

The Three Heavens

by Jorge Guedes

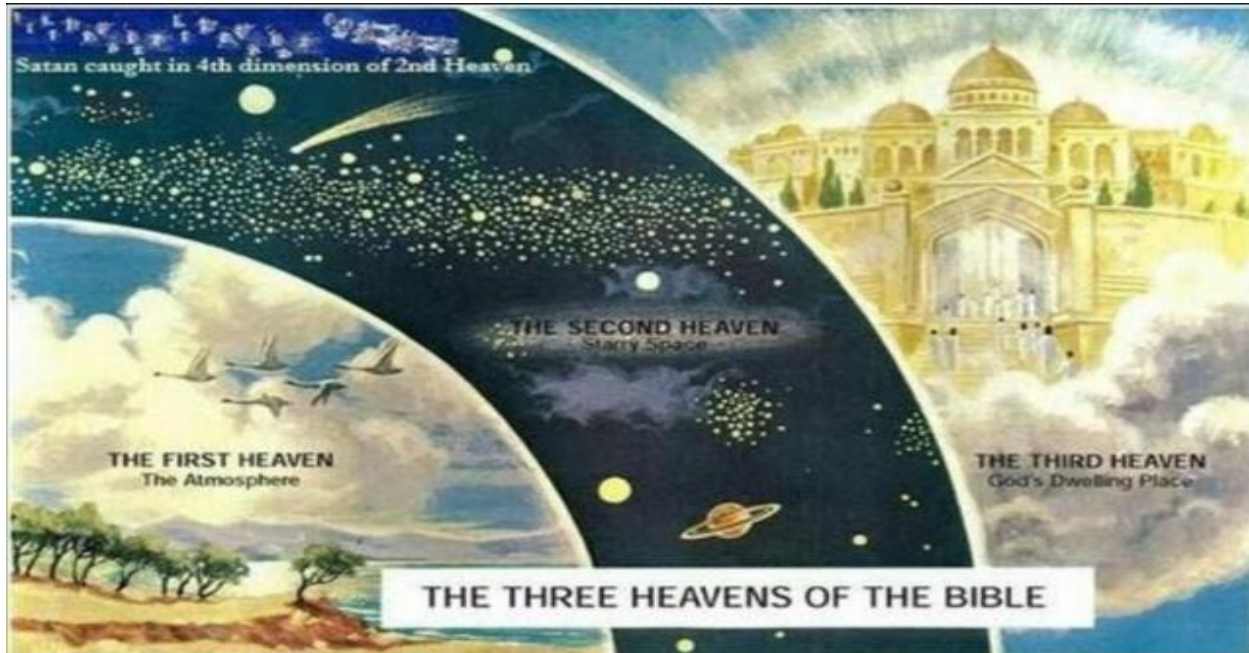


Figure 1 – The three layers of the heavens as seen by the most widely accepted interpretation

1. Overview of the three heavens

1.1 The physical heaven

In the beginning God created the heaven/s and the earth, [Genesis 1:1-6](#). The Hebrew word Shâmayim (heaven) can be singular or plural. The King James Version uses the singular “heaven”, but many translations have used the plural, and thus two or three heavens are included in [Genesis 1:1](#). In scripture, we know we have three heavens because Paul called what is believed to be “God’s abode” the third heaven in [2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#), confirming that he was aware of two other heavens. This excludes any other realms within the heavens which people may have picked up in the book of Enoch which is not part of the canon of scripture.

[Genesis 1:1-6](#)

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

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5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the water

[2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#)

1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

I prefer the singular “heaven” because I believe that Genesis chapter 1 is referring to one created physical heaven which I believe is the **first heaven**, as in the Universe, instead of two physical heavens as per image in figure 1, namely; 1) the earth with its physical atmosphere and, 2) the cosmos. In other words, the most widely accepted interpretation splits the Universe into two physical layers which is not logical in my opinion as there is no scriptural evidence for this, and we know that the earth forms part of the cosmos. Therefore I believe in one created physical heaven, with the other two heavens being spiritual, where the **second heaven** is generated as an extension or emanation of humanity’s spiritual disposition, whether good or evil, and the **third heaven** being generated as an extension or emanation of God’s spiritual disposition which is divine and righteous. I therefore believe when Jesus said, “Let God’s will be done in earth as it is in heaven”, it refers to mankind’s spiritual heaven (second heaven) being progressively transformed into the likeness of God’s heaven (third heaven). In other words, God wants our seemingly corrupt second heaven and its spiritual atmosphere of jealousy, hate, and the like, to be exactly like God’s heaven where the spiritual atmospheres is one of love, joy, and peace, because God made mankind to be in His image and likeness.

This document will raise many eyebrows but this is how I read the scriptures, though they never refer to a first and second heaven, but I can safely say that the first heaven is a created heaven as per [Genesis 1:1](#) because it was named first, the third heaven is God’s paradise of heaven because it was the last to be mentioned through Paul, and the second heaven is what mankind creates based on their beliefs, behaviors and attitudes. Therefore, mankind lives **in** the first heaven (earth’s physical atmosphere), but **by** the beliefs, behaviors, and attitudes that form our second heaven (spiritual heaven on earth) with a spiritual atmosphere that flops between love and hate, jealousy and admiration, peace and strife, etc. I believe when God said that He would shake the heaven and the earth ([Haggai 2:6-7](#)), He was referring to the earth and the second heaven created by mankind, not the cosmos because God does not need to shake something that does not require transformation.

[Genesis 1:1](#)

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

[Haggai 2:6-7](#)

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

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7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

1.2. The two spiritual heavens

If we accept that the firmament (earth's physical atmosphere) and the cosmos are part of the first heaven, then by implication, the other two heavens must be of a spiritual nature which is not obvious to the five senses of hearing, smelling, touching, seeing, or tasting, but discerned through experience, wisdom, and understanding, or also sensed by the spirit of humanity which some people call the "sixth sense". The use of the sixth sense can be deceiving as fallen angels and demons, who are spirits, also work through the sixth sense and imitate God with a twist to deceive people, but this will not be discussed here.

We know, according to Paul, that the third heaven is God's spiritual heaven or paradise (commonly known as God's abode) and is, for a lack of a better word, an extension of God, or what God generates (exudes, radiates, or emanates) as a result of His divinity. If we understand this, and we are spiritual beings created in the image of God, then we can surmise that we also generate (exude, radiate, or emanate) our own heaven based on our spiritual belief systems, behaviours, and activities or actions. In other words, the spiritual atmosphere we exude, radiate, or emanate, is an extension of ourselves that influences and affects others, either based on God's Word and values, or on mankind's word and values. This is why we often say we feel heavy or downtrodden due to a negative atmosphere, or conversely, we are free, happy, and uplifted due to a positive atmosphere, which obviously depends with whom, and where we interact.

Though the second heaven is spiritually generated as an extension of humanity's nature, it is also influenced by unseen spirit beings which live in our physical atmosphere who have contact with people in high places of power, especially those connected to large wealthy enterprises or governments that can influence the masses. In other words, humanity live in the earth's physical atmosphere or environment (first heaven) wherein there is life under our sky within the Universe, but it's the people's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, especially regarding morality, that influences our spiritual well-being or ill-being. Currently, our opposing belief systems, behaviours, attitudes, moods, vibes, etc, driven largely by the wealthy and governments of the world, influence our collective mindset and therefore our spiritual disposition. I will term this spiritual disposition of well-being or ill-being, our **spiritual atmosphere**. This spiritual atmosphere is diverse because it depends on the mindset of various groupings of people, whether in an individual, race, culture, religion, community, city, country, or globally. It's this diversity of disposition in people that generates conflict as the moral standard God set for mankind is overlooked or overridden by many, i.e. mankind is driven by their carnal desires and therefore decides on what is right or wrong instead of following God's direction and standard of moral living.

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I would have preferred to use the term “heavenly atmosphere” because humanity is meant to generate a heavenly atmosphere based on God’s character through His Word and Spirit, however, corruption on earth is rife, thus “spiritual atmosphere” will suit the various types of atmospheres we generate, whether heavenly, lethargic, corrupt, devilish, etc. I therefore believe that the second heaven is based on our characters, birthed from our knowledge, understanding and behaviours that result in our spiritual atmosphere of well-being or ill-being. Knowledge of the Word of God, and the discipline of being led by the spirit, is therefore key to understanding the kingdom of God /Heaven to improve our spiritual atmosphere in our earth’s physical atmosphere or environment. Without the Word of God or being born-again by the spirit, the kingdom of darkness is generated based on mankind’s desires and the carnality of the soul. The spiritual atmosphere of our second heaven is currently corrupt or dark due to lack of a standard in moral living and the lack of the true knowledge of God.

The **third heaven**, however, being God’s heavenly paradise, has a heavenly atmosphere of holiness, divinity, peace, love and righteousness, as a result of God’s holy nature. It is said to exist only outside the Universe by the most widely accepted interpretation, which I aim to dispel.

1.3 Influencing the spiritual heavens

Individuals can only influence the spiritual atmosphere of the second heaven wherein they participate, whether at home, in churches, or communities, however, governments and institutions influence their country’s or even the global spiritual atmosphere of the second heaven. This is why humanity has to be cautious whom they vote into power, because the devil uses proud people in high places to try to control earth’s resources as a tool to place the population under submission. Communism and socialism is currently the best method for ensuring the population’s compliance. The main reason for this, is that if people are forced into submission, it will be easier to convince and force people to abandon the true religion of Christianity and implement a universal religion, thus ensuring Jesus does not reappear because there will be no desire for the true God, with the result that the devil (rebellious spirit beings/angels) will not be thrown into the lake of fire and rule on earth indefinitely, but as we know, God has already spoken and therefore the rebellious spirits are “already” in the lake of fire with zero chance of salvation, as are those that obey them.

The second heaven’s spiritual atmosphere in our earth’s physical atmosphere is largely influenced by dark forces such as fallen angels and demons who walk the earth deceiving mankind with desires and practices that oppose God. This is the heaven God wants to remove from earth to create a new heaven and earth. It is not about obliterating the entire earth and cosmos. This is the heaven (second heaven) that Jesus’s prayer refers to when He said “let it be in earth as it is in heaven”. Actually, this statement of Jesus is the greatest clue to the second heaven being spiritual and not physical. We just have to ask ourselves, “What does God want to do on earth so that it becomes like heaven?”. Is it physical things like houses, cars, food, clothes, etc, or is it spiritual issues such as aligning our nature with the knowledge of God? The answer is obvious because God wants our current corrupt spiritual atmosphere on earth (second heaven) to be like His divine spiritual

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atmosphere in the third heaven. We do not have to be rocket scientists to see this because God's plan is to reconcile with us and to get us to be in His image and likeness for He desires a relationship with us.

Nevertheless, unlike mankind who are confined to the earth's physical atmosphere, God and Heaven is everywhere, and not confined to outside the Universe, and therefore He emanates the third heaven everywhere, and manifests into the dark dense Universe whenever He desires to be known by mankind. This goes against the principle that the third heaven is outside the Universe, however, if humanity creates their own spiritual atmosphere by their beliefs and behaviours that run parallel to the physical atmosphere wherein mankind lives, then why is the third heaven confined or restricted to being outside the Universe when God and heaven are omnipresent? It makes no sense.

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2. The first heaven

2.1. The most widely accepted interpretation of the first heaven

When interpreting [Genesis 1:6](#), the most widely accepted interpretation suggests that the firmament is earth's physical atmosphere (**first heaven**) because it is where life exists, see figure 1. Then the logical supposition is that if the **third heaven** mentioned by Paul in [2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#) is outside the Universe, then the **second heaven** must be the cosmos as it sits plumb between the first heaven (earth's physical atmosphere) and the third heaven (known as God's spiritual abode). I have never seen or heard any explanation for the cosmos being the second heaven, and find it difficult to pinpoint in scripture. My guess is that [Luke 10:18](#) is probably the closest we can get, where evil spirit beings are presumed to live in the cosmos and cast out to earth, which is a misunderstanding, because God removed satan from having access to the third heaven and cast to the earth, not the cosmos, which is why satan cannot accuse mankind any longer after Jesus was caught up to the third heaven as a child in [Revelation 12:1-9](#). Nevertheless, the most widely accepted interpretation indicates that the heavens are arranged in three layers of concentric circles which sounds logical, but is it really?

[2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#)

- 1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

[Luke 10:18](#)

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

[Revelation 12:1-9](#)

- 1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
- 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
- 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
- 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
- 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
- 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
- 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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It is widely accepted that the physical Universe was virtually or logically divided into two distinct physical heavens, where the first heaven is the firmament expressed as earth's physical atmosphere where living creatures dwell, and the second heaven is the cosmos consisting of black holes, galaxies, solar systems, planets, etc, where fallen angels and demons dwell. Then the third heaven is outside the entire Universe, which according to cosmology is 46,5 billion light years away and getting further away at the speed of light or faster. This seems to be neatly organised based on mankind's logical reasoning based on layers like a very simplistic puzzle, but there is no practical spiritual cohesion between the physical and spiritual from my perspective, which for me is a concern because the Word of God supports a very cohesive nature between the physical and spiritual. Even our bodies cannot operate or live without the spiritual.

2.2 The first heaven is created and upheld by the Word of God

In [Hebrews 11:3](#) we read that it is the unseen (spiritual) that created/made the seen (physical), meaning that it is the Spirit of God and His Word that creates all things. Then, [Hebrews 1:3](#) proves that the Spirit of God upholds (to confirm, support, bear, or carry) all things by the Word of His power. This means that the Word must be active everywhere to confirm and support the entire Universe, such as galaxies, solar systems, black holes, electromagnetic fields, and gravitation or nuclear forces, etc, not just the edge of the Universe. This means that the Word of God (Jesus), who is spiritual, pervades or exists in parallel with everything created because He is omnipresent. Therefore, if Jesus (God/Word) is everywhere (omnipresent) and the Word (Jesus) is settled in the heaven ([Psalm 119:89](#)), then heaven (third heaven) must also be everywhere (omnipresent), not just outside the Universe. The Word settled in the "heaven" refers to the spiritual or third heaven because Jesus's words are spirit and life, not physical, which is why the KJV got it right with the singular heaven in [Psalm 119:89](#) and [Genesis 1:1](#).

[Hebrews 11:3](#)

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

[Hebrews 1:3](#)

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

[Psalm 119:89](#)

LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven

[Genesis 1:1](#)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

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2.3 The body is also physical with a spirit that supports life

In a similar fashion, we may consider our body as a mini Universe where either a heavenly or hellish spiritual atmosphere indwells us. This is why Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is within you in [Luke 17:21](#), meaning we have a spirit given to us by God because without it the body would be dead, [James 2:26](#). It is learning the Word of God so that the soul (mind) aligns with the spirit, with assistance of the Holy Spirit in born again believers, that manifests the Kingdom of God/Heaven within the heart via the spirit, i.e. it is the power of agreement with God that gets us closer to God and His Kingdom. Therefore, our beliefs and behaviours can fashion a heavenly atmosphere within our hearts if we are led by the Word and the Spirit of God, but a hellish atmosphere if we are self-led without the Word. Then if heaven is accessible to mankind via the spirit, because we know that our spirit sits in heavenly places ([Ephesians 2-6](#)), why would the third heaven only be outside the Universe? Surely our spirit has not left our body to be 46,5 billion light years away in the third heaven, otherwise we would be dead, and no, we do not have a duplicate spirit where one is in the third heaven and the other is in us on earth! The third heaven is spiritual, which is eternal, wherein the Word of God is settled, whether in us or outside of us, just like the Holy Spirit is inside us and outside of us, and our obedience to follow the Word through faith will result in behaviours and attitudes that generate our heavenly spiritual atmosphere via the spirit, and our lack of obedience will result in a hellish spiritual atmosphere.

[Luke 17:21](#)

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

[James 2:26](#)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

[Ephesians 2-6](#)

and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Most believers are waiting for Jesus to reappear so that they can finally have the fruit of the spirit, which is love, peace, joy, and righteousness, etc, however, we do not have to wait for Jesus to reappear to make the third heaven available on earth as we already have access to it via the spirit that dwells in us, though we struggle in our flesh bodies to connect and walk by the spirit. However, when He does reappear, the entire earth will be filled with His glory and everything will be perfected, including our physical bodies and nature itself. This means that the third heaven will suddenly become part of our earth's physical atmosphere because the floodgates between the first and third heavens will be opened, just like the floodgates are opened when we walk in the spirit. How does the most widely accepted interpretation resolve the issue of the third heaven being brought down to earth from 46,5 billion light years away? The only answer is that the third heaven is not only outside our Universe but everywhere (omnipresent). It is merely a question of opening

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the gateway, floodgate, portal, or door between the first and third heavens and we do this by submitting to the spirit and the Word.

2.4 The reason why we only have one physical heaven, not two

The reality is that we only have one physical heaven as the first heaven, which is the entire physical Universe, incorporating both the cosmos with its heavenly bodies, and the earth's physical atmosphere where living creatures, including humans, fallen angels and demons dwell. I say this for the following reasons:

1. [Job 1: 6:7](#) states that satan walks the earth, not the cosmos, even though at the time he still had access to the third heaven by virtue of the fact that he approached God. Therefore, satan had access to both the earth and the third heaven because he was not yet cast out of the third heaven. The Word of God never mentions satan in the cosmos though he may frequent it for personal reasons beyond my comprehension, but for what purpose? He is only mentioned as being on earth (first heaven) or when he comes before God in the third heaven. Popular belief says that satan was cast out of heaven before Adam and Eve sinned, referring to [Revelation 12:1-8](#), and yet he came before God in the third heaven many times after that. We can prove this because the divine beings/angels who rebelled against God still had access to God whom he set over the nations after He dispersed mankind at Babel, see [Deuteronomy 32:8-9](#). Also in [Zechariah 3:1](#) we see satan accusing Joshua before God, meaning that satan still had access to God/Heaven. It was Jesus's birth that was instrumental in casting satan out, or relinquishing satan's access to the third heaven, and thus no longer being able to accuse mankind of sin before God. This does not mean that satan has no legal right to inflict mental or physical pain in the believer, it is just that he cannot accuse believers in Jesus Christ any longer. I believe God's primary purpose in using satan is to inflict pain so that believers can turn to God.

[Job 1: 6-7](#)

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

[Revelation 12:1-8](#)

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

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6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders[a] of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of God.[b]
9 But the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage

(b) some translations read “sons of Israel”, however, that is impossible because God dispersed mankind at Babel long before Abraham and His descendants were born.

Zechariah 3:1

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

2. In [Revelation 12:1-12](#) we see satan and his angels thrown out of the third heaven to earth (not the cosmos), when Jesus was caught up to the third heaven as a child, and thus all rebellious divine spirit beings/angels lost access to God/Heaven. This is why satan cannot accuse mankind any longer, i.e. they have no access to God/Heaven, therefore, they are on earth going directly after mankind to deceive them, not in the cosmos.

Revelation 12:1-12

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.
7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.
11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

3. On certain occasions, God opened my eyes where I have seen three different kinds of demons walking around on earth, and discerned a fourth type monitoring my every move, and I believe these various demons represent different ranks of demonic hierarchy or structure.
4. I have also heard fallen angels flying around in earth's physical atmosphere though God did not let me see them.

Nevertheless, the most compelling reason for my belief in the Universe being the first heaven in its entirety is because [Genesis 1:14-19](#) states that God also made the stars and set them in the firmament with the sun and moon. Then, if the firmament includes the earth's physical atmosphere, with the heavenly bodies or elements such as the moon, sun, and stars, we should not conclude that the firmament is limited to earth's physical atmosphere as per figure 1. In other words, the sun, moon, and stars belong to the cosmos (traditionally as the second heaven) and yet God set them in the firmament (earth's physical atmosphere) which traditionally is known as the first heaven. Then surely, the sun, moon and stars cannot be in both the first and second physical heavens as it makes no sense. The truth is that they are not in both heavens, because we have one physical heaven, not two, as our earth sits within the Universe and should not be a separate physical heaven from the cosmos, i.e. the earth itself is in the cosmos. I therefore believe that the Universe/firmament is the first heaven created by God in Genesis 1:1.

[Genesis 1:14-19](#)

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.
17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.
19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

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2.5 Then what is the firmament if it is not confined to the earth's atmosphere?

How do we then understand the firmament? Only God can truly answer that, however, I believe that the firmament described in [Genesis 1:6-18](#) is merely expanding [Genesis 1:1](#) into more detail, but from mankind's vantage point as we look up into the sky (physical heaven or Universe). God does not describe the Universe in precise detail due to its vastness and complexity as I do not believe it was necessary for God's followers to lose themselves in the precision of scientific data, besides, the cosmology in antiquity was pretty basic. Without the advantage of telescopes and spaceships, the image they compiled by merely using the scriptures and observation of the sky is pretty accurate, but of course, they missed [Job 26:7](#) that says the earth hangs on nothing, and they misunderstood that the sun revolves around the earth instead of the other way round, see [Joshua 10:12-14](#) where the sun stood still, i.e. they did not understand that it was the earth that stood still because from their vantage point, the sun appeared to be moving, hence, why Figure 2 is what they came up with.



Figure 2 - Heaven and earth in antiquity

[Job 26:7](#)

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

[Joshua 10:12-14](#)

12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.
13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

We therefore see that God was not concerned with their understanding of the precision of cosmology, as long as they understood the overview or concept of the first heaven (Universe), and that God was the Almighty God and the Redeemer of humanity, Who is above all things, Who created all things, and Who upholds all things. This reminds me of my vision where God was not interested in showing me the details of the creation of the Universe, but rather, that the point was to show me that it was His light that was manifest to create or transform the Universe and the planets, and why Jesus is the light of the world, see "[Creation and transformation require God's presence](#)".

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Based on scripture and figure 2 of antiquity, I do not believe that the firmament was ever just earth's physical atmosphere, but rather the entire Universe, though earth was depicted incorrectly. Thus the first heaven included the cosmos and earth's atmospheric layers because they included the celestial bodies such as stars, moon, and sun inside the "dome", not outside, as per Figure 2.

2.6 The separation of the waters and the firmament

We see in scripture ([Genesis 1:6-18](#)) that God separated the waters below from the waters above the firmament, which is why the Israelites of antiquity created a concept based on Figure 2, i.e. they saw the firmament as we see the Universe today, even though their view of earth was not accurate. This however indicates that when God divided the waters to create the firmament, part of the waters remained on earth below the firmament, whilst the creation of the firmament pushed part of the waters upwards, so that the waters formed a barrier or edge above the firmament. We therefore have an expanding firmament and an edge to the firmament denoted by water. Does this not sound like our expanding Universe today, which agrees with the image of the firmament in antiquity? I think so, but God could also be referring to our solar system or even our galaxy, but I doubt it! The waters therefore are potentially the edge of the firmament or the Universe, however, I believe they are symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

[Genesis 1:6-18](#)

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.
8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.
9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.
10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.
11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.
13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.
14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:
15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.
17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

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The firmament is also known in many Bible translations as the “expanse” which God called heaven in [Genesis 1:8](#) and was filled with the moon, sun, and stars, see [Genesis 1:14-18](#). The word *râqîya'* in Hebrew is translated as firmament in the KJV, but actually means to expand, broaden by beating, or to stretch. I therefore believe that Bible translations using the word “expanse” are more accurate as they correlate better with the expansion of the firmament/Universe. Although this could be circumstantial, I do believe that the waters above the firmament do correlate to the edge, and thus the expansion of the Universe. Therefore the “waters” may have been God’s way of symbolically defining the edge of the Universe, which at times appear as crystal in scripture, such as in the book of Ezekiel chapter 1.

We know that there are not enough waters that will stretch and cover the circumference of the Universe, which is still expanding at the speed of light or faster, which is 299,792 km/s or 7.5 times around the earth in one second. We also believe that the distance from earth to the Universe’s edge is approximately 46,5 billion light years away, therefore, the waters may be symbolic of the Holy Spirit as the force/power that is expanding the Universe. We also know that the expanse/firmament is also supported by the Word of God which is settled in the heaven, and therefore it is the Word in the third heaven that creates and supports the Universe (expanse/firmament) because they coexist in parallel. God often uses water in scripture to denote the working of Holy Spirit, however, the water above the firmament is later described as crystal in scripture, denoting purity, or heavenly glory, or God’s perfection. This makes sense because the crystal above the firmament is symbolic of the gateway or portal from anywhere in the first heaven (earth’s physical atmosphere or cosmos) where there is darkness (lack of God’s knowledge) to the third heaven where there is light (God’s knowledge, divinity, holiness, perfection, etc.). It is the Holy Spirit that purifies and thus the gateway is via the Holy Spirit symbolised by water or crystal. [Revelation 22.1-2](#) references the tree of life, symbolic of Christ, and the purity of the river of water, symbolic of the Holy Spirit, as they always work together in obedience to the Father. Where Christ is, the Holy Spirit is also, and so is the Father. The Tree of Life and the waters are first mentioned in Genesis 2, then again in [Ezekiel 47:1-7](#); as believers get deeper into the river, they are eventually taken by the waters (Holy Spirit). symbolic of a believer’s surrender to God, but more about that some other time.

[Revelation 22.1-2](#)

- 1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

[Ezekiel 47:1-7](#)

- 1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.
- 2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

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- 3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.
- 4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.
- 5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.
- 6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.
- 7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

When God created the physical heaven and the earth, the Universe was comparably smaller than today by the sheer fact that it that has been expanding at the speed of light or faster for 6,000 years or more, and still is. In other words, if we reverse the expansion of the Universe at the speed of light, or faster, by 6,000 years or more, we will get a much smaller Universe/firmament, hypothetically, making it more likely that the waters above the firmament were enough to encircle the earth, making it more realistic, but I believe the waters merely symbolised the barrier or edge of the Universe for humanity to understand that there is an edge to the Universe/firmament, as depicted in Figure 2, which keeps expanding into God/Heaven, even today.

2.7 The symbolism of the edge of the Universe and God's Kingdom

We also see symbolism of the firmament and its edge/barrier in [Ezekiel 1:21-26](#), where the living creatures have the expanse/firmament (or edge of the Universe) over their heads with God's throne above the expanse/firmament. Notice that the firmament/expanse is now solid in that it is crystal, not water, though water and crystal can appear similar, but the crystal is symbolic of the edge between the Universe/firmament (first heaven) and God's heaven/abode (third heaven), but in reality I believe it is symbolic of the gateway, door, or portal from the first heaven to the third heaven, which is why the living creatures can be anywhere in the Universe and still have the throne over their heads. In other words, the picture of the crystal as a barrier between God and the angels is not a physical representation of angels at the edge of the Universe, but rather symbolise that they at the portal between the third heaven and the first heaven, regardless of where they are in the Universe, as we shall see later.

[Ezekiel 1:21-26](#)

- 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- 23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.
- 24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.
- 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

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26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

This symbolism tells us four things:

- 1) Water is liquid and flexible and could symbolise the expansion of the Universe when God created the Heaven (Universe), however, crystal is solid and may symbolise that one day the Universe will stop expanding because crystal is firm and fixed, but that is just speculation. I do however believe that the crystal between their heads and the throne symbolises a portal or gateway to the third heaven from the first heaven.
- 2) Due to their transparent nature, crystal or water may symbolise accessibility through transparency or purity of heart, as the barrier between the third heaven (God's heaven/abode) and the first heaven (Universe) which humanity must cross through living by faith and in spirit and truth. In other words, we need a pure heart, symbolised by crystal, to enter the third heaven.
- 3) The angels being below the crystal are in the physical Universe (first heaven), but the throne above the crystal is in God's heaven/abode (third heaven). This symbolises that angels are subject to living in the physical world of the Universe, whether in the cosmos or on earth, as they are created beings, but with constant direct access to the third heaven/God, which is why God made them spiritual beings. The positioning of the living creatures under the firmament, upon which is the throne of God, symbolises that they are always on standby for God's instructions, which they fulfil to the letter, represented by their perfect movement based on the wheels (spirit) and the direction in which they are led. Does not this sound similar to the fact that we need to be led by the spirit in the same way? Angels have spiritual bodies and therefore access to Heaven/God, unless they fall short and God throws them out by renouncing their access to the third heaven. On the other hand, humanity have to also be in the spirit to access God, which is why Jesus said that we must worship in **spirit and truth**, though our flesh often resists due to worldly challenges, the reason why many of us miss the mark.
- 4) Being under the firmament, just below the throne, does not mean that the angels live geographical at the edge of the Universe waiting for God instructions and then fly 46,5 billion light years to earth to assist mankind. Rather, it is symbolic of their having access to the third heaven no matter where they are in the cosmos or earth's atmosphere because the third heaven is everywhere but only accessible in the spirit. In other words, the crystal firmament merely symbolises the portal, gateway, or door between the first (Universe) and third heaven wherever they are, or even wherever we as humans live.

[Ezekiel 1:21](#) is clear in that the living creatures were on earth below the firmament but not at the edge of the Universe, and hearing God's voice from above the firmament but not outside the Universe because they were on earth. In other words, the first and third heavens run in parallel as they have different dimensions, and the access path is by the spirit, regardless of where we are. We also see that the living creatures lifted up from the earth still with the firmament on their heads. Does this mean that the edge of the firmament is moving up and down, or does this merely symbolise that no matter where they are in the physical Universe, heaven is with them because

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heaven is ubiquitous (omnipresent)? The latter of course. The crystal (edge of firmament) between God and the living beings symbolises the portal between the separate dimensions of the physical (first heaven) from the spiritual (third heaven) regardless from where we try to access God and heaven, because God and Heaven is omnipresent. The living beings are under the firmament, symbolising that they are subject to the physical Universe but have access to the third heaven because it is everywhere. In other words, any created being can never live outside the Universe in the third heaven because it is purely spiritual (heavenly) where nothing created can exist except those that are omnipresent, but the living beings do have access to God and can be before God no matter where they are in the physical Universe, just like satan walked on earth and came before God, and just like we will have access to the third heaven when Jesus reappears to fill the earth with His glory (Kingdom of Heaven), but still be on earth. This is where the third heaven meets earth (first heaven).

Just ask the question, “Is Jesus going to bring the third heaven from 46,5 billion light years away, or is he merely going to open the portal, door, or gateway between earth and heaven because they exist in parallel?”. The latter of course. Similarly, as born-again believers we also have access to God and can come before God when we worship in spirit and truth, or when we get caught up to heaven in spirit, nevertheless, our experience is never as full as that of the living beings or when Jesus reappears.

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3. The second heaven

3.1 The second heaven is of a spiritual nature, not physical

As mentioned before, the answer to why the second heaven is spiritual is the fact that when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He asked the Father, “Let thy kingdom come. Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven”, [Matthew 6:10](#). To do God’s will is to change our minds and hearts by the spirit and the Word to positively influence our communities, and thus the spiritual atmosphere of the second heaven wherein we live. This is why it is not a physical but a spiritual heaven, even though the second heaven exists within, or exists in parallel with our earth’s physical atmosphere (first heaven). We influence the spiritual atmosphere of our second heaven by our beliefs, behaviours, attitudes, and actions which keep changing depending on who is in power on earth, which is why we should follow God and not mankind for the stability and salvation of the soul, though we should be obedient to authorities as long as they do not make us do things against God’s morals which should be embedded in the heart.

[Matthew 6:10](#)

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven

It is the current spiritual atmosphere of our second heaven that God wants to replace with the new Heaven and Earth (new Jerusalem) when Jesus reappears to bring the third heaven’s spiritual atmosphere into our physical atmosphere, thus replacing the current darkness in the second heaven. The transformation of the dark second heaven is currently in progress through believers based on God’s Word and the spirit-led life, where God’s glory is evident through true believers that influence others to believe in God, and through notable miracles, i.e. God’s glory is working through the believer to bring about change on the earth. The final and complete manifestation of the fullness of God’s glory throughout the earth, not only in the believer but also in the earth’s physical atmosphere, will take place when Jesus reappears on earth. This is symbolised by a city (new Jerusalem) coming down from heaven in [Revelation 21:1-4](#). This is not a literal building, but is symbolic of the Holy Spirit opening the portal in the third heaven to make God’s spiritual atmosphere manifest in our earth’s physical atmosphere (first heaven). When this happens, the spiritual atmosphere of our second heaven in earth’s physical atmosphere will be similar to the third heaven, or should I say, full access to the third heaven is given by God to humanity in our earth’s physical atmosphere, thus making our spiritual atmosphere the same as God’s spiritual atmosphere, where even creation will not see corruption ([Romans 8:18-22](#)). Then Jesus’s prayer will be fully answered.

[Revelation 21:1-4](#)

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

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- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
- 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Romans 8:18-22

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

3.2 Eden was the first Kingdom of Heaven on earth (second heaven)

It is only in [Genesis 2:8](#) where Eden (second heaven) is mentioned for the first time, representing the Kingdom of God/Heaven on earth, where humanity is the custodian of their spiritual atmosphere, guided either by being led of God (Tree of Life) or their own free will (independence) in deciding what is good and evil (Tree of the knowledge of good and evil). I think the names of the trees are obvious to their meaning. The directive to choose the Tree of life and not the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, was not a moral law like in the laws of Moses where man has to fulfil all the laws to be righteous, but it was rather a choice to be God-led in righteousness that results in life, or self-led in righteousness that results in death. Mankind can only be righteous by faith in God and His Word, not by their own understanding of good and evil. In other words, God wanted to lead them because only God's Spirit gives life, as He is the source of life and the power behind mankind's ability to walk in righteousness. They chose to be self-led or independent from God due to the desires of the flesh, stemming from self-righteous pride when they thought they could be like God, which resulted in their spiritual and eventual physical death as they lost access to God.

In other words, God gave mankind free will which is the only way to prove our true self, because humanity cannot be honest when driven by compulsive laws that force righteousness through punishment, which actually result in strife and judgement, and thus the feigning of righteousness to be recognized or rewarded, which strengthens pride. God's way was to teach them righteousness through following God which would eventually entrench them in God's ways and make them realise right and wrong over time. Unfortunately, they thought they could do it on their own, which is also our dilemma today, even after the tree of life was made available to us again through Jesus Christ and the cross (tree).

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[Genesis 2:8](#)

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

3.3 The Tabernacle of Moses assisted Israel in transforming their spiritual atmosphere

The Tabernacle of Moses was an inanimate type of Christ that would teach Israel that it is impossible to fulfil the righteousness of the law without God, i.e. they needed God in everything they did. However, it's other purpose was, through the discipline of rituals such as sacrifices and cleansings of sin, to nurture Israel in God's ways and become a community holy unto God, and thus influence the spiritual atmosphere of the second heaven in a positive light based on God's Word/laws. We see this carnal to spiritual transformation in the colours of the Tabernacle of blue, crimson, and purple. In other words, blue signifies "heaven or spirit", crimson signifies "flesh or earth", and the purple is a result of the mixing of blue and crimson symbolising the spiritual atmosphere of the second heaven we generate on earth, which is to hopefully become like the third heaven (God's heavenly paradise). In other words, as people were obedient to God, their spiritual atmosphere became more like God's and were thus blessed because they walked with God, but as soon as their obedience waned, the more trouble they received from the enemy because they lost their protection. It is no different today from a spiritual perspective, though Jesus has given mankind the Holy Spirit to assist us and strengthen us in our walk to salvation.

The Tabernacle was symbolic of Jesus who fulfilled bringing the spiritual man (blue) to flesh and blood (crimson) and the open heaven (blue) on earth (crimson) when He was crowned King with a crown of thorns and a purple robe (purple is created by mixing of blue and crimson), i.e. the merging of blue (heaven or spirit) with crimson (flesh and blood, or earth) makes purple (robe worn by Jesus). We therefore need to be born again by the spirit to receive a regenerated spirit to lead us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to become more like Jesus so that we can change the spiritual atmosphere on earth, as a chaste or spotless church should ([Ephesians 5:24-27](#)), so that Jesus can reappear from the third heaven on earth.

[Ephesians 5:24-27](#)

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

3.4 God exhausted all avenues in allowing mankind to become righteous without God

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God tried every possible way to show mankind that they could not live in righteousness without Him. Even when God performed miracles through people like Moses to Israel's amazement, they still struggled to believe and trust God. It is no different today, with exception of those that are truly dedicated, born again, and led by the spirit and the Word of God. The following is a summary of what God did to allow man to recognise that he could not do it on his own:

- 1) Initially, mankind was sinless and God assisted in their spiritual growth by leading them in Eden, which failed due to disobedience, as the pride of self-righteousness through free will deceived them.
- 2) God continued to coax mankind into righteousness through faith in Him, but only Noah was interested and therefore only Noah and his family survived the flood
- 3) God then allowed mankind freedom to govern themselves and to be led by God before they built a tower in Babel, but their self-righteousness lured them to make a name for themselves, thus rejecting God, resulting in them being given over to the divine beings (sons of God) that He set over the nation's, see [Deuteronomy 32:8-9](#). These are the gods of today in many nations that keep people in bondage. God wants these nations free from bondage to these sons of God who are the devils or princes of the air of today. This is why Jesus/Yahweh was sent to start a nation (Israel), beginning with Abraham who became a wanderer through faith in God, to make Israel great so that they could bring the nations back to God.

[Deuteronomy 32:8-9](#)

8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders[a] of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of God.[b]
9 But the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage.

- 4) God then led His chosen people Israel, who are His inheritance, through the wilderness, but their lack of faith and complaints saw God giving them the law to govern themselves in righteousness, with Moses to lead them as the intermediary between God and Israel. The law was given to show Israel their sins, [Galatians 3:19](#).

[Galatians 3:19](#).

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator

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- 5) Jesus then died for the sins of the world to bring every person back to God by faith in His righteousness, not ours, but many are still in unbelief and thus remain self-righteous. Even some believers in Jesus Christ still walk their life in self-righteousness, which can be told by the way they judge others, or how they preach the gospel, or even how they condemn others for sin instead of teaching. We therefore continue our walk until God speeds up the salvation process because I believe God has a timeline for humanity, where those that are heartfelt believers in Christ will receive eternal life, and those that do not believe will receive eternal judgement.

Mankind failed God's leading, time and time again, regardless of what God did, why? Because God wanted to show mankind that we cannot be holy and righteous without Him. It is the spirit that God places in mankind that empowers us, [Zechariah 4:6](#). We therefore have to seek Him with all our heart to be led by Him. This is why we have to be born again by the spirit if we are to have the ability and courage to change our minds and hearts during our lifetime.

[Zechariah 4:6](#)

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

3.5 Jesus translated believers from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light

Jesus was the final sacrifice to reconcile mankind from all nations back to God, with Israel as His inheritance. It was Israel, through Jesus (Yahweh in the OT), that would eventually free the gentiles from the sons of God (rebellious divine beings) that were set over the nations at Babel. These sons of God were those that rebelled and desired to control God's creation, but Jesus defeated them at the cross and proved to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Being eternal, Jesus is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent, and therefore cannot be defeated. However, the sons of God are created divine spiritual beings, who are subject to the physical Universe, and can only defeat God by deceiving humanity to reject God, so that they can rule over the earth indefinitely. Even so, God has already defeated them. These rebels are the same sons of God who shouted for joy when God made the foundation of the earth ([Job 38:1-7](#)). We see that even angels or spiritual divine beings are tested, just like humans are tested.

[Job 38:1-7](#)

- 1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,
- 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
- 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

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6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;
7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Jesus knew that mankind's spiritual atmosphere (second heaven) was the kingdom of darkness due to lack of the knowledge of God's truth, as we have been deceived by carnality, and by evil people/spirits that are controlled by these princes of the air (rebellious sons of God). So, Jesus's purpose was to deliver those who believe in Him as Lord and Saviour, from the kingdom of darkness and translate them to the kingdom of light, [Colossians 1:13](#). In other words, Jesus opened the spiritual heaven (third heaven) for those who believe in Him to have access to heaven via the Holy Spirit, which is why believers sit in heavenly places when they become born again by the spirit, [Ephesians 2-6](#). To be in heavenly places means that the born again believer's spirit has access to the third heaven and therefore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, because heaven is ubiquitous (everywhere), i.e. our spirit has an open gateway/portal/door to heaven. When the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer, heaven is also there because they are eternal and the spiritual third heaven is an emanation or extension of God. In other words, heaven cannot be separated from God because they are both eternal and therefore not created. Whatever is eternal is everywhere, though mankind may never see it because it is in a different dimension, but true Christians can be caught up into heaven in spirit, hear from God, receive dreams and visions from God, and even perform miracles as gifts from God. We may not see the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, but it is available to those that believe and who desire to walk with God on an individual or group basis, however, dedication and walking by the spirit and truth is absolutely essential.

[Ephesians 2:6](#)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

[Colossians 1:13](#)

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

God also gives dreams and vision to unbelievers, and speaks to them at times, however, because they do not know it is Jesus, they think it is the god they follow from their youth or parents, and find it difficult to change their allegiance from the rebellious sons of God, to having faith in Jesus Christ. I struggled with this for 16 years until God told me, "You have tried all the religions, now try Christianity", and that was that.

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4. The third heaven

4.1 The third heaven does not only sit outside the Universe

The current understanding of the third heaven is that it only sits outside the Universe, which according to science/cosmology is more than 46,5 billion light years away from earth, and expanding further out. We need to ask ourselves, “Is the third heaven also moving out further in harmony with the Universe as it expands into the third heaven?”. If that is the case, then God must have made a hole of nothing within Heaven to create a Universe that fits in precisely, and that expands in line with the Universe’s expansion. How does God expand something spiritual when it is everywhere because it is omnipresent? How does one make a hole in something that is eternal and infinite? You cannot, because Heaven/God is spiritual and is always everywhere though God and Heaven may not be manifest in the physical Universe until He decides to show Himself, i.e. God and Heaven are omnipresent. Furthermore, if the third heaven starts outside the Universe, as per Figure 1 at the start of this document, it cannot be considered infinite or eternal because it has a starting point. I would love to know how they would explain the end point of the third heaven which sits outside the Universe because pictures do not tell stories of things that are eternal and infinite.

I have never believed that the spiritual heaven (third heaven) only exists outside the Universe or is a place that a person travels to, whether in the rapture or another event, but is rather a place that we enter via the spirit, regardless of where we are in the Universe, because heaven is spiritual and is everywhere and has no time or space (distance). If the third heaven only existed outside the Universe, it could not be eternal or infinite because it is in a location with a beginning and an end.

4.2 God and Heaven coexist and are omnipresent

Let me expand on why heaven is everywhere. We know that the third heaven (spiritual heaven) is God’s heavenly paradise, known to some as His abode beyond the Universe, but it does not mean that heaven existed as a separate entity, or before God’s existence, so that at some point God decided to live there. God is the Creator of all things, and the eternal spirit, whether in presence, power, and knowledge, meaning that God has no beginning or end in any aspect of His being, and therefore, was not, and cannot be created, i.e.: He is the “I AM” because He exists eternally in what we understand as the past, present, and future. Therefore, because the third heaven is also eternal, it was also not created, and thus coexists as an aspect of God and must therefore be an extension or emanation of God based on His omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. Therefore God has always been in heaven as they were not created but existed together.

If we question whether heaven is eternal, then take note of [2 Corinthians 5:1](#) where we can surmise that heaven is eternal because if the house (our glorious bodies) are going to be eternal in the heaven, then heaven is eternal and thus cannot be confined to the edge of the Universe, because nothing that is eternal or infinite can have a start or end point.

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[2 Corinthians 5:1](#)

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

I mentioned before that the Word is forever settled in the heaven, and if Jesus is the Word, Who is eternal, then heaven must be eternal.

Just by understanding that God and heaven is omnipresent is sufficient to understand they are everywhere (ubiquitous) even though we may not see the third heaven or God in earth's physical atmosphere because they are of a different dimension. This means that God is not going to pull the third heaven from 46.5 billion light years away to earth when Jesus's reappears, because the third heaven is all around us and merely needs to be manifest into the first heaven (earth's physical atmosphere) by opening the portal, gateway, or door from the third heaven to earth.

4.3 In concept, the second heaven is a inferior finite model of the third heaven

The reason I still believe and prefer to see the word "heaven" in Genesis 1:1 as singular, is because the second heaven and the third heaven were not created, i.e.: they are spiritual, though mankind's spiritual atmosphere in the second heaven is finite and corrupt, but God's third heaven is pure and eternal. The second heaven is finite because it is contained within the earth's physical atmosphere as it is generated by human beings wherever they live, however, God's heaven is eternal because everything is created within it and thus envelopes the entire Universe, though it is not manifest for humanity to see or experience it, except a person be a born-again Christian. All physical things have a Creator that fall within the creation of the Universe laid out in the book of Genesis, even though created beings may be angels who are spirits, or humans that have an indwelling spirit, and therefore the physical Universe was created within God/Heaven who was the only one that was in existence, infinitely and eternally, before anything was created, i.e. there was nowhere else wherein the Universe could be created, except within God, who holds everything together by His Word which is always active. See the vision I had in my article, "[Creation and transformation requires God's presence](#)"

Though no-one can truly understand the relationship between God and the third heaven, I believe that the third heaven is an extension or emanation of God that comes about because of His divine nature where love, peace, and joy is dominant, and thus the third heaven must be everywhere because God is omnipresent. In a similar but limited manner, humanity is custodian of the second heaven within the earth's physical atmosphere which is fashioned by their belief systems, behaviours, attitudes, and activities that influence the spiritual atmosphere in a positive or negative way. Therefore, simply put, God influences the total divine spiritual or heavenly atmosphere of the third heaven, but humanity influences the total divine or corrupt spiritual atmosphere of the

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second heaven, even though God has given us the Word to direct us. In other words, the third heaven is spiritual not physical, and thus has no geographical location because it is ubiquitous without space (distance) and time, however, our second heaven that we influence is inferior and finite and thus exists only where we dwell.

4.4 The Universe expands into the third heaven

The truth is that the Universe was created within God/Heaven because only He existed at time of creation, and exists infinitely and eternally, which is the reason why the finite Universe can expand infinitely and forever into the third heaven, without Heaven having the need to move away as the Universe expands. It is the Word and the Spirit that frames the Universe, both inside and outside the Universe, just as God frames born again believers with His Spirit when it comes within the believer and abides upon the believer. Everything is created, transformed and upheld by the Spirit and the Word of God Who is in heaven (third heaven).

Nothing that is material can become eternal or infinite unless God manifests His glory on that physical thing like He will do when He manifests the full glory of the third heaven on earth when Jesus reappears. Actually, no created thing can ever be eternal, only everlasting, because eternal means that there is no beginning or end, whereas everlasting suggests that there is a beginning but no end.

Matter being propelled because of a big bang is not the reason the Universe is expanding, as flying matter has no intelligence to order and organise itself into galaxies, solar systems, etc. The expansion and the orderly manner in which solar systems and galaxies are formed is by the design of an intelligent God, Who is infinite and eternal, and coexists with the Universe, which is why the Universe can expand into God/Heaven and be supported by His Spirit and the Word, [Hebrews 11:3](#). God has devised systems and forces in such a way that gives birth to new asteroids, planets, rogue planets, stars, etc, where electromagnetic fields, gravitational forces, and nuclear forces work in harmony to create and maintain galaxies, solar systems, exoplanetary systems, star clusters, globular clusters, and the like.

[Hebrews 11:3](#)

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4.5 Examples of the third heaven manifesting on earth

4.5.1 Cloud in the wilderness

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We see a glimpse of the third heaven manifest in earth's physical atmosphere when the third heaven opened partially for Moses and Israel as a cloud by day and a fire by night ([Exodus 13:21](#)) when wandering through the wilderness. It was confined to a section of our earth's physical atmosphere as the purpose was to lead Israel and not affect the entire earth's spiritual atmosphere because earth was given to mankind. Why? Because God wants mankind to desire Him out of their free will, because love is not forced or coerced, otherwise it is false, just like laws force humanity to feign righteousness to be rewarded or recognised without any change to the heart.

[Exodus 13:21](#)

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

4.5.2 Steven looked into heaven

We also see that Steven saw Jesus at the right hand of God when He looked up **into** heaven in [Acts 7:55](#). This was a vision symbolic of heaven, but because he had the spirit, God opened His eyes to see into heaven, meaning that heaven is all around us, not 46,5 billion light years away.

[Acts 7:55](#)

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

4.5.3 The cloud of witnesses

One of the most compelling scriptures that proves that the third heaven (God's spiritual heaven/abode) is all around us within the Universe, including our earth's atmosphere, though not manifest for all to see or access, is [Hebrews 12:1](#), which states that we are compassed (surrounded) by a cloud of witnesses. The cloud represents the third heaven, and the witnesses are those that are dead in Christ, and the OT saints. If we are compassed by a cloud of witnesses, it is because the third heaven is all around us because we know that those that have died in Christ are in heaven as per [2 Corinthians 5:1](#).

[Hebrews 12:1](#)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

[2 Corinthians 5:1](#)

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1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

4.5.4 The living creatures

Another scripture mentioned before is Ezekiel 1, where the living creatures are below the firmament (crystal) but the throne of God is above their heads on the crystal. This represents heaven is accessible from anywhere because the creatures move up and down on the earth and the crystal and throne is still with them. This means that the crystal is a portal to heaven (Holy Spirit) from anywhere in the physical Universe.

Ezekiel 1:21-26

- 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- 23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.
- 24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.
- 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.
- 26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

4.5.5 Jesus throne is the heaven and his footstool is the earth

In [Isaiah 66:1](#) Jesus says that heaven in His throne and earth is His footstool. We cannot read this literally otherwise Jesus's legs would be 46,5 billion light years long and the His body would be whatever we can imagine. This is saying that God is in Heaven, which is symbolically His throne, not necessarily a chair type throne as we know it but the entire heaven itself that surrounds the earth, and heaven starts from earth, where symbolically his feet rest, into infinitely.

Isaiah 66:1

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest?

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5. The most widely accepted interpretation of the three heavens is flawed

If we accept the most widely accepted interpretation of the heavens, then we do not know God, as we are implying that He is in the business of potentially destroying His heavenly paradise or abode (third heaven), or/and the cosmos (second heaven), or/and the earth and its atmosphere (first heaven). This is not God's character, Who has the wisdom to remove things from the earth with water or fire, without completely destroying the earth and the cosmos. Of course, He will never destroy His heavenly paradise/abode because it is an aspect of God and is indestructible.

It is therefore important to understand metaphors, such as heavenly bodies/elements being melted with fervent heat in [2 Peter 3: 10-12](#), which refers to God's breath taking out fallen angels/divine beings who are the bad influencers of humanity. These fallen angels/divine beings are symbolized by heavenly elements or bodies who rebelled against God, just as John saw lampstands and stars symbolizing churches and messengers respectively in Revelation 1, and just as Joseph saw the sun, moon, and stars symbolizing his family as the patriarch of Israel, who were to influence Israel as God's messengers on earth. These heavenly bodies or elements currently influence our second heaven as false messengers of God, or acting as God themselves, because humanity does not suspect their clandestine activities through the occult, and therefore follow their pernicious ways.

[2 Peter 3: 10-12](#)

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
- 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

In other words, the earth's physical atmosphere, within which the spiritual atmosphere of our second heaven is manifest, is inundated with carnality leading to strife, corruption, and sin, due to false beliefs, behaviours, attitudes, and activities, which God wants to remove and replace with His spiritual atmosphere (third heaven) where righteousness, love, peace, and joy will dwell. To assume otherwise is to not know God at all.

This makes more sense because God emanates or generates His spiritual atmosphere (third heaven) by His Divine/Holy character, meaning that the third heaven is never separated from God, just like humanity generates their own spiritual atmosphere, whether globally, in a country, in a city, or in any group of people or community, and it is never separated from humanity though we can change it by worsening or improving our character through beliefs and behaviours, i.e. we are the custodians of our destiny so we should follow the true leader of life. Therefore, because God knows the sinful nature of humanity, He wants to make the spiritual atmosphere on earth as it is in heaven, and this is the heaven and earth He wants to replace as prayed/taught by Jesus Christ.
