

Heavens: the source of rain; the place of flying creatures; ruled by the sun, moon, stars.

Genesis 7:11

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the **heavens** were opened.

Genesis 8:2

2 the fountains of the deep and the windows of the **heavens** were closed, the rain from the **heavens** was restrained,

Proverbs 30:18

Three things are too wonderful for me;

four I do not understand:

19 the way of an eagle in the **sky**,  
the way of a snake on a rock,  
the way of a ship on the high seas,  
and the way of a man with a girl.

Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from **heaven**. 2 He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the **sky** is red.' 3 And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the **sky** is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the **sky**, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Acts 2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

## Heavens: The throne of God

### Job 22:12

12 “Is not God high in the heavens?  
See the highest stars, how lofty they are!

### Job 22:14

14 Thick clouds enwrap him, so that he does not see,  
and he walks on the dome of heaven.’

Exodus 24:1 Then (God) said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship at a distance...  
9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

### 2 Chronicles 30:27

27 Then the priests and the Levites stood up and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; their prayer came to his holy dwelling in heaven.

### Psalms 11:4

4 The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD’s throne is in heaven.  
His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.

### Psalms 14:2

2 The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind  
to see if there are any who are wise,  
who seek after God.

### Psalms 103:19

19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

Isaiah 66 Thus says the LORD: >> quoted by Stephen before he was stoned  
Heaven is my throne

and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is my resting place?

2 All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things are mine,

1 Chronicles 28:2

2 Then King David rose to his feet and said: "Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had planned to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God; and I made preparations for building.

Psalm 132:7

7 "Let us go to his dwelling place;  
let us worship at his footstool."

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

Ezekiel 1.1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God...

22 Over the heads of the living creatures there was something like a dome, shining like crystal, spread out above their heads. 23 Under the dome their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another; and each of the creatures had two wings covering its body. 24 When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of mighty waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army; when they stopped, they let down their wings. 25 And there came a voice from above the dome over their heads; when they stopped, they let down their wings.

26 And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. 27 Upward from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all around; and downward from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendour all around. 28 Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendour all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into **heaven** and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see the **heavens** opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

\*Psalm 82:1 God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

\*Job 1:6 One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

\*Luke 10:18 He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.

Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! 3 And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. 4 Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads.

The Heavens: Created by God together with the Earth

“Maker of the heavens/heaven and earth” - many times throughout the Psalms

Exodus 31:17 It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”

Nehemiah 9:6 >> Deut 10:14

6 And Ezra said: “You are the LORD, you alone; you have made **heaven, the heaven of heavens**, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of heaven worships you.

Genesis 1 In the beginning when God created the **heavens** and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters...

6 And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day...

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the **sky** to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the **sky** to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness...

20 And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the **sky**.”

## Paradise and the Garden

παράδεισος is a loan word from old Persian, where the pairi-daēza- (read pari-daiza- or -dēza-) of the Avesta denotes an enclosure, then the park surrounded by a wall.

### Genesis 2:10

10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

Ezekiel 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

every precious stone was your covering,  
carnelian, chrysolite, and moonstone,  
beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
sapphire, turquoise, and emerald;  
and worked in gold were your settings  
and your engravings.

On the day that you were created  
they were prepared.

14 With an anointed cherub as guardian I placed you;  
you were on the holy mountain of God;  
you walked among the stones of fire.

Isaiah 51:3 For the LORD will comfort Zion;

he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Ezekiel 36:35 And they will say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined towns are now inhabited and fortified." 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places, and replanted that which was desolate; I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do it.

Isaiah 25:6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
7 And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
8 he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.  
9 It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.  
10 For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

Ezekiel 43:1 Then he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. 2 And there, the  
glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east; the sound was like the sound  
of mighty waters; and the earth shone with his glory. 3 The vision I saw was like  
the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and like the vision  
that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. 4 As the glory of the  
LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, 5 the spirit lifted me up, and  
brought me into the inner court; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.  
6 While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me out of  
the temple. 7 He said to me: Mortal, this is the place of my throne and the place  
for the soles of my feet, where I will reside among the people of Israel forever...

47:1 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was  
flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple  
faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the  
threshold of the temple, south of the altar. 2 Then he brought me out by way of  
the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces  
toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.  
3 Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand  
cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. 4 Again he  
measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep.

Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. 5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. 6 He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. 7 As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. 8 He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. 9 Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. 10 People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. 12 On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

2 Esdras 4:7 And he said to me, "If I had asked you, 'How many dwellings are in the heart of the sea, or how many streams are at the source of the deep, or how many streams are above the firmament, or which are the exits of Hades, or which are the entrances of paradise?' 8 perhaps you would have said to me, 'I never went down into the deep, nor as yet into Hades, neither did I ever ascend into heaven.'

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

diognetus, 200s AD

3 For that which was written is quite plain, that God in the beginning planted “a tree of knowledge and a tree of life in the midst of Paradise,” and showed that life is through knowledge. But those who did not use it in purity were in the beginning deprived of it by the deceit of the serpent;

Travel to Heaven and The Levels of Heaven,

Psalm 139:8

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

Genesis 28:10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the LORD stood beside him

2 Kings 2:11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. 2 Cor 12:1 It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. 3 And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— 4 was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

Testimony of Levi - date disputed

Then there fell upon me a sleep, and I beheld a high mountain: this is the mountain of Aspis in Abel-Maul. And behold, the heavens were opened, and an angel of God said to me, Levi, enter. And I entered from the first heaven into the second, and I saw there water hanging between the one and the other. And I saw a third heaven far brighter than those two, for there was in it a height without bounds. And I said to the angel, Wherefore is this? And the angel said to me, Marvel not at these, for thou shalt see four other heavens brighter than these, and without comparison, when thou shall have ascended thither:

3. Hear, then, concerning the seven heavens. The lowest is for this cause more gloomy, in that it is near all the iniquities of men. The second hath fire, snow, ice, ready for the day of the ordinance of the Lord, in the righteous judgment of God: in it are all the spirits of the retributions for vengeance on the wicked. In the third are the hosts of the armies which are ordained for the day of judgment, to work vengeance on the spirits of deceit and of Beliar. And the heavens up to the fourth above these are holy, for in the highest of all dwelleth the Great Glory, in the holy of holies, far above all holiness. In the heaven next to it are the angels of the presence of the Lord, who minister and make propitiation to the Lord for all the ignorances of the righteous; and they offer to the Lord a reasonable sweet-smelling savour, and a bloodless offering. And in the heaven below this are the angels who bear the answers to the angels of the presence of the Lord. And in the heaven next to this are thrones, dominions, in which hymns are ever offered to God. Therefore, whenever the Lord looketh upon us, all of us are shaken; yea, the heavens, and the earth, and the abysses, are shaken at the presence of His majesty; but the sons of men, regarding not these things, sin, and provoke the Most High