

Shaykh Muqbil on the Shape of the Earth

Shaykh Muqbil bin Hādī explained, when asked whether the Earth is spherical or flat:

“The scholars have differed, the majority of the people of knowledge say it is flat whilst Abū Muḥammad Ibn Ḥazm, Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah, al-Ḥāfiẓ Ibn Kathīr and a group with them say that it is spherical. But there is no explicit evidence in the Qur’ān or the Sunnah that it is spherical or flat. Thus it is possible that in relation to us it is flat but nothing prevents that its ends are wrapped and raised upwards [to make it spherical]. But there is no explicit evidence indicating that. Thus, one can return to observed, factual reality. That which is apparent is that Abū Muḥammad Ibn Ḥazm, Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah and whoever took their approach may have traversed the horizons extensively and came to know that the ends of the Earth are spherical, and Allāh’s aid is sought. There is nothing in the verse which prevents this, I mean His saying, the Exalted, **‘And [do they not look] to the Earth, how He spread it out (sutīḥat)?’** (88:20).”¹

¹ From the cassette, “*As’ilah al-Julūjiyyah min Jāmi‘at al-Yamaniyyah*” and it is found online at:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=I5EMOHVLQjI>.