

Rightly understood the incident can be a real blessing in the spiritual life of all of us. Wrongly interpreted, it could result in harm and confusion.

LETTER 40
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**THE MEANING OF *SHAMAYIM*
IN 2 KINGS 2:11**

The question you raised about reconciling John 3:13 with 2 Kings 2:11 is most interesting. It brings vividly to mind the important fact that there is a great deal in God's universe about which we know very little.

Yet this is only what we might expect. It would have been impossible for someone living five centuries ago to describe the 20th century in a way that his contemporaries could understand.

The idea that someone in Philadelphia could actually see events that were then happening in Lebanon would have seemed ridiculous and impossible. If it were stated that a man would have breakfast in London, lunch in New York, and dinner in San Francisco, the writer could certainly have been thought to be out of his mind. Today these ideas are commonplace. Five centuries ago there would not even have been the vocabulary available to try to explain such matters. We have now learned a great deal about the forces that God has put in His universe, but what we know is a tiny fraction of what exists.

All that man has learned is slight in comparison with the infinite number of facts pertaining to God's universe. God has given us a wonderful revelation in the Bible, but the revelation has to be studied carefully in order to understand it. Although there is much that we can know with certainty, we must recognize the