



WHY "FLAT EARTH THEORY" IS SPREADING AGAIN NOW

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WHY "FLAT EARTH THEORY" IS SPREADING AGAIN NOW

Psychology explains why people believe irrational things like flat-earthism. Humans are not the rational, logical creatures we assume. We all have [cognitive biases](#), or mental short-cuts taken by our mind, that cause us to deviate from rational thinking. This [article talks about the common cognitive biases that lead people to believe conspiracy theories like flat-earthism](#).

While the cognitive biases explain why flat-earthism is believed at all, they do not explain why this belief is spreading again. Think about it: "flat-earthier" used to mean a person who believes or advocates an outlandish, discredited theory. Why is it now no longer just a euphemism, but a literal thing again?

I have my own answer for that: YouTube!

I began to realize how making a video of a theory could supercharge it. A video version could transform a weak and easy-to-ignore theory into something persuasive and even viral. All it has to be is complicated and developed enough for a person to wonder if it might be right ("If this is just 10% right, then...!") They then will share it with someone else to ask for help on whether "there is anything to this?"

In this way, false theories get spread around by email and social media even if the sender does not fully believe or endorse the theory! They may even share it with someone else to give them a laugh, not realizing that the receiver is not entertained, but is intrigued or even terrified by it! (Has that ever happened to you?)

YouTube has been a blessing in allowing anyone to publish a video for free and for others to view it for free. On the downside, false ideas also are easier to find and spread freely. People don't even need a camera to produce a teaching video. They can just do a PowerPoint of charts, pictures, and text and narrate it with their own voice. If they put up enough amazing coincidences and arguments that no single viewer will be able to explain away or answer (like the "200 proofs of a flat earth") and the video will leave viewers wondering if this person is onto something...

THE "FLAT EARTH BIBLE PASSAGES"

OK, so now you know how we got here on this topic. But you still want to know is it true or not, right? Especially as a Bible believer and reader you're probably a bit confused. Christians have supported several wrong causes because of misuse of the Bible. This happened because they took passages out of their grammatical context or did not comprehend the historical context and audience to which they were given. Plus, they ignored or twisted the other biblical passages that contradicted their view.

Flat-earthers citing the Bible as proof of a flat Earth are committing the same errors. They take many passages out of grammatical or historical context:

- They take poetic passages ([Psalm 75:3](#)) literally even though they are in the poetic genre. Psalms is, after all, a book of songs. Plus, interpreting the Bible literally does not mean you can ignore the clues that non-literal figures of speech are being used. It means we take things as literally as the context guides us to.
- They misunderstand what other passages like [Rev 7:1](#) mean when they speak of the "four corners of the earth." These meant the four cardinal directions: N, S, E and W. If you travel north long enough, you reach the north pole and cannot travel north anymore. You must turn south.
- When they say the Bible teaches geocentrism because it says the sun rises and sets and moves ([Ecc 1:5](#)) they forget that people who believe the earth goes around the Sun also use "incorrect" geocentric language when they refer to "sunrise" and "sunset." Observational figures of speech prove little about what people actually believe.

• The Bible Refers To A Spherical Earth

Also, flat-earthism requires you to ignore or twist the passages which speak of the Earth as round (just like the shadow of the earth cast on the moon during eclipses):

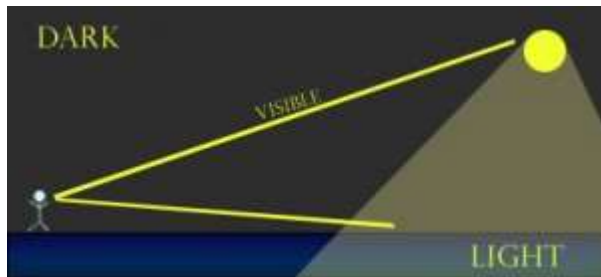
- [Isaiah 40:21-22](#) - "[God] sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers."
- [Proverbs 8:27-28 \(ESV\)](#) - "When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep..."
- [Job 26:7 \(ESV\)](#) - "He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing."
- [Luke 17:30, 34-36](#) - The day Jesus comes back he refers to as both "that day" and "that night."
- [Luke 17:30, 34-36](#) — On that day when the Son of Man is revealed... 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." 36 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left..."

- The prophetic passage in Luke speaking of people being in day and night simultaneously when Jesus returns requires just a little clear thinking to see why it tells us the earth is not only round (like the passages above do) but also must be a round sphere and not a round flat disk.

WHY EVEN THE "SUN AS A FLASHLIGHT" WOULD NOT EXPLAIN NIGHT

The flat-earthers claim that day and night can happen on a flat disk if the sun worked like a flashlight. However, even if the sun operated that way, nothing would stop the light flashing on one part of the disk from being visible from the other. We see this same diffusion of light at dawn and dusk. The sun may be beyond the horizon but the light is scattered through the atmosphere, reflected off the surface of the earth and to clouds and back again. Hence the dusk/dawn glow we are all familiar with.

Or think of a spotlight on a stage in a theatre and how the audience can see the light coming out of the light from the source and off the surface it is directed at.



- *Debunking the sun as a flashlight*

The only way to hide the light of the sun on one part of the earth from another is clearly by the parts being on opposite sides of an opaque ball that is illuminated on only one side.

Therefore the passage in Luke 17 speaking of people being in both day and night when Jesus returns shows an advanced understanding of the nature of the Earth. Think about it: back then you could not communicate with anyone on the other side of the earth as you can today to confirm what we all take for granted today about the function of day and night on our spinning blue marble.



FOUR SPANISH STUDENTS PUT TOGETHER AN INEXPENSIVE DIGITAL CAMERA WITH SOME SMARTLY HACKED-TOGETHER ELECTRONICS AND SENT THEM ALL INTO NEAR-ORBIT TO SNAP SOME IMAGES OF EARTH FROM ABOVE.



THE \$150 EDGE-OF-SPACE CAMERA: MIT STUDENTS BEAT NASA ON BEER-MONEY BUDGET

The two students (from MIT, of course) put together a low-budget rig to fly a camera high enough to photograph the curvature of the Earth. Instead of rockets, boosters and expensive control systems, they filled a weather balloon with helium and hung a styrofoam beer cooler underneath to carry a cheap Canon A470 compact camera. Instant hand warmers kept things from freezing up and made sure the batteries stayed warm enough to work.

Of course, all this would be pointless if the guys couldn't find the rig when it landed, so they dropped a prepaid GPS-equipped cellphone inside the box for tracking. Total cost, including duct tape? \$148.

The Photographs

The balloon and camera made it up high enough to see the black sky curling around our blue planet. The Canon was hacked with the [CHDK](#) (Canon Hacker's Development Kit) open-source firmware, which adds many features to Canon's cameras. The intervalometer (interval timer) was set to shoot a picture every five seconds, and the 8-GB memory card was enough to hold pictures for the five-hour duration of the flight.

The picture you see above was shot from around 93,000 feet, just shy of 18 miles high. It's short of the widely-accepted [Kármán line](#), which is at 100km (62 miles) up, but it's in the stratosphere, and it's still impressive. To give you an idea of how high that is, when the balloon burst, the beer-cooler took 40 minutes to come back to Earth.