

Dust of the Earth, Sands of the Sea, Stars in Heaven... Who can number?

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Introduction

With regard to study of the bible, Torah Equity puts a preeminence on the law. A fundamental concept of law requires a study of contract (and of course covenants). Another fundamental concept in law is authority and jurisdiction. Jurisdiction are two words/concept put together, *juris* = law and *diction* = words, but it also has a geographical connotation to it. Normally we think of this geographical connotation as being flat or horizontal, but in Torah Equity it's takes a horizontal aspect to it. This horizontal aspect, which you need to think of first and foremost, is connected to the levels of heaven not unlike the one Paul thought of in 2Co 12:1-4.

This article also begins an investigation into three related allegorical pairs ... 1) Dust of the Earth, 2) Sands of the Sea and 3) Stars in Heaven ... and with them attempts to connect them in with Torah Equity i.e. are these in fact allegories describing, e.g. jurisdiction. In Torah Equity, does the two law forms “Dust of the Earth = the law of the land and Sands of the Sea = the law of the water, have a connection? And how does that relate with the Stars in the Heaven?

2nd Corinthians 12:1-4 KJV

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**. ³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) ⁴ How that he was **caught up into paradise**, **G3857 paradeisos**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Commentary

Clearly the meaning of these verses can be overly emoted making the spiritual meaning of no value or at least no value that we can do something about. Can this, however, be looked at through law to give it some meat?

Shaul (Paul) mentions in [2Co_12:2](#) the 3rd level of heaven. Is there a connection with the hermeneutical idea of **PaRDeS** which has four levels? If the **PaRDeS** analogy is accurate, then an investigation of the third level of **PaRDeS**, which is the “D” level in Hebrew *Dalet* **ד**, would be worth considering. The *Dalet* level is normally assumed to mean **Dresh** as in a *midrash*. Why am I bring this up i.e. how is the relevant one might ask? It turns out that some believe that this third level is *Din* which is judgment i.e. law¹.

H6508 *pardês*

פַּרְדֵּיִם

KJC Occurrences: 3, forest, 1 [Neh_2:8](#), orchard, 1 [Son_4:13](#), orchards, 1 [Ecc_2:5](#). LXX: [G3857](#) paradeisos

G3857 [παράδεισος](#) paradeisos *par-ad'-i-sos*

Of Oriental origin (compare [\[H6508\]](#)); a *park*, that is, (specifically) an *Eden* (place of future happiness, “paradise”): - paradise.

LXX: [H1588](#) *gan*, [H5731](#) *eden*, [H6508](#) *pardes*. KJC: **paradise**, 3 [Luk_23:43](#), [2Co_12:4](#), [Rev_2:7](#)

“...and heard **unspeakable words**, which it is **not lawful for a man to utter**”

In Torah Equity there’s a principle which can crudely be articulated as “what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas”. Without looking at this through legal glasses, this doesn’t make sense to me. Normally we associate “unspeakable words” as being words that are blasphemy, but if there from heaven wouldn’t we want to do quite the contrary and shout them out?

I’m suggesting that the context of this chapter is Paul seeking relief from the jurisdictional third level of heaven from his accusers that are attacking him at a spiritual level. If the attack is a spiritual attack then you need to seek relief from the relevant jurisdiction, if you will, the court of original jurisdiction.

¹ “Some thinkers, such as the Tolaat Yaakov, divide Pardes into Peshat, Remez, **Din (law)**, and Sod. According to this understanding, Derash is divided into the homiletics, which are classified under Remez, and **legal interpretations**, which are classified under **Din**.”
Source: see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardes_\(Jewish_exegesis\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardes_(Jewish_exegesis))

You could say that Paul is being coy by keeping what was said a secret or more simply something that which was given in private (the adjudication of the matter) needs to remain. Therefore the context of our private remedies can't be discussed in public, because the public doesn't have ears to hear i.e. it's not meant for them.

Is Paul exercising that which Y'shua taught in Matthew 18:18-20?

Matthew 18:18-20 – binding and loosening in earth and heaven

¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Levels in Heaven

Here are three examples I quickly put together to as they were referenced in the related [Wikipedia article](#). The three examples are from the King James version and then followed by the HSB version (Hebrew Study Bible).

Gen 28:12 KJV

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

H5551 sul Lam וַיַּחְלֵם H2009 ve hin Neh and behold וַיַּחְלֵם H2492 vai ya cha Lom, And he dreamed וַיַּחְלֵם
H7218 ve ro Sho וַיַּחְלֵם H776 'Ar tzah, on the earth אֶרֶץ H5324 mutz Tzav set up מִצֵּב and behold a ladder
וַיַּחְלֵם H8064 hash sha Ma ye mah, to heaven הַשָּׁמַיִם H5060 mag Gi a' reached מִגִּיעַ and the top of it
H430 E lo Him, of אֱלֹהִים H4397 mal 'a Chei and behold the angels מַלְאָכֵי H2009 ve hin Neh and behold
H0 bo אֱלֹהִים H3381 ve yo re Dim and descending וְיֹרְדִים H5927 lo Lim ascending עֹלִים God

Deu 10:14 KJV

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

H430 E lo Hei cha, thy God אֱלֹהֶיךָ H3068 Yah weh [is] the LORD'S לַיהוָה H2005 hen Behold הוּ
H8064 הַשָּׁמַיִם H8064 u she Mei and the heaven וּשְׁמַי וְהַשָּׁמַיִם H8064 hash sha Ma yim Behold the heaven הַשָּׁמַיִם
H834 אֲשֶׁר H3605 ve chol and all וְכָל הָאָרֶץ H776 lā 'A retz the earth הָאָרֶץ hash sha Ma yim; of heavens
H0 Bah אַחֶרְךָ : בְּהַ

1Ki 8:27 KJV

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?

H430 E lo Him But אֱלֹהִים H3427 ye Shev dwell יָשֵׁב H552 ha um Nam, indeed הַאֲמֹנִים H3588 ki for כִּי
H8064 הַשָּׁמַיִם H2009 Hin neh behold הִנֵּה H776 hā 'A retz; common הָאָרֶץ H5921 'al and עַל will God
לֹא H8064 hash sha Ma yim heaven הַשָּׁמַיִם H8064 u she Mei of heavens וּשְׁמַי hash sha Ma yim and heaven
כִּי H637 'af thee how much less אֵף H3557 ye chal ke Lu cha, cannot contain יִכְלָלְכֶם H3808 lo cannot
H834 'a Sher which אֲשֶׁר H2088 haz Zeh this הַזֶּה H1004 hab Ba yit this house הַבַּיִת H3588 ki- for
בְּנִיתִי : H1129 ba Ni ti. that I have builded

Search Results found in e-Sword.

Dust and Earth

Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the **dust** of the **earth**: so that if a man can number the **dust** of the **earth**, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

Gen 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the **dust** of the **earth**, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the **earth** be blessed.

Exo 8:17 And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the **dust** of the **earth**, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the **dust** of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Jos 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the **earth** upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put **dust** upon their heads.

1Sa 2:8 He raiseth up the poor out of the **dust**, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the **earth** *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

2Sa 22:43 Then did I beat them as small as the **dust** of the **earth**, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.

2Ch 1:9 Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the **dust** of the **earth** in multitude.

Job 14:19 The waters wear the stones: thou washest away the things which grow *out* of the **dust** of the **earth**; and thou destroyest the hope of man.

Job 39:14 Which leaveth her eggs in the **earth**, and warmeth them in **dust**,

Psa 7:5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take *it*; yea, let him tread down my life upon the **earth**, and lay mine honour in the **dust**. Selah.

Psa 22:29 All *they that be* fat upon **earth** shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the **dust** shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

Psa 44:25 For our soul is bowed down to the **dust**: our belly cleaveth unto the **earth**.

Pro 8:26 While as yet he had not made the **earth**, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the **dust** of the world.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the **dust** return to the **earth** as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Isa 26:19 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in **dust**: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the **earth** shall cast out the dead.

Isa 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out **heaven** with the span, and comprehended the **dust** of the **earth** in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isa 49:23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with *their* face toward the **earth**, and lick up the **dust** of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the **dust** of the **earth** shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Amo 2:7 That pant after the **dust** of the **earth** on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the *same* maid, to profane my holy name:

Mic 7:17 They shall lick the **dust** like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the **earth**: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.

20 verses found, 44 matches; 1 Earth Isa 40:12

Sand Sea

Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Gen 32:12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Gen 41:49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for *it was* without number.

Jos 11:4 And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.

Jdg 7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

1Sa 13:5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.

2Sa 17:11 Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.

1Ki 4:20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.

1Ki 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

Job 6:3 For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.

Psa 78:27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:

Isa 10:22 For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

Jer 5:22 Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Jer 33:22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Hos 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, Ye *are* the sons of the living God.

Rom 9:27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Heb 11:12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

19 verses found, 39 matches; 2 Stars in Gen 22:17 & Heb 11:12; 2 Heaven in Gen 22:17 & Sky in Heb 11:12

Stars Heaven

Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward **heaven**, and tell the **stars**, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the **stars** of the **heaven**, and as the **sand** which *is* upon the **sea** shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Gen 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the **stars** of **heaven**, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the **earth** be blessed;

Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the **stars** of **heaven**, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever.

Deu 1:10 The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye *are* this day as the **stars** of **heaven** for multitude.

Deu 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto **heaven**, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the **stars**, *even* all the host of **heaven**, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole **heaven**.

Deu 10:22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the **stars** of **heaven** for multitude.

Deu 28:62 And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the **stars** of **heaven** for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

Jdg 5:20 They fought from **heaven**; the **stars** in their courses fought against Sisera.

Neh 9:23 Their children also multipliedst thou as the **stars** of **heaven**, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess *it*.

Job 22:12 *Is* not God in the height of **heaven**? and behold the height of the **stars**, how high they are!

Isa 13:10 For the **stars** of **heaven** and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into **heaven**, I will exalt my throne above the **stars** of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Eze 32:7 And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the **heaven**, and make the **stars** thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.

Dan 8:10 And it waxed great, *even* to the host of **heaven**; and it cast down *some* of the host and of the **stars** to the ground, and stamped upon them.

Nah 3:16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the **stars** of **heaven**: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the **stars** shall fall from **heaven**, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mar 13:25 And the **stars** of **heaven** shall fall, and the powers that are in **heaven** shall be shaken.

Rev 6:13 And the **stars** of **heaven** fell unto the **earth**, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Rev 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**:

Rev 12:4 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.

21 verses found, 45 matches; 3 earth in Gen 26:4, Rev 6:13 & Rev 12:4

Wikipedia Notes

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Heaven

The **Third Heaven** is a division of [Heaven](#) in [religious cosmology](#). In some traditions it is considered the [abode of God](#),^[1] and in others a lower level of [Paradise](#), commonly [one of seven](#).^[2]

The [Throne of God](#) is said to be above the seventh [heaven](#) in [Abrahamic religions](#).

A third concept of Heaven, also called *shamayi h'shamayim* (שמייה שמי) or "Heaven of Heavens") is mentioned in such passages as [Genesis](#) 28:12, [Deuteronomy](#) 10:14 and [1 Kings](#) 8:27 as a distinctly spiritual realm containing (or being traveled by) [angels](#) and God.^[4]

The ambiguity of the term *shamayim* in the Hebrew Bible, and the fact that it's a plural word, give "heavens" various interpretations regarding its nature, notably the [ascension of the prophet Elijah](#).

In the [Second Book of Enoch](#), Third Heaven is described as a location "between corruptibility and incorruptibility" containing the [Tree of Life](#), "whereon the Lord rests, when he goes up into paradise." (chapter 8) Two springs in the Third Heaven, one of milk and the other of honey, along with two others of wine and oil, flow down into the [Garden of Eden](#). (verse 6) In contrast with the common concept of [Paradise](#), the [Second Book of Enoch](#) also describes a Third Heaven, "a very terrible place" with "all manner of tortures" in which merciless angels torment "those who dishonour God, who on earth practice sin against nature," including [sodomites](#), [sorcerers](#), [enchanters](#), [witches](#), the proud, thieves, liars and those guilty of various other transgressions. (chapter 10)

In the [Slavonic](#) version of the *Greek Apocalypse of Baruch*, also known as [3 Baruch](#), the author is shown a [phoenix](#), and a [dragon](#) residing there is said to eat the bodies of "those that have spent their lives in evil."^[5]

In *The Legends of the Jews* by [Louis Ginzberg](#), this third division of Paradise is said to be, like the other six, "twelve myriads of miles in width and twelve myriads of miles in length," built of silver and gold, and containing "the best of everything there is in heaven."^[2]

- [Abraham](#)
- [Isaac](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- the [Israelites](#) of the [Exodus](#)
- the kings of [Judah](#) (notably [David](#), but "with the exception of [Manasseh](#), the son of [Hezekiah](#), who presides in the second division, over the penitents")

New Testament

An [epistle](#) of the [Apostle Paul](#), included in the [New Testament](#), contains an explicit reference to the Third Heaven. In a letter to the [Corinthian church](#) he writes, "I know a man in Christ" (usually interpreted as: himself) "who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell." ([2 Corinthians](#) 12:2–4) The Greek says "caught away", not "caught up" possibly reflecting Jewish beliefs that Paradise was somewhere other than the uppermost heaven.^[6]

The apparent parallelism of the passage equates the Third Heaven with "Paradise"^[1] the traditional destination of [redeemed humans](#) and the general connotation of the term "Heaven" in mainstream [Christianity](#).^[7]

Four allusions to the [Apocalypse of Moses](#) occur in close proximity in 2 Corinthians. The allusions are (i) "Satan as an angel of light",^[8] (ii) the distinction of Satan and the serpent as two beings,^{[9][10]} (iii) "Third Heaven" ^[11] (iv) "Paradise",^[12] The connection to this Jewish material has led to discussion about whether Paul accepted these traditions, or alternatively whether Paul's vision of Third Heaven is a continuation of his conflict with the [Superapostles](#) in the previous chapter, and that the material comes not from his own teaching, but in reply to material similar to Apocalypse of Moses being transmitted by the Superapostles to the Corinthians. Whether this is so partly depends on whether irony is detected in this section.^[13] The relationship of [Paul the Apostle and Judaism](#) is still widely disputed.