

~HEAVEN (2872)

[Hebrew, *sha-ma'yim*, Greek, *ou-ra-nos'*]

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• The Hebrew *sha-ma'yim*, always in the plural, which is rendered heaven(s), seems to have the basic sense of that which is high or lofty.

• For as the heavens are higher than the earth, this loving-kindness is superior toward those fearing him. (Psalms 103:11)

• The heavens for height and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings, that is unsearchable. (Proverbs 25:3)

• 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)

• The etymology of the Greek word for heaven *ou-ra-nos'* is uncertain.

- Physical Heavens

- The full scope of the **physical heavens** is embraced by the original-language term. The context usually provides sufficient information to determine which area of the **physical heavens** is meant.

•• Heavens Of Earth's Atmosphere

- The **heaven(s)** may apply to the **full range of earth's atmosphere** in which dew and frost form

- And may the true God give you the dews of the **heavens** and the fertile soils of the earth and an abundance of grain and new wine. (**Genesis 27:28**)

- Out of whose belly does the ice actually come forth, and as for the hoarfrost of **heaven**, who indeed brings it to birth? (**Job 38:29**)

- The birds fly,

- The representation of any beast that is in the earth, the representation of any winged bird that flies in the **heavens**. (**Deuteronomy 4:17**)

- The way of an eagle in the **heavens**, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the heart of the sea and the way of an able-bodied man with a maiden. (**Proverbs 30:19**)

- Observe intently the birds of **heaven**, because they do not sow seed or reap or gather into storehouses, still your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they are? (**Matthew 6:26**)

- The winds blow,

- He began making an east wind burst forth in the **heavens** and making a south wind blow by his own strength. (**Psalms 78:26**)

- Lightning flashes,

- For even as the lightning, by its flashing, shines from one part under **heaven** to another part under **heaven**, so the Son of man will be. (**Luke 17:24**)

- And the clouds float and drop their rain, snow, or hailstones

- And it came about that while they were fleeing from before Israel and were on the descent of Beth-horon, Yehowah hurled great stones from the **heavens** upon them as far as Azekah, so that they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. **(Joshua 10:11)**
- And it came about in the meantime that the **heavens** themselves darkened up with clouds and wind and a great downpour began to occur. And Ahab kept riding and made his way to Jezreel. **(1 Kings 18:45)**
- For just as the pouring rain descends, and the snow, from the **heavens** and does not return to that place, unless it actually saturates the earth and makes it produce and sprout, and seed is actually given to the sower and bread to the eater. **(Isaiah 55:10)**
- Although, indeed, he did not leave himself without witness in that he did good, giving you rains from **heaven** and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts to the full with food and good cheer. **(Acts of Apostles 14:17)**
- The **sky** is sometimes meant, that is, the apparent or visual dome or vault arching over the earth.
- Here the Pharisees and Sadducees approached him and, to tempt him, they asked him to display to them a sign from **heaven**. **(Matthew 16:1)**
- In reply he said to them; When evening falls you are accustomed to say; It will be fair weather, for the sky is fire-red. **(Matthew 16:2)**
- And at morning, It will be wintry, rainy weather today, for the sky is fire-red, but gloomy-looking. You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but the signs of the times you cannot interpret. **(Matthew 16:3)**
- And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way, also, look! Two men in white garments stood alongside them. **(Acts of Apostles 1:10)**
- And they said; Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the

sky? This Jesus who was received up from you into the sky will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into the sky. (**Acts of Apostles 1:11**)

- This atmospheric region corresponds generally to the **expanse** Hebrew, *ra-qi'a`*, formed during the second creative period, described at;
- And God went on to say; Let an **expanse** come to be in between the waters and let a dividing occur between the waters and the waters. (**Genesis 1:6**)
- Then God proceeded to make the **expanse** and to make a division between the waters that should be beneath the expanse and the waters that should be above the **expanse**. And it came to be so. (**Genesis 1:7**)
- And God began to call the **expanse** **Heaven**. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a second day. (**Genesis 1:8**)
- It is evidently to this **heaven** that;
- This is a history of the **heavens** and the earth in the time of their being created, in the day that Yehowah God made earth and heaven. (**Genesis 2:4**)
- For in six days Yehowah made the **heavens** and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day. That is why Yehowah blessed the Sabbath day and proceeded to make it sacred. (**Exodus 20:11**)
- Refer in speaking of the creation of the **heavens** and the earth.

See Also EXPANSE

- When the **expanse** of atmosphere was formed, earth's surface waters were separated from other waters above the expanse. This explains the expression used with regard to the global Flood of Noah's day, that, all the springs of the vast watery deep were broken open and the floodgates of the **heavens** were opened.
- In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on this day all the springs of

- the vast watery deep were broken open and the floodgates of the **heavens** were opened. (**Genesis 7:11**)
- When he prepared the **heavens** I was there, when he decreed a circle upon the face of the watery deep. (**Proverbs 8:27**)
 - When he made firm the cloud masses above, when he caused the fountains of the watery deep to be strong. (**Proverbs 8:28**)
 - **At the Flood, the waters suspended above the expanse apparently descended as if by certain channels, as well as in rainfall. When this vast reservoir had emptied itself, such floodgates of the heavens were, in effect, stopped up.**
 - And the springs of the watery deep and the floodgates of the **heavens** became stopped up, and so the downpour from the heavens was restrained. (**Genesis 8:2**)

·· Outer Space

- The physical **heavens** extend through earth's atmosphere and beyond to the regions of outer space with their stellar bodies, all the army of the **heavens**, sun, moon, stars, and constellations.
- And that you may not raise your eyes to the **heavens** and indeed see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the army of the **heavens**, and actually get seduced and bow down to them and serve them, which Yehowah your God has apportioned to all the peoples under the whole **heavens**. (**Deuteronomy 4:19**)
- For the very stars of the **heavens** and their constellations of Kesil will not flash forth their light, the sun will actually grow dark at its going forth, and the moon itself will not cause its light to shine. (**Isaiah 13:10**)
- And there are **heavenly** bodies, and earthly bodies, but the glory of the **heavenly** bodies is one sort, and that of the earthly bodies is a different sort. (**1 Corinthians 15:40**)
- The glory of the sun is one sort, and the glory of the moon is another, and the glory of the stars is another, in fact, star differs from star in glory. (**1 Corinthians 15:41**)
- Hence also from one man, and him as good as dead, there were

born children just as the stars of **heaven** for multitude and as the sands that are by the seaside, innumerable. (**Hebrews 11:12**)

- **The first verse of the Bible describes the creation of such starry heavens prior to the development of earth for human habitation.**
- **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (**Genesis 1:1**)**
- **These heavens show forth God's glory, even as does the expanse of atmosphere, being the work of God's fingers.**
- **When I see your heavens, the works of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have prepared. (**Psalms 8:3**)**
- **The heavens are declaring the glory of God, and of the work of his hands the expanse is telling. (**Psalms 19:1**)**
- **One day after another day causes speech to bubble forth, and one night after another night shows forth knowledge. (**Psalms 19:2**)**
- **There is no speech, and there are no words, no voice on their part is being heard. (**Psalms 19:3**)**
- **Into all the earth their measuring line has gone out, and to the extremity of the productive land their utterances. In them he has set a tent for the sun. (**Psalms 19:4**)**
- **And it is like a bridegroom when coming out of his nuptial chamber, it exults as a mighty man does to run in a path. (**Psalms 19:5**)**
- **From one extremity of the heavens is its going forth, and its finished circuit is to their other extremities, and there is nothing concealed from its heat. (**Psalms 19:6**)**
- **The divinely appointed statutes of the heavens control all such celestial bodies. Astronomers, despite their modern equipment and advanced mathematical knowledge, are still unable to comprehend these statutes fully.**
- **Have you come to know the statutes of the heavens, or could you put its authority in the earth? (**Job 38:33**)**

- This is what Yehowah has said; If it was not a fact that I had appointed my own covenant of the day and night, the statutes of **heaven** and earth. (**Jeremiah 33:25**)
- Their findings, however, confirm the impossibility of man's placing a measurement upon such **heavens** or of counting the stellar bodies.
- This is what Yehowah has said; If the **heavens** up above could be measured and the foundations of the earth below could be searched out, I myself also could reject the entire seed of Israel on account of all that they have done, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 31:37**)
- Just as the army of the **heavens** cannot be counted, neither the sand of the sea be measured, so I shall multiply the seed of David my servant and the Levites who are ministering to me. (**Jeremiah 33:22**)
- Yet they are numbered and named by God.
- He is counting the number of the stars, all of them he calls by their names. (**Psalms 147:4**)
- Raise your eyes high up and see. Who has created these things? It is the One who is bringing forth the army of them even by number, all of whom he calls even by name. Due to the abundance of dynamic energy, he also being vigorous in power, not one of them is missing. (**Isaiah 40:26**)

See Also **STAR**

•• **Midheaven, Extremities Of Heavens**

- The expression **midheaven** applies to the region within earth's expanse of atmosphere where birds, such as the eagle, fly.
- And I saw, and I heard an eagle flying in **midheaven** say with a loud voice; Woe, woe, woe to those dwelling on the earth because of the rest of the trumpet blasts of the three angels who are about to blow their trumpets! (**Revelation 8:13**)
- And I saw another angel flying in **midheaven**, and he had

- everlasting Good News to declare as glad tidings to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. (**Revelation 14:6**)
- I saw also an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice and said to all the birds that fly in mid**heaven**; Come here, be gathered together to the great evening meal of God. (**Revelation 19:17**)
 - So you people came near and stood at the base of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to **midheaven**, there was darkness, cloud and thick gloom. (**Deuteronomy 4:11**)
 - Hebrew, **heart of the heavens**. Somewhat similar is the expression between the earth and the **heavens**.
 - When David raised his eyes, he got to see Yehowah's angel standing **between the earth and the heavens** with his drawn sword in his hand extended toward Jerusalem, and David and the older men, covered with sackcloth, at once fell down upon their faces. (**1 Chronicles 21:16**)
 - Eventually Absalom found himself before the servants of David. And Absalom was riding upon a mule, and the mule got to come under the network of boughs of a massive big tree, so that his head got caught fast in the big tree, and he was taken **up between the heavens** and the earth, as the mule itself that was under him passed along. (**2 Samuel 18:9**)
 - The advance of Babylon's attackers from **the extremity of the heavens** evidently means their coming to her from the distant horizon, where earth and sky appear to meet and the sun appears to rise and set.
 - They are coming from the land far away, from the extremity of the **heavens**, Yehowah and the weapons of his denunciation, to wreck all the earth. (**Isaiah 13:5**)
 - Into all the earth their measuring line has gone out, and to the extremity of the productive land their utterances. In them he has set a tent for the sun. (**Psalms 19:4**)
 - And it is like a bridegroom when coming out of his nuptial chamber, it exults as a mighty man does to run in a path. (**Psalms**

19:5)

- From **one extremity of the heavens** is its going forth, and its finished circuit is to their other extremities, and there is nothing concealed from its heat. (**Psalms 19:6**)
- Similarly **from the four extremities of the heavens** apparently refers to four points of the compass, thus indicating a coverage of the four quarters of the earth.
- And I will bring in upon Elam the four winds from the four extremities of the **heavens**. And I will scatter them to all these winds, and there will prove to be no nation to which the dispersed ones of Elam will not come. (**Jeremiah 49:36**)
- And the male of the goats, for its part, put on great airs to an extreme, but as soon as it became mighty, the great horn was broken, and there proceeded to come up conspicuously four instead of it, toward the four winds of the **heavens**. (**Daniel 8:8**)
- And when he will have stood up, his kingdom will be broken and be divided toward the four winds of the **heavens**, but not to his posterity and not according to his dominion with which he had ruled, because his kingdom will be uprooted, even for others than these. (**Daniel 11:4**)
- And he will send forth his angels with a great trumpet sound, and they will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from one extremity of the **heavens** to their other extremity. (**Matthew 24:31**)
- And then he will send forth the angels and will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from earth's extremity to **heavens** extremity. (**Mark 13:27**)
- As the **heavens** surround the earth on all sides, Yehowah's vision of everything **under the whole heavens** embraces all the globe.
- For he himself looks to the very ends of the earth, Under the **whole heavens** he sees. (**Job 28:24**)

·· **The Cloudy Skies**

- Another term, the Hebrew *sha'chaq*, is also used to refer to the **skies** or their **clouds**.
- There is none like the true God of Jeshurun, who rides upon **heaven** in help of you and upon cloudy skies in his eminence. (**Deuteronomy 33:26**)
- By his knowledge the watery deeps themselves were split apart, and the **cloudy skies** keep dripping down light rain. (**Proverbs 3:20**)
- O you **heavens**, cause a dripping from above, and let the **cloudy skies** themselves trickle with righteousness. Let the earth open up, and let it be fruitful with salvation, and let it cause righteousness itself to spring up at the same time. I myself, Yehowah, have created it. (**Isaiah 45:8**)
- This word has the root meaning of something beaten fine or pulverized, as the film of dust *sha'chaq*, at;
- Look! The nations are as a drop from a bucket, and as the film of dust on the scales they have been accounted. Look! He lifts the islands themselves as **mere fine dust**. (**Isaiah 40:15**)
- There is a definite appropriateness in this meaning, inasmuch as clouds form when warm air, rising from the earth, becomes cooled to what is known as the dewpoint, and the water vapor in it condenses into minute particles sometimes called **water dust**.
- For he draws up the drops of water, they filter as rain for his mist. (**Job 36:27**)
- So that the clouds trickle, they drip upon mankind abundantly. (**Job 36:28**)
- Adding to the appropriateness, the visual effect of the blue dome of the sky is caused by the diffusion of the rays of the sun by gas molecules and other particles, including dust, composing the atmosphere. By God's formation of such atmosphere, he has, in effect, beaten out the skies hard like a molten mirror, giving a definite limit, or clear demarcation, to the atmospheric blue vault above man.
- With him can you beat out the skies hard like a molten mirror? (**Job 37:18**)

See Also CLOUD

•• Heavens Of The Heavens

- The expression **heavens of the heavens** is considered to refer to the highest **heavens** and would embrace the complete extent of the physical **heavens**, however vast, since the **heavens** extend out from the earth in all directions.
- Behold, to Yehowah your God belong the **heavens**, even the heavens of the **heavens**, the earth and all that is in it. (**Deuteronomy 10:14**)
- You are Yehowah alone! You yourself have made the **heavens**, even the **heaven of the heavens**, and all their army, the earth and all that is upon it, the seas and all that is in them, and you are preserving all of them alive, and the army of the **heavens** are bowing down to you. (**Nehemiah 9:6**)
- Solomon, the constructor of the temple at Jerusalem, stated that the **heavens**, yes, the **heaven of the heavens** cannot contain God.
- But will God truly dwell upon the earth? Look! The **heavens**, yes, the **heaven of the heavens**, themselves cannot contain you, how much less, then, this house that I have built! (**1 Kings 8:27**)
- As the Creator of the **heavens**, Yehowah's position is far above them all, and his name alone is unreachably high. His dignity is above earth and **heaven**.
- Let them praise the name of Yehowah, for his name alone is unreachably high. His dignity is above earth and **heaven**. (**Psalms 148:13**)
- Yehowah measures the physical **heavens** as easily as a man would measure an object by spreading his fingers so that the object lies between the tips of the thumb and the little finger.
- Who has measured the waters in the mere hollow of his hand, and taken the proportions of the **heavens** themselves with a mere span and included in a measure the dust of the earth, or weighed with an indicator the mountains, and the hills in the scales? (**Isaiah 40:12**)

- **Solomon's statement does not mean that God has no specific place of residence. Nor does it mean that he is omnipresent in the sense of being literally everywhere and in everything.**
- **This can be seen from the fact that Solomon also spoke of Yehowah as hearing from the **heavens**, your established place of dwelling, that is, the **heavens** of the spirit realm.**
- **And you must listen to the request for favor on the part of your servant and of your people Israel with which they pray toward this place, and may you yourself hear at the place of your dwelling, in the **heavens**, and you must hear and forgive. (1 Kings 8:30)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the **heavens**, your established place of dwelling, and you must forgive and act and give to each one according to all his ways, because you know his heart, for you yourself alone well know the heart of all the sons of mankind. (1 Kings 8:39)**
- **Thus, in the physical sense, the term **heavens** covers a wide range. While it may refer to the farthest reaches of universal space, it may also refer to something that is simply high, or lofty, to a degree beyond the ordinary. Thus, those aboard storm-tossed ships are said to go up to the heavens, down to the bottoms.**
- **They go up to the **heavens**, they go down to the bottoms. Because of the calamity their very soul finds itself melting. (Psalms 107:26)**
- **So, too, the builders of the Tower of Babel intended to put up a structure with its top in the **heavens**, a skyscraper, as it were.**
- **They now said; Come on! Let us build ourselves a city and also a tower with its top in the **heavens**, and let us make a celebrated name for ourselves, for fear we may be scattered over all the surface of the earth. (Genesis 11:4)**
- **Even if Babylon should ascend to the **heavens** and even if she should make the height of her strength unapproachable, from me the despoilers will come to her, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 51:53)**

- **And the prophecy at;**
- **If they dig down into Sheol, from there my own hand will take them, and if they go up to the **heavens**, from there I shall bring them down. (**Amos 9:2**)**
- **Speaks of men as going up to the **heavens** in a vain effort to elude Yehowah's judgments, evidently meaning that they would try to find escape in the high mountainous regions.**

•• **Spiritual Heavens**

- **The same original-language words used for the physical **heavens** are also applied to the **spiritual heavens**. As has been seen, Yehowah God does not reside in the physical **heavens**, being a Spirit. However, since he is the High and Lofty One who resides in the height**
- **For this is what the High and Lofty One, who is residing forever and whose name is holy, has said; In the height and in the holy place is where I reside, also with the one crushed and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly ones and to revive the heart of the ones being crushed. (**Isaiah 57:15**)**
- **The basic sense of that which is lifted up or lofty expressed in the Hebrew-language word makes it appropriate to describe God's lofty abode of holiness and beauty.**
- **Look from **heaven** and see out of your lofty abode of holiness and beauty. Where are your zeal and your full might, the commotion of your inward parts, and your mercies? Toward me they have restrained themselves. (**Isaiah 63:15**)**
- **From the **heavens** Yehowah has looked, the has seen all the sons of men. (**Psalms 33:13**)**
- **From the established place where he dwells he has gazed at all those dwelling on the earth. (**Psalms 33:14**)**
- **But our God is in the **heavens**, everything that he delighted to do he has done. (**Psalms 115:3**)**
- **As the Maker of the physical **heavens**,**
- **Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most**

High God, producer of **heaven** and earth. ([Genesis 14:19](#))

- By the word of Yehowah the **heavens** themselves were made, and by the spirit of his mouth all their army. ([Psalms 33:6](#))
- Yehowah is also their Owner.
- You are the ones blessed by Yehowah, the Maker of **heaven** and earth. ([Psalms 115:15](#))
- As regards the **heavens**, to Yehowah the heavens belong, but the earth he has given to the sons of men. ([Psalms 115:16](#))
- **Whatever is his pleasure to do in them, he does, including miraculous acts.**
- **Everything that Yehowah delighted to do he has done in the **heavens** and in the earth, in the seas and all the watery deeps. ([Psalms 135:6](#))**
- **In many texts, therefore, the **heavens** stand for God himself and his sovereign position. His throne is in the **heavens**, that is, in the spirit realm over which he also rules.**
- **Yehowah himself has firmly established his throne in the very **heavens**, and over everything his own kingship has held domination. ([Psalms 103:19](#))**
- **Bless Yehowah, O you angels of his, mighty in power, carrying out his word, by listening to the voice of his word. ([Psalms 103:20](#))**
- **Bless Yehowah, all you armies of his, you ministers of his, doing his will. ([Psalms 103:21](#))**
- **And he proceeded to say; O Yehowah the God of our forefathers, are you not God in the **heavens**, and are you not dominating over all the kingdoms of the nations, and are there not in your hand power and mightiness, with no one to hold his ground against you? ([2 Chronicles 20:6](#))**
- **And he that swears by **heaven** is swearing by the throne of God and by him that is sitting on it. ([Matthew 23:22](#))**

- 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**)
- From his supreme or ultimate position, Yehowah, in effect, looks down upon the physical **heavens** and earth.
- As for Yehowah, he has looked down from **heaven** itself upon the sons of men, to see whether there exists anyone having insight, anyone seeking Yehowah. (**Psalms 14:2**)
- For he has looked down from his holy height, from the very **heavens** Yehowah himself has looked even at the earth. (**Psalms 102:19**)
- He is condescending to look on **heaven** and earth. (**Psalms 113:6**)
- And from this lofty position also speaks, answers petitions, and renders judgment.
- You must also hear from the **heavens**, your established place of dwelling, their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (**1 Kings 8:49**)
- The very One sitting in the **heavens** will laugh. Yehowah himself will hold them in derision. (**Psalms 2:4**)
- At that time he will speak to them in his anger and in his hot displeasure he will disturb them. (**Psalms 2:5**)
- Saying; I, even I, have installed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain. (**Psalms 2:6**)
- From **heaven** you caused the legal contest to be heard, the earth itself feared and kept quiet (**Psalms 76:8**)
- Look! Also, there was a voice from the **heavens** that said; This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved. (**Matthew 3:17**)
- So we read that Hezekiah and Isaiah, in the face of a grave threat, kept praying and crying to the **heavens** for aid.
- But Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, kept praying over this and crying to the **heavens** for aid. (**2**

Chronicles 32:20)

- Finally the priests, the Levites, stood up and blessed the people, and a hearing was granted to their voice, so that their prayer came to his holy dwelling, the **heavens**. (2 Chronicles 30:27)
- Jesus, too, used the **heavens** as representing God when asking the religious leaders whether the source of John's baptism was from **heaven** or from men.
- The baptism by John, from what source was it? From **heaven** or from men? But they began to reason among themselves, saying; If we say; From **heaven**, he will say to us; Why, then, did you not believe him? (Matthew 21:25)
- In answer John said; A man cannot receive a single thing unless it has been given him from **heaven**. (John 3:27)
- The prodigal son confessed to having sinned **against heaven** as well as against his own father.
- I will rise and journey to my father and say to him; Father, I have sinned **against heaven** and against you. (Luke 15:18)
- Then the son said to him, Father, I have sinned **against heaven** and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Make me as one of your hired men. (Luke 15:21)
- The kingdom of the **heavens**, then, means not merely that it is based in and rules from the spiritual heavens but also that it is the kingdom of God.
- And in the days of those kings the God of **heaven** will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite; (Daniel 2:44)
- From that time on Jesus commenced preaching and saying; Repent, you people, for the kingdom of the **heavens** has drawn near. (Matthew 4:17)
- This is why I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and be given to a nation producing its fruits. (Matthew

21:43)

- The Lord will deliver me from every wicked work and will save me for his **heavenly** kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (**2 Timothy 4:18**)
- Also because of God's **heavenly** position, both men and angels raised hands or faces toward the heavens in calling upon him to act
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Stretch out your hand toward the **heavens**, that hail may come on all the land of Egypt, upon man and beast and all vegetation of the field in the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 9:22**)
- So Moses stretched out his rod toward the **heavens**, and Yehowah gave thunders and hail, and fire would run down to the earth, and Yehowah kept making it rain down hail upon the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 9:23**)
- Yehowah then said to Moses; Stretch your hand out toward the **heavens**, that darkness may occur over the land of Egypt and the darkness may be felt. (**Exodus 10:21**)
- Moses immediately stretched his hand out toward the **heavens**, and a gloomy darkness began to occur in all the land of Egypt for three days. (**Exodus 10:22**)
- **In swearing to an oath**
- And I began to hear the man clothed with the linen, who was up above the waters of the stream, as he proceeded to raise his right hand and his left hand to the **heavens** and to swear by the One who is alive for time indefinite; It will be for an appointed time, appointed times and a half. And as soon as there will have been a finishing of the dashing of the power of the holy people to pieces, all these things will come to their finish. (**Daniel 12:7**)
- **In prayer**
- And Solomon began standing before the altar of Yehowah in front of all the congregation of Israel, and he now spread his palms out to the **heavens**. (**1 Kings 8:22**)
- And he went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, there is no

God like you in the **heavens** above or on the earth beneath, keeping the covenant and the loving-kindness toward your servants who are walking before you with all their heart. (**1 Kings 8:23**)

- Let us raise our heart along with our palms to God in the **heavens**. (**Lamentations 3:41**)
- Next he commanded the crowds to recline on the grass and took the five loaves and two fishes, and, looking up to **heaven**, he said a blessing and, after breaking the loaves, he distributed them to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds. (**Matthew 14:19**)
- Jesus spoke these things, and, raising his eyes to **heaven**, he said; Father, the hour has come, glorify your son, that your son may glorify you. (**John 17:1**)
- For I raise my hand to **heaven** in an oath, and I do say; As I am alive to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 32:40**)
- Yehowah speaks of himself as raising his hand to **heaven** in an oath. In harmony with.
- For when God made his promise to Abraham, since he could not swear by anyone greater, he swore by himself. (**Hebrews 6:13**)
- This evidently means that Yehowah swears by himself.
- By my own self I have sworn, out of my own mouth in righteousness the word has gone forth, so that it will not return, that to me every knee will bend down, every tongue will swear. (**Isaiah 45:23**)

•• Angelic Dwelling Place

- The spiritual **heavens** are also the proper dwelling place of God's spirit sons.
- And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (**Jude 1:6**)

- And he began to dream, and, look! There was a ladder stationed upon the earth and its top reaching up to the **heavens**, and, look! There were God's angels ascending and descending on it. (**Genesis 28:12**)
- And, look! There was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. (**Genesis 28:13**)
- See to it that you men do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in **heaven** always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. (**Matthew 18:10**)
- Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the **heavens** nor the Son, but only the Father. (**Matthew 24:36**)
- The expression, **army of the heavens**, often applied to the stellar creation, sometimes describes these angelic sons of God.
- And he went on to say; Therefore hear the word of Yehowah; I certainly see Yehowah sitting upon his throne and all the **army of the heavens** standing by him, to his right and to his left. (**1 Kings 22:19**)
- Bless Yehowah, O you angels of his, mighty in power, carrying out his word, by listening to the voice of his word. (**Psalms 103:20**)
- Bless Yehowah, all you armies of his, you ministers of his, doing his will. (**Psalms 103:21**)
- There was a stream of fire flowing and going out from before him. There were a thousand thousands that kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand that kept standing right before him. The Court took its seat, and there were books that were opened. (**Daniel 7:10**)
- And suddenly there came to be with the angel a multitude of the **heavenly army**, praising God and saying; (**Luke 2:13**)
- Also, the **armies that were in heaven** were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. (**Revelation 19:14**)

- So, too, the **heavens** are personified as representing this angelic organization, the congregation of the holy ones.
- And the **heavens** will laud your marvelous act, O Yehowah, yes, your faithfulness in the congregation of the holy ones. (**Psalms 89:5**)
- For who in the skies can be compared to Yehowah? Who can resemble Yehowah among the sons of God? (**Psalms 89:6**)
- God is to be held in awe among the intimate group of holy ones, he is grand and fear-inspiring over all who are round about him. (**Psalms 89:7**)
- I tell you that thus there will be more joy in **heaven** over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous ones who have no need of repentance. (**Luke 15:7**)
- Thus, I tell you, joy arises among the angels of God over one sinner that repents. (**Luke 15:10**)
- On this account be glad, you **heavens** and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time. (**Revelation 12:12**)

•• Representing Rulership

- We have seen that the **heavens** can refer to Yehowah God in his sovereign position. Thus, when Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the experience the Babylonian emperor was due to have would make him know that the **heavens** are ruling, it meant the same as knowing, that the **Most High** is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind.
- And you they will be driving away from men, and with the beasts of the field your dwelling will come to be, and the vegetation is what they will give even to you to eat just like bulls, and with the dew of the **heavens** you yourself will be getting wet, and seven times themselves will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that to the one whom he wants to he gives it. (**Daniel 4:25**)
- And because they said to leave the rootstock of the tree, your

kingdom will be sure to you after you know that the **heavens** are ruling. ([Daniel 4:26](#))

- However, aside from its reference to the Supreme Sovereign, the term **heavens** can also refer to other ruling powers that are exalted or lifted up above their subject peoples. The very dynasty of Babylonian kings that Nebuchadnezzar represented is described at;
- O how you have fallen from **heaven**, you shining one, son of the dawn! How you have been cut down to the earth, you who were disabling the nations! ([Isaiah 14:12](#))
- As being star-like, a shining one, son of the dawn. By the conquest of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E**, that Babylonian dynasty lifted its throne above the stars of God, these stars evidently referring to the Davidic line of Judean kings, even as the Heir to the Davidic throne, Christ Jesus, is called the bright morning star at;
- I, Jesus, sent my angel to bear witness to you people of these things for the congregations. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star. ([Revelation 22:16](#))
- I shall see him, but not now. I shall behold him, but not near. A star will certainly step forth out of Jacob, and a scepter will indeed rise out of Israel. And he will certainly break apart the temples of Moab's head and the cranium of all the sons of tumult of war. ([Numbers 24:17](#))
- By its overthrow of the divinely authorized Davidic throne, the Babylonian dynasty, in effect, exalted itself **heaven** high.
- As for you, you have said in your heart; To the **heavens** I shall go up. Above the stars of God I shall lift up my throne, and I shall sit down upon the mountain of meeting, in the remotest parts of the north. ([Isaiah 14:13](#))
- I shall go up above the high places of the clouds, I shall make myself resemble the Most High. ([Isaiah 14:14](#))
- This lofty grandeur and far-reaching dominion were also represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream by a symbolic tree with its height reaching the **heavens**.
- The tree that you beheld, that grew great and became strong and

- the height of which finally reached the **heavens** and which was visible to all the earth. (**Daniel 4:20**)
- And the foliage of which was fair, and the fruit of which was abundant, and on which there was food for all, under which the beasts of the field would dwell, and on the boughs of which the birds of the **heavens** would reside. (**Daniel 4:21**)
- It is you, O king, because you have grown great and become strong, and your grandeur has grown great and reached to the **heavens**, and your rulership to the extremity of the earth. (**Daniel 4:22**)

· New Heavens And New Earth

- The connection of the **heavens** with ruling power aids in understanding the meaning of the expression new **heavens** and a new earth found at,
- For here I am creating new **heavens** and a new earth, and the former things will not be called to mind, neither will they come up into the heart. (**Isaiah 65:17**)
- For just as the new **heavens** and the new earth that I am making are standing before me, is the utterance of Yehowah, so the offspring of you people and the name of you people will keep standing. (**Isaiah 66:22**)
- Quoted by Peter at;
- 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**)
- Observing such relationship, **McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia [1891, Vol. IV, p. 122]** comments: In;
- For here I am creating new **heavens** and a new earth, and the former things will not be called to mind, neither will they come up into the heart. (**Isaiah 65:17**)
- A new **heaven** and a new earth signify a new government, new kingdom, new people.

- **Even as the earth can refer to a society of people**
- **Sing to Yehowah a new song. Sing to Yehowah, all you people of the earth. (Psalms 96:1)**
- **So, too, heavens can symbolize the superior ruling power or government over such earth. The prophecy presenting the promise of new heavens and a new earth, given through Isaiah, was one dealing initially with the restoration of Israel from Babylonian exile.**
- **Upon the Israelites return to their homeland, they entered into a new system of things. Cyrus the Great was used prominently by God in bringing about that restoration.**
- **Back in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel, a descendant of David, served as governor, and Joshua as High Priest. In harmony with Yehowah's purpose, this new governmental arrangement, or new heavens, directed and supervised the subject people.**
- **This is what Cyrus the king of Persia has said; All the kingdoms of the earth Yehowah the God of the heavens has given me, and he himself has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, Yehowah his God be with him. So let him go up. (2 Chronicles 36:23)**
- **In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying; (Haggai 1:1)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to rouse up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and the spirit of all the remaining ones of the people, and they began to enter in and to do the work in the house of Yehowah of armies their God. (Haggai 1:14)**
- **But exult, you people, and be joyful forever in what I am creating. For here I am creating Jerusalem a cause for joyfulness and her people a cause for exultation. (Isaiah 65:18)**

See Also EARTH

- Peter's quotation, however, shows that a future fulfillment was to be anticipated, on the basis of God's promise.
- 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**)
- Since God's promise in this case relates to the presence of Christ Jesus, as shown at **verse 4**, the new **heavens** and a new earth, must relate to **God's Messianic Kingdom** and its rule over obedient subjects. By his resurrection and ascension to God's right hand, Christ Jesus became higher than the **heavens**.
- For such a High Priest as this was suitable for us, loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners, and become higher than the **heavens**. (**Hebrews 7:26**)
- In that he was thereby placed far above every government and authority and power and lordship not only in this system of things, but also in that to come.
- And what the surpassing greatness of his power is toward us believers. It is according to the operation of the mightiness of his strength. (**Ephesians 1:19**)
- With which he has operated in the case of the Christ when he raised him up from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the **heavenly** places. (**Ephesians 1:20**)
- Far above every government and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this system of things, but also in that to come. (**Ephesians 1:21**)
- And Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying; All authority has been given me in **heaven** and on the earth. (**Matthew 28:18**)
- Christian followers of Jesus, as partakers of the **heavenly** calling
- Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the **heavenly** calling, consider the apostle and High Priest whom we confess, Jesus. (**Hebrews 3:1**)

- Are assigned by God as heirs in union with Christ, through whom God purposed to gather all things together again. The things in the **heavens**, that is, those called to heavenly life, are the first to be thus gathered into unity with God through Christ.
- This he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and good sense. (**Ephesians 1:8**)
- In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (**Ephesians 1:9**)
- For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the **heavens** and the things on the earth. Yes, in him. (**Ephesians 1:10**)
- In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (**Ephesians 1:11**)
- Their inheritance is reserved in the **heavens**.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (**1 Peter 1:3**)
- To an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the **heavens** for you. (**1 Peter 1:4**)
- Because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the **heavens**. This hope you heard of before by the telling of the truth of that Good News. (**Colossians 1:5**)
- In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. (**John 14:2**)
- Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be. (**John 14:3**)

- **They are enrolled and have their citizenship in the heavens.**
- **For the command was not bearable to them; And if a beast touches the mountain, it must be stoned. (Hebrews 12:20)**
- **Also, the display was so fearsome that Moses said; I am fearful and trembling. (Hebrews 12:21)**
- **But you have approached a Mount Zion and a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels. (Hebrews 12:22)**
- **In general assembly, and the congregation of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. (Hebrews 12:23)**
- **As for us, our citizenship exists in the heavens, from which place also we are eagerly waiting for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)**
- **They form the New Jerusalem seen in John's vision as coming down out of heaven from God.**
- **I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)**
- **And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls which were full of the seven last plagues, and he spoke with me and said; Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lambs wife. (Revelation 21:9)**
- **So he carried me away in the power of the spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and he showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. (Revelation 21:10)**
- **In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, so let wives also be to their husbands in everything. (Ephesians 5:24)**
- **Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25)**

- That he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word. (**Ephesians 5:26**)
- That he might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, not having a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things, but that it should be holy and without blemish. (**Ephesians 5:27**)
- Since this vision is initially stated to be of a new **heaven** and a new earth.
- 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 follows that both are represented in what is thereafter described. Hence the new **heaven** must correspond to Christ together with his bride, the New Jerusalem, and the new earth is seen in the peoples of mankind who are their subjects and who receive the blessings of their rule, as depicted in verses.
- 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**)

•• Passing Away Of Former Heaven And Earth

- John's vision refers to the passing away of the former **heaven** and the former earth.
- 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**)
- 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**)
- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, earthly governments and their peoples are shown to be subject to Satanic rule.

- **Again the Devil took him along to an unusually high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (Matthew 4:8)**
- **And he said to him; All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of worship to me. (Matthew 4:9)**
- **Now there is a judging of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31)**
- **If, now, the Good News we declare is in fact veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing. (2 Corinthians 4:3)**
- **Among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious Good News about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through. (2 Corinthians 4:4)**
- **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)**
- **And I saw three unclean inspired expressions that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (Revelation 16:13)**
- **They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty. (Revelation 16:14)**
- **The apostle Paul referred to the wicked spirit forces in the **heavenly** places, with their governments, authorities, and world rulers.**
- **Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the **heavenly** places. (Ephesians 6:12)**
- **So the passing away of the former **heaven** indicates the end of political governments along with Satan and his demons. This**

identification of the former **heaven**, harmonizes with the fact that shortly before the statement concerning the former **heaven** having passed away, John had seen a vision of the complete defeat of Satan's forces and the casting of Satan into the abyss.

- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the **heavenly** places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- The earthly subjects of Satan's rule are destroyed prior to his abyssing, as shown at;
- I saw also an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice and said to all the birds that fly in **midheaven**; Come here, be gathered together to the great evening meal of God. (**Revelation 19:17**)
- That you may eat the fleshy parts of kings and the fleshy parts of military commanders and the fleshy parts of strong men and the fleshy parts of horses and of those seated upon them, and the fleshy parts of all, of freemen as well as of slaves and of small ones and great. (**Revelation 19:18**)
- Do not be loving either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (**1 John 2:15**)
- Because everything in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life, does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. (**1 John 2:16**)
- Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever. (**1 John 2:17**)
- The description of a fiery destruction of **heaven** and earth at;
- 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**)
- However, let this one fact not be escaping your notice, beloved ones, that one day is with Yehowah as a thousand years and a

thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)

- Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
- Yet Yehowah's day will come as a thief, in which the **heavens** will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered. (2 Peter 3:10)
- Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion. (2 Peter 3:11)
- Awaiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the day of Yehowah, through which the **heavens** being on fire will be dissolved and the elements being intensely hot will melt! (2 Peter 3:12)
- Corresponds to the visions in Revelation.

· Abasement Of That Which Is Exalted

- Because the **heavens** represent that which is elevated, the abasement of those things that are exalted is at times represented by the overthrow or the rocking or agitating of the **heavens**.
- Yehowah is said to have thrown down from **heaven** to earth the beauty of Israel at the time of its desolation. That beauty included its kingdom and princely rulers and their power, and such beauty was devoured as by fire.
- O how Yehowah in his anger beclouds the daughter of Zion! He has thrown down from **heaven** to earth the beauty of Israel. And he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger. (Lamentations 2:1)
- Yehowah has swallowed up, he has shown no compassion upon any abiding places of Jacob. In his fury he has torn down the fortified places of the daughter of Judah. He has brought into contact with the earth, he has profaned the kingdom and her princes. (Lamentations 2:2)

- In the heat of anger he has cut down every horn of Israel. He has turned his right hand back from before the enemy, and in Jacob he keeps burning like a flaming fire that has devoured all around. (**Lamentations 2:3**)

- But Israel's conqueror, Babylon, later experienced an agitation of her own **heaven** and a rocking of her earth when the Medes and Persians overthrew Babylon and her heavenly gods proved false and unable to save her from the loss of her dominion over the land.

- The pronouncement against Babylon that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw in vision. (**Isaiah 13:1**)

- For the very stars of the **heavens** and their constellations of Kesil will not flash forth their light, the sun will actually grow dark at its going forth, and the moon itself will not cause its light to shine. (**Isaiah 13:10**)

- And I shall certainly bring home its own badness upon the productive land, and their own error upon the wicked themselves. And I shall actually cause the pride of the presumptuous ones to cease, and the haughtiness of the tyrants I shall abase. (**Isaiah 13:11**)

- I shall make mortal man rarer than refined gold, and earthling man rarer than the gold of Ophir. (**Isaiah 13:12**)

- That is why I shall cause **heaven** itself to become agitated, and the earth will rock out of its place at the fury of Yehowah of armies and at the day of his burning anger. (**Isaiah 13:13**)

- Similarly, it was prophesied that the **heaven-high** position of Edom would not save her from destruction and that Yehowah's sword of judgment would be drenched in her heights, or **heavens**, with no help for her from any **heavenly**, or exalted, source.

- And all those of the army of the **heavens** must rot away. And the heavens must be rolled up, just like a book scroll, and their army will all shrivel away, just as the leafage shrivels off the vine and like a shriveled fig off the fig tree. (**Isaiah 34:4**)

- For in the **heavens** my sword will certainly be drenched. Look! Upon Edom it will descend, and upon the people devoted by me

- to destruction in justice. (**Isaiah 34:5**)
- **Yehowah has a sword, it must be filled with blood. It must be made greasy with the fat, with the blood of young rams and he-goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For Yehowah has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughtering in the land of Edom. (**Isaiah 34:6**)**
 - **And the wild bulls must come down with them, and young bulls with the powerful ones, and their land must be drenched with blood, and their very dust will be made greasy with the fat. (**Isaiah 34:7**)**
 - **The vision of Obadiah! This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said regarding Edom; There is a report that we have heard from Yehowah, and there is an envoy that has been sent among the nations; Rise up, you people, and let us rise up against her in battle. (**Obadiah 1:1**)**
 - **Look! Small is what I have made you among the nations. You are despised very much. (**Obadiah 1:2**)**
 - **The presumptuousness of your heart is what has deceived you, you who are residing in the retreats of the crag, the height where he dwells, saying in his heart; Who will bring me down to the earth? (**Obadiah 1:3**)**
 - **If you should make your position high like the eagle, or if **among the stars** there were a placing of your nest, down from there I would bring you, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Obadiah 1:4**)**
 - **Will it not be in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah? And I shall certainly destroy the wise ones out of Edom, and discernment out of the mountainous region of Esau. (**Obadiah 1:8**)**
 - **Those making great boasts, wickedly speaking in an elevated style as if to, put their mouth in the very **heavens**, are certain to fall to ruin.**
 - **They scoff and speak about what is bad, about defrauding they speak in an elevated style. (**Psalms 73:8**)**
 - **They have put their mouth in the very **heavens**, and their tongue**

- itself walks about in the earth. (**Psalms 73:9**)
- Surely on slippery ground is where you place them. You have made them fall to ruins. (**Psalms 73:18**)
 - And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given it, and authority to act forty-two months was given it. (**Revelation 13:5**)
 - And it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his residence, even those residing in **heaven**. (**Revelation 13:6**)
 - The city of Capernaum had reason to feel highly favored because of the attention it received by Jesus and his ministry. However, since it failed to respond to his powerful works, Jesus asked;
 - And you, Capernaum, will you perhaps be exalted to **heaven**? Down to Hades you will come, because if the powerful works that took place in you had taken place in Sodom, it would have remained until this very day. (**Matthew 11:23**)

•• Darkening Of The Heavens

- The darkening of the **heavens** or of the stellar bodies is often used to represent the removal of prosperous, favorable conditions, and their being replaced by foreboding, gloomy prospects and conditions, like a time when dark clouds blot out all light day and night.
- Why is it that, when I came in, there was no one? When I called, there was nobody answering? Has my hand become in fact so short that it cannot redeem, or is there in me no power to deliver? Look! With my rebuke I dry up the sea. I make rivers a wilderness. Their fish stink due to there being no water, and they die because of thirst. (**Isaiah 50:2**)
- I clothe the **heavens** with obscurity, and I make sackcloth itself their covering. (**Isaiah 50:3**)
- Who among you people is in fear of Yehowah, listening to the voice of his servant, who has walked in continual darkness and for whom there has been no brightness? Let him trust in the name of Yehowah and support himself upon his God. (**Isaiah 50:10**)

- This use of the physical **heavens** in connection with the mental outlook of human's is somewhat similar to the old Arabic expression, His **heaven** has fallen to the earth, meaning that one's superiority or prosperity is greatly diminished.
- Also similar is the modern **German** expression, *Aus allen Himmeln fallen*, literally, **to fall out of all heavens**, conveying the idea of bitter disappointment and utter disillusionment.
- Upon Judah such a day of darkness came in fulfillment of Yehowah's judgment through his prophet Joel, and it reached its culmination in Judah's desolation by Babylon.
- Blow a horn in Zion, O men, and shout a war cry in my holy mountain. Let all the inhabitants of the land get agitated, for the day of Yehowah is coming, for it is near! (**Joel 2:1**)
- It is a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick gloom, like light of dawn spread out upon the mountains. There is a people numerous and mighty, one like it has not been made to exist from the indefinite past, and after it there will be none again to the years of generation after generation. (**Joel 2:2**)
- Before it the land has become agitated, the **heavens** have rocked. Sun and moon themselves have become dark, and the very stars have withdrawn their brightness. (**Joel 2:10**)
- And I will give portents in the **heavens** and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. (**Joel 2:30**)
- The sun itself will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. (**Joel 2:31**)
- I saw the land, and, look! It was empty and waste, and into the **heavens**, and their light was no more. (**Jeremiah 4:23**)
- On this account the land will mourn, and the **heavens** above will certainly become dark. It is because I have spoken, I have considered, and I have not felt regret, nor shall I turn back from it. (**Jeremiah 4:28**)

- Any hope of help from a **heavenly** source seemed to have dried up, and as foretold at;
- And among those nations you will have no ease, nor will there prove to be any resting-place for the sole of your foot, and Yehowah will indeed give you there a trembling heart and a failing of the eyes and despair of soul. (**Deuteronomy 28:65**)
- And you will certainly be in the greatest peril for your life and be in dread night and day, and you will not be sure of your life. (**Deuteronomy 28:66**)
- In the morning you will say; If it only were evening! And in the evening you will say; If it only were morning! Because of the dread of your heart with which you will be in dread and because of the sight of your eyes that you will see. (**Deuteronomy 28:67**)
- They came into dread night and day, with no relief or hope by sunlit morning or by moonlit evening. Yet, by the same prophet, Joel, Yehowah warned enemies of Judah that they would experience the same situation when he executed judgment upon them.
- Let the nations be aroused and come up to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit in order to judge all the nations round about. (**Joel 3:12**)
- Thrust in a sickle, for harvest has grown ripe. Come, descend, for the winepress has become full. The press vats actually overflow, for their badness has become abundant. (**Joel 3:13**)
- Crowds, crowds are in the low plain of the decision, for the day of Yehowah is near in the low plain of the decision. (**Joel 3:14**)
- Sun and moon themselves will certainly become dark, and the very stars will actually withdraw their brightness. (**Joel 3:15**)
- And out of Zion Yehowah himself will roar, and out of Jerusalem he will give forth his voice. And **heaven** and earth certainly will rock, but Yehowah will be a refuge for his people, and a fortress for the sons of Israel. (**Joel 3:16**)
- Ezekiel and Isaiah used this same figurative picture in foretelling God's judgment on Egypt and on Babylon respectively.

- **And when you get extinguished I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. As for the sun, with clouds I shall cover it, and the moon itself will not let its light shine. (Ezekiel 32:7)**
- **All the luminaries of light in the heavens, I shall darken them on your account, and I will put darkness upon your land, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (Ezekiel 32:8)**
- **I shall cause your crowd to fall by the very swords of mighty ones, the tyrants of the nations, all of them, and they will actually despoil the pride of Egypt, and all her crowd must be annihilated. (Ezekiel 32:12)**
- **The pronouncement against Babylon that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw in vision. (Isaiah 13:1)**
- **For the very stars of the heavens and their constellations of Kesil will not flash forth their light, the sun will actually grow dark at its going forth, and the moon itself will not cause its light to shine. (Isaiah 13:10)**
- **And I shall certainly bring home its own badness upon the productive land, and their own error upon the wicked themselves. And I shall actually cause the pride of the presumptuous ones to cease, and the haughtiness of the tyrants I shall abase. (Isaiah 13:11)**
- **The apostle Peter quoted Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost when urging a crowd of listeners to get saved from this crooked generation.**
- **Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (Acts of Apostles 2:1)**
- **And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying; Get saved from this crooked generation. (Acts of Apostles 2:40)**
- **On the contrary, this is what was said through the prophet Joel. (Acts of Apostles 2:16)**
- **And in the last days, God says, I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men**

- will dream dreams. ([Acts of Apostles 2:17](#))
- And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ([Acts of Apostles 2:18](#))
 - And I will give portents in **heaven** above and signs on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist. ([Acts of Apostles 2:19](#))
 - The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and illustrious day of Yehowah arrives. ([Acts of Apostles 2:20](#))
 - And everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will be saved. ([Acts of Apostles 2:21](#))
 - The unheeding ones of that generation saw a time of grave darkness when the Romans besieged and eventually ravaged Jerusalem less than 40 years later. Prior to Pentecost, however, Jesus had made a similar prophecy and showed it would have a fulfillment at the time of his presence.
 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from **heaven**, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ([Matthew 24:29](#))
 - And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in **heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ([Matthew 24:30](#))
 - And he will send forth his angels with a great trumpet sound, and they will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from one extremity of the **heavens** to their other extremity. ([Matthew 24:31](#))
 - Also, there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of nations, not knowing the way out because of the roaring of the sea and its agitation. ([Luke 21:25](#))
 - While men become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth. For the powers of the **heavens** will be shaken. ([Luke 21:26](#))

- **And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:27)**
- **And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake occurred, and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the entire moon became as blood. (Revelation 6:12)**
- **And the stars of **heaven** fell to the earth, as when a fig tree shaken by a high wind casts its unripe figs. (Revelation 6:13)**
- **And the **heaven** departed as a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and every island were removed from their places. (Revelation 6:14)**
- **And the kings of the earth and the top-ranking ones and the military commanders and the rich and the strong ones and every slave and every free person hid themselves in the caves and in the rock-masses of the mountains. (Revelation 6:15)**
- **And they keep saying to the mountains and to the rock-masses; Fall over us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. (Revelation 6:16)**
- **Because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (Revelation 6:17)**

•• Permanence Of Physical Heavens

- **Eliphaz the Temanite said of God; Look! In his holy ones he has no faith, and the **heavens** themselves are actually not clean in his eyes. However, Yehowah said to Eliphaz that he and his two companions had not spoken concerning me what is truthful as has my servant Job.**
- **And Eliphaz the Temanite proceeded to answer and say; (Job 15:1)**
- **Look! In his holy ones he has no faith, and the **heavens** themselves are actually not clean in his eyes. (Job 15:15)**
- **And it came about after Yehowah had spoken these words to Job, that Yehowah proceeded to say to Eliphaz the Temanite; My anger has grown hot against you and your two companions, for you men have not spoken concerning me what is truthful as has**

my servant Job. ([Job 42:7](#))

- And they got to see the God of Israel. And under his feet there was what seemed like a work of sapphire flagstones and like the very **heavens** for purity. ([Exodus 24:10](#))
- Refers to the **heavens** as representing purity. Thus there is no cause stated in the Bible for God's destroying the physical **heavens**.
- That the physical **heavens** are permanent is shown by the fact that they are used in similes relating to things that are everlasting, such as the peaceful, righteous results of the Davidic kingdom inherited by God's Son.
- They will fear you as long as there is a sun, and before the moon for generation after generation. ([Psalms 72:5](#))
- He will descend like the rain upon the mown grass, like copious showers that wet the earth. ([Psalms 72:6](#))
- In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. ([Psalms 72:7](#))
- This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and Yehowah God will give him the throne of David his father. ([Luke 1:32](#))
- And he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom. ([Luke 1:33](#))
- Thus, texts such as;
- Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the **heavens** are the work of your hands. ([Psalms 102:25](#))
- They themselves will perish, but you yourself will keep standing, and just like a garment they will all of them wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will finish their turn. ([Psalms 102:26](#))
- That speak of the **heavens** as perishing and as being replaced like a worn-out garment are not to be understood in a literal sense.
- **Heaven** and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means

pass away. (Luke 21:33)

- Jesus says that, **heaven** and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away. The sense of this expression seems to be like that of;
- 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)
- Truly I say to you that **sooner would heaven** and earth pass away or, it is easier for **heaven** and earth to pass away.
- Indeed, it is easier for **heaven** and earth to pass away than for one particle of a letter of the Law to go unfulfilled. (Luke 16:17)
- 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.
- Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the **heavens** are the work of your hands. (Psalms 102:25)
- They themselves will perish, but you yourself will keep standing, and just like a garment they will all of them wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will finish their turn. (Psalms 102:26)
- But you are the same, and your own years will not be completed. (Psalms 102:27)
- Stresses God's eternity and imperishability, whereas his physical creation of **heavens** and earth is perishable, that is, it **could be** destroyed if such were God's purpose.
- Unlike God's eternal existence, the permanence of any part of his physical creation is not independent. As seen in the earth, the physical creation must undergo a continual renewing process if it is to endure or retain its existing form.
- That the physical **heavens** are dependent on God's will and sustaining power is indicated at (Psalms Chapter 148), where, after referring to sun, moon, and stars, along with other parts of God's

creation, **verse 6** states that God, keeps them standing forever, to time indefinite. A regulation he has given, and it will not pass away.

- **The words of;**
- **Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the heavens are the work of your hands. (Psalms 102:25)**
- **They themselves will perish, but you yourself will keep standing, and just like a garment they will all of them wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will finish their turn. (Psalms 102:26)**
- **Apply to Yehowah God, but the apostle Paul quotes them with reference to Jesus Christ. This is because God's only-begotten Son was God's personal Agent employed in creating the physical universe.**
- **Paul contrasts the Sons permanence with that of the physical creation, which God, if he so designed, could wrap up just as a cloak and set aside.**
- **God, who long ago spoke on many occasions and in many ways to our forefathers by means of the prophets. (Hebrews 1:1)**
- **Has at the end of these days spoken to us by means of a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the systems of things. (Hebrews 1:2)**
- **But with reference to the Son; God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness. (Hebrews 1:8)**
- **And; You at the beginning, O Lord, laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the heavens are the works of your hands. (Hebrews 1:10)**
- **And you will wrap them up just as a cloak, as an outer garment, and they will be changed, but you are the same, and your years will never run out. (Hebrews 1:12)**
- **Provided you have tasted that the Lord is kind. (1 Peter 2:3)**
Footnote

•• **Various Poetic And Figurative Expressions**

- Because the physical **heavens** play a vital part in sustaining and prospering life on earth by sunshine, rain, dew, refreshing winds, and other atmospheric benefits they are spoken of poetically as Yehowah's good storehouse.
- Yehowah will also make you overflow indeed with prosperity in the fruit of your belly and the fruit of your domestic animals and the fruitage of your ground, on the ground that Yehowah swore to your forefathers to give you. (**Deuteronomy 28:11**)
- Yehowah will open up to you his good storehouse, the **heavens**, to give the rain on your land in its season and to bless every deed of your hand, and you will certainly lend to many nations, while you yourself will not borrow. (**Deuteronomy 28:12**)
- And as to Joseph he said; May his land be continually blessed from Yehowah with the choice things of **heaven**, with dew, and with the watery deep lying down below. (**Deuteronomy 33:13**)
- And with the choice things, the products of the sun, and with the choice things, the yield of the lunar months. (**Deuteronomy 33:14**)
- Yehowah opens its doors to bless his servants, as when causing manna, **the grain of heaven**, to descend upon the ground.
- And he proceeded to command the cloudy skies above, and he opened the very doors of **heaven**. (**Psalms 78:23**)
- And he kept raining upon them manna to eat, and the grain of **heaven** he gave to them. (**Psalms 78:24**)
- Our forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, He gave them **bread from heaven** to eat. (**John 6:31**)
- The clouds are like water jars in the upper chambers of that storehouse, and the rain pours forth as by sluices, certain factors, such as mountains or even God's miraculous intervention, causing water condensation and subsequent rainfall in specific regions.
- Who can exactly number the clouds in wisdom, or the water jars of **heaven**, who can tip them over. (**Job 38:37**)
- He is the Maker of the earth by his power, the One firmly

establishing the productive land by his wisdom, and the One who by his understanding stretched out the **heavens**. (**Jeremiah 10:12**)

- At his voice there is a giving by him of a turmoil of waters in the **heavens**, and he causes vapors to ascend from the extremity of the earth. He has made even sluices for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. (**Jeremiah 10:13**)
- Elijah now said to Ahab; Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of the turmoil of a downpour. (**1 Kings 18:41**)
- And Ahab proceeded to go up to eat and drink. As for Elijah, he went up to the top of Carmel and began crouching to the earth and keeping his face put between his knees. (**1 Kings 18:42**)
- Then he said to his attendant; Go up, please. Look in the direction of the sea. So he went up and looked and then said; There is nothing at all. And he went on to say; Go back, for seven times. (**1 Kings 18:43**)
- And it came about at the seventh time that he got to say; Look! There is a small cloud like a man's palm ascending out of the sea. He now said; Go up, say to Ahab; Hitch up! And go down that the downpour may not detain you! (**1 Kings 18:44**)
- And it came about in the meantime that the **heavens** themselves darkened up with clouds and wind and a great downpour began to occur. And Ahab kept riding and made his way to Jezreel. (**1 Kings 18:45**)
- On the other hand, the withdrawal of God's blessing at times resulted in the **heavens** over the land of Canaan being shut up, becoming, in appearance, as hard and as nonporous as iron and having a copper-colored metallic brightness, with a dust-filled, rainless atmosphere.
- And I shall have to break the pride of your strength and make your **heavens** like iron and your earth like copper. (**Leviticus 26:19**)
- Watch out for yourselves for fear your heart may be enticed, and you do turn aside and worship other gods and bow down to them. (**Deuteronomy 11:16**)

- **And Yehowah's anger does blaze against you, and he does shut up the heavens so that no rain will occur and the ground will not give its produce and you have to perish speedily from off the good land that Yehowah is giving you. (Deuteronomy 11:17)**
- **Your skies that are over your head must also become copper, and the earth that is beneath you iron. (Deuteronomy 28:23)**
- **Yehowah will give powder and dust as the rain of your land. From the heavens it will come down upon you until you have been annihilated. (Deuteronomy 28:24)**
- **When heaven is shut up so that no rain occurs, because they kept sinning against you, and they actually pray toward this place and laud your name, and from their sin they turn back, because you kept afflicting them. (1 Kings 8:35)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must forgive the sin of your servants, even of your people Israel, because you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and you must give rain upon your land that you have given to your people as a hereditary possession. (1 Kings 8:36)**
- **This aids one in understanding the picture presented at;**
- **And it must occur in that day that I shall answer, is the utterance of Yehowah, I shall answer the heavens, and they, for their part, will answer the earth. (Hosea 2:21)**
- **And the earth, for its part, will answer the grain and the sweet wine and the oil, and they, for their part, will answer Jezreel, God will sow seed. (Hosea 2:22)**
- **And I shall certainly sow her like seed for me in the earth, and I will show mercy to her who was not shown mercy, and I will say to those not my people; You are my people. And they, for their part, will say; You are my God. (Hosea 2:23)**
- **Having foretold the devastating results of Israel's unfaithfulness, Yehowah now tells of the time of her restoration and the resulting blessings.**

- In that day, he says, I shall answer the **heavens**, and they, for their part, will answer the earth, and the earth, for its part, will answer the grain and the sweet wine and the oil, and they, for their part, will answer Jezreel.

- Evidently this represents Israel's petition for Yehowah's blessing through the chain of things of Yehowah's creation here named. For that reason these things are viewed as personified, hence, as if able to make a request, or petition.

- Israel asks for grain, wine, and oil, these products, in turn, seek their plant food and water from the earth, the earth, in order to supply this need, requires, or figuratively calls for sun, rain, and dew from the **heavens**, and the **heavens**, till now shut up because of the withdrawal of God's blessing, can respond only if God accepts the petition and restores his favor to the nation, thereby putting the productive cycle in motion.

- The prophecy gives the assurance that he will do so.

- And back and forth the earth began to shake and to rock, the foundations of the **heavens** themselves became agitated, and they kept shaking back and forth because he had been angered. (2 Samuel 22:8)

- Smoke went up at his nostrils, and fire itself from his mouth kept devouring, coals themselves blazed up from him. (2 Samuel 22:9)

- And he proceeded to bend the **heavens** down and to descend, and thick gloom was beneath his feet. (2 Samuel 22:10)

- And he came riding upon a cherub and came flying, and he was visible upon the wings of a spirit. (2 Samuel 22:11)

- Then he put a darkness around him as booths, dark waters, thick clouds. (2 Samuel 22:12)

- From the brightness in front of him burning coals of fire blazed up. (2 Samuel 22:13)

- From **heaven** Yehowah began to thunder, and the Most High himself began to give forth his voice. (2 Samuel 22:14)

- **And he kept sending out arrows, that he might scatter them, lightning, that he might throw them into confusion.**
- **And he kept sending out arrows, that he might scatter them, lightning, that he might throw them into confusion. (2 Samuel 22:15)**
- **David apparently uses the figure of a tremendous storm to represent the effect of God's intervention on David's behalf, freeing him from his enemies. The fierceness of this symbolic storm agitates the foundation of the heavens, and they bend down with dark low-lying clouds. Compare the literal storm conditions described at;**
- **And on the third day when it became morning it came about that thunders and lightnings began occurring, and a heavy cloud upon the mountain and a very loud sound of a horn, so that all the people who were in the camp began to tremble. (Exodus 19:16)**
- **Moses now brought the people out of the camp to meet the true God, and they went taking their stand at the base of the mountain. (Exodus 19:17)**
- **And Mount Sinai smoked all over, due to the fact that Yehowah came down upon it in fire, and its smoke kept ascending like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain was trembling very much. (Exodus 19:18)**
- **Also the poetic expressions at;**
- **O if only you had ripped the heavens apart, that you had come down, that on account of you the very mountains had quaked. (Isaiah 64:1)**
- **As when a fire ignites the brushwood, and the fire makes the very water boil up, in order to make your name known to your adversaries, that on account of you the nations might be agitated! (Isaiah 64:2)**
- **Yehowah, the Father of the celestial lights.**
- **Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, for it comes down from the Father of the celestial lights, and with him there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow. (James 1:17)**

- Is frequently spoken of as having stretched out the **heavens**, just as one would a tent cloth.
- Bless Yehowah, O my soul. O Yehowah my God, you have proved very great. With dignity and splendor you have clothed yourself. (**Psalms 104:1**)
- Enwrapping yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the **heavens** like a tent cloth. (**Psalms 104:2**)
- I myself have made the earth and have created even man upon it. I, my own hands have stretched out the **heavens**, and all the army of them I have commanded. (**Isaiah 45:12**)
- The **heavens**, both the expanse of atmosphere by day and the starry heavens by night, have the appearance of an immense domed canopy from the standpoint of human's on earth.
- 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 simile is that of stretching out fine gauze, rather than the coarser tent cloth. This expresses the delicate finery of such **heavenly** canopy. On a clear night the thousands of stars do, indeed, form a lacy web stretched over the black velvet background of space.
- It may also be noted that even the enormous galaxy known as the Via Lactea, or Milky Way, in which our solar system is located, has a filmy gauzelike appearance from earth's viewpoint.
- It can be seen from the foregoing that the context must always be considered in determining the sense of these figurative expressions.
- Thus, when Moses called on the **heavens** and the earth to serve as witnesses to the things that he declared to Israel, it is obvious that he did not mean the inanimate creation but, rather, the intelligent residents inhabiting the **heavens** and the earth.
- In case you become father to sons and grandsons and you have resided a long time in the land and do act ruinously and do make a carved image, a form of anything, and do commit evil in the

eyes of Yehowah your God so as to offend him. (**Deuteronomy 4:25**)

- I do take as witnesses against you today the **heavens** and the earth, that you will positively perish in a hurry from off the land to which you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of it. You will not lengthen your days on it, because you will positively be annihilated. (**Deuteronomy 4:26**)
- I do take the **heavens** and the earth as witnesses against you today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction, and you must choose life in order, that you may keep alive, you and your offspring. (**Deuteronomy 30:19**)
- In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (**Ephesians 1:9**)
- For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the **heavens** and the things on the earth. Yes, in him. (**Ephesians 1:10**)
- For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name. (**Philippians 2:9**)
- So that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in **heaven** and those on earth and those under the ground. (**Philippians 2:10**)
- And it opened its mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his residence, even those residing in **heaven**. (**Revelation 13:6**)
- This is also true of the rejoicing by the **heavens** and earth over Babylon's fall, at;
- And over Babylon the **heavens** and the earth and all that is in them will certainly cry out joyfully, for out of the north there will come to her the despoilers, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 51:48**)
- For her sins have massed together clear up to **heaven**, and God

has called her acts of injustice to mind. (**Revelation 18:5**)

- After these things I heard what was as a loud voice of a great crowd in **heaven**. They said; Praise Yah, you people! The salvation and the glory and the power belong to our God. (**Revelation 19:1**)
- Because his judgments are true and righteous. For he has executed judgment upon the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged the blood of his slaves at her hand. (**Revelation 19:2**)
- And right away for the second time they said; Praise Yah, you people! And the smoke from her goes on ascending forever and ever. (**Revelation 19:3**)
- Likewise it must be the spiritual **heavens** that trickle with righteousness, as described at;
- O you **heavens**, cause a dripping from above, and let the cloudy skies themselves trickle with righteousness. Let the earth open up, and let it be fruitful with salvation, and let it cause righteousness itself to spring up at the same time. I myself, Yehowah, have created it. (**Isaiah 45:8**)
- In other cases the literal **heavens** are meant but are figuratively described as rejoicing or shouting out loud. At Yehowah's coming to judge the earth, as described at;
- Let the **heavens** rejoice, and let the earth be joyful. Let the sea thunder and that which fills it. (**Psalms 96:11**)
- Let the open field exult and all that is in it. At the same time let all the trees of the forest break out joyfully. (**Psalms 96:12**)
- Before Yehowah. For he has come, for he has come to judge the earth. He will judge the productive land with righteousness and the peoples with his faithfulness. (**Psalms 96:13**)
- The **heavens**, along with the earth, sea, and the field, take on a gladsome appearance.
- Joyfully cry out, you **heavens**, for Yehowah has taken action! Shout in triumph, all you lowest parts of the earth! Become

cheerful, you mountains, with joyful outcry, you forest and all you trees in it! For Yehowah has repurchased Jacob, and on Israel he shows his beauty. (**Isaiah 44:23**)

- The physical **heavens** also praise their Creator, in the same way that a beautifully designed product brings praise to the craftsman producing it. In effect, they speak of Yehowah's power, wisdom, and majesty.
- The **heavens** are declaring the glory of God, and of the work of his hands the expanse is telling. (**Psalms 19:1**)
- One day after another day causes speech to bubble forth, and one night after another night shows forth knowledge. (**Psalms 19:2**)
- There is no speech, and there are no words, no voice on their part is being heard. (**Psalms 19:3**)
- Into all the earth their measuring line has gone out, and to the extremity of the productive land their utterances. In them he has set a tent for the sun. (**Psalms 19:4**)
- Let **heaven** and earth praise him, the seas and everything moving about in them. (**Psalms 69:34**)

•• **Ascension To Heaven**

- And it came about that as they were walking along, speaking as they walked, why, look! A fiery war chariot and fiery horses, and they proceeded to make a separation between them both, and Elijah went ascending in the windstorm to the **heavens**. (**2 Kings 2:11**)
- All the while Elisha was seeing it, and he was crying out; My father, my father, the war chariot of Israel and his horsemen! And he did not see him anymore. Consequently he took hold of his own garments and ripped them into two pieces. (**2 Kings 2:12**)
- The prophet Elijah is described as ascending in the windstorm to the **heavens**. The **heavens** here referred to are the atmospheric **heavens** in which windstorms occur, not the spiritual **heavens** of God's presence.

- **Elijah did not die at the time of such ascension, but he continued to live for a number of years after his heavenly transportation away from his successor Elisha. Nor did Elijah upon death ascend to the spiritual **heavens**, since Jesus, while on earth, clearly stated that no man has ascended into **heaven**.**
- **Moreover, no man has ascended into **heaven** but he that descended from heaven, the Son of man. ([John 3:13](#))**
- **At Pentecost, Peter likewise said of David that he did not ascend to the **heavens**.**
- **Actually David did not ascend to the **heavens**, but he himself says, Yehowah said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand. ([Acts of Apostles 2:34](#))**
- **In reality, there is nothing in the Scriptures to show that a **heavenly** hope was held out to God's servants prior to the coming of Christ Jesus. Such hope first appears in Jesus expressions to his disciples**
- **Jesus said to him; If you want to be perfect, go sell your belongings and give to the poor and you will have treasure in **heaven**, and come be my follower. ([Matthew 19:21](#))**
- **But Jesus said to his disciples; Truly I say to you that it will be a difficult thing for a rich man to get into the kingdom of the **heavens**. ([Matthew 19:23](#))**
- **Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to get through a needles eye than for a rich man to get into the kingdom of God. ([Matthew 19:24](#))**
- **When the disciples heard that, they expressed very great surprise, saying; Who really can be saved? ([Matthew 19:25](#))**
- **Looking them in the face, Jesus said to them; With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. ([Matthew 19:26](#))**
- **Then Peter said to him in reply; Look! We have left all things and followed you. What actually will there be for us? ([Matthew 19:27](#))**

- **Jesus said to them; Truly I say to you, in the re-creation, when the Son of man sits down upon his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also yourselves sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28)**
- **Have no fear, little flock, because your Father has approved of giving you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)**
- **In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)**
- **Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be. (John 14:3)**
- **And was fully comprehended by them only after Pentecost of 33 C.E.**
- **When, now, they had assembled, they went asking him; Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time? (Acts of Apostles 1:6)**
- **He said to them; It does not belong to you to get knowledge of the times or seasons which the Father has placed in his own jurisdiction. (Acts of Apostles 1:7)**
- **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)**
- **Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (Acts of Apostles 2:1)**
- **And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (Acts of Apostles 2:2)**
- **And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (Acts of Apostles 2:3)**
- **And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak**

with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. ([Acts of Apostles 2:4](#))

- Men, brothers, it is allowable to speak with freeness of speech to you concerning the family head David, that he both deceased and was buried and his tomb is among us to this day. ([Acts of Apostles 2:29](#))
- Therefore, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne. ([Acts of Apostles 2:30](#))
- He saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Hades nor did his flesh see corruption. ([Acts of Apostles 2:31](#))
- This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses. ([Acts of Apostles 2:32](#))
- Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which you see and hear. ([Acts of Apostles 2:33](#))
- Actually David did not ascend to the **heavens**, but he himself says, Yehowah said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand. ([Acts of Apostles 2:34](#))
- Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. ([Acts of Apostles 2:35](#))
- Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled. ([Acts of Apostles 2:36](#))
- The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God's children. ([Romans 8:16](#))
- If, then, we are children, we are also heirs. Heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together. ([Romans 8:17](#))

See Also ELIJAH 1 (Elisha Succeeds Him)

- **The Scriptures show that Christ Jesus was the first one to ascend from earth to the **heavens** of God's presence.**
- **However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death. (1 Corinthians 15:20)**
- **For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into **heaven** itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. (Hebrews 9:24)**
- **By such ascension and his presentation of his ransom sacrifice there, he opened the way for those who would follow the spirit-begotten members of his congregation.**
- **In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)**
- **Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be. (John 14:3)**
- **This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm, and it enters in within the curtain. (Hebrews 6:19)**
- **Where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek forever. (Hebrews 6:20)**
- **Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness for the way of entry into the holy place by the blood of Jesus. (Hebrews 10:19)**
- **Which he inaugurated for us as a new and living way through the curtain, that is, his flesh. (Hebrews 10:20)**
- **In their resurrection these must bear, the image of the **heavenly** one, Christ Jesus, in order to ascend to the heavens of the spirit plane, for flesh and blood cannot inherit that heavenly Kingdom.**
- **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:42)**
- **It is sown in dishonor, it is raised up in glory. It is sown in**

weakness, it is raised up in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43)

- It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:44)
- It is even so written; The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)
- 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)
- However, this I say; brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom, neither does corruption inherit incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:50)

•• How Can Persons In Heavenly Places, Still Be On Earth

- The apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians speaks of Christians then living on earth as though they were already enjoying a **heavenly position**, being raised up and seated together in the **heavenly places** in union with Christ Jesus.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the **heavenly places** in union with Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)
- And he raised us up together and seated us together in the **heavenly places** in union with Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)
- The context shows that anointed Christians are so viewed by God because of his having assigned them as heirs with his Son in the

heavenly inheritance. While yet on earth, they have been exalted, or lifted up, by such assignment.

- In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (**Ephesians 1:11**)
- The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he called you, what the glorious riches are which he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones. (**Ephesians 1:18**)
- And what the surpassing greatness of his power is toward us believers. It is according to the operation of the mightiness of his strength. (**Ephesians 1:19**)
- With which he has operated in the case of the Christ when he raised him up from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 1:20**)
- But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us. (**Ephesians 2:4**)
- Made us alive together with the Christ, even when we were dead in trespasses, by undeserved kindness you have been saved. (**Ephesians 2:5**)
- And he raised us up together and seated us together in the **heavenly** places in union with Christ Jesus. (**Ephesians 2:6**)
- That in the coming systems of things there might be demonstrated the surpassing riches of his undeserved kindness in his graciousness toward us in union with Christ Jesus. (**Ephesians 2:7**)
- In union with him you, too, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (**Ephesians 2:22**)
- These points also shed light on the symbolic vision at;
- And they heard a loud voice out of **heaven** say to them; Come on up here. And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them. (**Revelation 11:12**)

- **Likewise it provides a key for understanding the prophetic picture contained at;**
- **And out of one of them there came forth another horn, a small one, and it kept getting very much greater toward the south and toward the sunrising and toward the Decoration. (Daniel 8:9)**
- **And it kept getting greater all the way to the army of the heavens, so that it caused some of the army and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it went trampling them down. (Daniel 8:10)**
- **And all the way to the Prince of the army it put on great airs, and from him the constant feature was taken away, and the established place of his sanctuary was thrown down. (Daniel 8:11)**
- **And an army itself was gradually given over, together with the constant feature, because of transgression, and it kept throwing truth to the earth, and it acted and had success. (Daniel 8:12)**
- **Where what has previously been shown to represent a political power is spoken of as getting greater all the way to the army of the heavens, and even causing some of that army and of the stars to fall to the earth.**
- **And the ones having insight will shine like the brightness of the expanse, and those who are bringing the many to righteousness, like the stars to time indefinite, even forever. (Daniel 12:3)**
- **Those servants of God on earth at the foretold time of the end are spoken of as shining, like the stars to time indefinite. Note, too, the symbolic use of stars in the book of (Revelation Chapters 1-3), where the context shows that such stars refer to persons who are obviously living on earth and undergoing earthly experiences and temptations, these stars being responsible for congregations under their care.**
- **As for the sacred secret of the seven stars that you saw upon my right hand, and of the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars mean the angels of the seven congregations, and the seven lampstands mean seven congregations. (Revelation 1:20)**

- To the angel of the congregation in Ephesus write. These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. **(Revelation 2:1)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Smyrna write. These are the things that he says, the First and the Last, who became dead and came to life again. **(Revelation 2:8)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Pergamum write. These are the things that he says who has the sharp, long two-edged sword. **(Revelation 2:12)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Thyatira write. These are the things that the Son of God says, he who has his eyes like a fiery flame, and his feet are like fine copper. **(Revelation 2:18)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Sardis write. These are the things that he says who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, I know your deeds, that you have the name that you are alive, but you are dead. **(Revelation 3:1)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Philadelphia write. These are the things he says who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens so that no one will shut, and shuts so that no one opens. **(Revelation 3:7)**
- And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write. These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God. **(Revelation 3:14)**

•• The Way To Heavenly Life

- The way to **heavenly** life involves more than just faith in Christ's ransom sacrifice and works of faith in obedience to God's instructions. The inspired writings of the apostles and disciples show that there **must also be a calling and choosing of one by God through his Son.**
- He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not by reason of our works, but by reason of his own purpose and undeserved kindness. This was given us in connection with Christ Jesus before times long lasting. **(2 Timothy 1:9)**
- But now it has been made clearly evident through the

manifestation of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death but has shed light upon life and incorruption through the Good News. (2 Timothy 1:10)

- For there are many invited, **but few chosen**. (Matthew 22:14)
- But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)
- This invitation involves a number of steps, or actions, taken to qualify such a one for the **heavenly** inheritance, many of such steps are taken by God, others by the one called. Among such steps, or actions, are the declaring righteous of the called Christian.
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- And it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)
- For we reckon that a man is declared righteous by faith apart from works of law. (Romans 3:28)
- Who will file accusation against God's chosen ones? God is the One who declares them righteous. (Romans 8:33)
- Who is he that will condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died, yes, rather the one who was raised up from the dead, who is on the right hand of God, who also pleads for us. (Romans 8:34)
- Bringing him forth, begetting him, as a spiritual son.
- However, as many as did receive him, to them he gave authority to become God's children, because they were exercising faith in his name. (John 1:12)
- And they were born, not from blood or from a fleshly will or from man's will, but from God. (John 1:13)
- In answer Jesus said to him; Most truly I say to you, unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John

3:3)

- **Nicodemus said to him; How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter into the womb of his mother a second time and be born, can he? (John 3:4)**
- **Jesus answered; Most truly I say to you, unless anyone is born from water and spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)**
- **What has been born from the flesh is flesh, and what has been born from the spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)**
- **Because he willed it, he brought us forth by the word of truth, for us to be certain firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)**
- **His being baptized into Christ's death.**
- **Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)**
- **Therefore we were buried with him through our baptism into his death, in order, that, just as Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father, we also should likewise walk in a newness of life. (Romans 6:4)**
- **Why, for that matter, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8)**
- **And be found in union with him, having, not my own righteousness, which results from Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that issues from God on the basis of faith. (Philippians 3:9)**
- **So as to know him and the power of his resurrection and a sharing in his sufferings, submitting myself to a death like his. (Philippians 3:10)**
- **To see if I may by any means attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:11)**

- **Anointing him.**
- **But he who guarantees that you and we belong to Christ and he who has **anointed** us is God. (2 Corinthians 1:21)**
- **And you have an **anointing** from the holy one. All of you have knowledge. (1 John 2:20)**
- **And as for you, the **anointing** that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to be teaching you, but, as the anointing from him is teaching you about all things, and is true and is no lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in union with him. (1 John 2:27)**
- **Sanctifying him.**
- ****Sanctify** them by means of the truth, your word is truth. (John 17:17)**
- **The called one must **maintain integrity until death.****
- **Faithful is the saying; Certainly if we died together, we shall also live together. (2 Timothy 2:11)**
- **If we go on enduring, we shall also rule together as kings. If we deny, he also will deny us. (2 Timothy 2:12)**
- **If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)**
- **Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison that you may be fully put to the test, and that you may have tribulation ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)**
- **And after he has proved faithful in his calling and selection.**
- **These will battle with the Lamb, but, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lamb will conquer them. Also, those called and chosen and faithful with him will do so. (Revelation 17:14)**
- **He is finally resurrected to spirit life.**

- **This is the will of him that sent me, that I should lose nothing out of all that he has given me but that I should resurrect it at the last day. (John 6:39)**
- **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone that beholds the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him at the last day. (John 6:40)**
- **For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. (Romans 6:5)**
- **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:42)**
- **It is sown in dishonor, it is raised up in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised up in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43)**
- **It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:44)**
- **It is even so written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)**
- **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. 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)**

See Also ANOINTED, ANOINTING

See Also DECLARE RIGHTEOUS

See Also RESURRECTION

See Also SANCTIFICATION

· Third Heaven

- I know a man in union with Christ who, fourteen years ago, whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows, was caught away as such to the third **heaven**. (2 Corinthians 12:2)
- Yes, I know such a man, whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know, God knows. (2 Corinthians 12:3)
- That he was caught away into paradise and heard unutterable words which it is not lawful for a man to speak. (2 Corinthians 12:4)
- The apostle Paul describes one who was caught away to the third **heaven**, and into paradise. Since there is no mention in the Scriptures of any other person having had such an experience, it seems likely that this was the apostles own experience.
- Whereas some have endeavored to relate Paul's reference to the third heaven to the early rabbinic view that there were stages of heaven, even a total of seven heavens, this view finds no support in the Scriptures.
- As we have seen, the **heavens** are not referred to specifically as if divided into platforms or stages, but, rather, the context must be relied upon to determine whether reference is to the **heavens** within earth's atmospheric expanse, the heavens of outer space, the spiritual **heavens**, or something else.
- It therefore appears that the reference to the third **heaven** indicates the superlative degree of the rapture in which this vision was seen. Note the way words and expressions are repeated **three** times at;
 - And this one called to that one and said; Holy, holy, holy is Yehowah of armies. The fullness of all the earth is his glory. (Isaiah 6:3)
 - A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him. (Ezekiel 21:27)

- **When, now, they had breakfasted, Jesus said to Simon Peter; Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Feed my lambs. (John 21:15)**
- **Again he said to him, a second time; Simon son of John, do you love me? He said to him; Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you. He said to him; Shepherd my little sheep. (John 21:16)**
- **He said to him the third time; Simon son of John, do you have affection for me? Peter became grieved that he said to him the third time; Do you have affection for me? So he said to him, Lord, you know all things; You are aware that I have affection for you. Jesus said to him; Feed my little sheep. (John 21:17)**
- **And as for the four living creatures, each one of them respectively has six wings, round about and underneath they are full of eyes. And they have no rest day and night as they say; Holy, holy, holy is Yehowah God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming. (Revelation 4:8)**
- **Evidently for the purpose of expressing an intensification of the quality or idea.**