

Seven Associations God Has Built Into Creation

*Nehemiah 9 ⁶ You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. *Psalm 33.9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

HEAVEN – “heaven of heavens,” “highest heaven”; abode of God and angels (Gn 1.1)

– Psalm 115.16 *The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.*

– Rev 4:6 *Before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal (i.e., the “waters above the firmament” Gn 1.7)*

Heaven – “firmament heaven”; sky, sun, moon, stars (Gn 1.8, 14-18)

EARTH – physical universe (Gn 1.1)

Earth – “dry land” (Gn 1.10)

Sea – “gathering ... of the waters” (Gn 1.10); the “water under the earth” (Ex 20.4)

ABYSS – “bottomless pit”

– Luke 8.31 *And [the demons] begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.*

– 2Pet 2.4 *God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.*

– Rev 9.2 *2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.*

* **Intro: God has** built into the creation a host of associations or correspondences so that we can look at one and learn about the other or use one as a metaphor for the other.

Psalm 124 ² If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, ³ then they would have swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled against us; ⁴ Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul; ⁵ Then the swollen waters would have gone over our soul.” ⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. ⁷ Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. ⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

1) The cosmos (“heaven and earth”) is associated with _____, for the Gr. word means *that which is well ordered*.

Cosmos creation: Isaiah 51 ¹⁵ I am the LORD your God, who divided the sea ... ¹⁶ And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, that I may plant the heavens, lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”

Cosmos de-creation: Jer 4²³ I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light ...²⁹ The whole city [of Jerusalem] shall flee from ... the horsemen and bowmen ...³⁰ And when you are plundered, what will you do?

2) Heaven (sky) is associated with the “heaven of heavens”; **stars** with glorious ones; **sun and moon** with _____.

Neh 9⁶ You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host (i.e., angels and stars)

Job 38⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Phil 2¹⁵ Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become ... children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights

Gen 1¹⁶ God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night.

Gen 37⁹ “I have dreamed another dream. And ... the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”¹⁰ So ... his father rebuked him and said to him, ... “Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”

Isa 13¹ The burden against Babylon ...¹⁰ [T]he stars ... will not give their light; the sun will be darkened ..., and the moon will not ... shine ...¹⁵ Everyone ... who is captured will fall by the sword ...¹⁷ Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them

3) Earth (land) is associated with _____, and after the fall, with redeemed man (God’s people), whereas unredeemed man (Gentile nations) are associated with the unruly sea. Though there is comparatively little about the sea in the OT history of Israel, there is a lot about the sea in the Gospels, for with the coming of Jesus, the Gospel is about to go out to the Gentile nations.

Jer 27⁵ “I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power” (same Heb. word for “earth” & “ground”)

Isa 57²⁰ [T]he wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

Isa 60⁵ [T]he abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

Mat 4¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 5³ Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s ... And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking ...⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

Mark 6⁴⁷ Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.⁴⁸ Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea ...⁵¹ Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

Mat 8²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.²⁵ Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”²⁶ But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Mat 28¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.