

Seven Associations God Has Built Into Creation (Part 2)

*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.*

(Continued from last week)

4) Land animals are associated with _____ – clean ones with redeemed man, and unclean ones with unredeemed man. Clean animals can be used to approach God in worship; they graze, have cloven hooves, and are of the flock. Unclean are not so.

Gen 7 ² “You shall take with you seven of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean”

Ezekiel 34 ²² I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey ... ²³ I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them— My servant David ... ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God ... ²⁵ I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land ... ²⁸ And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them”

Dan 7 ² “[I]n my vision ... ³ ... four great beasts came up from the sea ... ⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. (cf. Dan 4.37 “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down”) ... ¹⁷ Those great beast, which are four, are four kings ...

5) Seas (waters below land level) are associated with the abyss (bottomless pit), with fallen angels and unredeemed man.

2Pet 2⁴ God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [abode of the dead] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

Luke 8³¹ [T]he demons] begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss ...³³ Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and ... ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

6) Birds are associated with spirits—clean birds with the Holy Spirit and holy angels, and unclean birds with fallen angels. Clean birds are daytime birds who do not prey and who are discriminating about where they land. Unclean birds are the opposite.

Gen 8⁷ [Noah] sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro ...⁸ He also sent out ... a dove ...⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark ...

Mark 1¹⁰ [C]oming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Rev 9¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace ...³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.⁴ They were commanded ... to harm ... only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads ...¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek ... Apollyon ...¹⁸² "Babylon the great is fallen ... and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!" (cf. Rev 11.8 "the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified")

7) Mixed examples.

Psalms 22¹² "Many bulls have surrounded Me ...¹³ They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion ...¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet"

Rev 13¹ I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns ...¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast ... and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast (cf. Dan 7.7 "behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth ... It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns")