as much violet in sunlight to start with, and our eyes are much more sensitive to blue."

   Firstly, there is no scientific evidence that our eyes are "more sensitive" to blue. Studies show that our eyes are incredibly sensitive to millions of shades of colour throughout the visible spectrum. Therefore the suggestion that, while the sky might be slightly purple, this added chromatic factor cannot be detected by our eyes due to an imagined deficiency is highly disingenuous.

   Secondly, the Met Office is also wrong when it states that "there isn't as much violet in sunlight to start with." One only has to look at photos of the rainbow to see that the indigo and violet component of the spectrum is just as prominent as the blue component – see Appendix A.

3. The two websites state that the blueness of the sky is attenuated near the horizon because the light from there had to travel through a greater amount of air. This allegedly causes the amount of scattering in the blue light to increase, but this is contradictory. Either atmospheric scattering increases the amount of blue light reaching our eyes or it causes the amount to decrease, but it cannot do both. [The sky is probably a lighter shade of blue near the horizon because it is slightly diluted by light reflected from the ground.]

In short the phenomenon known as Rayleigh Scattering is unscientific.

So why *is* the sky blue?

The sky *looks* blue because the sky is blue. It's that simple.

As we saw in our last paper, the LORD placed a canopy or "firmament" over the earth at the time of Creation. This is the great solid vault in which the stars are fixed:

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

"And God set them [the stars] **in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth" (Genesis 1:17)**

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in" (Isaiah 40:22)

This "tent" that we dwell in is the sky above our heads – and the tent is blue.

As the Word of God says, it is "strong" and like a "looking glass". This would suggest that it is both solid and reflective. It would need to be unusually strong given that it separates the waters below from the waters above:

> **"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And 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." (Genesis 1:6-7)**

Since water is mentioned so often in the early verses of Genesis, it is quite possible that the firmament itself is made of water. If so, then the "tent" is a wall of ice. Given that the upper atmosphere is extremely cold, there is no reason why an extended structure of this kind could not exist indefinitely.

If the firmament is made of ice it would also explain why the sky is blue. When subjected to extreme pressure, ice acquires a beautiful blue tint. This is sometimes seen in icebergs which have calved from ancient glaciers, as in the photos below:

In each case the blue color is inherent in the ice and is not produced by unusual atmospheric conditions. This can be seen very clearly in the following photo, where the blue layer was subjected to extreme pressure and later incorporated, along with subsequent layers of compressed snow, into an iceberg:

Conclusion

The sun in its daily circuit illuminates the flat, stationary earth beneath it. However it also illuminates the firmament above it. The sky is blue, not due to any optical scattering effect, but to the simple fact that the firmament itself is blue. Given the significance of water in the Creation account, the firmament is very likely made of pure ice.

Incidentally, if the sun illuminates both the earth and the firmament, then it may lie mid-way between the two. If so, then the firmament is about 7000 miles above the earth. This could be tested by measuring the elevation of selected stars at the same time from different locations on earth and then using simple trigonometry to compute their distance.

Furthermore, if the firmament is both reflective and translucent (like ice) then it would capture light from stars in other parts of the night sky and reflect it toward the earth. This very faint light could be detected through powerful telescopes, which would explain why astronomers continue to find 'additional' galaxies.

Finally, if the LORD made something that everyone on earth can see every day, something that probably still looks like it did in its original state, then we would expect it to be very beautiful in itself and not simply a product of optical scattering. The sky above our heads, the tent we all live in, is a glorious daily reminder of the might and splendor of the wonderful God who made the world. Praise His holy Name!

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."
- Psalm 150: 1-2

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For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

APPENDIX A

Evidence that the purple component of natural light is just as significant as the blue component.