

**Review: Dr Danny Faulkner, *Falling Flat: A Refutation of Flat Earth Claims*, Master Books, Grand Rapids, MI, August 2019**

Pages: 383

**A Fool Falls Flat in the End**

Danny Faulkner does well on providing scientific evidence the Earth is a sphere, known since ancient Greece. Multiple proofs are provided so the reader can select one or many, depending on his favourites:

- Eratosthenes' gnomon measurements at Aswan and Alexandria showing a difference in angles.
- Receding ship hulls over the horizon *before* the tops.
- Star visibility/invisibility when travelling latitudinally.
- Solar and lunar eclipse geometry.
- Parallax and star distance trigonometry.
- Rotational velocity, gravity, and artificial satellite periodicity.

This is where he would have been wise to stop, instead, he turns to textual criticism and exegesis to show it isn't flat Biblically. His textual criticism is abysmal:

- “Mountain” in Lk 4.5 from the *Textus Receptus* was a copier's edition, because, “it does not appear in earlier manuscripts”. [p279]

He would know it was a copier's edition how? He is also wrong:

The Nestle-Aland 28<sup>th</sup> edition has ορος in Codex Alexandrinus (A, 5<sup>th</sup>C); Codex Cyprius (K, 9<sup>th</sup>C); Codex Tischendorfianus (Γ, 10<sup>th</sup>C); Codex Sangallensis (Δ, 9<sup>th</sup>C); Codex Koridethi (Θ, 9<sup>th</sup>C). All earlier than Erasmus' first 1516 edition of the *Textus Receptus*.

-The LXX was a 3<sup>rd</sup>C OT translation to Greek needed because the Jews had forgotten how to speak or read Hebrew! [p301]

The LXX adds Romans 3.13-18 to the end of Psalm 14.3! It is a post-NT document.

-Commits the Root Fallacy when claiming *raqia* cannot mean “firmament” [p281], claiming it must derive from the *action* of the verb *raqa*, to “stamp/spread out”, not its object. He makes the same error with Jb 37.18.

-“The 1535 Coverdale was the first English translation of the Bible.” [p311]

It was not, the Wycliffe Bible (from the Vulgate) preceded it by 153 years, in 1382.

-The KJV translators mostly worked from the Latin Vulgate [p312].

False and bad history. The KJV was a new translation from Hebrew and Greek, not the Vulgate. Rule 1 stipulated they were to avoid

-“Jerome knew at least some Hebrew” [p313].

He knew more than Faulker, for he lived in Bethlehem 36 years till his death, where the locals spoke Hebrew. How fluent is Faulkner in it?

There no need for the above as the Authorized Version is completely compatible with heliocentrism and a spherical Earth.

To compound his above error, he ends by associating with other “conspiracy theories”, like 9-11, “chemtrails” (geengineering), and vaccines. Unlike flat earth, he doesn’t attempt to offer any evidence in favour of official narratives he parrots like a drone. E.g:

-Does he believe WTC7 collapsed due at near freefall speed into its footprint due to office fires?

-Is he blind to: geometric aircraft trails, fallout samples containing patented Al, Ba, and Sr; and historical programs such as Operation

Popeye?

-Does he think vaccines have been properly safety tested (i.e., against true placebos), and are antibody titer levels a valid measure of efficacy? What impact does thimerosal have on cells when injected, various aluminium salts, fetal DNS, or Polysorbate 80? Does he believe mRNA gene therapy injections don't cause heart attacks and death?

As a result Faulker ends his book falling flat as a fool.

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### **I) Why Write About Flat Earth? (pp. 7-45)**

In Flat Earth (FE) cosmology:

- The North Pole is at the centre of the Earth and there is no South Pole;
- The edge of the known Earth is an ice wall we call Antarctica;
- The stars are embedded in a dome;
- Each day the dome spins around an axis passing through the North Pole;
- The Sun and moon are above the Earth so never rise or set.

There are geocentrist creationists who subscribe to a Tychonic cosmology; Flat-earthers borrow heavily from their arguments.

Columbus was seeking a Western route to Asia since Muslims had closed Eastern trade routes.

Irish legends placed Brendan the Navigator in North America four centuries before the Vikings.

Geocentrists argue heliocentrism is a stepping stone to Evolutionism.

In the 6thC BC, Anaximander thought Earth was a disk with thickness 1/3 of its diameter. The Sun and moon passed below the disk accountign for rising and setting.

Pythagoras held that eight concentric spheres surrounded the Earth; the outermost held the stars, the others the sun, moon, and five naked-eye planets. As they moved, a music of the spheres was produced from friction which only the most gifted could hear.

Eudoxus increased Pythagoras' system to 27 spheres, and Callippus 34.

Light and dark division on the moon is the *terminator*, which is curved.

FEs hold the moon is a disc.

Aristotle observed that departing ships disappear hull first, contradicting a FE of a shrinking image with no part disappearing first. He also knew that when travelling northwards, stars suddenly appear (which were hidden below the curvature), likewise, southern stars become lower till they vanish.

Eratosthenes used a gnomon to find the angle between Alexandria and Aswan was  $1/50^{\text{th}}$  of the Earth's circumference.

*Almagest* (Ar. "the greatest").

## **II) Exhibit A: The Bedford Level Experiment and the Chicago Skyline (pp. 47-69)**

Samuel Rowbotham's 1838 Bedford level experiment launched the 19<sup>th</sup>C FE movement.

Flat and spherical Earth models are the same on a local level.

Since  $eP$  is a function of height (H), and with mirages H is negligible, T effects dominate.

Glass fiber optics are as malleable as metal wire.

Inferior mirages occur when warm air (the 'mirror') sits under cold air, causing a reflected image to appear below itself.

### **III) Eclipses and the Flat Earth (pp. 71-97)**

The moon's orbit is tilted  $5^\circ$  to the Earth.

The FE model has no explanation for eclipses.

Earth reflects light 2.5X better than the moon.

### **IV) Aspects of the Sky and Flat Earth (pp. 98-126)**

Sky aspects are where astronomical bodies appear.

A *celestial* sphere is concentric with the spherical earth and contains the stars.

The sun is like a spotlight in the FE model.

The dome is a minimum 22,000mi across (i.e. 2X distance from the North Pole to Antarctica).

Most FEs believe the sun and moon are 32mi in diameter and 3,000mi

Midnight sun only happens at the poles.

Stars that never rise or set are *circumpolar*.

A sidereal day is Earth's rotation time with respect to the stars (~4 min shorter than a solar day).

### **V) Astronomy and Flat Earth (pp. 127-163)**

Phikolaus was first to teach the Earth moved.

Annual star-shifting is called *parallax*.

If Earth is a stationary disk there can be no parallax.

The AU was first measured by observing Venus transits across the sun; transit pairs are 8 years apart and occur every 243 years.

Gleason's 1892 map is a projection of the globe earth onto a flat plane.

FEs believe GPS signals come from terrestrial cell towers only.

Magnetic declination is the difference between true north and magnetic north.

*Rayleigh scattering* occurs when scattering particles are smaller than light wavelength, and is inversely proportional to the fourth power of  $\lambda$ . Therefore, blue scatters most and red least.

## **VI) Physics and the Flat Earth (pp. 164-199)**

Due to centripetal acceleration, an object at the equator weighs 0.37% less due to the Earth's rotation.

Gravity keeps all surface objects bound, so they don't 'spin off'.

FEs will deny conventional theories of gravity.

The Coriolis effect results from a spinning spherical Earth, at  $1,670\text{km hr}^{-1}$  eastwards (but nil at the poles).

Spiralling pressure systems are caused by Coriolis forces.

FEs assume when an object becomes detached it stops moving, violating Newton's First Law of Motion.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave-Observatory (LIGO) are two 2.5mi pipes containing an ultra-high vacuum through which laser beams pass. One end is 4ft higher than the other to account for Earth's curvature.

## **VII) Geocentrism and Flat Earth (pp. 201-216)**

Mach's principle states that the average of a lot of matter defines the 'rest' state.

In 1887, the Michaelson-Morley experiment passed light through a splitter

of silvered flat glass at 45°; beam 1 went through glass, and beam 2 reflected at a right angle.

### **VIII) NASA and Flat Earth (pp. 217-236)**

Under FE, there are no satellites, no ISS, and no astronauts; all has been faked.

The dark side of a satellite can have a sub-zero temperature.

Van Allen belts are fast-moving charged particles trapped by Earth's magnetic field. There is a safe zone from 8K mi to 40K mi.

Buzz Aldrin was a Freemason.

### **IX) Miscellaneous Claims About Flat Earth (pp. 237-266)**

Sunbeams are crepuscular rays,

LEO objects orbit every 90min. A *geosynchronous satellite* must be 26K mi up (i.e., the radius of Earth).

An SR-71 can reach 85K ft and see the Earth's curvature.

Planes travel faster as they burn more fuel and become lighter.

### **X) Does the Bible Teach a Flat Earth? (pp. 267-299)**

### **XI) How Did a Domed, Flat Earth Cosmology Get Imported Into the Bible? (pp. 300-337)**

### **XII) The Book of Enoch and Flat Earth (pp. 338-352)**

### **XIII) Conclusion (pp. 353-377)**

