

## ~EARTH (900)

[Hebrew, *e'rets*, Greek, *ge*]

### • Bible Terms And Significance

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• The fifth-largest planet of the solar system and the third in order of position from the sun. It is an oblate spheroid, being slightly flattened at the poles. Satellite observations have indicated other slight irregularities in the shape of the earth.

• Its mass is approximately  $5.98 \times 10^{24}$  kilograms ( $13.18 \times 10^{24}$  pounds). Its area is about 510,000,000 square kilometers (197,000,000 square miles).

• Earth's measurements are (approximately): circumference at the equator, just over 40,000 kilometers (24,900 miles), diameter at the equator, 12,750 kilometers (7,920 miles).

• Oceans and seas cover approximately 71 percent of its surface, leaving about 149,000,000 sq kilometers (57,500,000 sq miles) of land surface.

• The earth rotates on its axis, bringing about day and night.

• After that God saw that the light was good, and God brought about a division between the light and the darkness. (**Genesis 1:4**)

• And God began calling the light Day, but the darkness he called Night. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a first day. (**Genesis 1:5**)

• A solar day or an apparent day is a period of 24 hours, the time taken for an observer at any one point on the **earth** to be again in the same position relative to the sun. The tropical year, which concerns the return of the seasons, the interval between two consecutive returns of the sun to the vernal equinox, is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds, on the average.

- This figure is the one used in solar-year calendar reckoning, and its fractional nature has caused much difficulty in accurate calendar making.
- The axis of the **earth** tilts 23° 27' away from a perpendicular to the earth's orbit. The gyroscopic effect of rotation holds the earth's axis in basically the same direction relative to the stars regardless of its location in its orbit around the sun. This tilt of the axis brings about the seasons.
- The **earth's** atmosphere, composed principally of nitrogen, oxygen, water vapor, and other gases, extends over 960 kilometers (600 miles) above the earth's surface. Beyond this is what is termed outer space.

### · Bible Terms And Significance

- In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used for **earth** as a planet is *'e'rets*. *'E'rets* refers to **earth**, as opposed to heaven, or sky.
- Now the **earth** proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep, and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters. (**Genesis 1:2**)
- Land, country, territory
- And the beginning of his kingdom came to be Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (**Genesis 10:10**)
- Ground, surface of the ground
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the **earth** and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- People of all the globe.
- It is unthinkable of you that you are acting in this manner to put to death the righteous man with the wicked one so that it has to occur with the righteous man as it does with the wicked! It is

unthinkable of you. Is the Judge of all the **earth** not going to do what is right? (**Genesis 18:25**)

- The **Hebrew** word, '*adha-mah*' is translated **ground, soil, or land**. '*Adha-mah*' refers to ground as tilled, yielding sustenance.
- With that Yehowah God put him out of the garden of Eden to cultivate the **ground** from which he had been taken. (**Genesis 3:23**)
- Piece of ground, landed property,
- Gradually that year came to its close, and they began coming to him in the next year and saying to him; We shall not hide it from my lord but the money and the stock of domestic animals have been spent to my lord. There remains nothing before my lord but our bodies and our **land**. (**Genesis 47:18**)
- **Earth** as material substance, soil, dirt,
- On account of the **soil** that has been shattered because there has occurred no downpour upon the **land**, the farmers have become ashamed, they have covered their head. (**Jeremiah 14:4**)
- And a man of Benjamin went running from the battle line so that he arrived at Shiloh on that day with his garments ripped apart and **dirt** on his head. (**1 Samuel 4:12**)
- Ground as **earth's** visible surface
- And God proceeded to make the wild beast of the **earth** according to its kind and the domestic animal according to its kind and every moving animal of the ground according to its kind. And God got to see that it was good. (**Genesis 1:25**)
- Land, territory, country.
- Hence I said to you; You, for your part, will take possession of their **ground**, and I, for my part, shall give it to you to take possession of it, a land flowing with milk and honey. Yehowah your God I am, who have divided you off from the peoples. (**Leviticus 20:24**)
- Whole **earth**, inhabited earth.

- And I will bless those who bless you, and him that calls down evil upon you I shall curse, and all the families of the **ground** will certainly bless themselves by means of you. (**Genesis 12:3**)
- *'Adha-mah'* seems to be related etymologically to the word *'a-dham'*, the first man Adam having been made from the **dust** of the **ground**.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. (**Genesis 2:7**)
- In the **Greek** Scriptures, *ge* denotes **earth** as **arable land** or **soil**.
- Others fell upon the rocky places where they did not have much soil, and at once they sprang up because of not having depth of **soil**. (**Matthew 13:5**)
- Still others fell upon the fine soil and they began to yield fruit, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty. (**Matthew 13:8**)
- It is used to designate the material from which Adam was made, the **earth**.
- The first man is out of the **earth** and made of **dust**, the second man is out of heaven. (**1 Corinthians 15:47**)
- Our **earthly** globe;
- For truly I say to you that sooner would heaven and **earth** pass away than for one smallest letter or one particle of a letter to pass away from the Law by any means and not all things take place. (**Matthew 5:18**)
- Nor by **earth**, because it is the footstool of his feet, nor by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. (**Matthew 5:35**)
- Stop storing up for yourselves treasures upon the **earth**, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal. (**Matthew 6:19**)

- **Earth** as a habitation for human creatures and animals,
- As a snare. For it will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the **earth**. (Luke 21:35)
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit arrives upon you, and you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the **earth**. (Acts of Apostles 1:8)
- During his humiliation the judgment was taken away from him. Who will tell the details of his generation? Because his life is taken away from the **earth**. (Acts of Apostles 8:33)
- And in it there were all sorts of four-footed creatures and creeping things of the **earth** and birds of heaven. (Acts of Apostles 10:12)
- Gazing into it, I made observations and saw four-footed creatures of the **earth** and wild beasts and creeping things and birds of heaven. (Acts of Apostles 11:6)
- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the **earth**, and he decreed the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (Acts of Apostles 17:26)
- **Land, country, territory.**
- For instance, I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, so that a great famine fell upon all the **land**. (Luke 4:25)
- After these things Jesus and his disciples went into Judean **country**, and there he spent some time with them and did baptizing. (John 3:22)
- **Ground**
- Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of them will fall to the **ground** without your Fathers knowledge. (Matthew 10:29)

- So he went on to say; In this way the kingdom of God is just as when a man casts the seed upon the **ground**. (**Mark 4:26**)
- **Land, shore, as contrasted with seas or waters.**
- But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not a long way from **land**, only about three hundred feet away, dragging the net of fishes. (**John 21:8**)
- However, when they disembarked onto **land** they beheld lying there a charcoal fire and fish lying upon it and bread. (**John 21:9**)
- Simon Peter, therefore, went on board and drew the net to **land** full of big fishes, one hundred and fifty-three of them. But although there were so many the net did not burst. (**John 21:11**)
- And he again started teaching beside the sea. And a very great crowd gathered near him, so that he went aboard a boat and sat out on the sea, but all the crowd beside the sea were on the shore. (**Mark 4:1**)
- *Oi-kou-me'ne*, translated world in the **King James Version**, denotes **inhabited earth**.
- And this Good News of the kingdom will be preached in all the **inhabited earth** for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (**Matthew 24:14**)
- Now in those days a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus for all the **inhabited earth** to be registered. (**Luke 2:1**)
- When they did not find them they dragged Jason and certain brothers to the city rulers, crying out; These men that have overturned the **inhabited earth** are present here also. (**Acts of Apostles 17:6**)
- So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire **inhabited earth**. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. (**Revelation 12:9**)
- In each case of all the above senses in which these words are used, the form of the word in the original language, and more particularly the setting or context, determine which sense is meant.

- The Hebrews divided the **earth** into four quarters or regions corresponding to the four points of the compass. In the Hebrew Scriptures the words before and in front of designate and are translated east
- Later he moved from there to the mountainous region to the east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. Then he built an altar there to Yehowah and began to call on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 12:8**)
- Behind may mean west,
- Syria from the east and the Philistines from behind, and they will eat up Israel with open mouth. In view of all this his anger has not turned back, but his hand is stretched out still. (**Isaiah 9:12**)
- The right side may denote south,
- So they rose up and went to Ziph ahead of Saul, while David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. (**1 Samuel 23:24**)
- And the left may be translated north. **Ro**
- Look! To the east I go, and he is not there, and back again, and I cannot discern him. (**Job 23:8**)
- To the left where he is working, but I cannot behold him, he turns aside to the right, but I do not see him. (**Job 23:9**)
- East was also in Hebrew sometimes called the sunrising, as for example, at;
  - And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and took up camping at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. (**Joshua 4:19**)
- West in Hebrew was the setting of the sun.
- And Hezekiah was the one that stopped up the upper source of the waters of Gihon and kept them directed straight along down to the west to the City of David, and Hezekiah continued to prove successful in every work of his. (**2 Chronicles 32:30**)

- **Also, physical characteristics were used. Being almost the total western boundary of Palestine, the Sea, the Mediterranean, was sometimes used for west.**
- **As for a west boundary, it must prove to be for you the Great Sea and the shoreland. This will become your west boundary. (Numbers 34:6)**

## •• Creation

- **The planets coming into existence is recounted in the Bible with the simple statement.**
- **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)**
- **Just how long ago the starry heavens and the earth were created is not stated in the Bible. Therefore, there is no basis for Bible scholars to take issue with scientific calculations of the age of the planet.**
- **Scientists estimate the age of some rocks as being three and a half billion years, and the earth itself as being about four to four and a half billion or more years.**
- **As to time, the Scriptures are more definite about the six creative days of the Genesis account. These days have to do, not with the creation of earth's matter or material, but with the arranging and preparing of it for man's habitation.**
- **The Bible does not reveal whether God created life on any of the other planets in the universe. However, astronomers today have not found proof that life exists on any of these planets and, in fact, know of no planet besides the earth that is at present capable of supporting the life of fleshly creatures.**

## •• Purpose

- **Like all other created things, the earth was brought into existence because of Yehowah's will, pleasure.**
- **You are worthy, Yehowah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created. (Revelation**



**4:11)**

- **It was created to remain forever,**
- **And he began to build his sanctuary just like the heights, like the earth that he has founded to time indefinite. (Psalms 78:69)**
- **He has founded the earth upon its established places, it will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever. (Psalms 104:5)**
- **Your faithfulness is for generation after generation. You have solidly fixed the earth, that it may keep standing. (Psalms 119:90)**
- **A generation is going, and a generation is coming, but the earth is standing even to time indefinite. (Ecclesiastes 1:4)**
- **God speaks of himself as a God of purpose and declares that his purposes are certain to come to fruition.**
- **The One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done, the One saying; My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do. (Isaiah 46:10)**
- **So my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)**
- **He made his purpose for the earth very clear when he said to the first human pair.**
- **Further, God blessed them and God said to them; Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth. (Genesis 1:28)**
- **There were no flaws in earth or the things on it. Having created all necessary things, Yehowah saw that they were very good and proceeded to rest or desist from other earthly creative works.**
- **After that God saw everything he had made and, look! It was**

- very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a sixth day. ([Genesis 1:31](#))
- And by the seventh day God came to the completion of his work that he had made, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day from all his work that he had made. ([Genesis 2:2](#))
  - Mans habitation on **earth** is also permanent. When God gave man the Law regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, he implied that man could live on earth forever.
  - But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die. ([Genesis 2:17](#))
  - We are assured by Yehowah's own words that all the days the **earth** continues, seed sowing and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, will never cease.
  - For all the days the **earth** continues, seed sowing and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, will never cease. ([Genesis 8:22](#))
  - And that he will never destroy all flesh again by a flood.
  - And God added; This is the sign of the covenant that I am giving between me and you and every living soul that is with you, for the generations to time indefinite. ([Genesis 9:12](#))
  - My rainbow I do give in the cloud, and it must serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the **earth**. ([Genesis 9:13](#))
  - And it shall occur that when I bring a cloud over the **earth**, then the rainbow will certainly appear in the cloud. ([Genesis 9:14](#))
  - And I shall certainly remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living soul among all flesh, and no more will the waters become a deluge to bring all flesh to ruin. ([Genesis 9:15](#))
  - And the rainbow must occur in the cloud, and I shall certainly see it to remember the covenant to time indefinite between God and every living soul among all flesh that is upon the **earth**. ([Genesis 9:16](#))

- **Yehowah says that he did not make the **earth** for nothing but, rather, that he has given it to men as a home and that death will eventually be done away with. God's purpose, therefore, is for the earth to be the habitation of man in perfection and happiness with eternal life.**
- **But the meek ones themselves will possess the **earth**, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace. (Psalms 37:11)**
- **As regards the heavens, to Yehowah the heavens belong, but the **earth** he has given to the sons of men. (Psalms 115:16)**
- **For this is what Yehowah has said; the Creator of the heavens, He the true God, the Former of the **earth** and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited. I am Yehowah, and there is no one else. (Isaiah 45:18)**
- **With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say; Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. (Revelation 21:3)**
- **And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)**
- **That this is the purpose of Yehowah God, sacred to him and not to be thwarted, is indicated when the Bible says,**
- **And by the seventh day God came to the completion of his work that he had made, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day from all his work that he had made. (Genesis 2:2)**
- **And God proceeded to bless the seventh day and make it sacred, because on it he has been resting from all his work that God has created for the purpose of making. (Genesis 2:3)**
- **The seventh, or rest, day is not shown in the Genesis account as ending, as in the case of the other six days. The apostle Paul explained that the rest day of God had been continuous right through Israelite history down to his own time and had not yet ended.**

- **For this reason, just as the Holy Spirit says; Today if you people listen to his own voice. (Hebrews 3:7)**
- **Do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger, as in the day of making the test in the wilderness. (Hebrews 3:8)**
- **In which your forefathers made a test of me with a trial, and yet they had seen my works for forty years. (Hebrews 3:9)**
- **For this reason I became disgusted with this generation and said; They always go astray in their hearts, and they themselves have not come to know my ways. (Hebrews 3:10)**
- **So I swore in my anger: They shall not enter into my rest. (Hebrews 3:11)**
- **For we who have exercised faith do enter into the rest, just as he has said; So I swore in my anger, They shall not enter into my rest, although his works were finished from the founding of the world. (Hebrews 4:3)**
- **For in one place he has said of the seventh day as follows; And God rested on the seventh day from all his works. (Hebrews 4:4)**
- **And again in this place; They shall not enter into my rest. (Hebrews 4:5)**
- **Since, therefore, it remains for some to enter into it, and those to whom the Good News was first declared did not enter in because of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:6)**
- **He again marks off a certain day by saying after so long a time in David's psalm Today, just as it has been said above; Today if you people listen to his own voice, do not harden your hearts. (Hebrews 4:7)**
- **For if Joshua had led them into a place of rest, God would not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8)**
- **So there remains a Sabbath resting for the people of God. (Hebrews 4:9)**

- God says the seventh day was set aside as sacred to him. He would carry out his purpose toward the **earth**, it would be fully accomplished during that day, with no necessity of further creative works toward the earth during that time.

### · The Bible's Harmony With Scientific Facts

- He is stretching out the north over the empty place, hanging the **earth** upon nothing. (**Job 26:7**)

- The Bible speaks of God as hanging the **earth** upon nothing. Science says that the **earth** remains in its orbit in space primarily because of the interaction of gravity and centrifugal force.

- These forces, of course, are invisible. Therefore the earth, like other heavenly bodies, **is suspended in space as if hanging on nothing**. Speaking from Yehowah's viewpoint, the prophet Isaiah wrote under inspiration.

- There is One who is dwelling above the circle of the **earth**, the dwellers in which are as grasshoppers, the One who is stretching out the heavens just as a fine gauze, who spreads them out like a tent in which to dwell. (**Isaiah 40:22**)

- The Bible says; He, **God**, has described a **circle** upon the face of the waters.

- He has described a **circle** upon the face of the waters, to where light ends in darkness. (**Job 26:10**)

- The waters are limited by his decree to their proper place. They do not come up and inundate the land, neither do they fly off into space.

- And who barricaded the sea with doors, which began to go forth as when it burst out from the womb. (**Job 38:8**)

- When I put the cloud as its garment and thick gloom as its swaddling band. (**Job 38:9**)

- And I proceeded to break up my regulation upon it and to set a bar and doors. (**Job 38:10**)

- And I went on to say; This far you may come, and no farther, and

here your proud waves are limited? (**Job 38:11**)

- From the viewpoint of Yehowah, the **earth's** face, or the surface of the waters, would, of course, have a circular form, just as the edge of the moon presents a circular appearance to us. Before land surfaces appeared, the surface of the entire globe was one circular or spherical mass of surging waters.
- Now the **earth** proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep, and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters. (**Genesis 1:2**)
- Bible writers often speak from the standpoint of the observer on the **earth**, or from his particular position geographically, as we often naturally do today. For example, the Bible mentions the sunrising.
- And those camping eastward toward the sunrising will be the three-tribe division of the camp of Judah in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Judah is Nahshon the son of Amminadab. (**Numbers 2:3**)
- The two and a half tribes have already taken their inheritance from the region of the Jordan by Jericho eastward toward the sunrising. (**Numbers 34:15**)
- Some have seized upon this as an opportunity to discredit the Bible as scientifically inaccurate, claiming that the Hebrews viewed **earth** as the center of things, with the sun revolving around it. But the Bible writers nowhere expressed such a belief.
- These same critics overlook the fact that they themselves use the identical expression and that it is in all of their almanacs. It is common to hear someone say; It is sunrise, or the sun has set, or the sun traveled across the sky. The Bible also speaks of the extremity of the **earth**.
- He is making wars to cease to the extremity of the **earth**. The bow he breaks apart and does cut the spear in pieces, the wagons he burns in the fire. (**Psalms 46:9**)
- The ends of the **earth**.
- All the ends of the **earth** will remember and turn back to

Yehowah. And all the families of the nations will bow down before you. (**Psalms 22:27**)

- **The four extremities of the earth.**
- And he will certainly raise up a signal for the nations and gather the dispersed ones of Israel, and the scattered ones of Judah he will collect together from the four extremities of the **earth**. (**Isaiah 11:12**)
- **The four corners of the earth, and the four winds of the earth,**
- **After this I saw four angels standing upon the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow upon the earth or upon the sea or upon any tree. (Revelation 7:1)**
- **These expressions cannot be taken to prove that the Hebrews understood the earth to be square. The number four is often used to denote that which is fully rounded out, as it were, just as we have four directions and sometimes employ the expressions to the ends of the earth, to the four corners of the earth, in the sense of embracing all the earth.**
- **As I kept seeing the living creatures, why, look! There was one wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, by the four faces of each. (Ezekiel 1:15)**
- **As for the appearance of the wheels and their structure, it was like the glow of chrysolite, and the four of them had one likeness. And their appearance and their structure were just as when a wheel proved to be in the midst of a wheel. (Ezekiel 1:16)**
- **When they went they would go on their four respective sides. They would not turn another way when they went. (Ezekiel 1:17)**
- **Furthermore, people will come from eastern parts and western, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. (Luke 13:29)**

#### •• **Figurative And Symbolic Expressions**

- **The earth is spoken of figuratively in several instances. It is likened to a building, at;**

- Where did you happen to be when I founded the **earth**? Tell me, if you do know understanding. (**Job 38:4**)
- Who set its measurements, in case you know, or who stretched out upon it the measuring line? (**Job 38:5**)
- Into what have its socket pedestals been sunk down, or who laid its cornerstone. (**Job 38:6**)
- When Yehowah asks Job questions concerning **earth's** creation and Yehowah's management of it that Job obviously cannot answer. Yehowah also uses a figurative expression describing the result of earth's rotation. He says; The **earth** transforms itself like clay under a seal.
- **It** transforms itself like clay under a seal, and things take their station as in clothing. (**Job 38:14**)
- In Bible times some seals for signing documents were in the form of a roller engraved with the writers emblem. It was rolled over the soft clay document or clay envelope, leaving behind it an impression in the clay.
- In similar manner, at the arrival of dawn, the portion of the **earth** coming from the blackness of night begins to show itself to have form and color as the sunlight moves progressively across its face.
- The heavens, the location of Yehowah's throne, being higher than the earth, the earth is, figuratively, his footstool.
- For as the heavens are higher than the **earth**, this loving-kindness is superior toward those fearing him. (**Psalms 103:11**)
- For as the heavens are higher than the **earth**, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (**Isaiah 55:9**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; The heavens are my throne, and the **earth** is my footstool. Where, then, is the house that you people can build for me, and where, then, is the place as a resting-place for me? (**Isaiah 66:1**)
- Nor by **earth**, because it is the footstool of his feet, nor by



- Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. (**Matthew 5:35**)
- The heaven is my throne, and the **earth** is my footstool. What sort of house will you build for me, Yehowah says? Or what is the place for my resting? (**Acts of Apostles 7:49**)
  - Those who are in Sheol, or Hades, the common grave of mankind, are regarded as being under the **earth**.
  - But neither in heaven nor upon **earth** nor underneath the earth was there a single one able to open the scroll or to look into it. (**Revelation 5:3**)
  - The apostle Peter compares the literal heavens and **earth**.
  - For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an **earth** standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God. (**2 Peter 3:5**)
  - With the symbolic heavens and **earth**.
  - But by the same word the heavens and the **earth** that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men. (**2 Peter 3:7**)
  - The heavens of (**2 Peter 3:7**) do not mean Yehowah's own dwelling place, the place of his throne in the heavens. Yehowah's heavens cannot be shaken. Neither is the **earth** in the same verse the literal planet **earth**, for Yehowah says that he has established the earth firmly.
  - And he began to build his sanctuary just like the heights, like the **earth** that he has founded to time indefinite. (**Psalms 78:69**)
  - Your faithfulness is for generation after generation. You have solidly fixed the **earth**, that it may keep standing. (**Psalms 119:90**)
  - Yet, God says that he will shake both the heavens and the **earth**.
  - Say to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, I am rocking the heavens and the **earth**. (**Haggai 2:21**)

- At that time his voice shook the **earth**, but now he has promised, saying; Yet once more I will set in commotion not only the earth but also the heaven. (**Hebrews 12:26**)
- That the heavens and **earth** will flee away before him, and that new heavens and a new **earth** will be established.
- But there are new heavens and a new **earth** that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell. (**2 Peter 3:13**)
- And I saw a great white throne and the one seated on it. From before him the **earth** and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (**Revelation 20:11**)
- And I saw a new heaven and a new **earth**, for the former heaven and the former **earth** had passed away, and the sea is no more. (**Revelation 21:1**)
- It is evident that heavens is symbolic and that **earth** here has symbolic reference to a society of people living on the **earth**, just as at;
- Sing to Yehowah a new song. Sing to Yehowah, all you people of the **earth**. (**Psalms 96:1**)

**See Also HEAVEN (New Heavens and New Earth)**

- **Earth** is also symbolically used to denote the firmer, more stable elements of mankind. The restless, unstable elements of mankind are illustrated by the characteristic restlessness of the sea.
- But the wicked are like the sea that is being tossed, when it is unable to calm down, the waters of which keep tossing up seaweed and mire. (**Isaiah 57:20**)
- But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. (**James 1:6**)
- Wild waves of the sea that foam up their own causes for shame, stars with no set course, for which the blackness of darkness stands reserved forever. (**Jude 1:13**)

- But the **earth** came to the woman's help, and the **earth** opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon disgorged from its mouth. (**Revelation 12:16**)
- And I saw a great white throne and the one seated on it. From before him the **earth** and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (**Revelation 20:11**)
- And I saw a new heaven and a new **earth**, for the former heaven and the former **earth** had passed away, and the sea is no more. (**Revelation 21:1**)
- He that comes from above is over all others. He that is from the **earth** is from the **earth** and speaks of things of the **earth**. He that comes from heaven is over all others. (**John 3:31**)
- Contrasts one that comes from above as being higher than one who comes from the **earth** *ge*. The Greek word *e-pi'gei-os*, **earthly**, is used to denote **earthly**, physical things, especially as contrasted with heavenly things, and as being lower and of coarser material. Man is made of earth's material.
- For we know that if our **earthly** house, this tent, should be dissolved, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. (**2 Corinthians 5:1**)
- Nevertheless, the first is, not that which is spiritual, but that which is **physical**, afterward that which is spiritual. (**1 Corinthians 15:46**)
- The first man is out of the **earth** and made of dust, the second man is out of heaven. (**1 Corinthians 15:47**)
- As the one made of **dust** is, so those made of **dust** are also, and as the heavenly one is, so those who are heavenly are also. (**1 Corinthians 15:48**)
- And just as we have borne the image of the one made of **dust**, we shall bear also the image of the heavenly one. (**1 Corinthians 15:49**)
- Nevertheless, he can please God by living a spiritual life, a life directed by God's Word and spirit.

- Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God. (**1 Corinthians 2:12**)
- However, the spiritual man examines indeed all things, but he himself is not examined by any man. (**1 Corinthians 2:15**)
- For who has come to know the mind of Yehowah, that he may instruct him? But we do have the mind of Christ. (**1 Corinthians 2:16**)
- Furthermore, we used to have fathers who were of our flesh to discipline us, and we used to give them respect. Shall we not much more subject ourselves to the Father of our spiritual life and live? (**Hebrews 12:9**)
- **Because of mankind's fall into sin and their tendency toward material things to the neglect or exclusion of spiritual things.**
- And Yehowah began to smell a restful odor, and so Yehowah said in his heart; Never again shall I call down evil upon the ground on man's account, because the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up, and never again shall I deal every living thing a blow just as I have done. (**Genesis 8:21**)
- But a physical man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot get to know them, because they are examined spiritually. (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)
- **Earthly** can have an undesirable connotation, meaning **corrupt**, or in opposition to the spirit.
- And their finish is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory consists in their shame, and they have their minds upon **things on the earth**. (**Philippians 3:19**)
- This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is the **earthly, animal, demonic**. (**James 3:15**)