

Allah SWT says in Surah Al Anbiyya' in ayah 30:

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?

Allah also says in ayah 30 in sura Fussilat:

ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ ائْتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ

Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke and said to it and to the earth, "Come [into being], willingly or by compulsion." They said, "We have come willingly."

How did scholars in early and modern times interpret these ayahs?

AssalamuAlaikum, Masha'Allah very thoughtful analysis by our participants. May Allah reward you all.

Allah SWT says in Surah Al Anbiyya' in ayah 30

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 30)

Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?

Allah also says in ayah 30 in sura Fussilat:

(ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ ائْتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ 11)

Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke and said to it and to the earth, "Come [into being], willingly or by compulsion." They said, "We have come willingly." Ibn Kathir says about these ayat and according to the interpretation of Ibn Abbas, that the sky and earth were dry (رتقا) then Allah SWT opened them (ففتقناهما) to allow for rain to fall and for plant and vegetation to grow. This is complemented by the following ayah in which Allah SWT says (و جعلنا من الماء كل شيء حي) that Allah SWT made every living thing from water. This speech is directed to the disbelievers (أو لم ير الذين كفروا) challenging them to see the creation of Allah so they can believe in Allah and the divine revelation. As in many places in the Quran, there is the circumstantial and the physical evidence. Splitting the skies for rain to fall and for the ground to split so plants can grow is a physical matter that people see. At the same time, and from the miracles of the Quran, Allah SWT shows us other signs within the context of the ayat that people in future generation can relate to and understand as in this ayah from Surah Al Anbiyya. Science today shows solid evidence that the heavens and the earth used to be one mass. A mass that was formed from gas. Gas solidified and split as in the Big Bang theory. This is supported by the Ayah from Surah Fussilat which says that the heavens used to be smoke, then formed to produce the heavens and the earth through the Big Bang theory.

According to Ibn Kathir, Allah says to the heavens and the earth to come to being means for the heavens to come to be with its sun, planets and the moons and the galaxies. And for earth to come to being with its water, rivers and all matters necessary for life.

There is significant science that can be concluded from the ayat.

First, every living thing comes from water, as the Quran says and as was evidenced by science.

Second, the compliments between early scholars tafseer and modern science shows the consistency in the interpretation of the Quran regardless of time and place.

Third, science proved that the universe used to be smoke and gas. Then formed to be a solid mass, then exploded some 12 billion years ago to form the current state of the universe. Evidenced by the divine revelation of the Quran about the heavens and the earth which used to be one mass and were split (ففتقناهما).

The analysis here is not intended to validate the text of the Quran. This would be the wrong way to look at the ayat from the Quran. Rather, utilizing the ayat from the Quran to show the truthfulness of the scientific fact because the Quran mentioned it first.

May Allah Benefit us from what we learn and increase us in knowledge.