

Two Earths

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It is commonly understood that the word “heaven” can be applied to both the physical expanse above the Earth as well as the spirit-realm where God dwells. However, few would entertain the idea that there is an “earth” composed of spirit that operates in tandem with the physical Earth. In order to decipher the difference, the context in which the word “earth” is used must be examined closely. Also, central to correctly understanding God’s figurative language is the fact that He does not make His truth easily available. Instead, effort is required on the part of those who study His word. Also, many who study His word will never come to a correct understanding during their short physical lives, and this is primarily due to a refusal on their part to obey His every word (Mt. 4:4),

For of this sort (cf. 2Tim. 3:1-5) are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth** (2Tim. 3:6-7; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And the disciples came and said to him (Christ), ‘Why do you speak to them (those not being called at that time) in parables?’ ¹¹He answered and said to them, ‘because it has been given to you to know the mysteries (secret or hidden truths) of the kingdom of heaven, **but to them it has not been given** (Mt. 13:10-11; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? ¹⁰**For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little** (Isa. 28:9-10; emphasis added).

One key to understanding that a spirit-composed earth exists, is through the examination of Satan’s activities. He cannot be detected by human beings and yet he roams about in a spirit-composed earth and is able to see those in the physical realm,

And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, **‘From going to and fro on the earth,** and from walking back and forth on it’ (Job. 1:7; cf. 2:2; emphasis added).

...**your adversary** (Satan) **the devil walks about like a roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour (1Pet. 5:8b; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In the spirit-composed earth where Satan exists, there are a number of kingdoms interacting with one another and Satan rules them all. This fact was confirmed by Jesus Christ when Satan offered to transfer his authority over these “spirit-kingdoms” to Christ, and Christ did not deny Satan’s authority to do this,

Again the devil took him (Christ) up on an exceedingly high mountain (symbol of governing authority; cf. Eze. 40:2), and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he (Satan) said to him, **‘All these things I will give to you** if you will fall down and worship (SGD 4352, kneel, prostrate, bow down before) me’ (Mt.4:8-9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis

added).

Although Satan offered all his spirit-kingdoms to Christ, there was one condition attached and that involved Christ submitting to Satan's authority. Christ rejected this offer and fulfilled the commission his heavenly Father had committed to him. Christ was also aware that Satan maintained a tight control over the kingdoms within "spiritual earth", and the following texts confirm this,

But Jesus knew their (the Pharisees') thoughts, and said to them: 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.²⁶ **And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?** (Mt. 12:25-26; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

I (Christ) will no longer talk much with you (his disciples), for **the ruler of this world** (Satan) is coming, and he has nothing in me (Jn. 14:30; cf. 12:31; 16:11; 2Cor. 4:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because Satan and his demons cannot inhabit the kingdom of Almighty God's heavenly realm, they are limited to a spiritual earth just as mankind is confined to a physical earth. This is confirmed in the following texts dealing with Satan's rebellion against God and subsequent banishment from His presence,

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Satan's name before he rebelled), son of the morning (Morning Star)! How **you are cut down to the ground**, you who weakened the nations! (Isa. 14:12; Ed. notes in parentheses).

His (Satan's) tail (symbol of lies; cf. Isa. 9:15) drew a third of the stars (symbol of angels; cf. Rev. 1:20) of heaven and **threw them to the earth** (Rev. 12:4a; cf. 12:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Although it is hard for human beings to imagine, Satan operates in a spirit-composed earth in much the same way that mankind does on planet Earth. He has commerce and conflict just as mankind does. Satan's way of doing business is reflected in man's activities on the physical Earth, including competition, strife, and warfare. The main focus of Satan's activities is to keep his subjects occupied, entertained, and focused on interrupting God's work whenever an opportunity presents itself,

By the abundance of your trading (merchandising, trafficking) **you** (Satan) **became filled with violence within, and you sinned** (Eze. 28:16a; cf. 26:12; 28:5; Rev. 18:9-24; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And he (the angel Gabriel) said to me (Daniel), 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.¹³ **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia** (symbolic language describing either Satan, or one of his officers; cf. Eph. 2:2) **withstood me twenty-one days**; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes (archangels), came to help me ... (Dan. 10:12-13a; cf. Jas. 4:2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The angel Gabriel was sent with a message from God to Daniel and this was identified by a leader of the fallen host as an opportunity to intercept and delay the completion of a task that God wanted fulfilled. Gabriel had to pass through the realm of "spiritual-

earth” before reaching Daniel and, as a consequence, came into contact with some of the fallen host. This movement between Almighty God’s heaven and “spiritual-earth” is described twice in scripture using the analogy of a ladder set up between these two different “spirit-realms”,

Then he (Jacob) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth (not the physical Earth because it would be visible to human eyes), and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold the Lord stood above it ... (Gen. 28:12-13a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And he (Christ) said to him (Nathanael), ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon (toward/ unto) the Son of Man (Jn. 1:51; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This to and fro activity is confirmed again when three angels, which included the individual that would later become known as Jesus Christ (Gen. 28:12-31a; cf. Jn. 1:51), came down from Almighty God’s heaven in order to confirm the serious nature of Sodom and Gomorrah’s sins,

I (the Angel of God) **will go down now and see** whether they (inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah) have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to me; and if not, I will know (Gen. 18:21; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Prior to the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Angel of God came down from heaven with other loyal angels to deal with a problem that would have required more serious action if not dealt with quickly,

But **the Lord** (YHVH, angel of Yahovah; not Almighty God who is omnipresent and omniscient) **came down to see** the city (Babel) and the tower which the sons of men had built (for the purpose of false worship; cf. Gen. 11:4).⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them (cf. Gen. 6:5).⁷ Come, **let us go down** and there confuse their language ... (Gen. 11:5-7a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because Satan and his spirit-leaders have power within “spiritual-earth” and can affect the attitudes of those who dwell on the physical Earth, they are sometimes referred to as “the chiefs of the earth” and *“kings or rulers of the earth”* (cf. Ps. 2:2). If this terminology is limited to mankind, the correct understanding is lost,

He (God) takes away the understanding of **the chiefs** of the people **of the earth**, and makes them wander in a pathless wilderness (see study: The Wilderness and Those Who Dwell There).²⁵ They grope in the dark without light (cf. Eph. 6:12), and He makes them stagger like a drunken man (Job 12:24-25; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

These evil spirit-leaders know their time is running out, and that judgment is coming to them. This is confirmed in both the First Covenant and Second Covenant writings,

You (God) caused judgment to be heard from heaven; **the earth feared** (reference to the “spiritual-earth” of Satan and the fallen host) and was still.⁹ When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth (cf. Isa. 14:16-17) (Ps. 76:8-9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

When he (Christ) had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹And suddenly **they** (the demons) **cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with you, Jesus, you Son of God? Have you come to torment (interrogate) us before the time (appointed for their judgment)?** (Mt. 8:28-29; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Both Satan and his demons are able to perform lying wonders that deceive human beings (cf. 2Thes. 2:9), and on one of these occasions a fallen angel created an illusion in which he mimicked the prophet Samuel, who had recently died. Of note, this evil spirit momentarily left the spiritual earth, where he normally existed, in order to mislead King Saul,

And Saul swore to her (a medium) by the Lord, saying, ‘As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.’ ¹¹Then the woman said, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ And he (King Saul) said, ‘Bring up Samuel for me.’ ¹²When the woman saw (what appeared to be) Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, ‘Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!’ ¹³And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid. What did you see? And the woman said to Saul, **‘I saw a spirit (SHD 430) ascending out of the earth** (1Sam. 28:10-13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As spirit-beings do not exist in the physical world, the demon disguising himself as Samuel would have temporarily left his “spiritual-earth” in order to deceive those on planet Earth. Another witness to this type of activity is mentioned by the prophet Ezekiel who was inspired by God to describe the spiritual abode of the fallen host as “the lowest part of the earth”,

For thus says the Lord God: ‘When I make you (a kingdom within the realm of the fallen host compared to the city of ancient Tyre) a desolate city, like cities that are not inhabited, when I bring the deep upon you, and great waters cover you, ²⁰then I will bring you down with those who descend into the Pit, to a people of old, and **I will make you dwell in the lowest part of the earth**, in places desolate from antiquity, with those who go down to the Pit so that you may never be inhabited (again); and I shall establish glory in the land of the living (Eze. 26:19-20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The “lowest part of the earth” denotes a spirit-realm, in which the angels that sinned exist, and because all its inhabitants are guilty of breaking God’s commands, they are figuratively compared to the dead (Isa. 14:15; cf. Rom. 6:23).

In the Greek language of the New Testament, the apostle Peter referred to the earth in which the fallen host reside as “Tartarus”,

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Gr. Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment (2Pet. 2:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The following is an excerpt from a commentary on Tartarus showing that some Jewish writers, who lived before the birth of Jesus Christ, believed there was a place of restraint, or imprisonment, for angels that sinned against God,

Tartarus is only known in Hellenistic Jewish literature from the Greek text of 1Enoch, dated to 400 – 200 B.C. This states that God placed the archangel Uriel “in charge of the world and of Tartarus” (20:2). **Tartarus is generally understood to be the place where 200 fallen Watchers**

(angels) are imprisoned (Kelly Coblenz Bautch; "A Study of the Geography of 1 Enoch", p 134). Tartarus also appears in sections of the Jewish Sibylline Oracles (Eig. Sib. Or. 4:186) (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartarus; emphasis added).

The challenge, for those who seek to understand many of the prophecies pertaining to events that will occur when Jesus Christ returns to establish his Father's kingdom, is that the word "earth" can apply to the realm of the fallen host just as easily as it can to the physical Earth and its human inhabitants. Therefore, when disasters on earth are mentioned in scripture, it can be referring to God's punishment of the fallen host as the next prophecy indicates,

And they (God's faithful servants) cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood **on those who dwell on the earth?**' (Rev. 6:10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

It has always been Satan and the fallen host who have been behind the death of many of God's servants (cf. Mt. 23: 34-35). Therefore, any punishment "on those who dwell on the earth" is first and foremost directed at evil spirit-beings and not mankind. Christ knew this truth which is why he said the following about the human instruments that Satan manipulated to kill him,

Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them (human beings), for they do not know what they do... (Lk. 23:34a; cf. Ac. 3:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

One of the primary reasons that so many Christian organizations misunderstand Bible prophecy is because they make no distinction between the "spiritual-earth" that Satan and his demons inhabit, and the physical Earth that mankind inhabits. As a result, many of the prophecies, that appear to be describing events on the Earth, are actually predicting various judgments and punishments that will take place in the realm of the fallen host. Consequently, many of these events will go completely undetected by mankind. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ will be able to return as "a thief in the night" (Mt. 24:36-44), and very few people will be aware of his return. Those who believe they know the approximate time of Christ's return will be surprised and many will be unprepared (cf. Mt. 25:1-13),

For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, **so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect** (Mt. 24:24; emphasis added).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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