

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

3 – 4 Heaven Came Down

John 3:11-13

What is truth? Does your truth come from heaven or from earth? Quite frankly, if your truth is from earth, it is from hell (John 8:43-47; I John 4:1-6; I Timothy 4:1 cp. James 3:15).

In **John 3:11**, Jesus used the imperial “we” to identify Himself with the Triune God. His doctrine is of God (John 5:30; 6:38,63; 7:16-18). Jesus used a plural word for “you”, when mentioning the rejection of Christ’s teaching by Nicodemus and the other Pharisees, etc.

In **John 3:12**, Jesus referred to His teaching of “*earthly things.*” In other words, the Scriptures, that they already held in their hands, revealed the work of God in saving people. The way of the wind was an earthly, tangible example of the work of God’s Spirit. The Salvation of men on earth begins in heaven and comes down to earth. But Jesus said, “*If I have told you earthly things and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you heavenly things?*” There is so much more Jesus would like to tell people of God’s great glory and grace. But without a proper response to the gospel truth, people will not be ready to discuss higher, heavenly, divine things.

John 3:13 reveals why Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men (I Timothy 2:5-6; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 1:1-3; I John 2:1). No mere earthly person could ascend to heaven and bring back divine truth and power for us. Jesus, whose domain is heaven, has come down to us, to bring grace, truth, and life to us (John 1:1-5,14-18; 6:29-38,41-48; I Corinthians 15:45-47).

The last phrase of John 3:13, in most newer Bibles, has been omitted. Many of the newer Bibles still mention that the missing phrase exists in some manuscripts. God has used those words for hundreds of years. It is appropriate that we consider them (the words in bold). “...*the Son of Man **who is in heaven.***” “*Son of Man*” is a title that points to Christ’s Divinity – His heavenly affinity, along with His connection to people (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus, though physically on earth, still maintained a presence before His heavenly Father. John’s Gospel has already shown us that Jesus can be involved and aware of things in more than one location at the same time (John 1:43-51 cp. John 11:1-15; Matthew 8:5-13).

Conclusion: It is important that we seek, receive, defend, and propagate the one true message that has come down to us from God – from heaven (Matthew 24:35; John 5:24; 7:16-17; 8:30-32; Romans 1:16; 10:17; 16:25-27; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1,3a; I John 1:1-4; Jude 1:3).