

THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

“**In a beginning** (bereshith) **God** (Elohim) **created** (bara / kal pf) **the heavens** (eth hashamayim) **and the earth** (waw eth haerets).”

The Hebrew direct object (eth) is not translated. The direct object is used to point to **bara creation**. Bara creation means that nothing belonging to the composition of the heavens and the earth, either in material or form had an existence apart from the Godhead (Col.1:15-17; Rom.8:19-25).

The definite article (ha) is used with both the heavens and the earth. The definite article is used to separate the creation of the heavens and the earth in the plan of God.

(Ps.115:16) “The heavens are the heavens of **the Lord**, and the earth He has given to the **sons of men**.”

This lesson will study five aspects of The Heavens and The Earth.
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1. The Scripture teaches that the Plan of God predates the creation of the heavens and the earth.

(Vine’s Dictionary of Biblical words, pg.254) “The phrase, ‘before the foundation of the world,’ looks back to past eternity.”

(1 Pet.1:20) “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.”

(Eph.1:4) “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”

(John 17:24) “For Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.”

(Heb.1:10) “Thou Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands.” (Ps.102:25-27) (Zech.12:1; Isa.48:13; Job 38:4)

2. The predating of the Plan of God is why we believe in the Eternal Life Conference (Matt.13:35b; Deut.29:29) (Isa.55:9-11; 2 Pet.3:5-7; Heb.11:3).

The Eternal Life Conference was a holy convocation held among the members of the Godhead (Gen.1:1).

The Plan of God lays out the divine purpose of the heavens for the Lord and the earth for the sons of men (Ps.115:16; Eccl.5:2; James 1:17; Matt.7:11, 21).

The parts of this Plan of God, that the Godhead wants the human race to understand are recorded in the Canon of Scriptures:

(Matt.25:34) “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

(Matt.5:18) “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

3. **The Hebrew word for heavens (shamayim) is plural while the Hebrew word for earth (erets) is singular.**

Heavens is plural (im) to teach the following three heavens of bara creation. First and second heavens can be changed but not the third.

- **First heaven:** Earth's atmosphere (Gen.1:3-11; Jer.4:25; Acts 1:10; Heb.12:26-28).
- **Second heaven** The celestial, outer space (Gen.1:3, 14-19; Isa.13:9-11).
- **Third heaven** The domain of God (Isa.66:1; Heb.9:24; 2 Cor.12:2; Eph.1:20-21; James 1:17).

The third heaven predates the other two heavens (Gen.1:1). In fact, the third heaven is where the Eternal Life Conference would have been held.

- **Day 2** of restoration-creation separated the first and second heaven (Gen.1:6-8).
- **Day 4** of restoration-creation formed the contents of the first and second heavens (Gen.1:14-19; Ps.136:5-9; Gen.1:2).

4. **The heavens and the earth were designed by Godhead to declare His praises and to reflect His glory as Creator (Ps.148; Rom.1:18-20) [God-consciousness].**

(Ps.148:6) "He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a **decree** which will not pass away."

(Ps.148:13) "Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven." (Acts 4:12; Phil.2:9-11)

(Deut.4:26) Moses called them as a witness against the reversionism for the Israelites; 30:19-20; 31:27-29) (Ps.51:4; Luke 15:18).

5. **According the Bible, there will be at least these five changes to the heavens and the earth in the Plan of God (Heb.1:8-12).**

- In Eternity past, the heavens and earth changed with the fall of Satan (Gen.1:2; Isa.14:12-15; 45:18).
- The Garden of Eden, heaven and earth all changed with the fall of Adam (Gen.3:17; Rom.8:18-25).
- The Noahic flood changed the heavens and the earth (Gen.7:19; 8:2, 21-22; 9:12-17 and 2 Pet.2:5; 3:6).
- The Second Coming of Jesus will change this heaven and earth for the Millennial Age (Rev.20:1-15; 2 Pet.3:7-8; Isa.65; Rom.8:18-25).
- The New heaven and new earth, at the end of human biblical history (Rev.21-22; 2 Pet. 3:7-13).