



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: Is the ascension of Enoch and Elijah denied by John 3:13? *“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the*

Son of Man who is in heaven.”

Answer: Contradictions occur in the scriptures when studied out of context. Truth is stated when the whole matter is studied. In the above passage, Jesus expressed three great truths: (1) He had an existence before coming into the world. (2) He still maintained residence in heaven, even though temporarily on earth. (3) He maintained constant communication with heaven by the Spirit. Keep these thoughts in mind as we study further.

Nicodemus could not grasp the spiritual truths Jesus had spoken; *“We know that you are a teacher come from God”* (Jn. 3:2). Jesus not only accepted this tribute, but stated that He alone had a voice of authority in spiritual matters, none other had been in God’s presence or had come to earth with God’s message. Look to the passages of John 6:38, 62; 16:28 for more insight. Since Christ had been with God, and would soon return, He could speak with more authority than any man! He gave credit for His authority to God (Jn. 12:49). John said that Jesus, being in the presence of God, being the only one having seen Him, had declared Him (Jn. 1:18). Jesus Christ could represent God far better than any man! He could say, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”* (Jn. 14:9). Who else could make this statement?

Enoch and Elijah did not have such access to God and man! They left the earth, but could not return with a message for man! Jesus was not denying the translation of Enoch and Elijah; He was speaking of His affinity with God in presenting a message of salvation.

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