DID JESUS EAT OF THE BREAD HE BLESSED AND BROKE?

Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:223, 24.

I answer, "No; He did not." Bro. Phillips asks, "Did Jesus eat the piece He broke off?" and answers, "Certainly." Someone is wrong.

Before examining the subject, we present, for your edification, a few statements from the inspired David: Psa. 119:19, "I am a stranger in the earth. Hide not thy commandments from me." Psa. 119:104, "Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way." Psa. 119:89, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

Isaiah says, "Seek ye out of the Book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and my spirit it hath gathered them." (Isa. 36:16).

There is, therefore, but one source of information on this subject—the Book of the Lord. Did Jesus eat of the bread He blessed and broke? Let us see:

"As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them (disciples), and said, Take, eat: this is my body" (Matt. 26:26). What did Jesus do?

"And as they did eat (the passover), Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body" (Mark 14:22).

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

These are divine testimonies in "The Book of the Lord," telling what Jesus and the disciples did. What did Jesus do? He took bread—No. 1; gave thanks—No. 2; broke it—No. 3; gave it unto them—No. 4; and said, "Take, eat," and "This do" —No. 5. Who ate? The disciples. Not a word about Jesus eating. "Through thy precepts I get understanding."

The same may be gathered from 1 Cor. 11:23, 24: "For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." Still nothing said about Jesus eating, yet He commanded the disciples to eat. He said, "This is my body which is broken for you." This is the Book of the Lord on the question. I claim that Jesus did not eat. There is not a word in the Book of the Lord that says he did.

"Through thy precepts I get understanding." I cannot understand from the precepts given that Jesus ate.

I believe I accept the Hebrew and Greek and English. I cannot believe that God would give us His word—the only means of learning His will—and then allow man to destroy its meaning by faulty translations into other languages. I hope to depart this life in full faith that the Bible is God's word.

I know it is said that the breaking of bread implies the eating; and Acts 2:42 and 20:7 are given as examples. But here it implies, not only the eating, but the whole service, including the cup. But it cannot imply that Jesus ate the bread at the institution: for a figure of speech cannot imply anything not mentioned in the literal expression. A figure must, in all points, be in harmony with the literal expression. Reader, get your grammar and rhetoric and study the figures of speech and learn the correct application of them and then apply them where they belong and thus get the exact truth on these things. You are entitled to the truth, and I believe you want it.

We oppose instrumental music in the worship because it is not mentioned in the Bible in connection with Christian worship. Well, if the Bible does not mention music, sprinkling for baptism, baby-baptism, etc.; and we, therefore, reject them; why not reject the doctrine that Jesus ate the body and drank the blood in the communion; seeing that the Bible does not say that He did?

Now, let's do a little reasoning. I have examined all the testimony as to what was said and done. Not once does it say Jesus ate of the bread he blessed and broke. But he gave the broken bread to His disciples and commanded them to eat. Let's take a general view of "breaking bread." Matt. 14:19, 20: Jesus gave thanks and brake; the multitude ate—5,000 people ate. But Jesus gave thanks and brake. Matt. 15:36-38: Jesus gave thanks and brake; the multitude—4,000 in number—ate. Acts 27:35-39: Paul gave thanks and brake and all (including Paul) ate.

Now, this is "the Book of the Lord," which we all can read. "Faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Nothing is said in it of Jesus eating the bread which he blessed and broke. So read, and think, and act. Don't act without reading.

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Note.—As my position is clearly set forth in "The Voice" to which Bro. Musgrave refers (price, 20c), and as I proved, I think, in my remarks at the close of his article in "The Truth" for November, that Jesus partook, which the reader is requested to re-read, I shall not reply to the above at this time.—J. D. P.