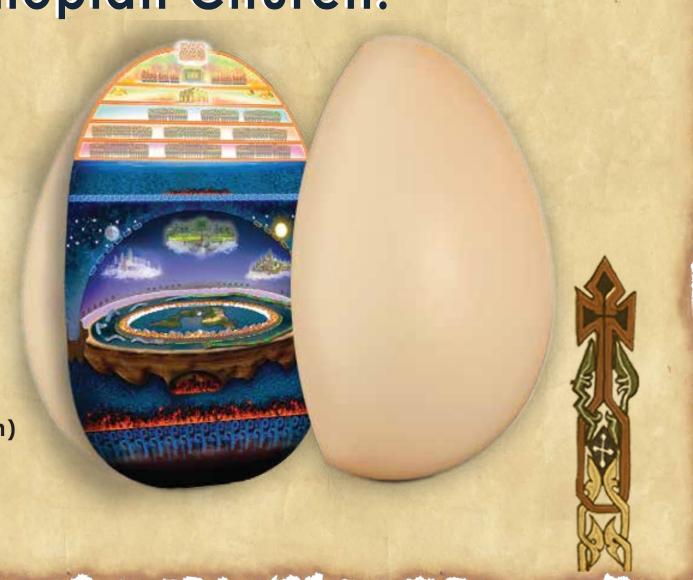


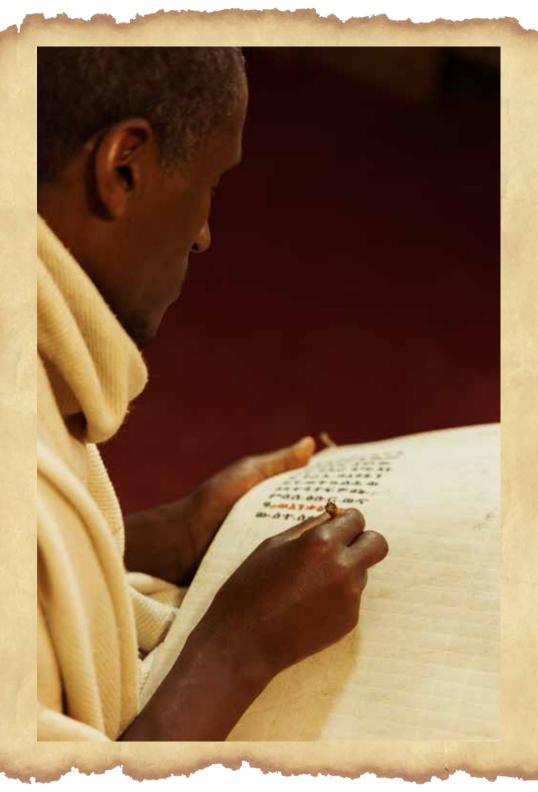
# The doctrine of creation according to the Ethiopian Church.

### Prepared by

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#### Introduction to Ethiopian church

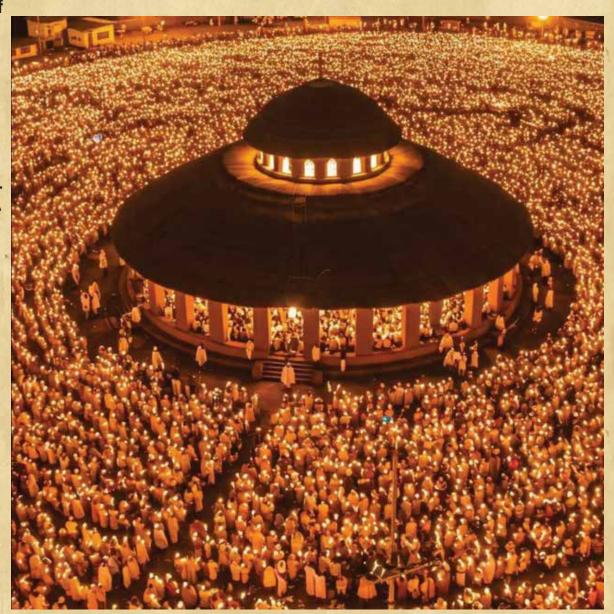
The Ethiopian Tewahedo Church is one of the oldest Christian churches in the world, with its origins dating back to the 4th century AD.

The Ethiopian Tewahedo Church uses the Ge'ez alphabet, which is one of the oldest alphabets in the world. The Ge'ez alphabet is still used today for the liturgical books and other religious texts of the Ethiopian Church.

The Ethiopian Tewahedo Church has a unique liturgical calendar, which includes many feasts and fasts that are specific to Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Tewahedo church is home to the Ark of the Covenant, and the true cross

The Ethiopian Tewahedo Bible is notable for its extensive canon, containing between 81 and 88 books, which is far more than the KJV. An expanded canon includes several texts not present in the KJV, such as the: Book of Enoch. Book of Esdras.



#### Awald books in the Ethiopian church

Awald means children, these books are children of the holy bible. The books are taken from the bible and composed for specific purpose.

- Theological Books
  - Haymanote Abew, writings of the Apostolic Fathers
  - The pastoral work of St. John Chrysostom.
  - Book of the mystery by Abba Georgis
- Books on the orders of the church
  - The liturgical book with the 14 Anaphora
  - The book of Baptism
  - The book of the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Books on Church administration and on counseling
  - Book on the Synod of the Apostles in four parts
  - The book on the Synod of Nicea
- Hymn books, mostly by Saint Yared
- Books on Calendar
  - Book of Abushakir
- Books on History
  - First writing on Zion
  - History of the Kings of Axum
  - History of the Kings of Zagwe
- Books on Lives and works of the Saints, martyrs,
   Monks, hermits and monastics from all the over the world that are known and chosen by God.
- Different philosophical books
- Books on Creation
  - Phisalgos, Books on nature and behavior of Animals
  - Book of Sena fetrat, Books on creation
  - Book of Aksimaros by st Epiphanius.
  - The Book of the Mysteries of the Heavens and the Earth.

#### The Church view on creation

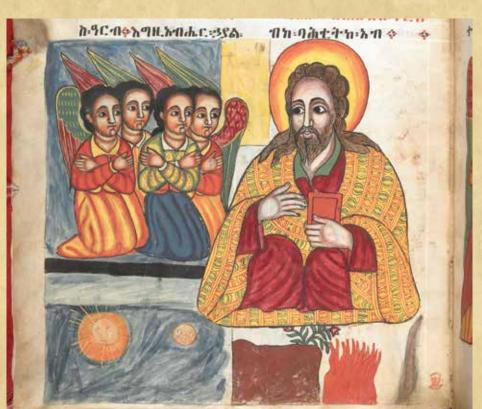
The Ethiopian Church theological perspective on creation is based on scriptural evidence and the insights of early Church fathers.

The Church believes that one of the ways God's existence is known is through creation. Therefore, she teaches her children extensively and clearly about creation. This creation teaching is the first lesson that students study within the Church's educational system.

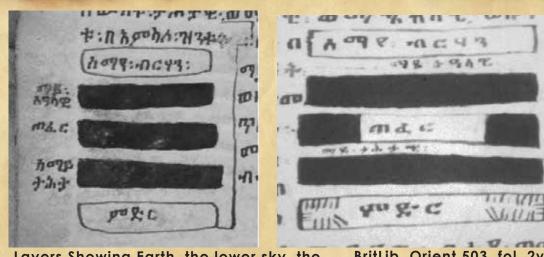
Because if the student or church member has a distorted understanding or perception of creation, they begin to doubt the exictance of God. Since all of the church's teachings are based on creation, it is a crucial area of study.

## Illustrations showing the structure of heaven and earth.

In addition to written materials, The church, teaches the creation of the world through various illustrations. The images below are illustrations found in various ancient manuscripts, explaining the creation of earth and heaven.



God creating Sun and moon in the firmament, the waters above and angels



Layers Showing Earth, the lower sky, the firmament, water above, the heavens

BritLib. Orient 503, fol. 2v



A man looks through a telescope at the constellations in the sky, above which are angels.

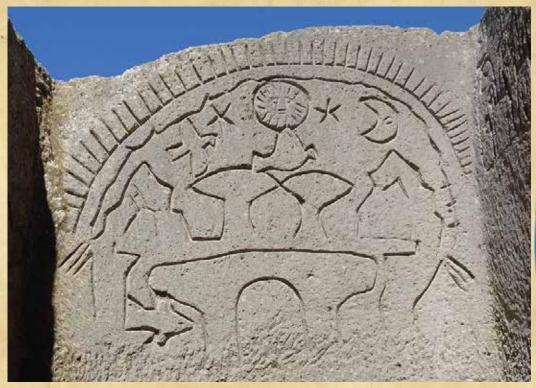
#### Rock-Hewn Churches of Ethiopia Dagmawi Lalibela

The cosmological model of Earth inscribed on the wall of Dagmawi Lalibela







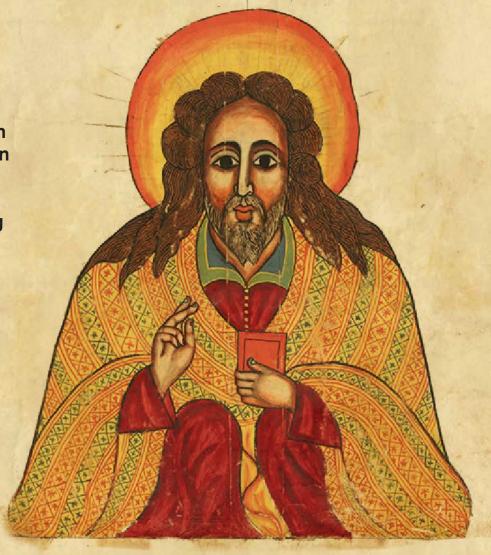




## How did God create the world and everything in it?

In Ethiopian Church, the concept of creation Ex- Nihilo (out of nothing) is deeply rooted in the doctrine of creation. This foundational belief signifies that God started the cosmos without preexisting materials, demonstrating his ultimate sovereignty and omnipotence.

- Angels and mankind are created to praise and worship God as He is willing to share and give His divine glory and eternal life.
- For food and drink.
- To know God through His magnificent blueprint set in the creation.



The Holy Scripture clearly states that all creation was made in six days. If each creation were counted individually, no one could have accomplished it. However, according to their nature and lifestyle, they are categorized into 22 types.

## First day

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. Gen 1: 1-5

#### On the 1st Day God made 8 Creations



Fire



Wind



**Angels** 



Water



**Darkness** 



Light



Earth

ጽርሃ አርያም መንበረ መንግሥት ሰማይ ወዱድ መንግሥተ ሰማያት

The Seven heavens

The Heaven

Tsiria Ariyam (The highest Hall)

Menibere Mengisit (Throne room)

Semayi Widud (Up most Heaven)

Eyerusalem Semayawit (Heavenly Jerusalem

Iyor (Angelic city 1)

Rama (Angelic city 2)

Erer (Angelic city 3)

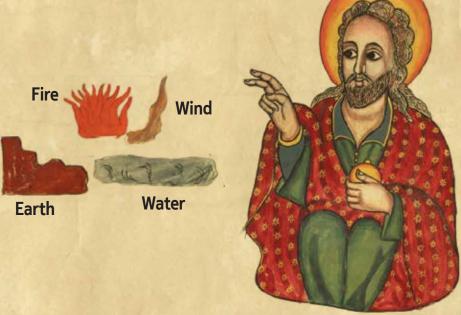
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

#### The Two Ways God Made Creation

1. Creation From Nonexistence to Existence

7 creations are made by this way. Thus are the four element Fire, Water, Earth, Wind,

Darkness, Light and Angels.



2. Creation by combining from existing creations The rest 15 Creations are made by combining the four elements Fire, Water, Earth, Wind.

#### Characteristics of the four elements

Fire	Hot	Dry	Bright	Up	Intangible
Wind	Hot	Moist	Dark	Up	Intangible
Water	Cold	Moist	Bright	Down	Tangible
Earth	Cold	Dry	Dark	Down	Tangible

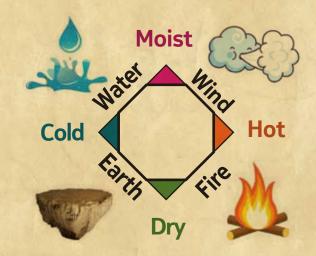
God Creates the four elements According to his character

Fire - As Fire is powerful to burn and destroy all things it symbolizes God's might.

Water -As water wash away dirt and make things Clean It symbolizes God's purity.

Wind - As wind separate grains from chaff It symbolizes God's righteous judgment.

Earth - As Earth is strong to carry all the creatures on it, it symbolizes God's Omnipotent nature.



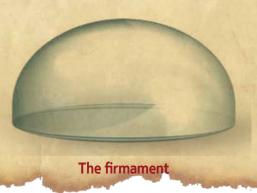
## Second day

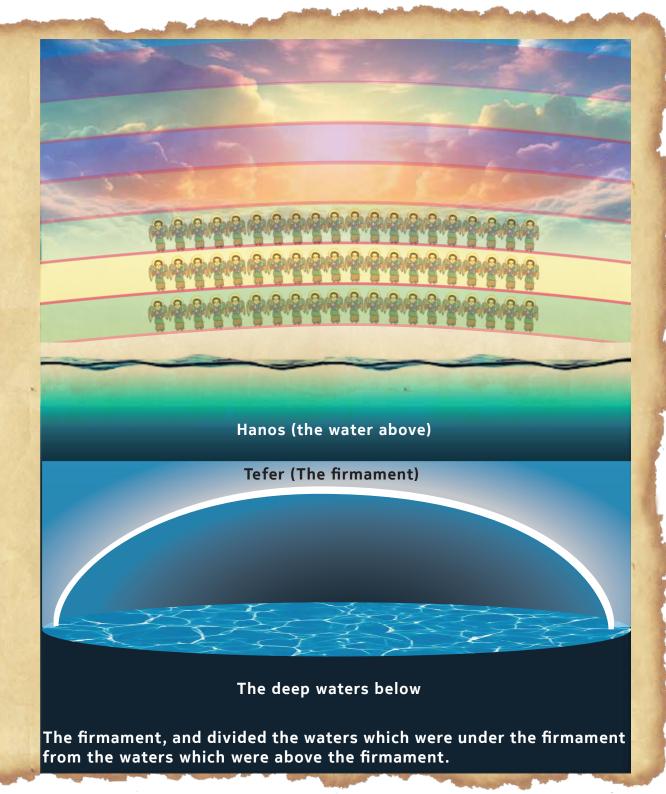
And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. Gen 1: 6-8

#### On the 2nd Day God made 1 Creation

#### The firmament

- Is made from water but it is firm and strong as a glass.
- It carries the water above.
- God created it in the shape dome.
- This is to make the sun and moon, to be able to shine down to us instead of upwards.
- Colored blue to let us think of our heavenly lives as we look at the sky.

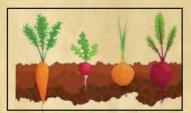




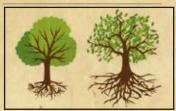
## Third day

And God said, Let the waters under the firmament be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day. Gen 1: 9-13

#### On the 3rd Day God made 3 Creation



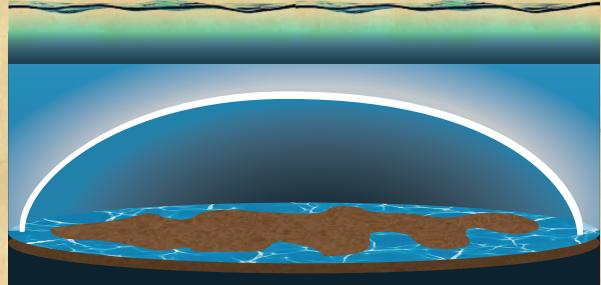
Vegetables, that can be plucked with fingers.



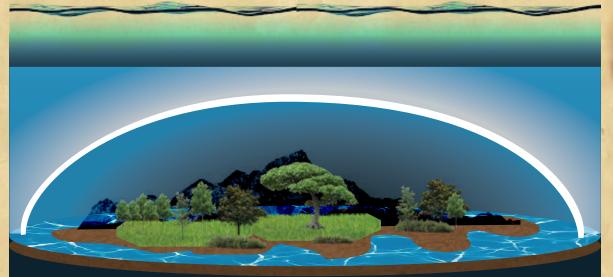
Trees, that can be cut with Axe.



Cereals and Grasses Plants, that can be cut with sickle.



And God said, Let the waters under the firmament be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.



And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth.

### Fourth day

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. Gen 1: 14-19

#### On the 4th Day God made 3 Creation

Until this day, the light and darkness that were created on Sunday alternated every 12 hours, day and night. In the fourth day God sent the light to the seven heavens and He gathered the darkness into the Berbanos (Tartarus), then he created three beings that shine and place them in the firmament. And these are for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.







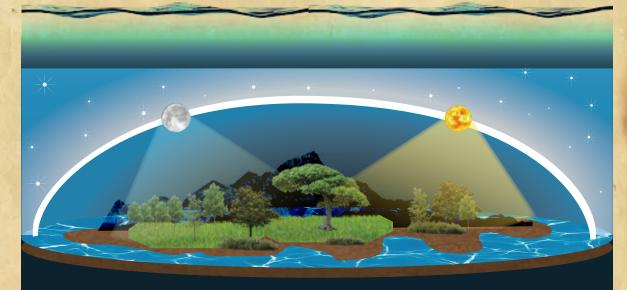
#### Sun

Suns nature is from fire and wind; as it is made of fire, it is hot. and as it is made of wind, it is moves.

#### Moon

#### Stars

Moon and stars nature is from water and wind, and, as they are made of water, they cools. and as they are made of wind, they move.



And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

### Fifth day

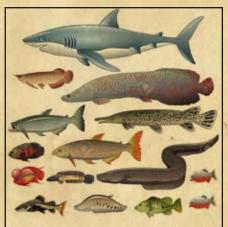
And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. Gen 1: 20-23



The sea produce living creatures according to their kinds:

- 1. Animals completely live in water.
- 2. Animals which can live both in water and on land.
- 3. Waterbirds, birds that lives on or around water.

The two great animals Behemoth and Leviathan are created on this day.



Animals live in water Fish, whales, dolphins, sharks.



Animals which live both in water and on land Frogs, toads, crocodiles, turtles.



Waterbirds
Ducks, geese,
swans



God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

### Sixth day

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Gen 1: 24-28

#### On the 6th Day God made 4 Creation.

The land produce living creatures according to their kinds:

- 1. Beast of the earth, wild animals.
- 2. Cattle and livestock animals.
- 3. Birds and fowls, birds lives on land.
- 4. Man with a living soul.



Beast of the earth Lion, Tiger, Bear, Fox, monkeys, ...



Cattle and livestock Ox, calf, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, ...



Birds and fowls Eagle, Pigeons, Doves, Parrots,



Man with a living soul

Man is mad from seven natures,
Four elements of flesh and three elements of soul

#### The four elements of flesh in human.

Because of Fire, the body generates heat.
Because of Wind, it breath.
Because of Water, the body have blood and body fluids.
Because of Earth, the body have flesh and skeleton.

#### The three elements of soul in human.









Breath of life (Living soul)

According Gods method of creation, All creations can be grouped in three groups.



7 Creations are Made by Silence
Fire, Water, Wind, Earth,
Darkness, The seven heavens, Angels



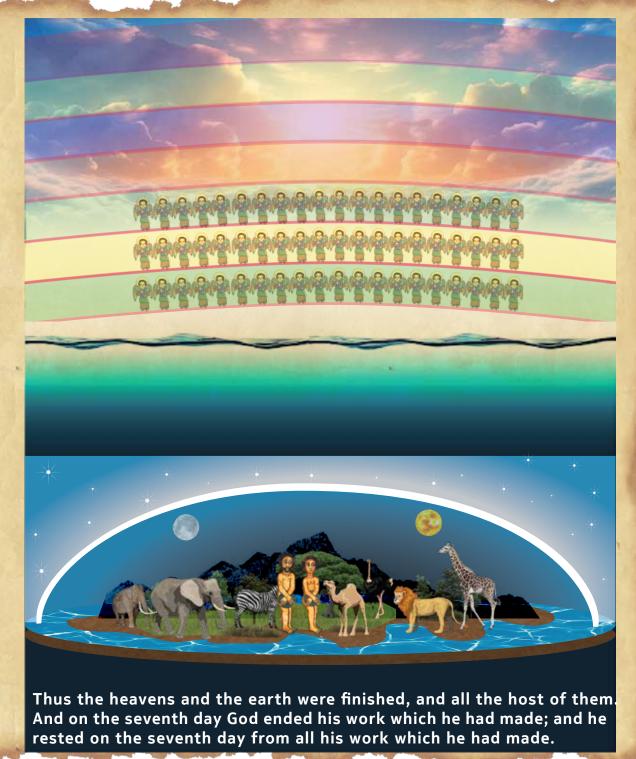
14 Creations are Made by Speaking Light, The firmament, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th day creations



1 Creation is Made by Doing
Man

The 22 creations are what we have seen so far. On the seventh day, God created all creatures and rested from his work. So this day is Sabbath.

It was God's good will that no physical works should be done on this day so that the day could be honored.



## God placed all his creations in twenty worlds or realms. These twenty worlds are divided into four. Thus are Worlds of fire, worlds of water, worlds of earth, and worlds of wind.

There are nine fire worlds
Their collective name is Koreb.

- 1. Tsiriḥa Ariyam (The highest hall)
- 2. Menibere Menigisit (Throne room)
- 3. Semayi Widud (Up most Heaven)
- 4. Eyerusalem Semayait
  (Heavenly Jerusalem)

- 5. Iyor (Angelic city 1)
- 6. Rama (Angelic city 2)
- 7. Erer (Angelic city 3)
- 8. Sea of Fire
- 9. Gehenna (hellfire)

There are five earth worlds
Their collective name is Dudaleb.

- 1. This Earth
- 2. Genet (Paradise)
- 3. Seol

- 4. Behre Hiyawan (Realm of the Living)
- 5. Behre Betsuan (Realm of the Blessed)

There are four water worlds
Their collective name is Naggeb.

- 1. Hanos
- 2. The Firmament
- 3. Water surrounding our earth
- 4. The deep waters below

There are two wind worlds
Their collective name is Azeeb.

- 1. Babil
- 2. The great wind

## There are nine fire worlds Their collective name is Koreb.

#### 1. Tsiriḥa Ariyam (The highest hall):-

- Found above all heavens,
- There is nothing above this heaven
- It resemble a tent,
- Its boundaries are known to no one except God.
- It is like a roof for Menibere Menigisit.

#### 2. Menibere Menigisit (Throne room):-

- It is rectangular in shape,
- It is the heaven where God reveals Himself to the saints and angels in any manner and form he desires.
- It is where the throne of God found.
- Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones are twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Ezekiel 1:4-75, Revelation 4:4)
- It has seven veils of fire; it is a Holy place where angels bow and gratify God.
- Where the soul of dead people is judged.

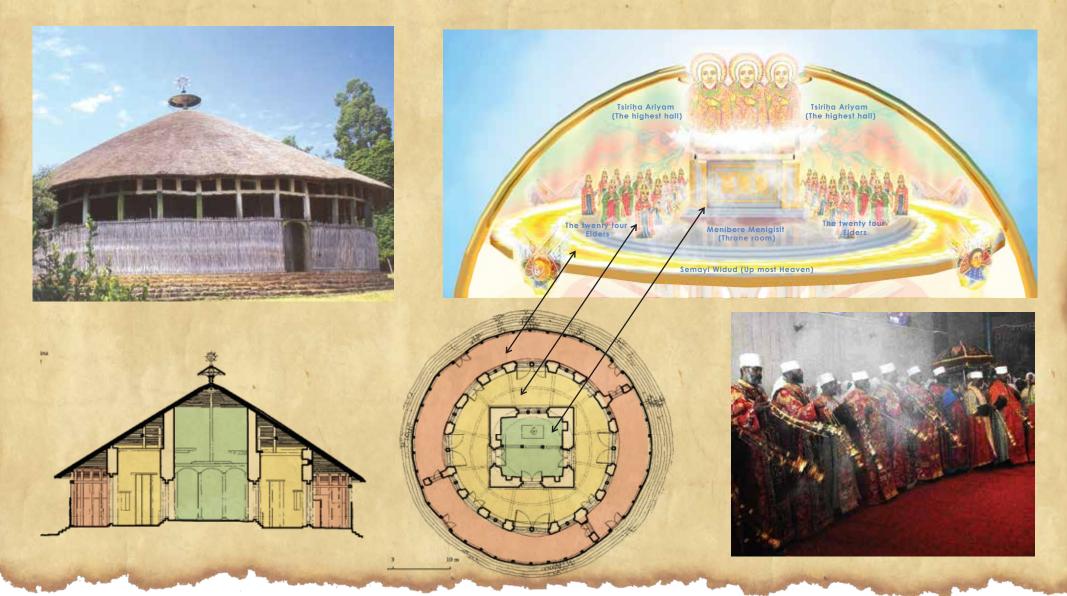
#### 3. Semayi Widud (Up most Heaven):-

- It is a base for Menibere Menigisit
- The four living creatures each having six wings, stand on the four corners and carrying this heaven. (Isa. 6:1, Ezek. 1:22–27, Rev. 4:2, Gen. 28:12-17, Isa. 6:1-2)
- Its boundary's are connected with Tsiriḥa Ariyam



Ethiopian Church buildings are partitioned into three sections. This is done to replicate the order of the heavens on earth.

መቅደስ Mekdes (holy of holy):- This is Where the ark is found, the ark is the throne of God. ቅድስት Kidist :- Is the middle part of the churches, Priests burn incense during the holy liturgy. ቅኔ ማህኤት kine mahlet:- Is the outermost section, it is a space where clergy perform liturgical hymnody.



#### 4. Eyerusalem Semayait (Heavenly Jerusalem)

- It is rectangular in shape and have twelve gates.
- Within it is a tabernacle inscribed with the Ark of the Covenant, adorned with the radiance of the Trinity.
- This is what the Apostle Paul describes as that which the eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man, which God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Corinthians 2: 9-10).
- This is the same heavenly Jerusalem described by John (Rev. 21:2-3). The names of the twelve apostles are inscribed on its walls, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on its pillars, and the names of the righteous and martyrs on its columns.
- Now there is no one in Heavenly Jerusalem except Our Lady Mary.
- After final judgment this is the eternal place of rest of the righteous



#### The three angelic cities

- There are three angelic cities called lyor, Rama, and Erer. From top to bottom,
- They are connected in this order: first lyor; then Rama; then Erer.
- Their sizes are equal.
- The number of angels in these cities is known to no one but God. (Dan. 7:10).
- However, when we classify them by tribe, as st.epiphanius of Cyprus tells us, there are 100 sub tribes of angel which are divided into 10 main tribes. And Each group have their own Archangel.

#### 5. Tribes of angels in lyor

There were 4 tribes of angel in lyor city. Now they are 3 tribes

Agazezete (Principalities) Their leader was Samayal

Who is now the Devil. He used to ascended the prayer of all the angels before his deception.



Kirub
(Cherubim)
Their leader is Cherub

They have four heads and four faces; their faces resemble a man's and a lion's. (Eze.1:6-7, 18-19). Their service is to carry the throne of the Trinity, like priests



Surafi (Seraphim) Their leader is Surafil

They are angels of praise, who like deacons, strive and encourage for prayer. Their face resembles an eagle and a cow. They have six pairs of wings.

(Isa.6:2-3)



(Powers)
Their leader is St Michael

They carry sword of fire and stand before Holy Trinity. (Enoch. 10:2-10).

#### 6. Tribes of angels in Rama

There are 3 tribes of angel in Rama city.



Arebeb (Dominions)
Their leader is St Gabriel.

They stand before the Trinity like stewards and hosts.

Who cover the throne of Holy Trinity with their wings.(Enoch 10:7-8, Luke 1:19)



Menaberet (Virtues) Their leader is St Raphael.

They serve in the form of shields and swords men.
They fly eternally like wind, holding lightning shields and fire swords



Seletanat (Authorities) Their leader is St Suryal.

They protect all creatures and They are those who announce the day of judgment. And encourage the angels for prayer and praise at all times

#### 7. Tribes of angels in Erer

There are 3 tribes of angel in Erer city.



Mekwanent
(Nobles)
Their leader is St Sedakiel.

They are the ones who gather all the bones of humans for resurrection at the time of the resurrection.

(Matt.24:31-42)



Likanat (Scholars) Their leader is St Salatael.

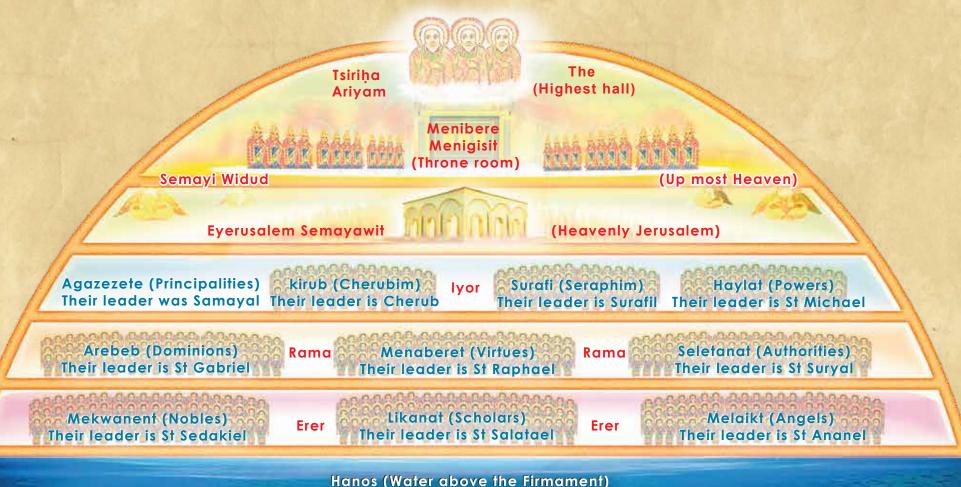
They are companions of the horses of the Trinity. They are angels who protect animals.



Melaikt
(Angels)
Their leader is St Ananel.

They are those who, like iron, withstand fire storms and bring them to the earth, protecting the sun, moon, stars, seeds, plants, and vegetations.

- Following the fall of the Devil because of his pride, the number of his angelic tribes decreased from 100 to 99, and the number of Archangels from 10 to 9.
- All the angels who did not fall with the Devil were placed under the leadership of Saint Michael.
- Angels do not leave their places unless commanded by God. When commanded, they ascend to the Tsiriḥa Ariyam (The highest hall) or descend to the depths of Berbanos (tartarus), in an instant.
- The heavens above are called the seven heavens.



- 8. Sea of Fire: Sea of Fire is located between the firmament and the water above the firmament.
- Its size is such that this world;
- It is like a chasm. A narrow path, like a width of hair, runs through its Midst.
- This is where the souls of the righteous and the wicked must pass to stand before God for judgment, after death.

#### After death journey of Righteous and Sinner person souls

Righteous person:- death....Crossing sea of fire....Stand before God for judgment,
4 days in heavenly Jerusalem....3 Day in Gehenna....Paradise.
Sinner person:- death....Crossing sea of fire....Stand before God for judgment,
7 Days in heavenly Jerusalem....seol.



9. Gehenna (hellfire): Originally, Gehenna was prepared for the Devil and his followers, the demons. After this world passes, on the final day of judgment this is the eternal place of punishment and suffer for the souls of wicked people who are now temporarily at Seol.





## There are four water worlds, and their common name is Naggeb.

#### 1. Hanos(water above the Firmament):-

- It is 1/3 water.
- This water cools down the firmament. If there is no water cooling the firmament, the firmament will crack and fall from the intense heat from the sun.

#### 2. The Firmament:-

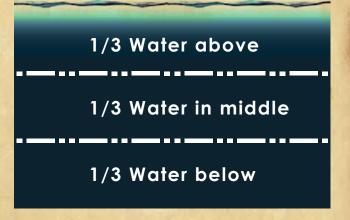
- It is made from water but it is firm and strong as a glass.
- It is like a roof for earth that carries the water above. God created it in the shape dome.
- This is to make the sun and moon, to be able to shine down to us instead of upwards;
- It is colored blue to give hope to our eyes and redemption to our bodies, that is, to let us think of our heavenly lives as we look at the sky.

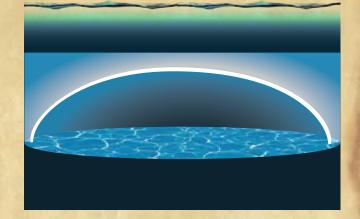
#### 3. Water surrounding our earth:-

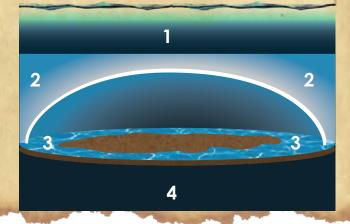
On 3rd day, God said, "Let the water below gather in one place, and let the dry land appear." This water is now located between the Admas (Foundations of Heaven) and the Naggeb mountain, this is where Leviathan lives.

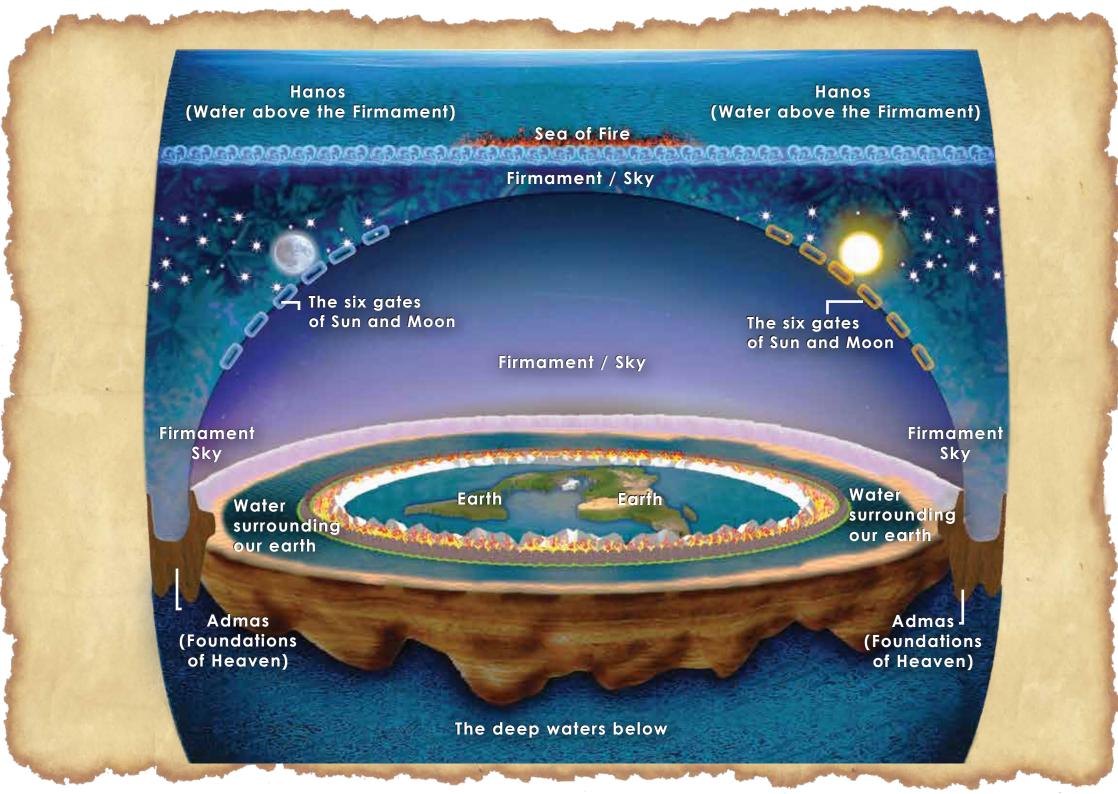
#### 4. The deep waters below.

- It is 1/3 water.



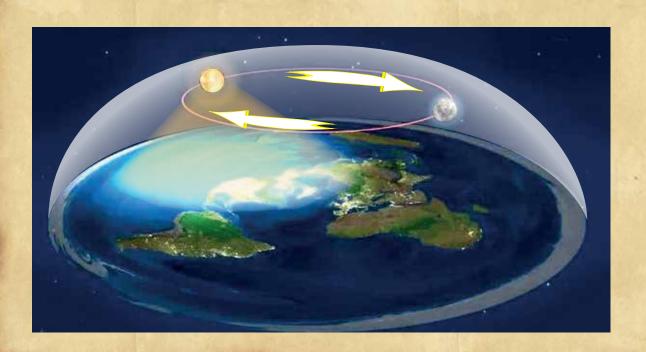






#### How Day and Night occur

Since the earth has a firm foundation, it does not move or rotate. Day and night alternate due to the cycle that the sun and moon undergo in the firmament. This occurs because the sun is much smaller than the earth and is located relatively close to earth. Thus, its light reaches only a specific portion of the earth. The part of the earth that the sun illuminates becomes day, and the other part of the earth becomes night. As the sun continues circling around the earth, the part of the earth that was experiencing day become night as the sun moves away, and the part that was night becomes day as the sun arrives.



## Sun : Moon : Stars and Planets(wandering stars)

The sun is active during the day, and its light is seven times brighter than the moon's (Enoch 21:56). Sun has its own wind-driven path in the firmament (Enoch 5:20). The sun takes 24 hours to circle the earth.



The moon has its own light, and it doesn't reflect the sun's light (Enoch 21:56). The moon and sun are

equal in size (Enoch 21:57). It takes 24 hours and 51 minutes to circles the Earth. Its cycle ends in 29 days, 12 hours, and 44 minutes.



Sirius

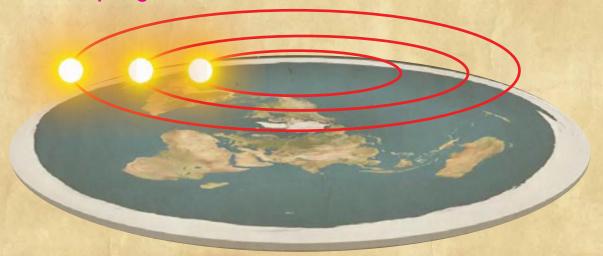
All the stars, as a whole, orbit the earth like the sun and moon do. It takes them 23 hours and 56 minutes to circle the earth. Planets are

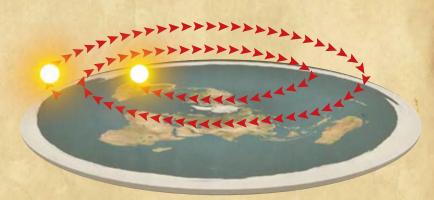
also stars but have their own unique movements. The Greeks called these stars with their own unique movements "planets" or (aster planetes), meaning "wandering stars". Five of them are identifiable.

#### How seasons occur

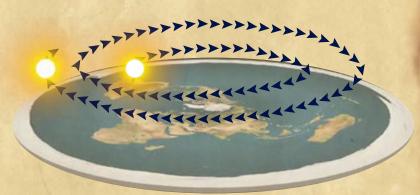
One day means that the sun completes its journey along a red circle. But the circle isn't fixed. The path the sun travels today will change tomorrow. It will gradually become narrower or wider. If we observe the sun's path over a year, it starts from a narrow inner circle, progressively widens its path, passes through a middle-sized circle, and finally reaches a wide circle. This entire process takes 6 months. It then takes another 6 months to return to the initial narrow inner circle. This movement of the sun causes the changing seasons.

- When the sun moves from the narrow circle to the middle circle, winter occurs.
- When the sun moves from the middle circle to the wide circle, autumn occurs.
- When the sun moves from the wide circle to the middle circle, summer occurs.
- When the sun moves from the middle circle to the narrow circle, spring occurs.





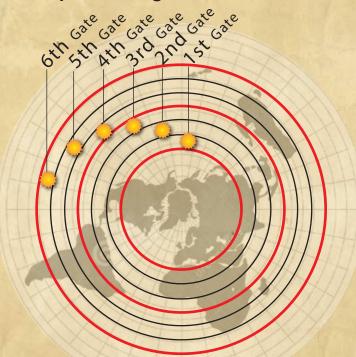
It starts from the wide circle and reaches the narrow circle within 6 months.



The sun travels from the narrow circle to the wide circle within 6 months.

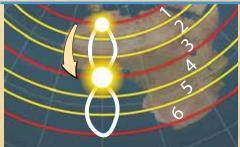
#### The Six Gates of the Sun

Detailed information on the changing seasons can be found in Book of Enoch, Chapter 72. This book describes that the sun passes through six gates during its yearly cycle. It takes 30 days for the sun to pass through each of these gates. A season is created when the sun passes through three gates, which amounts to 91 days. This cycle also affects the length of days and nights.



The six gates of the Sun

#### The 4 seasons (Book of Enoch Chapter 82)



#### Winter Season (Jun 26 - Sept 25)

The season is created When the sun travels from the 1st to the 3rd gate.

Governing star: Hel'emmelek

Character: Water (Cold and Moist)

June 26: The longest day and shortest night

of the year.



#### Autumn Season (Sept 26 - Dec 25)

The season is created When the sun travels

from the 4th to the 6th gate.

Governing star: Berechiel

Character: Wind (Hot and Moist)

September 26: Day and night are equal. This

is known as the Autumnal Equinox.



#### Summer Season (Dec 26 - Mar 25)

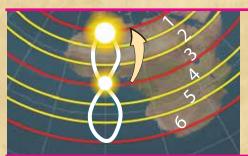
The season is created When the sun travels from the 6th to the 4th gate.

Governing star: Narel

Character: Fire (Hot and Dry)

December 26: The shortest day and longest

night of the year.



#### Spring Season (Mar 26 - Jun 25)

The season is created When the sun travels

from the 3rd to the 1st gate.

Governing star: Milki'el

Character: Earth (Cold and Dry)

March 26: Day and night are equal. This is

known as the Spring Equinox.

## There are five earth worlds, and their common name is Dudaleb.

#### 1. This Earth:

- After the land is separated from water and drying up on the Third Day, became the place of habitation/dwelling/residence. Righteous and sinners, the oppressors and the oppressed, the killers and the saints, live on this earth.
- Everyone who goes to Paradise, the Realm of the Living, the Realm of the Blessed, and Seol goes from this earth.



- Paradise is located east of this earth, higher up.
- It is a place for people, lived virtuously throughout their lives, obeyed God and served him faithfully.
- It is a temporary place of rest for the souls of the righteous Until the day of resurrection.
- After resurrection they will be given new bodies and move to the most magnificent great city heavenly Jerusalem.

#### 3. Seol:

- Seol is located west of this earth. Down below.
- It is a temporary place for sinner souls.
- A Christian person can be put into Seol because of his sinful life. But after some time, saints and angels pray for him and by the will of God, they are sent to Seol to bring the soul out and place him in paradise.
- But the souls of the unbeliever will suffer in Seol until the day of judgment.
- After final judgment, they will move to the extremely terrifying hellfire Gehenna(hellfire).



#### 4. Behre Hiyawan (Realm of the Living):

- The Realm of the Living is located north of this earth, higher up.
- They are saints taken away from this earth by God's will. They are not dead they have a physical body.
- The people who live there live in purity and holiness.
- All the saints who live in the Realm of the Living do not give birth, do not die, do not marry, do not engage in sexual relations, do not eat, and do not drink; they praise God, like angels.
- Among them are Enoch, Elijah, Saint John the Apostle, Saint Yared, Abuna Aregawi.
- They will come to this earth in the time of the anti-Christ and became Martyrs

#### 5. Behre Betsuan (Realm of the Blessed):

- The Realm of the Blessed is located south of this earth, higher up.
- They are Departed from Earth in the Old Testament at the time of prophet Jeremiah.
- The people who live there do not wear clothes. Instead, they wear the garments of light that Christ has given them.
- Men and women live separately but meet at the time of marriage. They gave birth to three children: 2 boys and 1 girl The 1st boy will be given to serve God, and the other children Will get married.
- They live 1000 years each
- Jesus Christ visited them Among the saints, Saint Zosimus the land of Palestine and the evangelist Saint Matthew. Also visit Behre Betsuan.

#### Bright

Genet (Paradise)

Behre Hiyawan Realm of (The Living)

Behre Betsuan Realm of (The Blessed)

This world

Seol

**Berbanos** (tartarus)



## There are two wind worlds, and their common name is Azeeb.

1. Babil is a calm wind found in between the firmament and hanos (the water above)

#### 2. The Great wind

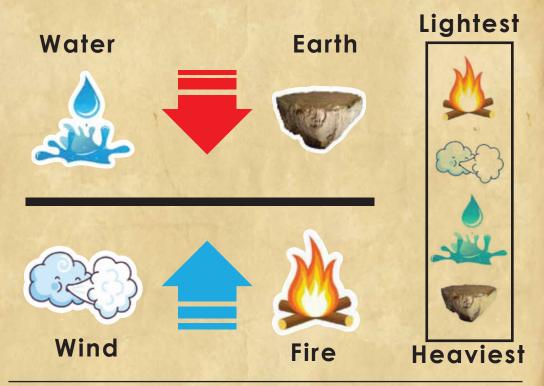
- It is the wind that carries all worlds above Berbanos.
- This wind is divided into 12.
- Four are called the winds of mercy, and eight are called the winds of wrath.
- The four winds of mercy serve the creatures of this world, while the eight winds of wrath are those that overturn the earth when God is angry and destroy all worlds on the Day of Judgment.

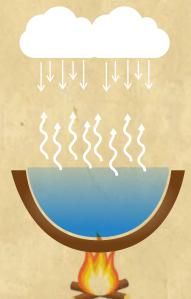
There are 24 openings through which fire and winds enter the earth. 12 Are for fire and 12 for wind. These are located 3 in the north, 3 in the south, 3 in the east, and 3 in the west.



#### **Gravitational forces**

- All creations are made from four qualities. There is no creature that isn't made from these four qualities.
- These four qualities have their own gravitational forces.
- Fire and wind are light; if nothing holds them down, they would rise up to the heavens.
- Water and earth are heavy; if nothing holds them back, they would descend to the lowermost part of the world Berbanos (tartarus)
- Thus, God, when creating the world, placed fire and wind below, and water and earth above, so they balance each other.
- The quantity of the four qualities within one body can causes it to rise or fall. If a substance has more fire and wind qualities, it will float upwards; if it has more water and earth qualities, it will fall downwards.



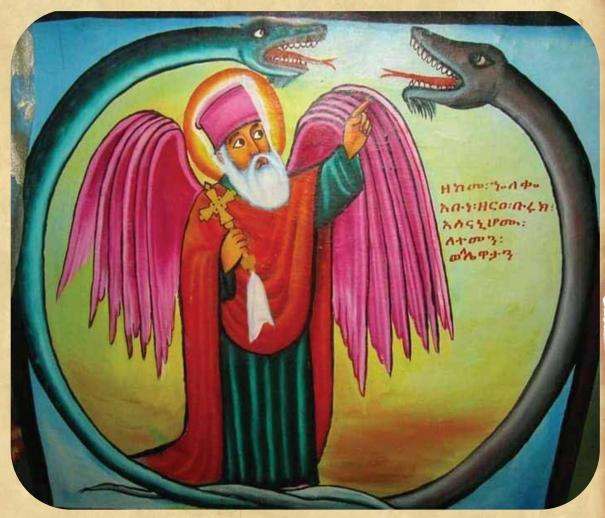


When boiling water,
The water gets more
Fire qualities this
makes it to rise up in
the form of evaporation after the water
lost its fire quality it
will return to its original water quality
which makes it fall
down

#### Behemoth and Leviathan

God created Behemoth as the greatest of creatures on earth, and Leviathan as the greatest of sea creatures. They were created on 5th day. Their arrangement is around the earth. If one were to ask how this world exists in relation to Behemoths and Leviathan, Behemoths are on the right, on the land, and Leviathan is on the left, around the sea. If this world is like a waist, they are like belt, if this world is like a finger. They are like ring, These are the magnificent beasts that the righteous saints see. Abuna Zer'abruk is among the saints who saw these beasts.

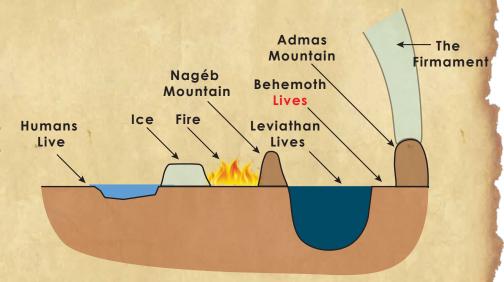
What do these creatures eat? Behemoths, excluding humans, eat from the terrestrial creatures by the thousands; they consume this and praise their Creator while living in the wilderness. Leviathan eats from the sea creatures by the thousands; she consumes this and praises her Creator while living in the sea. (Enoch 16, 13-14) (Isaiah 27, 1-2) (Ezra Sut 4, 49-53) (Job 40:16)

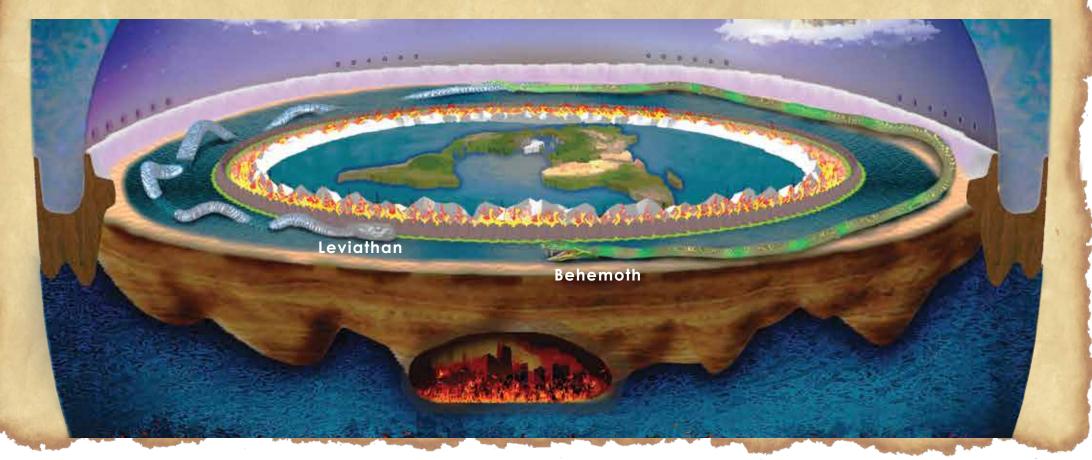


Abuna Zer'abruk Visiting Behemoth and Leviathan And counting their tooth.

#### Admas and Nagéb

God, when He created the earth where we humans live, He surrounded it with ice, then fire, and after that, with a mountain called Nagéb. Nagéb is not as high as the sky. After Nagéb mountain there is vast expanse the Ocean where Leviathan lives. On the other side of the land, He shaped the earth like iron, hardened it, and lifted it up. This is what He called the Admas, Foundations of Heaven. He then made the firmament stretch down onto the Admas.

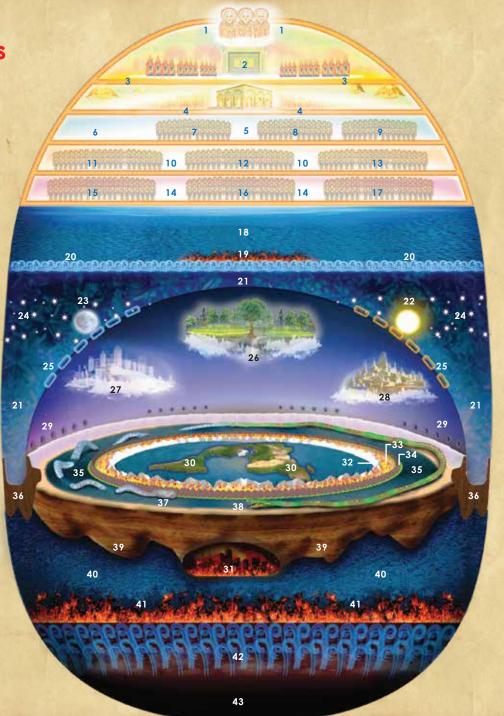




The twenty worlds

Tsiriha Ariyam (The highest hall).1 Menibere Menigisit (Throne room).2 Semayi Widud (Up most Heaven).3 Eyerusalem Semayawit.4 (Heavenly Jerusalem) lyor (Angelic city).5 Agazezete (Principalities).6 Their leader was Samayal Kirub (Cherubim).7 Their leader is Cherub Surafi (Seraphim).8 Their leader is Surafil Haylat (Powers).9 Their leader is St Michael Rama (Angelic city).10 Arebeb (Dominions).11 Their leader is St Gabriel Menaberet (Virtues).12 Their leader is St Raphael Seletanat (Authorities).13 Their leader is St Surval Erer (Angelic city).14 Mekwanent (Nobles).15 Their leader is St Sedakiel Likanat (Scholars).16 Their leader is St Salatael Melaikt (Angels).17

Their leader is St Ananel



18. Hanos
(Water above Firmament)

19. Sea of Fire

20. Babil wind

21. Firmament / Sky

22. Sun

23. Moon

24. Stars

25. The six gates of Sun and Moon

26. Genet (Paradise)

27. Behre Hiyawan (Realm of the Living)

28. Behre Betsuan
(Realm of the Blessed)

29. The 12 windows of Fire and Wind

30. Earth

31.Seol

32. Wall of Ice

33. Ring of Fire

34. Naggeb mountain

35. Water surrounding our earth

35. Water surrounding our earm

36. Admas (Foundations of Heaven)

37. Leviathan

38. Behemoth

39. Foundations of earth

40. The deep waters below

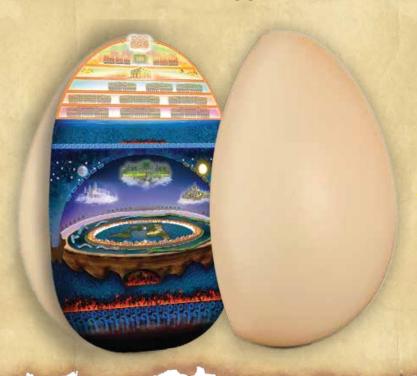
41. Gehenna (hellfire)

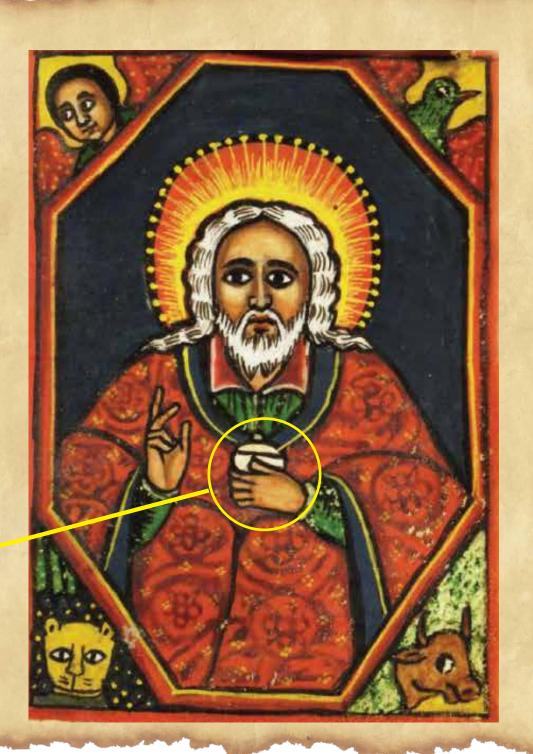
42. The Great wind

43. Berbanos (tartarus)

#### The World as an Egg

God created the heavens and the earth, everything visible and invisible, and governs them. All his creation is in His palm. This is revealed in Nicene Creed prayer of faith and various religious prayers books in our Church. To express this idea, when a painting of the Holy Trinity is created, a round object is depicted as held in their hands. This round object represents the world. This refers to God holding in His palm the twenty worlds, from the The highest hall (Tsiriha Ariyam) to the lowest utter darkness Berbanos (tartarus) and thus, twenty worlds overall shape is egg-shaped.







## አመሥንናስሁ! Thank you

#### Reference

- Ethiopian Tewahedo Holy Bible.
- Ethiopic Book of Enoch.
- Book of jubilees.
- Book of Aksimaros by st Epiphanius.
- The Book of the Mysteries of the Heavens and the Earth.
- Book of Sena fetrat.
- Various Act Book of saints (Act of Abuna Tekle haymanot, Act of Abuna Zer'abruk, Act of Sain Zosimas, Act of Saint Yared, Act of Abuna Aregawi).
- Various prayer books used in the church.

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