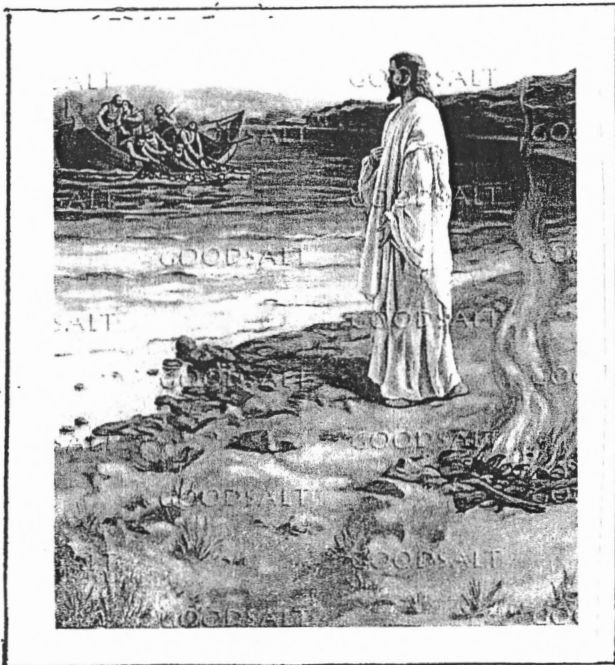
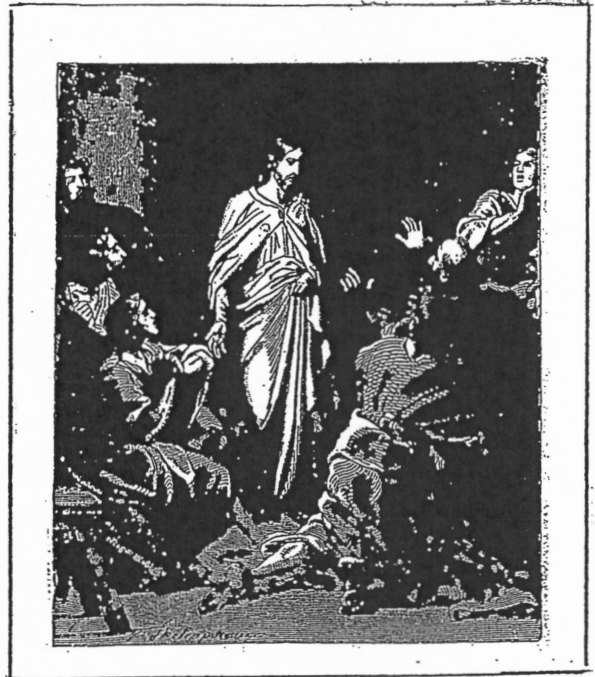
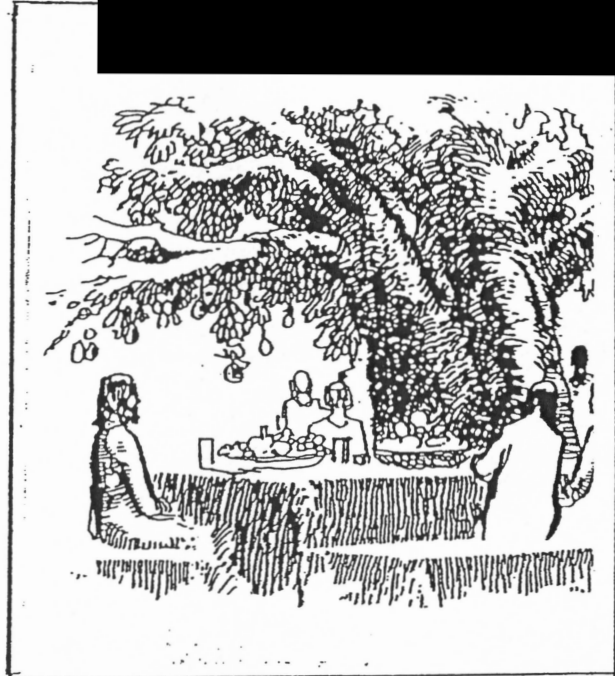


*Will We Be Able to Eat In Our Resurrection Bodies?*



## WILL WE BE ABLE TO EAT IN OUR RESURRECTION BODIES?

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

A number of folks have recently asked whether we as believers will be able to eat in our resurrection body. The question concerning food in our future is a good one. The topic is significant for four reasons.

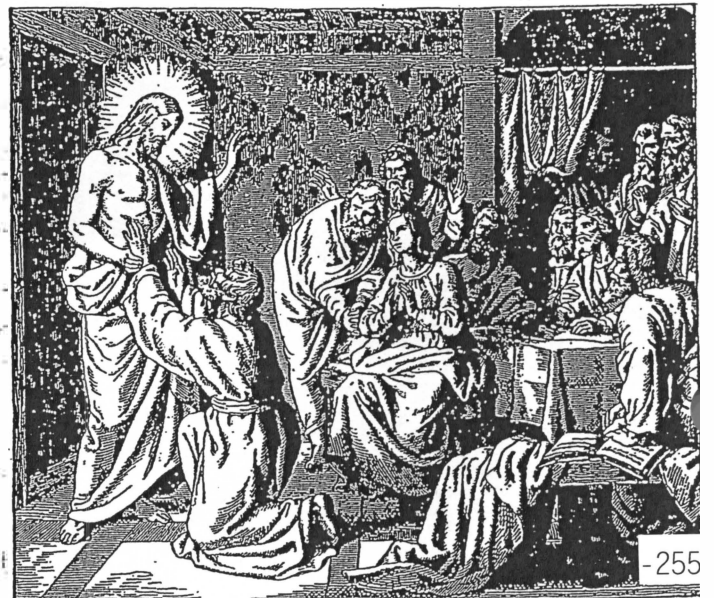
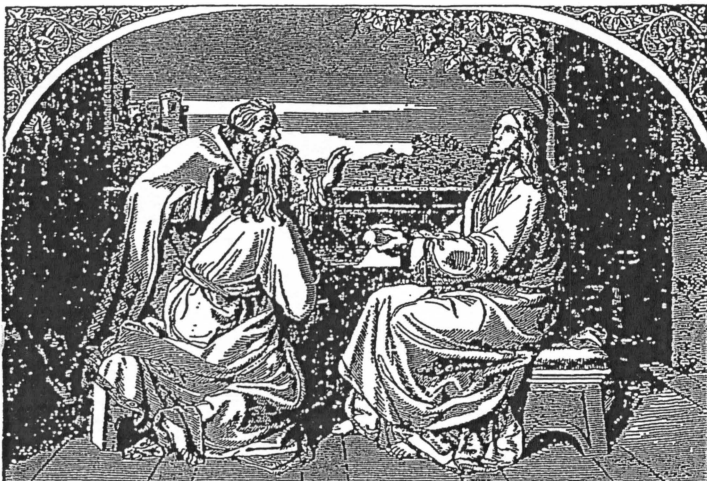
- (1) One can scarcely find any reference to the topic in prophetic literature.
- (2) Biblical revelation affords a clear and positive answer.
- (3) Prophetic references to future food give rather detailed information as to the nature of our culinary enjoyment.
- (4) An understanding of the actual situation will heighten the believer's anticipation of this future felicity.



### 1. The Practice of Christ.

- a. Eating as confirmation of this physical body:

Repeated New Testament passages refer to Christ's ability to eat in His resurrection body. For example, after blessing the evening meal at Emmaus on resurrection Sunday (Luke 24:30) and then vanishing, He appeared to His disciples in a locked room (John 20:19). He tried to convince the terrified disciples that He was not an apparition "for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see me have" (Luke 24:39). Then He gave the unconvinced disciples one additional proof of the physical nature of His resurrection body. He asked them for food and, to their amazement, He ate what they had, namely **fish and honeycomb** (Luke 24:42-43). One may assume that if the disciples had had Campbell's soup or cornflakes, He would have eaten those. One week later He asked doubting Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands: and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side." (John 20:27)



b. Eating and drinking as part of fellowship:

Sometime later, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He prepared and enjoyed breakfast with His disciples (John 21:12-13). In fact, Peter mentions that he and the other disciples “did eat and drink with him after he arose from the dead” (Acts 10:41). Christ taught His disciples for at least forty days but also enjoyed times of blessed fellowship, which included eating and drinking. Apparently the life principle of the resurrection body is no longer blood but the Holy Spirit, thus food is no longer necessary for sustenance and yet a glorious possibility.



2. The Pattern of the Believer’s Resurrection Body.

a. The capability of Christ’s resurrection body:

Christ’s resurrection body was similar to His former body and yet distinct in several aspects. As primarily His walk with the Emmaus disciples indicated, He appeared and disappeared at will. He talked, walked, spoke, stood, sat, touched, heard, prayed, ate and drank. At times He even changed His appearance. “After that he appeared in another form unto two of them [the Emmaus disciples]” (Mk. 16:12).

b. The similarity of our resurrection body to that of Christ’s:

What Christ could do in His resurrection body the believer will also be able to do in his glorified state, such as appear and disappear at will, penetrate solids, eat and drink. John writes with assurance, “we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. The blessed truth is that “we shall be like him”—not unlike Him (1 John 3:2). Similarly, the Apostle Paul assures us that Christ “shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body” (Phil. 3:21).



### 3. The Predictions for the Millennium.

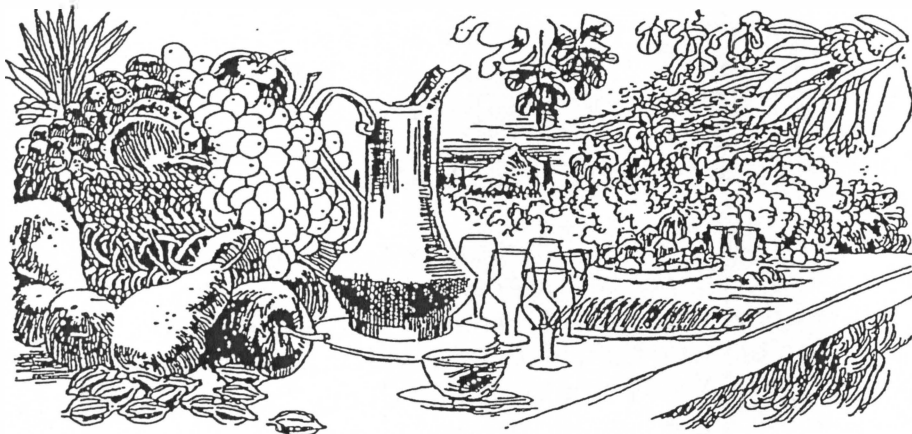
#### a. The promise of the marriage supper:

Based on the words of her Bridegroom, the Bride of Christ eagerly anticipates the marriage supper. *“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”* (Rev. 19:9) We have Christ’s solemn promise that this will happen. This special feast will occur either in heaven prior to the Second Advent or on earth at the commencement of the millennial kingdom. The meal will involve the Bridegroom and the Bride and most likely all the saints of all the ages as friends of the Bridegroom. Undoubtedly the meal will include food and beverages.



#### b. The prophecies concerning Christ’s eating and drinking with His disciples:

Further confirmation for our ability to eat and drink in the future is found in Christ’s direct promise at the institution of the Lord’s Supper, that He would no longer drink this cup with His disciples *“until we drink it again in the kingdom”* (Mt. 26:29, cf. Mark 14:25). He assured the eleven that He would *“eat and drink with them in the kingdom”* (Luke 22:30).



## The Celebration

ST. MATTHEW 26

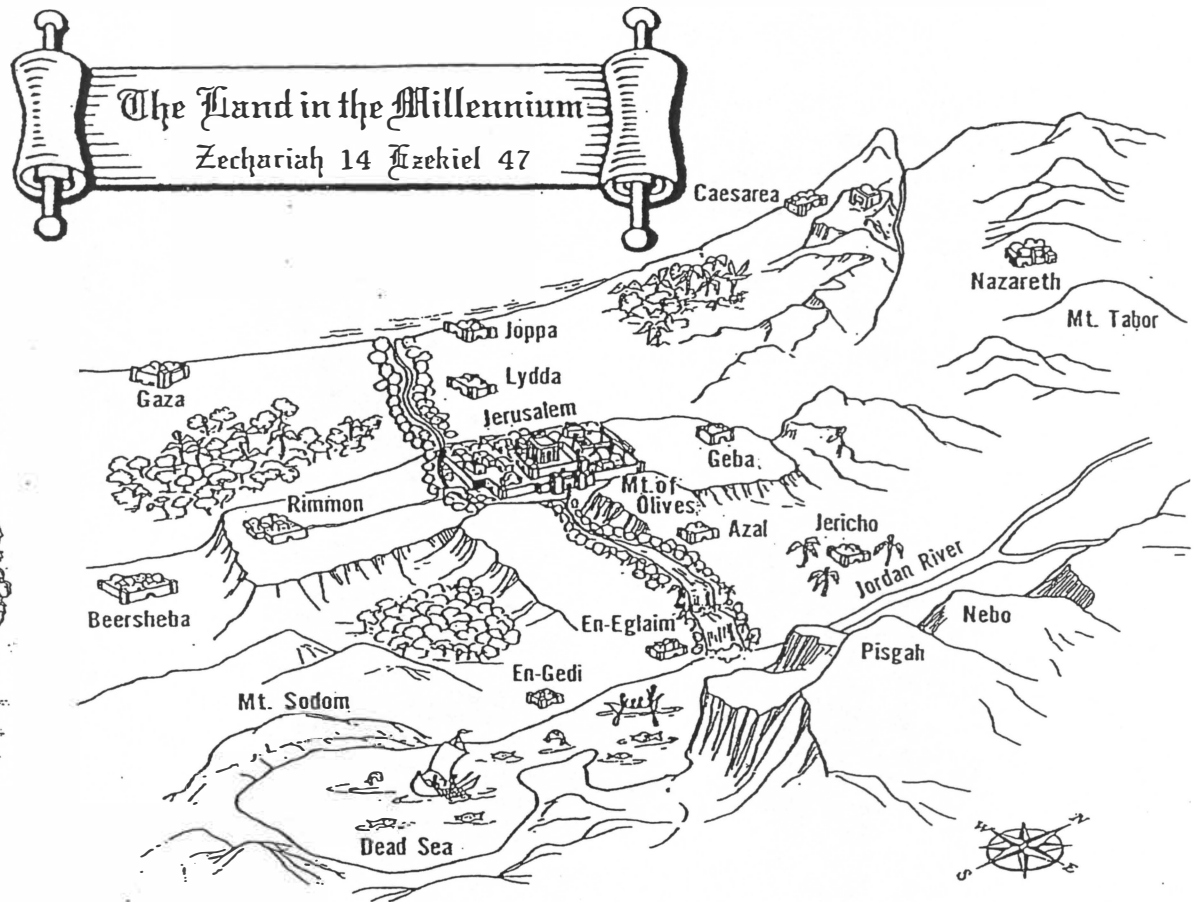
29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.

ST. LUKE 22

29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, my Father hath appointed unto me;  
30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### 4. The Productivity of the Earth in the Millennium.

The prophet Ezekiel describes a marvelous millennial river issuing from Jerusalem and healing the desert and Dead Sea (Ez. 47). The Dead Sea will be teeming with an abundance of fish (Ez. 47:9-10). Along the banks of the river will grow a miraculous tree, producing a different fruit each month (Ez. 47:12). The believer may anticipate even now the future enjoyment of the fish from the sea and the fruit from the tree. Perhaps these viands will be on the menu of the millennial meals our Savior promised to host (Luke 13:29).



#### 5. The Provisions for the New Jerusalem

So far, our discussion has focused on the human ability to eat during the millennial kingdom. But what of the endless eons of eternity? Even here the Bible affords a plausible positive answer.

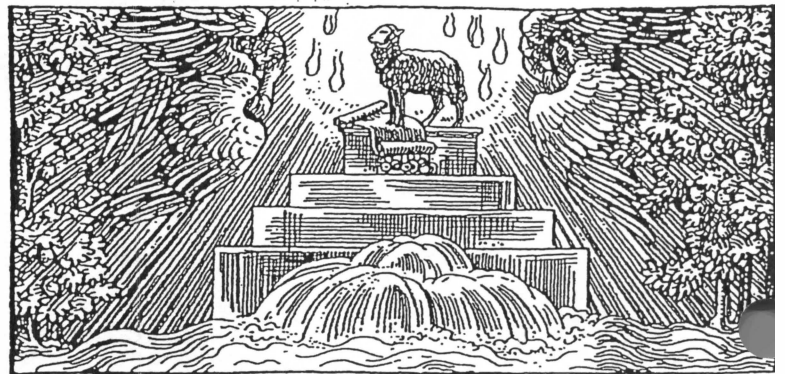
John describes our eternal home as a city of extraordinary dimensions and exquisite delight (Rev. 21:1-22:5). Interestingly enough, the city boasts a river of life issuing from under the throne of God, watering the tree of life which, like its millennial counterpart, bears twelve different fruits.

It seems reasonable to conclude that the saints' eternal and glorious fellowship with the Savior and the angels will involve the enjoyment of the succulent and supernatural fruit from the tree of life and water from pristine and pure river of life. Indeed that is the delightful promise of the Holy Spirit to the church at Ephesus, "To him that overcometh I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Rev. 2:7).



Every believer is an overcomer (1. Jn. 5:5), in fact, more than a conquerer, or a "super-victor" (Rom. 8:37). This being so, we will all enjoy the abundant provisions of paradise!

Finally, it must be stressed that **this glorious future is ours as part of our salvation.** By asking Jesus to be our Savior, we receive with Him "freely all these things" (Rom. 8:32). Have you asked Jesus to be your personal Savior? If so, you too may anticipate this glorious future.



### BECAUSE OF CALVARY



AND MEN WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST, AND FROM NORTH AND SOUTH, AND SIT AT TABLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. AND BEHOLD, SOME ARE LAST WHO WILL BE FIRST, AND SOME ARE FIRST WHO WILL BE LAST.  
— CHRIST (LUKE 13:29,30)

## 6. The Present Provisions in Heaven

Rev. 7:9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and PALMS IN THEIR HANDS;

<sup>10</sup> And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

<sup>12</sup> Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>13</sup> And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

<sup>14</sup> And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne SHALL FEED [SHEPHERD] THEM, and shall LEAD THEM UNTO LIVING FOUNTAINS OF WATERS: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

1b. Who?

A great multitude of saved individuals stand before the throne in Heaven. With them are the angels and the 24 elders.

2b. Where?

The multitude stands before the throne of the Father and the throne of Christ in Heaven.

3b. When?

The vision relates to the situation part-way through the Great Tribulation.

4b. How?

During the tribulation period, people from every national and geographical group will be saved. Most likely the scene in Heaven shows the worldwide martyred multitude. Most likely they were saved through the ministry of the 144,000.

5b. Why?

The redeemed worship God and serve Him day and night.

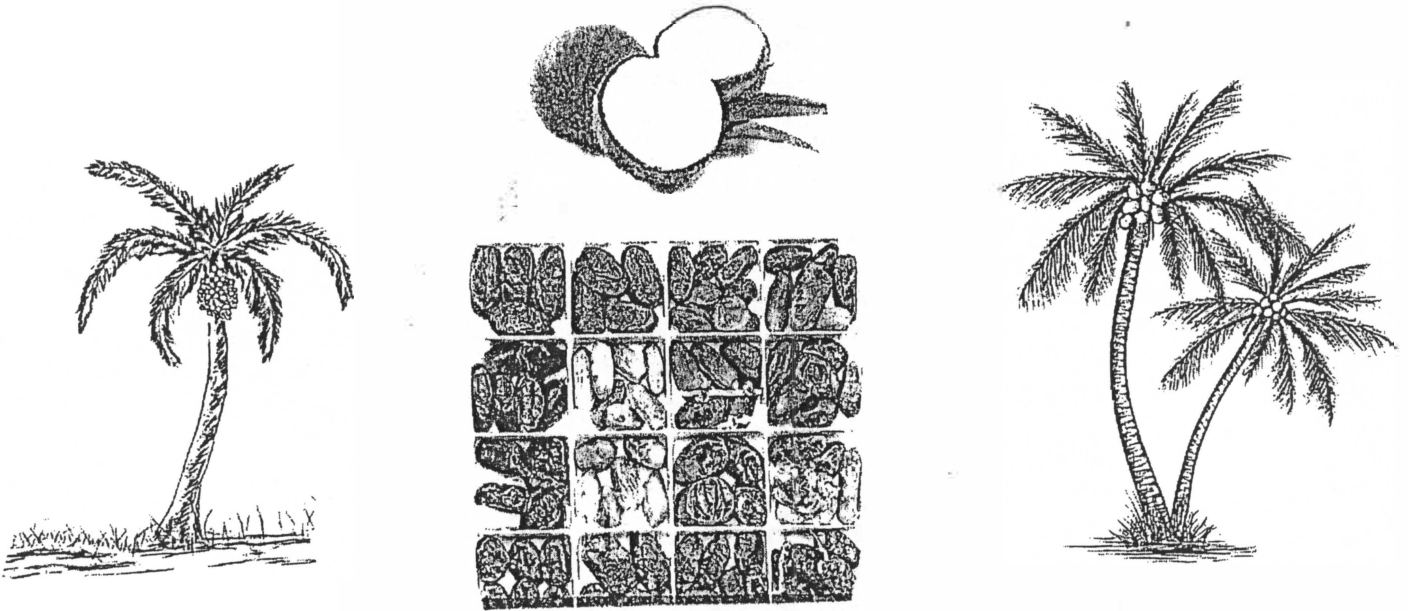
6b. What?

1c. We have here a host of glorified saints carrying palm branches.  
--Either the dead brought them with them to Heaven  
--or—the branches were created in Heaven  
--or—there are palm trees in Heaven from which the branches were taken.

The latter explanation seems to be the best.

2c. Palm trees:

If there are palm trees, they most likely resemble palm trees on earth.



--There are over 100 varieties of coconut palm trees

--There are over 200 different date palm trees.

3c. Food

The saints will be able to eat in their intermediate and resurrected bodies:

Rev. 17:17 For the Lamb . . . shall feed them. What a glorious prospect! What

might that food be? Since there appears to be actual palm trees in Heaven—

both coconut palms as well as date palms—the saints might well enjoy the

luscious fruits. If the variety of the trees approximates that of the trees on

earth, we may enjoy the fruit from some 100 different coconut trees and over

200 different date palm trees.

4c. Drink

Rev. 17:17 [He] shall lead them unto living fountains of waters.

It may be asked whether these are real fountains. Indeed they are! The same

word for fountain is used for earthly fountains which are polluted by a star

called Wormwood (Rev. 8:11). If those fountains on earth are actual water

fountains, so are the ones in Heaven. The juxtaposition of the fountains is

remarkable: the saints in Heaven are refreshed by the fountains. The sinners

on earth are repulsed by the fountains. While we imagine Heaven to be a



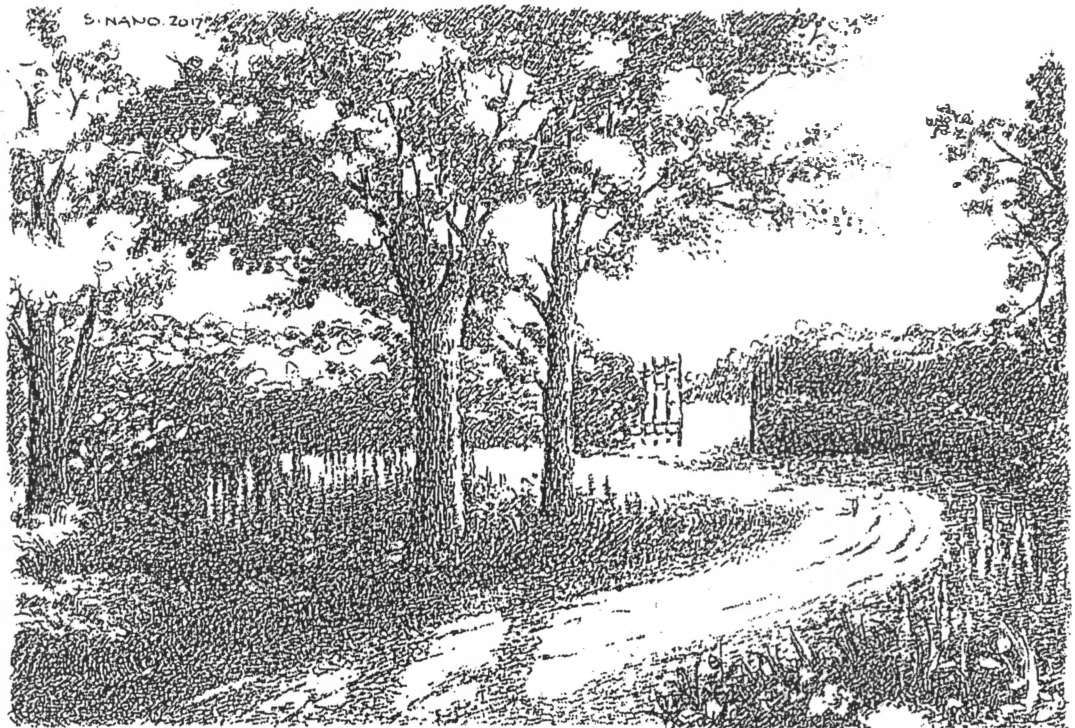


sterilized, holy place with streets of gold and pearly gates, we ignore the details of Scripture.

Thus close observation permits us to conclude that there are palm trees in Heaven, with a great variety of fruit. Situated in the New Jerusalem, and perhaps already existing separately, is the tree of life with a different fruit each month (Rev. 22:1-5), undoubtedly numerous in number, to refresh the multitude of glorified saints.

There is an oblique reference to drink in Paradise. In the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the latter is seen reclining in Abraham's Bosom (Lk. 16:22-23). Lazarus, a recent arrival in Paradise, is seen reclining at a banqueting table in the immediate proximity of Abraham where he is afforded a place of honor and dignity.

The rich man observes the banqueting scene and requests some water (Lk. 16:24), obviously one of the beverages at the festive meal.



In fact, Heaven is designated as Paradise. The word, derived from the Persian language, means "a beautiful garden, watered, with lush and varied foliage." Putting all these details together, we may conclude that Heaven is a lush garden, offering spiritual and physical delight to the saints.

**The Great Multitude in White Robes**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

“Amen!  
Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup> I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> ‘Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,<sup>[a]</sup>  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’<sup>[b]</sup>  
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’<sup>[c]</sup>”

**The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer**

**8** When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

<sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— <sup>11</sup> the name of the star is Wormwood.<sup>[d]</sup> A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.