

# Heaven and Earth Symbology

## Key verses

- “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken.” Isa.1:2 See also Deut.32:1
- “But the heavens and earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.” 2 Pet.3:7
- “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD, so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come and worship before Me,' says the LORD.” Isa.66:22

## Understanding Bible symbols

The cause of much Bible misunderstanding stems from taking symbols presented in Scripture in a literal sense. This is especially the case with the book of Revelation, where many people simply choose what they want to be literal or symbolic, without any regard for how God **may have used many key symbols in the rest of Scripture**. Both “Heaven” and “Earth” are used in a figurative sense in Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments. **Once we grasp Key Bible Symbols and how God uses them consistently in Scripture, we will be able to read the book of Revelation with increased understanding.**

### Heaven as a symbol

- “Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate, says the LORD.” Jer.2:12
- “Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Luke 21:25-26  
See also Isa.44:23, ch49:13; Rev.20:11.

“Heaven” is used in Scripture to represent the **ruling political powers**, which some people style, “the political heavens”. These political heavens are described by Jesus in the verse above as being “shaken” just before He returns. This instability is particularly evident in Middle Eastern countries today. Sun, moon, stars, clouds, air, light etc. are also part of heaven (celestial) symbology in Scripture.

### Earth as a symbol

- “Now the earth had one language and one speech.” Gen.11:1
- “Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people...” Jer.6:19
- “Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it.” Isa.34:1

“Earth” is used in Scripture to represent ordinary people who are the “**political subjects**” of the ruling heavens. Scripture uses other earthly (terrestrial) symbols like: earthquake, sea, rivers, water, mountains, hills, islands, fire, smoke, trees, grass, dew, seed, bread, wine, birds, fish etc. in Bible prophecy and to extract spiritual lessons.

## The New Heavens and Earth

- “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.” Isa.65:17
- “...we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Pet.3:13

The words of Peter above are often misunderstood to mean the literal heavens and earth. If you read this chapter carefully you will see that he is referring to **three political “heavens and earth” of people.**

- **The first** “heavens and earth” were destroyed by the flood in Noah's day (definitely people, 2 Pet.3:5-6; see 2 Pet.2:5).
- **The second** “which are now”, are described by Peter as “ungodly men”, to be destroyed when Jesus returns (definitely people again, 2 Pet.3:7, v10).
- **The third** is the new heavens and earth of the Kingdom Age to come, which will be established on God's righteousness (2 Pet.3:13).

## Sun, Moon and Stars

- “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” Luke 21:25
- The Sun, Moon and Stars of Bible symbology occupy the political heaven. We first read of this type of symbology in Genesis, where the sun, moon and stars are symbolic of **Joseph's family** featured in his dream (Gen.37:9-11).

### Sun (absolute rulership)

- “...to you who fear My name the **Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...**” Mal.4:2
- “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood...” Acts 2:20 and Joel 2:31

The Sun is used to describe the person who has **absolute rulership**. Jesus is described as, “**the Sun of Righteousness**” in His capacity as King when He returns. A sun in darkness indicates ungodly political leaders.

### Moon (religious authority)

- “...the moon shall not give her light” Matt.24:29

The Moon is a symbol in the female sense as we see from Joseph's dream. It has been used as a symbol of **religious authority** since the days of Babylon. Islam uses the crescent Moon. A lack of light from the Moon indicates religious falsehood and the blood would indicate false religions persecuting God's people at various times in history before Jesus returns (Acts 2:20).

### Stars (prominent people)

- “...the stars of heaven will fall” Mark 13:25 See Dan.8:10

Stars are a symbol of people who are **prominent or hold authority** in their particular sphere. In the last days many stars have fallen from the political heavens particularly as a result of the rise of democracy. The term “star” has been used for entertainment celebrities for some time.