

Deuteronomy 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Analysis

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S—The Hebrew shamayim (heaven) is repeated with the superlative construct shemei hashamayim (heaven of heavens), denoting the highest heaven, God's throne room (cf. 1 Kings 8:27). This emphasizes Yahweh's universal sovereignty over all creation. **The earth also, with all that therein is** establishes God's comprehensive ownership by right of creation (Psalm 24:1).

The theological movement from verse 14 to 15 is stunning: the God who owns all creation nevertheless chose Israel. This juxtaposition of divine transcendence and covenant intimacy grounds the call to circumcise the heart (v. 16). Paul echoes this in Ephesians 1:4—before the foundation of the world, the sovereign Creator chose us in Christ. The doctrine of election emerges from God's freedom as universal Owner.

Historical Context

Moses delivered this second giving of the law on the plains of Moab (1406 BC) as Israel prepared to enter Canaan. This declaration of God's cosmic sovereignty preceded ethical commands, grounding obedience in God's character and Israel's election.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should God's ownership of 'heaven and earth' shape your stewardship of resources and time?
2. What does the contrast between God's universal sovereignty (v. 14) and particular election (v. 15) teach about grace?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יְרֵךְ	הַשָּׁמַיִם יְהוָה	הַשָּׁמַיִם יְהוָה
H2005	is the LORD'S	thy God	Behold the heaven	Behold the heaven
	H3068	H430	H8064	H8064
הַשָּׁמַיִם יְהוָה	הָאֲרֶצַּח	וְכָל	אֲשֶׁר	בָּהֶן
Behold the heaven	the earth	H3605	H834	H0
H8064	H776			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:5 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Psalms 115:16 (References Lord): The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

Psalms 24:1 (References Lord): The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Nehemiah 9:6 (References Lord): Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things

that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Psalms 148:4 (Parallel theme): Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

1 Kings 8:27 (References God): But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

Psalms 50:12 (Parallel theme): If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

2 Chronicles 6:18 (References God): But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

Isaiah 66:1 (References Lord): 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?

Exodus 9:29 (References Lord): And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S.