

**“BEING A RESTORED HUMAN”**



**“A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COSMOS”**

**“THE KINGDOM OF GOD”**

**I. “IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED...”**

**A. *The heavens*** - Handout: *“The Population of Heaven”* *The host of heaven, His cosmic management team*

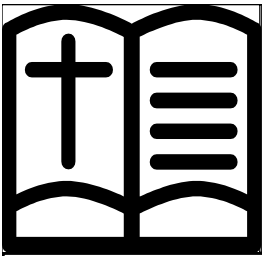
**God, Elohim, YHWH**, eternally dwells as 3 persons in one in an eternal relationship of trust, love, and community; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**He created heaven and earth to mirror His own perfect character and nature, His glory; we glorify God when we do things, say things, are things they way He made them to be**

**B. *The earth***: its substances, its environment, its living things, all things visible and invisible, its principles and laws and its humans, His earth-bound management team

**C. He created interdependent communities of servants who would share with Him the just and fruitful management of all He created**

**1. Having different responsibilities for different areas of creation, He made us all connected and interrelated to function like Him: a unity; a community; a family**



2. *He created both the heavenly host and humanity with His communicable attributes to rule /manage as He is/does*
  - a. *The heavenly host are disembodied spirits like He is and have been given more powers than humans; they are also called “elohim”; they are our “brethren” since we are in the same family, the family of God. They do God’s will at His command and assist Him in counsel, judgment and administration of the whole cosmos*
  - b. *Humans are embodied spirits whose original responsibilities included reproducing images of God who would recreate the temple of Eden all over the world, filling the whole earth with His glory by “subduing” it and assisting the plants/animals in sustainable living*
3. *This was all very good when completed by God and He rested; **the whole cosmos was to be governed by faith/trust in, love and compassion for God and all He had made***
4. *It was only as pride, distrust, self-sufficiency and desire to be supreme entered the cosmos that the goodness of it was disrupted*

*This community of creation is **The Kingdom of God***

# **THE POPULATION OF HEAVEN**

## **Who or what is in heaven?**

***Let's start with the throne of God:***

**REVELATION 4:1-11 THE THRONE “ROOM” OF GOD; The appearance of the Throne and of the One on it**

**THE THRONE OF GOD** - *He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone; a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald vv. 2-3*

*From the throne proceeds lightnings, thunderings and voices v. 5a*

**EZEKIEL HAD A VISION OF THE THRONE OF GOD ALSO**

**(EZE 1:26ff):** *Above the firmament (see below under Sea of Glass) was the likeness of a throne, like a sapphire stone; on the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it; from the waist up was the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; from the waist down was the appearance of fire with brightness all around (see also Eze 8:2; the appearance of a rainbow was its brightness; he said it was like the glory of the LORD)*

**EZEKIEL'S VISION OF THE THRONE WAS ENGULFED IN A**

**WHIRLWIND (EZE 1:4):** *A great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. From within it came the likeness of four living creatures (see below Four Living Creatures); this fire may have been the cherubim and seraphim; the living creatures contributed to the fiery vision but we will see that the cherubim and seraphim are close to the throne and that they are fiery and bright. In chapter 10 Ezekiel identifies these living creatures as the cherubim! (10:8-22)*

**SEA OF GLASS LIKE CRYSTAL BEFORE THE THRONE v. 6a**

**A PAVED WORK OF SAPPHIRE STONE (EXO. 24:9-10) -**

*Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel have been called by God up to the mountain to worship from afar (Exo 24:1). When they approached the mountain, they saw God (was this the “visible” YHWH, the Angel of the Lord?) and under His feet was a paved work of sapphire stone as clear as the substance of the sky*

**A LADDER OR A STAIRCASE WITH THE LORD**

**STANDING ABOVE IT (GEN. 28:10-17)**

**A FIRMAMENT ABOVE THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES**

**(EZE 1:22ff):** *Like the color of an awesome crystal*

*stretched out over the heads of the four living creatures (see below Four Living Creatures)*

## **The spiritual beings (elohim) in heaven:**

**CHERUBIM (PLURAL); CHERUB (SINGULAR)** - *Bright or shining; closest to the throne of God; cover it; their representation is found in the tabernacle/temple overshadowing the mercy seat/throne of God and on the veil which shielded all from entry into the throne of God except those admitted by His ordinance; their appearance must have been known for the makers of the tabernacle were told to weave them into the veil and fashion two of them overshadowing the mercy seat/ark of the covenant; they appear to be guardians - one of them guarded the way to the Garden of Eden, God's temple on earth, to prevent anyone from getting to the tree of life; winged beings; God dwells between them; the psalmist says that God rode upon the cherub (**Psalm 18:10**). The Satan was a cherub close to the throne. For reference sake we have the crafting of their representations in **Exodus 25, 26, 36, 37; 1 Kings 6, 7, 8***

### **EZEKIEL IDENTIFIES THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AS THE CHERUBIM:**

*Eze 10:8 The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. 9 And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared to have the color of a beryl stone. 10 As for their appearance, all four looked alike-as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 11 When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. 12 And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, were full of eyes all around. 13 As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, "Wheel." 14 Each one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. 15 And the cherubim were lifted up. This was the living creature I saw by the River Chebar.*

*16 When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also did not turn from beside them. 17 When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when one was lifted up, the other lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature was in them. 18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the*

temple and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. 20 This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim. 21 Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. 22 And the likeness of their faces was the same as the faces which I had seen by the River Chebar, their appearance and their persons. They each went straight forward. (NKJV)

**SERAPHIM (PLURAL); SERAPH (SINGULAR)** - Burning or fiery perhaps like bronze or brass; the word is used to speak of the fiery serpents that plagued the children of Israel in the wilderness. The beings, seraphim, are seen once in the Scriptures and that is in **Isaiah 6:2, 6**. They are described as “each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew” and standing above the throne. This is the only mention of these beings so we do not know if this is the normal position for them or not. We will assume that it is since that is what is recorded for us

**SEVEN LAMPS BURNING BEFORE THE THRONE WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD** Rev 4:5b

*Their counterparts on earth are the seven lampstands of the churches Rev 1:12,20 The churches are the light of the world as the heavenly lampstands are the lights of heaven*

**ZECHARIAH SAW A SINGLE LAMPSTAND WITH SEVEN LAMPS AND SEVEN PIPES CONNECTED TO THE SEVEN LAMPS AND TO A SINGLE BOWL ON TOP OF THE LAMPSTAND (Zechariah 4:2, 10)** - These are

*said to be the eyes of the Lord which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth; Rev 5:6 says “seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. These are likely the same lampstands John saw in the Revelation identified as the 7 spirits of God*

**TWO OLIVE TREES (ZECHARIAH 4:3, 11-14)** - One on the right hand and the other on the left hand of the lampstand; they have a perpetual drip into the receptacles that send oil to the lampstand; they are said to be the two anointed ones who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth. There are some confusing verses in this passage as it relates to the number of pipes and receptacles. Are these olive trees related to the **olive trees who are the witnesses of Revelation 11:1-14?**

**FOUR LIVING CREATURES IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE  
AND AROUND IT Rev 4 - Full of eyes in front and in back v.  
6b, 8**

*Each having 6 wings; do not rest day or night speaking the  
holiness and eternity of the One on the throne, the Lord  
God Almighty v. 8*

*Each has a harp, and golden bowls of incense, which are the  
prayers of the saints Rev 5:8 ??*

**FIRST LIVING CREATURE:** *Like a lion v. 7*

**SECOND LIVING CREATURE:** *Like a calf v. 7*

**THIRD LIVING CREATURE:** *Like a man v. 7*

**FOURTH LIVING CREATURE:** *Like a flying eagle v. 7*

**EZEKIEL ALSO SAW FOUR LIVING CREATURES IN HIS**

**VISION (EZE 1:5-25):** *The descriptions are so vivid and lengthy  
we will just copy what is written in the book of Ezekiel (this is  
taken from the New King James Version):*

*Eze 1:5 Also from within it came the likeness of four living  
creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of  
a man. 6 Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.*

*7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the  
soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished  
bronze. 8 The hands of a man were under their wings on their  
four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. 9 Their  
wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they  
went, but each one went straight forward. 10 As for the likeness  
of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the  
face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an  
ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.*

*11 Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two  
wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their  
bodies. 12 And each one went straight forward; they went  
wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they  
went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their  
appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of  
torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire  
was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. 14 And the living  
creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of  
lightning. (NKJV)*

**THEIR MOVEMENTS ACCORDING TO EZEKIEL:**

*Eze 1:15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel  
was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces.*

*16 The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the  
color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance  
of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel.*

*17 When they moved, they went toward any one of four  
directions; they did not turn aside when they went. 18 As for their  
rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were*

*full of eyes, all around the four of them. 19 When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.*

*20 Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.*

*Eze 1:22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. 23 And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. 24 When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. 25 A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. (NKJV)*

#### **LATER IN CHAPTER 10 EZEKIEL IDENTIFIES THESE LIVING CREATURES AS CHERUBIM:**

*Eze 10:8 The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. 9 And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared to have the color of a beryl stone. 10 As for their appearance, all four looked alike-as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 11 When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. 12 And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, were full of eyes all around. 13 As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, "Wheel." 14 Each one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. 15 And the cherubim were lifted up. This was the living creature I saw by the River Chebar.*

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temple and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. 20 This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim. 21 Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. 22 And the likeness of their faces was the same as the faces which I had seen by the River Chebar, their appearance and their persons. They each went straight forward. (NKJV)

**TWENTY FOUR THRONES WITH TWENTY FOUR ELDERS ON THEM AROUND THE THRONE** - *Clothed in white robes;*

*crowns of gold on their heads v. 4*

*Fall down before the throne in worship of the One on the throne, casting their crowns before the throne declaring the worthiness of the LORD who created all things to receive glory and honor and power when the **four living creatures** give glory, honor and thanks to the Lord God Almighty vv. 9-11*

*Each has a harp, and golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints Rev 5:8*

**SONS OF GOD (bene elohim, bene elim, bene elyon)** - *discussed at length in the Tanakh (Old Testament) but not mentioned in the New Testament;( in the New Testament the Sons of God refers to the transformed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ as it relates to their ruling and reigning with Him in His new Kingdom); the Old Testament Sons of God are the **members of the divine council, the assembly of the holy ones**, etc.; Daniel identified them as **the “watchers”**; they form God’s executive council for judging human behavior on earth and managing the rest of the cosmos; they are the principalities, powers, thrones, dominions found in **Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Rom 8:38.** Their “location” is not mentioned in the accounts of the throne area of God. Location is in quotes here as it should not be thought that the throne of God is a geographical location therefore all things in His throne room are relative to where He, the ubiquitous, omnipresent, eternal One is. If He is in the burning bush, so is all of His entourage; if He is on Sinai, so is His entourage. If He is on the mount being transfigured, so is His entourage. It is said that His throne is on the sides of the north. Where is that? When He is in Mount Zion, it is there!*



**ANGELS** - *The messengers of God; the servants of the Lord who carry out the decrees, the will and the activities of God without question; they are frequently seen in the entire Bible usually bringing messages from God to the residents of earth; they are often mediating God's word to humanity. Though not much more is known about them, they apparently have ranks as some are known as archangels; some function as guardian angels especially, but not exclusively, to children. Here are some things we know:*

**THE ANGEL OF THE LORD:** *This angel is a special category; He appears to be the second person of the Trinity and is the "visible" YHWH. He is seen as a man-like person that often talked with the patriarchs announcing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the birth of Isaac to Abraham or wrestling with Jacob renaming him Israel. He is seen throughout the Tanakh or Old Testament. He is not seen in the New Testament so it is believed that the incarnate (actually born and living in real flesh) second person of the Trinity, the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the same as the Angel of the LORD (YHWH) of the Old Testament.*

**SEVEN STRONG ANGELS ARE GIVEN TRUMPETS, VIALS OR BOWLS OF THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF EARTH IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION Rev 8:1,2**

**STRONG ANGELS (MIGHTY ONES) ARE SEEN IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION and MAKE POWERFUL PROCLAMATIONS Rev 10:1-11**

**AN INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS CALLED THE HOST OF HEAVEN ARE NOTED IN REV 5:11-12**

**SPIRITS OF JUST MEN MADE PERFECT - Heb 12:18-24; Rev 6:9-11**

**FAMILY OF GOD - Eph 3:14-15**