

From Heaven



I have always loved to look at the heaven; especially on a clear cold night when thousands upon thousands of stars are visible. I can't even begin to place a number on the times I have wondered what the stars are really like (up close) and to marvel at the complexity of the heavens. This picture is entitled: "The road to the milky way" is a perfect example of those nights I remember in winter in upstate New York.

Having said all this, there is something wrong with this picture and its title. This picture should be entitled something like: From the Milky Way to the Earth or something akin to it. Why? Well, look at the road. In the U.S. we drive on the right side, yet the portion on the left indicates that something was coming towards us; that is, from The Milky Way.

When I think of something coming from the heavens towards us, I naturally associate it with Jesus and with His discussion with the Jews in the Gospel of John. Read on to see for yourselves...

John 6: 22-69 (World English Bible)

²² On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus hadn't entered with his disciples into the boat, but his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ However boats from Tiberias came near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ When the multitude therefore saw that Jesus wasn't there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats, and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, you

seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. ²⁷ **Don't work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has sealed him.**" (emphasis added)

²⁸ They said therefore to him, "What must we do, that we may work the works of God?"

²⁹ Jesus answered them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."**

³⁰ They said therefore to him, "What then do you do for a sign, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness. As it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" "

³² Jesus therefore said to them, **"Most certainly, I tell you, it wasn't Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."**

³⁴ They said therefore to him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.** (emphasis added) ³⁶ But I told you

that you have seen me, and yet you don't believe. ³⁷ All those whom the Father gives me will come to me. He who comes to me I will in no way throw out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. (emphasis added) ³⁹ This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁰ This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

⁴¹ The Jews therefore murmured concerning him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down out of heaven." ⁴² They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'"

⁴³ Therefore Jesus answered them, "Don't murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'They will all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who hears from the Father, and has learned, comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God. He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread

of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The Jews therefore contended with one another, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ Jesus therefore said to them, **“Most certainly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you don’t have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he who feeds on me, he will also live because of me. (emphasis added) ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not as our fathers ate the manna, and died. He who eats this bread will live forever.”** ⁵⁹ He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard

this, said, “This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?”

⁶¹ But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶² Then what if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life. (emphasis added) ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who don't believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who didn't believe, and who it was who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He said, “For this cause have I said to you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

⁶⁶ At this, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Jesus said therefore to the twelve, “You don't also want to go away, do you?”

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Fact: if you don't eat or drink, you will die. This is the truth and it is indisputable. Another Fact: Everyone who is alive this will eventually die and this too is indisputable. One last FACT; Jesus was a real person. He lived and died and lives again (as attested to by as many as 500 people).

While on Earth, Jesus taught that HE and HE alone was the way to heaven (Jn. 14:6). In the 6th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus claims to have come from heaven to give us eternal life. Those who eat his body and drink his blood will live forever because they partake in God's true spiritual food. Some will reject Jesus for this, but others will believe.

I encourage you- read the 6th chapter of John and decide for yourself. Once you have come to the point where you can agree with Peter's statement of verses 68f., then go to the book of Acts and read chapter the second chapter. Peter's sermon will tell you what you need to do.

Lastly, what about that eating and drinking of Jesus' body and blood? This is done symbolically, every first day of the week as the Apostle Paul explains...

1 Corinthians 11 (WEB)

²³ For I received from the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread. ²⁴ When he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me.”** ²⁵ In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.”** ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Hopefully, the next time you are outside and look at the heavens, you will think about Jesus. I know I will!!!