



FLAT EARTH THEORY: IS THE EARTH FLAT? DOES THE EARTH REST ON PILLARS? IS THE EARTH SHAPED LIKE A CIRCULAR DISC?

By George Lujack

It is the twenty-first century and there are still modern flat Earth societies proclaiming that the Earth is a flat disc-shaped planet. A renewed interest in the discussion of whether or not the Earth is flat has cropped up among some conspiracy theorists who believe, or claim to believe, that NASA and / or other organizations have been perpetuating the lie that the Earth is a sphere and have been covering up evidence that the Earth is a flat disc. This article will address the flat-earthier's claims and examine the Scripture verses that flat-earthiers use to justify their belief in declaring the Earth to be flat. This article will reveal that the Scripture verses used by flat-earthiers are misinterpreted and then misapplied, and will declare the Flat Earth Theory to be false.

IS THE EARTH FLAT?

There is no Scripture verse that plainly states that the Earth is flat. There are verses that allegorically proclaim that the Earth has corners, edges, and that the Earth rests on pillars.

ISAIAH 11:12; REVELATION 7:1; REVELATION 20:8:

From the four corners of the earth; at the four corners of the earth; in the four corners of the earth...

WHAT ARE THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH?

The Earth is not a flat rectangle or square, so Scripture's reference to the four corners of the Earth does not refer to literal corners. The central starting map location of Scripture is the nation of Israel. The four corners of the Earth are the compass points north, south, east, and west of Israel.

DOES THE EARTH REST ON PILLARS?

1 SAMUEL 2:8:

For the pillars of the earth belong to YHWH (the Lord) and He has set the world upon them.

JOB 9:6:

He shakes the earth out of its place, and the pillars tremble.

'Pillars' has more than one definition.

pillar:

1. A tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as support for a building, or as an ornament or monument.
2. Something shaped like a pillar: "a pillar of smoke"
3. A person or thing regarded as reliably providing essential support for something: "he was a pillar of his local community"

When all the various definitions of 'pillar' are applied to the Scripture verses that declare that the Earth rests on pillars, it should not be concluded that Scripture proclaims that a flat Earth rests on external physical pillar structures.

Scripture also refers to pillars as "pillars of smoke."

JOEL 2:30:

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

There are two applications of what Scripture refers to when saying that the Earth rests on pillars.

The pillars belong to YHWH (the Lord), according to 1 Samuel 2:8, so the pillars are a reference to God providing essential support for the Earth.

GENESIS 1:9:

Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so.

The continents (and oceans) rest atop giant slab pillars called tectonic plates that make up the Earth’s outer crust. These plates float like rafts on the hot, semi-liquid mantle below the crust. Slow-moving currents deep inside Earth send the plates (and the land or ocean that rests on them) slowly moving across the surface of the planet [1].

Pillars the Earth rests on that are mentioned in Scripture are a reference to internal pillars within the Earth. When God formed the Earth during the 6-day creation week, He raised the land from the waters to let the dry land (continents) appear. Scripture is referring to pillars within the Earth (tectonic plates) that God used as a means to raise the continents from the waters. The Earth does rest on pillars; they are internal pillars called tectonic plates. They could have easily been called tectonic pillars.

IS THE EARTH SHAPED LIKE A CIRCULAR DISC?

ISAIAH 40:22:

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...

When viewed from a high altitude, one can see the arc circle of the sphere of the Earth. The Earth is not declared to be a circular disc, according to Isaiah 40:22.

SATELLITE IMAGES OF THE EARTH

NASA and other space agencies have provided mankind with countless satellite images of a spherical rotating Earth [2] [3]. NASA is not a conspiracy agency supplying doctored Earth images and suppressing knowledge of a flat Earth, as flat-earthers maintain. Astronomy hobbyists have sent their iPhones into the edge of space using weather balloons and have provided further video evidence that the Earth is spherical [4] [5].

Scripture does not proclaim the Earth to be a flat circular disc. Flat Earth believers are either ignorant in understanding the true meanings of the Scripture verses used to proclaim a flat Earth or they intentionally twist the figurative language of Scripture to maintain their false Flat Earth Theory.

1. Encyclopedia Articles, “WHY DO EARTH’S CONTINENTS MOVE?,” Copyright © 2007 Dorling Kindersley, < <http://www.factmonster.com/dk/encyclopedia/continents.html> >.
2. “VISIBLE EARTH A catalog of NASA images and animations of our home planet,” < <http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/> >.
3. NASA Captures “EPIC” Earth Image, July 20, 2015, < <https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/nasa-captures-epic-earth-image> >.
4. Mashable, “Father and Son Launch iPhone Into Space [VIDEO],” OCT 17, 2010, < <http://mashable.com/2010/10/17/iphone-space-launch-video/#ktReCYGe8Pqt> >.
5. Clover, Julie, MacRumors, “iPhone 6 Gets Sent Into Space by Urban Armor Gear,” January 15, 2015, < <http://www.macrumors.com/2015/01/15/iphone-6-goes-to-space/> >.