ADVANCED TRAINING

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MOUNTAIN VERSUS HEAVEN FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This will be a very short lesson as there is so much to contemplate in this subject. Hopefully religion and tradition do not have too much influence over your life that you may be able to discern the significance of what we are about to learn.

In the Strongs Concordance, the word Heaven is number 3772 in the Greek section. It tells us this number is the same as 3735. This is a very important fact to note as much of today's doctrine is delivered and understood based on the definition chosen by the men that translated the Bible. Let me state first that I believe the scriptures were inspired by God Himself and written through chosen men and all in them is true. However, the group of people involved in the many translations of these scriptures were in quite a few cases not even Godly. Or even if they were Godly, the word was translated through the accepted doctrine of the

day. God does not lie. The scriptures should not contradict themselves. God has supplied many tools for those that are willing to search for truth. He has placed a burning desire within vessels He uses as revealers to use these tools in an effort to arrive at the truth and therefore the correct meaning of scripture. One of these tools is the Strongs Concordance with its Greek and Hebrew dictionary. With all this in mind, let us look in the Strongs at the definitions described concerning the two numbers in question.

3772 - the same as 3735, the idea of elevation, the sky (by extension) heaven (as the abode of God) (by implication) power, eternity, the gospel, air, heaven(ly), sky.

In other words the other definitions that are given for 3772 could have just as easily been used correctly in place of the word <u>heaven</u> as the Bible was translated. The number could have been translated as power, eternity, gospel, or air for instance. So we see 3772 means all these things, not just heaven.

Now let us look at the number 3735, remembering that Strongs told us they are the same word or interchangeable with each other.

3735 - (to <u>rise</u> or <u>rear</u> / a kin to 142. Compare 3733) <u>a mountain</u> (as lifting itself above a plain) hill, <u>mount(ain)</u>.

142 goes to elevation and 3733 goes to a <u>domestic</u> bird that rises or elevates itself.

<u>Side Note</u>: Strongs suggested hen as the domestic bird, but I think the homing pigeon or dove is more appro po. Think of the doves released at the World Olympics that are held in honor of the god Zeus, keeping in mind Satan counterfeits all that is of God.

3772 VERSUS 3735

So, 3772, the number that was interpreted from the Greek to the English as heaven, could just have easily have been interpreted mountain from the number 3735, as they are the same. As you look in the Strongs, you will see for yourself proof that the number 3772 has been very predominantly the number used for heaven. Either number could have been used however, and therefore either definition.

Now let's think about something. What if the people that translated the Greek to

English used whichever definition best suited their doctrine at the time? In other words, if you believed, as they may have honestly been taught, that the <u>only</u> <u>abode of God was in the heavens</u>, would you not use 3772? But, on the other hand, if you understand from the Old Testament what David sang about in Psalm 68:15-16, you may tend to use the number 3735.

Psalms 68:15-16

15 A <u>mountain of God</u> is the <u>mountain of Bashan</u> (The valley is Bashan, Mt. Sion rises out of it); a mountain of many peaks is the <u>mountain of Bashan</u>.

16 Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of many peaks? (Now see this)

This is the mountain which God desires to dwell in yes, the LORD will dwell in it forever.

So God dwells in His mountain also. Just food for thought. It could make a lot of difference! Look at Revelation 21:2, for instance.

Revelation 21:2

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down <u>out of heaven</u> <u>from God</u>, <u>prepared as a bride</u> adorned for her husband.

Now, substitute heaven with mountain, and it would read this way:

Revelation 21:2

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down <u>out of the</u> mountain of God, <u>prepared as a bride</u> adorned for her husband.

Again, the two numbers are interchangeable. Isaiah saw this spiritual mountain at Isaiah 2:2. It's a good thing he did because we would even be confused today about where God trains the true church, or His Bride from. See verses 3 and 4 of Isaiah chapter two.

Isaiah 2:3-4

3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the **mountain of the LORD**, to the **house of the God** of Jacob; he will **teach us His ways**, and **we shall walk in His paths.**" For **out of Zion** shall go **forth the law**, and **the word** of the LORD from **Jerusalem**.

4 He shall **judge between the nations**, and **rebuke many people** they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against **nation**, **neither shall they learn war anymore**.

NO MORE CURSE

Now when we read in Revelation chapter twenty-two, verse three that there is no more curse in New Jerusalem, but the throne of God and the Lamb is there, it becomes more understandable and makes more sense.

Revelation 22:3

3 And there shall be <u>no more curse</u>, but the <u>throne of God</u> and <u>of the Lamb</u> shall be in it, and <u>His servants shall serve Him</u>.

I always wondered how there could be, or ever was, a curse in heaven since this city, according to this translation, came out of heaven. Heaven has no curse in it. It is Holy like the God that it belongs to.

Psalms 115:16

16 The <u>heaven</u>, even the <u>heavens</u>, <u>are the LORD'S</u>, but <u>the earth</u> He has <u>given</u> to the children of men.

Only evil can be cursed, and through fallen men curses came on the earth. Even when heavenly creatures fell into sin, they were removed from the heavens and

came to earth. They didn't bring curses to heaven! They instead fled to earth where they taught man to be evil and brought the curses of God on themselves here on this planet. The Word of the Lord says "woe to the earth because Satan has come near". But heaven is, was, and always will be, pure!

It makes much more sense to think that the city of New Jerusalem would be birthed through the spiritual mountain of Zion, who would call her out of the world and teach her God's ways, remembering Isaiah 2:3-4. We also see proof of this understanding prophesied in Micah 4:6-8.

Micah 4:6-8

6 "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted

7 <u>I will make the lame a remnant</u>, and the outcast a strong nation; so the <u>LORD</u> <u>will reign over them in Mount Zion</u> from now on, even <u>forever</u>.

8 And you, O tower of the flock (government of God), the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

Psalms 125:1-2

1 Those who trust in the LORD Are <u>like Mount Zion</u>, Which <u>cannot be moved</u>, but <u>abides forever</u>.

2 As <u>the mountains</u> surround <u>Jerusalem</u>, So the <u>LORD</u> surrounds <u>His people</u> From this time forth and <u>forever</u>.

Here is today's fulfillment of Micah's prophecy.

Hebrews 12:18-23

- 18 For <u>you have not come to the mountain</u> that may be <u>touched</u> and <u>that burned</u> with fire, and to <u>blackness</u> and <u>darkness</u> and <u>tempest</u>,
- 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.
- 20 (For they could <u>not endure what was commanded</u>: "And if so much as a <u>beast</u> touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow."
- 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")
- 22 But <u>you</u> have <u>come to Mount Zion</u> and <u>to the city of the living God</u>, the <u>heavenly Jerusalem</u>, to <u>an innumerable company of angels</u>,
- 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in

heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Paul was talking to people <u>here on earth</u>. He said that <u>they have come to Mount Zion</u> and <u>heavenly Jerusalem</u>. Now let us look at Revelation 21:2 again to see the contradiction that this present translation creates.

Revelation 21:2

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down <u>out of heaven</u> <u>from God</u>, <u>prepared as a bride</u> adorned for her husband.

IN CLOSING

There are many such scriptures that would become much easier to understand and not near as contradictory if we place the word mountain in the place of heaven. Again, just food for thought!