

or sky, characterized by the layer of clouds that contain the water above it." ^2 The *expanse* is the same space in which the birds fly (Gen. 1:20).

It thus appears that Genesis 1:6-7 is describing the initial water and atmosphere formation on the Earth. This suggests that science and Scripture are again in harmony since they both describe the first significant event to take place in the early history of the Earth as water and atmosphere formation.

The succeeding verses (Gen. 1:8-9) lend further support to this view. In verse 8, "God called the expanse heaven." God's second day or epoch then ended. Verse 9 takes up the next significant event in the Earth's history: "Then God said, 'Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.' "