

Copies of the Things in the Heavens

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Everything in the physical realm was modeled after "heavenly things", which is a difficult concept for the human mind to grasp.

Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified (cleansed) with these (physical counterparts), but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these (physical copies). ²⁴For Christ has not entered the **holy places made with hands**, which **are copies of the true**, but into heaven itself (where everything originates), now to appear in the presence of God for us (on our behalf as Mediator; cf. 1Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15; 12:24) (Heb. 9:23-24; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The writer of the Book of Hebrews confirmed that the following physical objects are copies of things that exist in the spirit realm.

For **a tabernacle** was prepared: the first part, in which was the **lampstand**, the **tables**, and the **showbread**, which is called **the sanctuary**; ³and behind **the second veil**, the part of the tabernacle which is called **the Holiest of All**, ⁴which had **the golden altar of incense** and **the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold**, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aarons rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵and above it were **the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat** (Heb. 9:2-5a; emphasis added).

At a future date, **the tabernacle** of Almighty God that exists in the heavenly realm will replace any and all physical copies.

And I (John) heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, **the tabernacle of God** (Almighty) **is with men**, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God' (Rev. 21:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The prophet Zechariah confirmed that there is a spiritual equivalent to **a golden lampstand** that exists in the spirit realm.

And he (an angel) said to me, 'What do you see (in the heavenly vision)?' So I (Zechariah) said, 'I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to seven lamps (Zech. 4:2; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a heavenly vision of a future temple and **tables** are mentioned as being part of it.

At the outer side of the vestibule, as one goes up to the entrance of the northern gateway, were two tables; and on the other side of the vestibule of the gateway were two tables (Ezekiel 40:40).

In the same vision were four tables **hewn from stone**.

There were also four tables of hewn stone... (Ezekiel 40:42a).

Ezekiel also saw God's **sanctuary** in the heavenly realm.

The he (an angel) brought me into the sanctuary... (Ezekiel 41:1a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The writer of Hebrews described Jesus Christ entering behind **the second veil** in the

heavenly realm. Therefore, Christ entered **the Holiest of All** which is located behind this veil.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 6:19-20).

In a heavenly vision, the Apostle John saw a **golden altar** located in front of Almighty God.

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I (John) heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God (Almighty) (Rev. 9:13; Ed. notes in parentheses).

John also saw **the ark of the covenant** in Almighty God's heavenly temple.

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple... (Rev. 11:19a).

One of **the cherubim of glory** that covered Almighty God's mercy seat is seen in the following section of scripture describing the rebellion of Satan.

You (Lucifer now called Satan) were an anointed cherub who covers (Almighty God's mercy seat); I (Almighty God) established (appointed) you... (Ezekiel 28:14a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Thunder and lightning and earthquakes are also associated with Almighty God's presence. Therefore, their spiritual counterpart existed in the spirit realm before they were created in the physical realm.

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His (Almighty God's) covenant was seen in His temple. And there were

lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail (Rev. 11:10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

It has been assumed erroneously that when lightnings, noises, thunderings and earthquakes are described in various prophecies that these are occurring in the physical realm. However, this is an assumption and in the next section of scripture they are associated with the judgment of Babylon, which is a spiritual city in the realm of the fallen host.

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!' ¹⁸And there were **noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake**, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹Now the great city (spiritual Babylon) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations (of the fallen host) fell. And **great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath** (Rev. 16:17-19; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As mentioned previously, there were tables of stone pictured in the spirit realm (Ezekiel 40:42a), but there are also precious stones and metals. These comprised the outer wear of Lucifer before he rebelled against Almighty God.

You (Lucifer prior to becoming Satan) were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; **every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold** (Ezekiel 28:12b-13a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Consequently, what appeared in vision as precious stones and metals existed in the heavenly realm prior to the creation of their counterparts in the physical realm. These comprise some of the merchandise used by Satan in his trading activities as described a number of times in scripture. Unfortunately, the manner in which he began conducting this business led him to sin, followed by expulsion from the presence of Almighty God. No doubt there are many of God's laws and commandments still being broken by Satan in these trading practices. It appears from the next scripture that fierce competition leading to violence is one of the negative effects.

By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you (Lucifer/Satan) sinned (Ezekiel 28:16a; emphasis added).

This conduct is condemned by God and the judgment of this corrupt system, described figuratively as Babylon the Great, is mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

...Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come. ¹¹And the merchants of the earth (see study: Two Earths) will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹²**merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones** and pearls... (Rev. 18:10b-11a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Prior to his rebellion, Lucifer was created with musical talent and ability. Consequently, music also existed in the spirit realm long before it became part of the physical realm.

The workmanship of your (Lucifer's/Satan's) timbrels (rhythm) and pipes (melody) was prepared for you on the day you were created

(Ezekiel 28:13b; cf. Job 38:6-7; Ed. noted in parentheses).

Whatever music is being performed in Satan's realm, it will end when his system is finally judged by God.

...Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²²The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard anymore (Rev. 18:21b-22a).

Idol worship was developed as an integral part of Satan's religious system in the realm of the fallen host. It then became the most common form of worship in the physical realm. Worship of the dead, including their "relics", is one aspect of this idolatrous structure (see study: Do Religious Organizations Have God's Authority to Declare Sainthood?). This is the reason that Satan wanted Moses' body (Jude 9). With about 39,000 Christian denominations operating today, they cannot all be worshipping the same One True God (statistic from: Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary report; cf. Jn. 17:3). Therefore, Satan's deceptive religious system is polytheistic, but its main object of worship is Satan (Rev. 12:9).

Again the devil took him (Christ) up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he (Satan) said to him, 'All **these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship** (Gk. proskuneo, to revere or bow down to) **me**' (Mt. 4:8-9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Those members of the fallen host who are in positions of authority are worshiped by demons in lower positions or status. It is similar in the physical realm when actors, musicians, sports celebrities, political and religious leaders are

placed on pedestals and worshiped by adoring followers/fans. Instead of this polytheistic system in the realm of the fallen host and the physical realm, Almighty God states that all gods are to worship Him, and not one another.

Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols (cf. Ac. 19:24-29). **Worship Him** (Almighty God), **all you gods** (Ps. 97:7; cf. Zep. 2:11; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The idols that human leaders set up, as objects of worship for their people, represent leaders within the realm of the fallen host. This is why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's gold idol which represented his chief god.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, 'Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that **you do not serve my gods** or worship the gold image which I have set up? (Dan. 3:14; emphasis added)

The Apostle Paul pointed out that an idol is nothing, of and by itself. Instead, it is what this image represents. Therefore, paying homage to an idol that represents a leader within the realm of the fallen host is a sin (Ex. 20:1-5).

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one (God Almighty) (1Cor. 8:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In conclusion, it seems that almost everything in the spirit realm has its counterpart in the physical realm, whether its precious stones, metals, clothing, buildings, music, trade and commerce, idolatry, competition, violence, warfare, etc. Without this important understanding, those individuals or churches

who claim to be gifted with the revelation of prophecy, will make numerous false conclusions and lead many unsuspecting followers astray.

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