

Some Important Words Annotated

In my writing, there are certain names and nouns which I treat with great care and gravitas and to which I give precise, but perhaps unfamiliar definitions, such as *God, LORD, Satan, Mankind, sinners, the Lost, saints, the Redeemed, Universe, Earth, Creation, and the supernatural and the natural.*

God

The Bible affirms that God exists and identifies him as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God is the simple name for the Godhead, which consists of three, unique persons: (1) God-the-Father, who is the designer and author of Creation; (2) God-the Son, who is the Maker, Sustainer, Manager, Redeemer, and Judge of Creation and always acts in conformity with the Father's will; and (3) God-the Holy Spirit, who is the energizer and animator of Creation and always acts in conformity with the will of the Father and the Son. The Godhead is often called the "Trinity."¹

LORD

God-the-Son is the second person of the Godhead., He is identified (a) in the Tenakh or Old Testament as YHWY (Jehovah in English) or Angel of the Lord and (b) in the New Covenant Scriptures or New Testament as Yeshua (Jesus in English), who is the Jewish Messiah (Christ in English), meaning the Anointed One. Consider some of the things that the Scriptures say about Him:

- God identifies Him as "...my beloved Son"² in whom he is "well pleased."³
- God has chosen Him to be "...the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).
- God requires all men to recognize Him as "...the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality,..."⁴
- God requires all men to humble themselves and bow before Him, because He, "... though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, made himself nothing taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of

¹ Explanation of the nature of the Godhead often use the triangle. It is both a unity and a trinity in that its single form depends on the presence of its three different and distinct components; it disappears if one of these components is removed. As Buckminster has demonstrated in his book Synergetics, it is the basic form in Universe's simplest and most stable building-block, the tetrahedron, which consists of four, triangular sides. Interestingly, in the Bible, the number one symbolizes the Godhead, the number three symbolizes the Trinity, and the number four symbolizes Creation. Also interestingly, Einstein demonstrated that Universe must be as a four-dimensional continuum in which its three spatial components and one temporal component cannot be reified.

² Matthews 3:17 & 17:5, Mark 1:11 & 9:7, Luke 3:22 & 9:35, 2 Peter 1:17.

³ Excepting for Luke 9:35, the same as the previous footnote.

⁴ KJ21 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”⁵

Also worth noting is that God must have revealed the God-the-Son’s presence and position in the Old Testament period, because men called on the name of the Lord as early as Enos’s time (3355-2990 BC)⁶ and then many times thereafter.⁷

Satan

The Bible indicates that Satan exists and that he is the greatest, most beautiful, most intelligent, most powerful, and most wise of God’s created beings.⁸ Although (a) he led a rebellion against God of one third of the angels in Heaven,⁹ (b) he was defeated and cast out of heaven, after which he and his followers have been called “demons,” and (c) he will soon be cast into the Lake of Fire,¹⁰ even the archangels show respect for him. When Michael and Satan were engaged in a dispute over the body of Moses, Michael avoided confronting Satan directly by saying, “May the Lord rebuke you.”¹¹ While Christians know that Satan has been defeated, we must still grant him a measure of respect, for he is far more formidable than we realize.

Mankind

The Bible indicates that God created Universe and Earth as a home for Mankind, whom he created (a) in his own image¹² and (b) “male and female”¹³ (only two genders exist) to exercise dominion (stewardship) over Earth’s other creatures.¹⁴

Sinners

The Bible indicates that, excepting only Adam, Eve, and Jesus of Nazareth, every living person in the past, present, or future, is a sinner. Adam and Eve were created sinless, but then they sinned when they ate of the fruit of the Tree of Life at the center of the Garden of Eden.¹⁵ As a result of Adam’s disobedience, all their descendants were or will be born sinners. Jesus was born

⁵ KJ21 Philippians 2:6-11)

⁶ Genesis 4:26.

⁷ For example: Genesis 12:8, 13:4, 16:3, 21:33, 26:25; Exodus 20:7, 33:19, , & 34:5;

⁸ Ezekiel 28:1-15. Although God is addressing the King of Tyre, God says to him, “Thou hast been in the Garden of Eden” (verse 13). Genesis makes clear that only God, Adam, Eve, and Satan were ever present in the Garden of Eden. In Ezekiel 28, God is clearly addressing Satan himself, and, after enumerating his original attributes, the passage ends with “...till iniquity was found in thee” (verse 15).

⁹ Revelation 12:7-10.

¹⁰ Revelation 20:10.

¹¹ Jude 1:9.

¹² Genesis 1:26. See my blog, Reflections of the Makeup of Mankind, January 16, 2017.

¹³ Genesis 1:27.

¹⁴ Genesis 1:26.

¹⁵ Psalms 14:2-3 & 53:2-3, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-12 and 7:14-20, 1 John 1:8 & 10.

sinless, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross at Golgotha as a perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of Mankind.

The Lost

The Bible indicates that the Lost are sinners who have not yet accepted Jesus of Nazareth, Israel's Messiah, as their Lord and Savior, whether out of ignorance or willfulness.

Saints or the Redeemed

The Bible indicates that saints, who are also called the Redeemed, are sinners who have repented of their sins and accepted Jesus of Nazareth, Israel's Messiah, as their Lord and Savior. Their names were written in the *Book of Life* by God-the-Father before God-the-Son laid the foundations of Universe,¹⁶ and they become found by God when they are *born again* of God-the-Holy Spirit.¹⁷ Thus they cannot claim any merit or credit for their blessed state, but can only live a life of humble gratitude in service to their Lord.

Earth

It is odd that we give names to the other planets like Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, and - dare I add – Pluto, but we refer to the terrestrial globe on which we live as “the earth” – i.e. just so much dirt – as if its unique ability to sustain life is not worth noting. In recognition of the foregoing, I will usually refer to the third planet of our solar system as Earth - *capitalized*. Earth is a part of Universe.

Creation

It is one thing to talk about the human creation of an artifact – e.g. a clay bowl, an oil painting, or a space-travelling rocket. It is another to talk about the divine creation of all things or everything. In this instance, I do not think it is any more appropriate to use “the creation” than to use “the everything.” God's handiwork deserves the name Creation - *capitalized* – which is the way I will use it.

At first glance, Universe and Creation may seem to refer to the same entity. In fact, they do not. Universe refers to what we can experience or postulate about our environment, but it is confined to interstellar space and the objects which it contains – e.g. stars, planets, moons, asteroids, comets, etc. Creation, on the other hand, can refer to Universe, but it can also refer to everything which God has created outside Universe, about which we know extraordinarily little. Thus, we need to be very precise about boundaries.

¹⁶ Philippians 4:3.

¹⁷ John 3:5-8. That which is born of the flesh is a natural person, but that which is born of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual person.

The Bible indicates, I believe, that Creation consists of concentric, spatial spheres arranged as follows: (1) **Earth**¹⁸ at Creation's center,¹⁹ (2) the **1st Heaven**²⁰ above Earth, which is also called the firmament or interstellar space, (3) the **Upper Waters**²¹ above the 1st heaven, (4) the **2nd Heaven**²² above the Upper Waters, and (5) the **3rd Heaven**,²³ which lies outside Universe. Thus, in the Biblical view of Creation, there is a physical boundary between any two of the spheres, of which the outermost boundary lies between Universe and the 3rd Heaven.

The Bible also implies, I believe, that reality consists of several ontological orders.²⁴ Based on my reading of Genesis, I postulate three domains, each consisting of a number of realms, as follows: (A) the ELEMENTAL DOMAIN consisting of (1) the Primordial Realm, (2) the Possible Realm, and (3) the Probable Realm; (B) the NATURAL DOMAIN consisting of (4a) the Mineral Realm, (4b) the Plant Realm, (4c) the Animal Realm, and (4d) the Human Realm, and (C) the SUPERNATURAL DOMAIN consisting of (5) the Celestial Realm and (6) the Divine Realm. Once again, there is an ontological boundary between any two of the realms, of which the last boundary lies between the Celestial Realm and the Divine Realm - i.e. the boundary between the created realms and the divine realm.

Israel

¹⁸ **Earth** consists of five parts: (1) The core that consists of iron & nickel. Its radius is 2,142 miles. (2) The mantle that consists of silicates. It is 1,789-1,810 miles thick. (3) The lithosphere that consists of rocks. It is 63 miles thick, which includes the crust (4-25 miles thick) and the top portion of the upper mantle. (4) The hydrosphere that consists of water. It is 0-6.8 miles deep. (5) The atmosphere that consists of a spherical shell above and surrounding the globe. Its inner edge borders on the globe's surface; its outer edge, the 1st Heaven. Its content is air (78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.09% argon, 0.03% carbon dioxide, and traces of other gases). It extends approximately 6,200 miles above the earth's surface. It is divided into five main layers by temperature: (a) the troposphere (0-7 miles), (b) the stratosphere (7-31 miles), (c) the mesosphere (31-50 miles), the thermosphere (50-440 miles), and (d) the exosphere (440-6,200 miles).

¹⁹ If you are troubled by the discrepancy between a cosmic universe with Earth at its center and a Copernican, heliocentric solar system, be comforted by the fact that Einstein's *Special Theory of Relativity* describes Universe as a four-dimensional, space-time continuum in which any set of coordinates can be translated into another set of coordinates, so you can move the 0.0.0.0 point of the system wherever you want.

²⁰ The **1st Heaven**'s inner edge borders on the earth's atmosphere; its outer edge, the upper waters. Based on books like Hannes Alfren's Cosmical Electrodynamics (1950), Sid Deutsch's Return of the Ether (1999), and Donald E. Scott's The Electric Sky (2006), I believe that its contents by mass are (a) primarily electromagnetic plasma (est. 96%) and (b) secondarily astronomical bodies (est. 4%), such as stars, planets, moons, asteroids, and comets which occur within astronomical objects such as galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, and planetary systems - starting with the earth's sun and moon. Its extent is unknown.

²¹ The **Upper Water**'s inner edge borders the 1st heaven; its outer edge, the 2nd heaven. Its content is water, but its extent is unknown. It has not been detected; its existence is inferred from the Bible's reference to the firmament being between the lower waters and the upper waters (Genesis 1:7).

²² The **2nd Heaven**'s inner edge most probably borders the Upper Waters and its outer edge is the boundary of Universe. Its content and extent are unknown. It has not been detected; its existence is implied by the Bible's references to a 1st Heaven (Revelation 21:1) and a 3rd Heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2), in between which there must be a 2nd heaven.

²³ The **3rd Heaven** lies outside the boundary of Universe. Its content and extent are unknown. It has not been detected; its existence is established by the Biblical account (2 Cor. 12:2).

²⁴ Ontology is a branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature and relationships among different types or categories of being – i.e. existence. Few people pay any attention to it anymore because humanistic science has succeeded in persuading so many people that only natural factors exist in Universe, and that supernatural factors exist solely in the minds of naive, superstitious, primitive minds.

The Bible indicates that God chose the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who are called the Hebrews, the Jews, or Israel, to be “the apple of his eye,”²⁵ “to be a peculiar people unto himself above all the nations that are upon the earth.”²⁶ It also indicates that God said to them, “...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”²⁷ It indicates that God established ten covenants: three universal covenants with mankind in general²⁸ and seven restricted covenants with Israel in particular.²⁹ Finally, it indicates that the New Covenant with the Jews is also open to gentiles who accept the Jewish Messiah as their Lord and Savior.³⁰ Thus, there is an *Israel of the Flesh*, which consists of the Jews (both new covenant-keepers and new covenant-breakers) and an *Israel of the Spirit*, which consists of believing Jews (new covenant-keepers who are called the *Faithful Remnant of Israel*) and believing gentiles (also new covenant-keepers).

The supernatural and the natural

The spatial spheres and ontological realms cannot simply be identified with *outside* and the *inside* of Universe. The Bible indicates the following: (a) God is a spirit and immanent or omnipresent in Creation, both outside and inside Universe; (b) angels and demons are spirits and can be found everywhere in Creation, both outside and inside Universe; and (c) humans possess a spiritual or supernatural component, but are located in Universe during this life and either in Heaven or Hell in the afterlife.

²⁵ Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8.

²⁶ KJV Deuteronomy 14:2

²⁷ KJV 1 Peter 2:9.

²⁸ The three universal covenants are (1) The **Edenic Covenant** (Genesis 1:28-29, 2:15-17), (2) the **Adamic Covenant** (Genesis 3:14-21), and (3) the **Noahic Covenant** (Genesis 9:1-19). They differentiate between two categories of people, (a) covenant-keepers and (b) covenant breakers.

²⁹ The seven restricted covenants are (4) The **1st Abrahamic Covenant** re the Election (Genesis 12:1-3, 13:16, 15:1-6, 17:1-7 and Deuteronomy 7:6-8), (5) the **2nd Abrahamic Covenant** re the Land (Genesis 12:17, 13:14-15 & 17, 15:7, 15:18-21, 17:8, 26:3, 28:13 and Deuteronomy 7:1-5), (6) the **Mosaic Covenant** re the Law (Exodus 19:5-8), (7) the **Covenant of the Prophets** (Deuteronomy 18:15-12 and Acts 3:17-26), (8) the **Phineas Covenant** re the Priests (Numbers 25:10-13), (9) the Davidic Covenant re a Royal Dynasty of Kings (2 Samuel 7:4-17), and (10) the **New Covenant** (Jeremiah 31:31-34). They differentiate among three categories of people: (a) Jewish & Gentile covenant-keepers, (b) Jewish covenant-breakers, and (c) Gentiles to whom the covenants do not apply.

³⁰ Acts 15 and Romans 11, which indicates that (a) unbelieving Jews are removed from the Cultivated Olive Tree and (b) believing Gentiles are removed from the Wild Olive Tree and grafted into the Cultivated Olive Tree, where they join believing Jews, the Faithful Remnant of Israel.