

Three Irreconcilable Inconsistencies of the Flat Earth Theory

As the author, I can honestly say that I would have preferred someone else to write this document, as my time is better spent in pursuit of more important studies, but given the rate at which the Flat Earth ideology is spreading, and given the depths of its errors, it seems necessary that I take the task on for myself. What follows will be a short, and I hope, concise, refutation of the Flat Earth model as presented by the leading Flat Earth proponents.

I - The Pole Stars

Popularly termed the “pole star conundrum” and arguably the most conclusive evidence against the Flat Earth theory, the issue of the pole stars, or more precisely the celestial axis, is an inconsistency most Flat Earth proponents either outright refuse to address or otherwise avert by means of uncorroborated claims and baseless speculation. To begin, let us imagine an observer at the equator, the observer will witness stars in the Southern part of the sky rotate clockwise while stars in the Northern part of the sky rotate counter-clockwise. The stars directly overhead will traverse the greatest length of sky, while the stars furthest North and South will travel comparatively shorter distances. This is a result of the stars rotating around a central axis within the celestial sphere - stars closest to this axis travel the shortest distances while stars nearest to the celestial equator travel the greatest distances. The brightest individual stars located nearest to the celestial axis are called the pole stars, of which Polaris bears this title in the North while Sigma Octantis reigns in the South.

The photograph to the right depicts the movement of the stars through the night sky at the equator. The stars directly at the center of the celestial equator form the longest trails while the stars closer to the poles on the left and right form smaller trails.



Star trails captured at the equator.

The following photograph depicts a more direct view of the Northern part of the celestial sphere – the length of the star trails are more clearly distinguishable, showing that stars closer to the celestial sphere's axis of rotation travel shorter lengths than those further away from the axis.



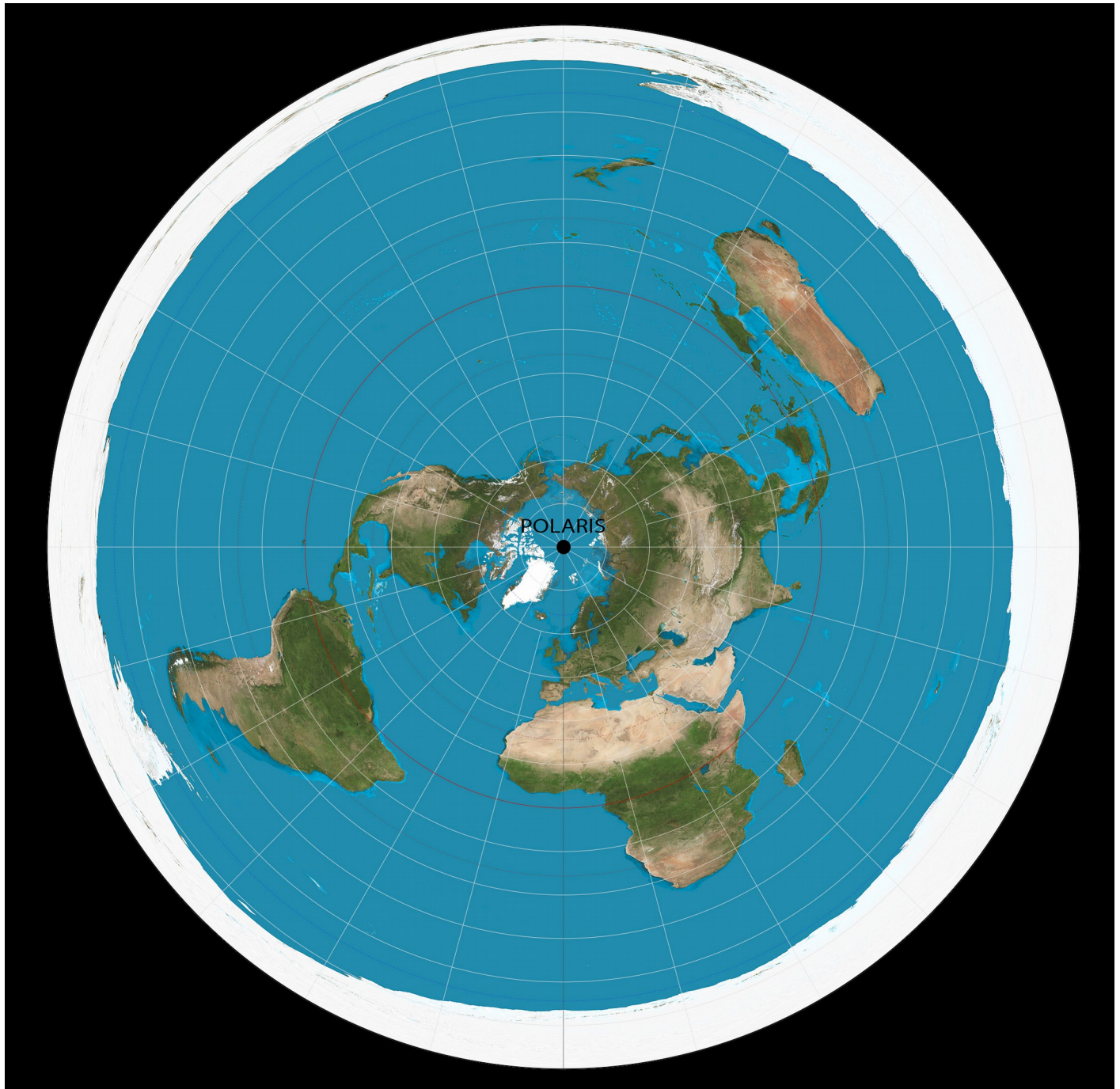
Polaris and star trails seen from North of the equator.

In this last photograph, the Northern celestial pole is fully visible while a large portion of the Southern celestial pole is also captured.



Photo of Northern & Southern celestial poles.

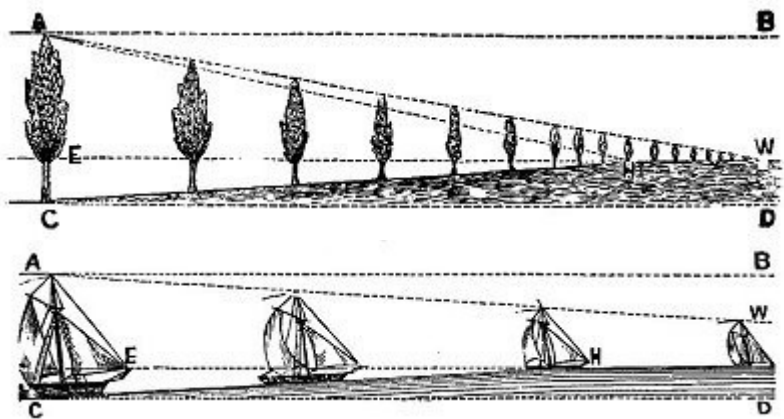
According to the most common Flat Earth theory, Polaris lies directly over the Earth's north pole, similar to other cosmological models. Physical observations of Polaris from North of the equator are adequately consistent with the Flat Earth model. Here is a depiction of the most widely accepted Flat Earth model with Polaris at the center:



The de facto Flat Earth model.

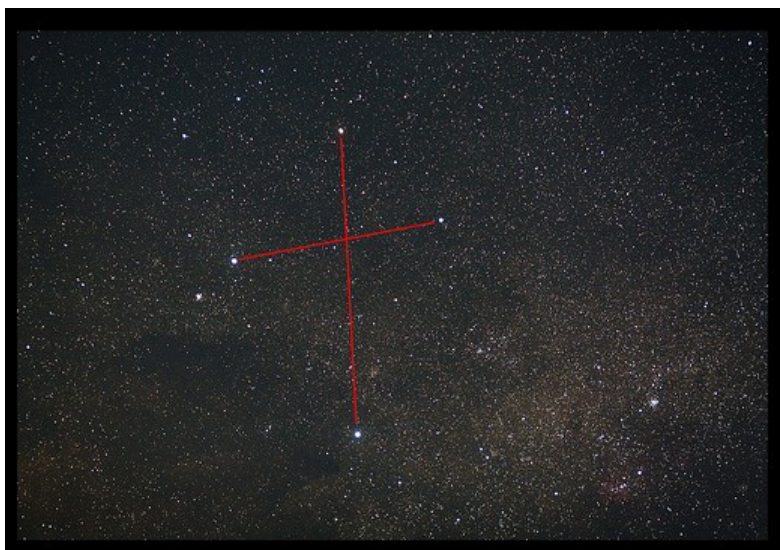
Looking at the model they present, the discrepancy between observable reality and the Flat Earth is clear - the model thoroughly fails to account for the existence of a Southern Celestial pole and its pole star, Sigma Octantis; the proponents of the Flat Earth model simply ignore the existence of the Southern Celestial axis entirely, if for no other reason than for the sake of continuity of their model, some leading Flat Earth proponents even go as far as to deny the existence of the Southern Celestial pole and pole star entirely and claim their imagery is fabricated, a qualifiable absurdity, as anyone can travel to the Equator and observe the Celestial poles for oneself. In addition to totally disregarding the South Celestial pole and pole star, Flat Earthers also fail to account for the inability of an individual to observe Polaris from South of the equator – if the Earth were flat, Polaris would surely be visible even from the Earth's greatest extremities. A Flat Earth proponent might claim this inability to see Polaris is a result of optics, particularly as a result of perspective, such as illustrated on the side:

If it were the case that Polaris vanishes as a result of perspective, and not as a result of some physical obscurant, one would only need a telescope of moderate power to bring Polaris back into view. But this is provably not the case as Polaris cannot be seen from South of the equator at any point on the Earth with any telescope of any magnitude. Therefore not only does the Flat Earth

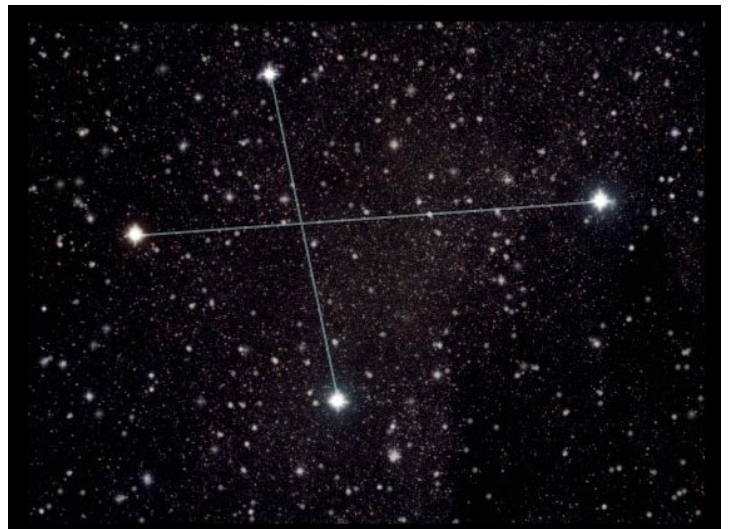


Perspective per Rowbotham's book Zetetic Astronomy

model fail to account for the observable Southern celestial pole and pole star, it likewise fails to account for the lack of one's ability to view Polaris from South of the equator. Furthermore, we may go on to note that both Australia and South America are positioned opposite of one another within the Flat Earth model, the discrepancy here lies in the fact that all regions South of the equator view the exact same sky – if the Earth is flat, the skies of Australia and South America should be thoroughly dissimilar to one another as their distance is greater than that of any other two positions on the flat Earth, but as the following two photographs clearly show, their skies are identical:



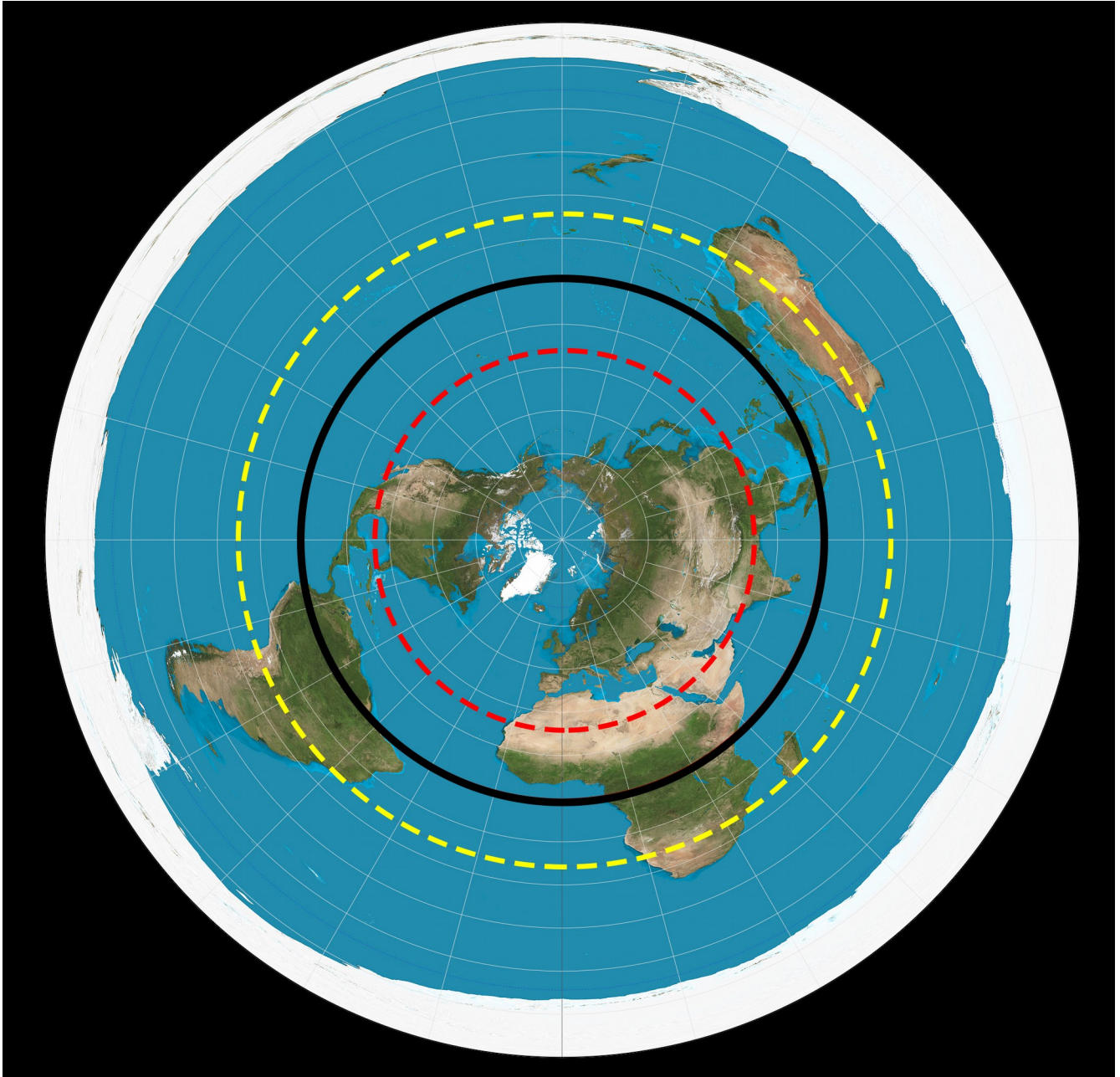
Southern Cross seen from South America



Southern Cross seen from New Zealand

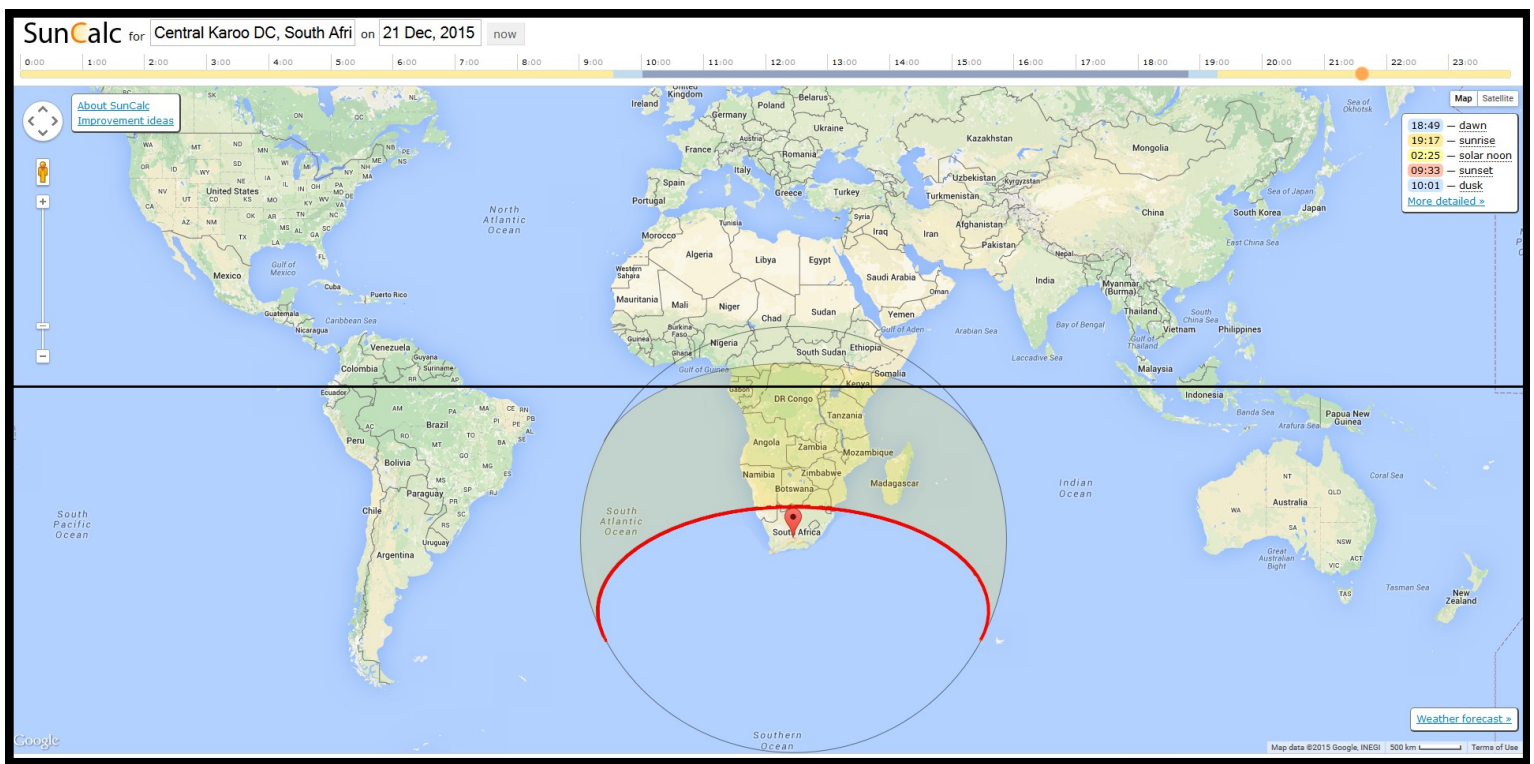
II – Equinoxes and Solstices

There are a number of inconsistencies between the Flat Earth theory and what is observed during both the Equinoxes and Solstices. The following image depicts the Flat Earth model's working of the seasons:



In the model above, the black circle is the line of the equator, the red circle is the tropic of Cancer and the yellow circle is the tropic of Capricorn. Taking the Summer solstice in the North, the Flat Earth model and what is physically observed seem to conform well enough - the sun rises from the North East, arcs South until noon, and finally sets North West in the evening; but this apparent conformity is far from actual as a multitude of

inconsistencies become evident as the Sun begins its Southward descent toward the tropic of Capricorn. The first of these inconsistencies begins with the Autumnal Equinox. It is well understood that on the day of the Equinox, the Sun will rise precisely due East parallel to the Equator, position itself directly perpendicular to an observer on the Equator at noon, and set precisely due West in the evening; the day will be divided into a perfect 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night, which the term itself signifies. According to the Flat Earth model, the Sun absolutely cannot rise due East and set due West. It must act exactly as it did on the Northern solstice – rise in the North East, arc Southward until noon, and set in the North West. This is patently inconsistent with what is observed at the Equator and cannot be rectified. What's more, given the Equatorial path outlined in their model and the nature of the Sun, it would also be utterly impossible for the Earth to ever experience an equal amount of night and day if it were flat. The geometry of a flat, circular, plane cannot be lit perfectly in half; there is no height the Sun can be placed to create an Equinox on a Flat Earth – if the Sun is moved higher, too much surface area becomes lit, conversely, if it's moved lower too little is lit. One can easily test this by drawing the Flat Earth model on paper and using a flashlight to simulate the Sun, one will note this exact effect. In regards to both the Sunrise and Sunset and the length of the day, the Flat Earth model proves itself incapable of accounting for the Equinoxes. Moving forward, as the Sun reaches the tropic of Capricorn, an observer below this line of latitude will note the Sun rises in the South East, forms a North bearing arc until noon and ultimately sets in the South West. The following image illustrates this point:



*Visible path of the Sun one would observe from South Africa, 32° South of the Equator.
The red line depicts the path the Sun is seen to travel from below the tropic of Capricorn.*

From: SunCalc.net

According to the Flat Earth model, one should again expect the Sun to behave as it did at the tropic of Cancer; it should rise in the North East, form a South bearing arc until noon and finally set in the North West, but this is directly opposite of what is actually witnessed from below the Tropic of Capricorn. It stands that the Flat Earth model totally fails to account for both the Equinoxes and the Solstices and their observations and lacks any potential to reconcile itself with their occurrences.

III – Telescopes, Distances, and Perspective

Having touched on this topic earlier in the section regarding the pole stars, I think it's necessary to further expand on the issue. It's a common claim of Flat Earth proponents that the ability to see objects at distances which should otherwise be below the curvature of a convex sphere conclusively proves the Earth is not a sphere. While the faultiness in this reasoning is worth rebutting alone, as it does not follow that simply because objects can be seen past the supposed curvature of the Earth that the Earth is necessarily Flat, I rather focus on a particular inconsistency implied in their claim – namely that if objects on the surface of the Earth are truly visible at distances beyond what is acceptable of a convex sphere and the Earth is truly a flat plane, it stands to reason that celestial objects should be equally, if not more so, visible at distances further from what is commonly accepted. To start, I'd like to note the popular assertion of convex sphere proponents that sea vessels disappear over the horizon as a result of the curvature of the Earth. Flat Earth proponents rightly contest this claim, as it is in actuality the case that the vessel will reappear when observed through a telescope, a clear and certain impossibility if the vessel were to have truly sunken below the curvature of the Earth. The Flat Earth explanation for this apparent disappearance and reappearance is perspective – that the further away an object is from one's eye, the smaller it becomes until it seemingly disappears into the horizon; naturally, one may remedy this loss of sight of an object due to distance through the aid of a telescope - thus objects such as ships and buildings that may have once been invisible to the naked eye instantly reappear when observed through a telescope. All of this is fine and well, but the issue lies in applying this principle to celestial objects, which in a Flat Earth cosmology, should feasibly be visible by everyone from anywhere on the Earth at any given time. In particular regard to the Sun, Flat Earth proponents claim that the Sun never actually rises or sets but rather comes into view by moving towards you and then out of view by moving away from you. In considering this, it logically follows that the Sun necessarily appears and disappears from view for the same reason ships and buildings appear and disappear - and if objects on the surface never really disappear but rather are simply too far away to be seen with the naked eye, it then follows that this same law must apply to the Sun and the other celestial bodies, therefore it should be possible to view the Sun both before and after it sets beyond the horizon through the simple aid of a telescope. Unfortunately, and to the dismay of the Flat Earth theory and its adherents, this doesn't occur; the Sun and the other celestial bodies can never be seen after they set with any telescope, from any location, at any time. The following image corroborates this point:



Taken by Hanno Falk at 50x magnification with a Meade Model 4500

From: [youtube.com/watch?v=51w1zGy2gX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51w1zGy2gX0)

To reiterate, if the Earth was flat, celestial objects should be visible from everywhere on the Earth by everyone through the use of telescopes. The fact that there is not a single planet that can be viewed after it sets, or that Polaris and Sigma Octantis are always invisible to observers opposite their position in the celestial sphere, proves the Earth is not a flat plane.

IV - Final Words

In concluding this work, I want to make it clear that I have no delusions of persuading any Flat Earth adherent into changing his or her views, despite the insurmountable amount evidence against their model, it seems they have far too much personally invested in it to accept that it doesn't depict reality; I am nevertheless hopeful that this work will reach a few of those who are not yet so deeply entrenched in the ideology and likewise possess some degree of true intellection that may allow them to venture beyond the Flat Earth theory and the mundane sciences. To those individuals I can only recommend studying the works of Cyrus Teed, particularly his book *Cellular Cosmogony* and the works of René Guénon, namely *The Reign of Quantity and the Signs of the Times* – as there is no single work more important in the Modern age than this.

Vincit omnia Veritas