

equals of the same are equal to one another, it follows that these things must be synonymous.

Every student of Holy Writ, when he turns his attention to this observation, will immediately recollect passages in which the same things are predicated of the *heavens*; thus it is said of God, as the God of Israel—*Who rideth upon the heavens in thy help, and in his excellency upon the sky.** And again, *Extol him that rideth upon the heavens.†* *Him that rideth upon the heaven of heavens that were of old.†* Every one knows that, in Holy Scripture, God is also perpetually described as he who *sitteth* upon the *heavens*;§ that the *heaven* is God's *throne*, and the *earth* his *footstool*;|| that *The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens*;¶ that he dwelleth in the heavens, though they cannot contain him; ** that he filleth heaven and earth.††

With regard to *Blessings* and *Curses*, that the *Heavens* are the primary instruments by which God bestows the one and inflicts the other, is evident from many passages of Holy Writ. Thus it is said in Deuteronomy, †† *The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure the heavens, §§ to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand.* The prophet Hosea has a passage, in which the hands by which blessings and fertility are transmitted to man step by step are strikingly described. *And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth, and the earth shall hear the corn and the wine and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. |||* Thus the blessing descends from God by the heavens to the earth, producing abundance for the

* Deut. xxxiii. 26.

† Ps. lxviii. 4.

‡ Ib. 33.

§ Ib. ii. 4.

|| Matt. v. 34, 35.

¶ Ps. ciii. 19.

** Ib. cxxiii. 1. 1 Kings viii. 27.

†† Jer. xxiii. 24.

‡‡ Deut. xxviii. 12.

§§ Heb. את אוצרו הטוב את השמים

||| Hos. ii. 21, 22.