

With Jesus at Mack 5!

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While I was doing my devotional reading last week I saw a word in the passage of scripture that caught my attention. In John 6:21 the word immediately was calling for my attention. The full passage verse is: John 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. The Encarta American English dictionary indicates that the word means without delay or instantaneously. The greek for immediate is eutheos which means at once or soon:--anon, as soon as, forthwith, immediately, shortly, straightway.

From my perspective I would say give the time value of say 3 seconds would be perceived as extremely fast. Estimating the Sea of Galilee as roughly 13 miles wide and assuming that the boat was half way across or 6.5 miles [33,492 feet] then I have some numbers that I can work with to determine speed. Extremely high speeds reached by jet airplanes are measured in increments of "mack" which is the speed of sound. At mack 1 then it would take the "boat" about 31 seconds to reach the other side. Well this would be much too slow to be considered without delay [immediately]. To cover the required distance in say 3 seconds would calculate a speed of mack 10.25 or ten times the speed of sound!

After calling my son in law Daniel who is a United States Air Force pilot and getting him to help me with these figures, he said that the fastest powered manned aircraft on record is the x-35 which can fly at 6.72 mack or over six times the speed of sound. This means that if Jesus, crew and boat went across the sea literally at mack 10+, then no current manned aircraft could have gone that fast!

There are some problems in the concept. The body cannot endure such speeds [g forces] without some form of pressurized suit. And the heat generated by air friction at those speeds would incinerate most objects. Remember the space shuttle enters the atmosphere at mack 25 and becomes a fireball protected by the ceramic tiles on its underside.

The truth is I believe that Jesus, boat and crew did not go from point A to point B through the air and water like other vessels, but they were "transported" from one location to another like in the movie star teck. So I guess we would say beam up Scotty...um..rather Jesus! Is it any wonder that Clark in his commentary on this verse of scripture says the evangelist John seems to speak of their sudden arrival as extraordinary and miraculous!

Blessings, Pastor George

Scripture Reference:

John 6:16-21 When the evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, "it is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.