

WHAT DOES THE TERM “HEAVEN” SYMBOLIZE?

(Excerpt from my book, “The Book of Revelation Decoded”, pages 220-223)

In Revelation 6:14, we read:

“^aand the heaven was separated like a book which is rolled up, ^band every mountain and island was moved from their places.” (AT)

Explanation of verse 14^a

“^aand the heaven was separated like a book which is rolled up,”

The above verse speaks of a “*separation*”!

How can “*heaven*” be separated from “*heaven*”? What does the term “*heaven*” symbolize?

In Isaiah 1:2, we read in part:

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken”.

In the above verse, who are the “*heavens*” that must hear the word of the Lord? Is it the actual galaxies? And who is the “*earth*” that must do the same? Is it the actual planet earth?

In Isaiah 49:13 it says,

“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; ...”

Again, who are the "*heavens*" that must sing? Is it the actual galaxies? And who is the "*earth*" that must be joyful? Is it the actual planet earth? The obvious answer is "**No!**" It is not the actual galaxies or the actual planet earth that must hear the word of the Lord and must sing and be joyful. These words are directed to persons: **To the angels of God in heaven and to those who claim to know Him and believe in Him on the planet earth.**

Who make up "*the heaven*" which was "*separated*"?

From Revelation 12:7-12 we learn that those who were removed or "*cast out*" were Satan and his angels. Let us read these verses again:

"⁷And war occurred in Heaven, Michael and his angels making war against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels made war, ⁸but they did not have strength, nor yet was place found for them in Heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent being called devil, and, Satan; he deceiving the whole habitable world was cast out onto the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰And I heard a great voice saying in Heaven, Now has come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers is thrown down, the one accusing them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the Word of their testimony. And they did not love their soul even until death. ¹²Because of this, be glad, the heavens and those tabernacling in them. Woe to the ones dwelling on the earth, and in the sea, because the devil came down to you having great anger, knowing that he has a little time!"

It was this **"heaven"** which, according to Revelation 20:11, **"fled away"** from the face of God. Let us read this verse:

"And I saw a Great White Throne, and the One sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled; and a place was not found for them."

Without the presence of the **unrighteous "heaven"** in heaven and without the presence of the **unrighteous "sea"** of mankind on the planet earth, there is going to be **"a new heaven"** and **"a new earth"** in which **"righteousness dwells"**. This is what the apostle Peter said in 2 Peter 3:10-13. Let us read his words:

"¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with rushing sound, and having burned the elements will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be burned up. ¹¹Then all these being about to be dissolved, of what sort ought you to be in holy behavior and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of God, through which the heavens having been set afire will be dissolved; and burning, the elements will melt? ¹³But according to His promise, we look for 'new heavens and a new earth,' in which righteousness dwells."

Decoding the symbols **"heaven"**, **"earth"** and **"sea"**, helps us understand Revelation 21:1 where it says,

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away; and the sea is no more."

To sum it up:

From all the above verses, we conclude that the "*heaven*" which "*was separated like a book which is rolled up*" (a scroll), was those who comprised **the unrighteous heaven**, in other words, **Satan and his angels!** They were separated from the **righteous** heaven, in other words, from God and His angels, when they were "**cast out onto the earth**". This is the reason John heard the great voice in heaven saying:

"... Now has come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers is thrown down, the one accusing them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10)

Halleluiah!