

## Luke 9:28-36 **Transfiguration**

### Transfiguration of Jesus

28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

### Moses and Elijah

30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

### Peter's Suggestion

33 Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said.

### Cloud and Voice

34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

### Jesus Only

36 When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Transfiguration of Jesus [Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:27-36, 2 Peter 1:17-18]

- ✚ Jesus was transfigured six days after He had said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." [Matthew 16:28, 17:1-2]
  - ✧ Luke records the time to be after eight days. [Luke 9:28]
  - ✧ As Jesus was praying indicates His nearness to the father in prayer. [Luke 9:29]
  - ✧ His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. [Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2-3, Luke 9:28-36]
  - ✧ Moses and Elijah appeared in glory, talking with Jesus about His suffering and death which was about to be accomplished in Jerusalem. [Matthew 17:3, Mark 9:4, Luke 9:30-31]
- ✚ Jesus was seen in His radiant Glory, which was dazzling brightness and light. [Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:1-13, Luke 9:27-36, 2 Peter 1:17-18, Revelation 1:13-16]
  - ✧ The Glory of the presence of God is great light. [Ezekiel 1:28, 10:4, Hebrews 1:3, 1 Timothy 6:14-16]
  - ✧ Moses who had died on Mount Nebo before Israel entered the land of Canaan the Promised Land so many centuries before, was still alive and appeared with Elijah who had been taken to Heaven in a whirlwind also many centuries before and now appeared with Moses to talk to Jesus.
  - ✧ This is good evidence that the Saints of God are not dead nor disembodied spirits in Heaven, but are alive and in their glorified bodies, waiting for the time they will return to this earth to enjoy the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven when Jesus will reign for a thousand years of perfect government and perfect peace.

- ✧ Paul's teaching that to be absent from the body we are present with the Lord [2 Corinthians 5:8] is in agreement with the concept of his teaching of the new bodies of the believers. [1 Corinthians 15:42-44]

### Peter's suggestion

- ✧ Peter felt compelled to suggest they build three tabernacles in memorial of the experience, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. [Matthew 17:4, Mark 9:5-6, Luke 9:33]
- ✧ Peter was so caught up in the moment and not knowing what to do spoke rashly.

### God's Response

- ✧ Before Peter could finish the thought, God spoke to them from a bright cloud: "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!**" [Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:34-35]
- ✧ Tabernacles and memorials were not important to God, but obedience to the words of Jesus is what was and is important.
- ✧ God again publicly acknowledged Jesus to be His Own beloved Son in Whom God was well pleased.
- ✧ By this statement, we learn that all that Jesus did and taught had the personal endorsement of God Most High.
- ✧ What greater authority and approval could anyone ever have?

### They saw Jesus only

- ✧ The Disciples were overwhelmed by the experience and fell to their faces on the ground in great fear.
- ✧ Jesus came and touched them saying: "Arise, and do not be afraid."
- ✧ When they looked up, they saw no one but Jesus only. [Matthew 17:8, Mark 9:8, Luke 9:36]
- ✧ God had said, "Hear Him." And Jesus is all they needed to see.
- ✧ For understanding God's plan of Salvation, Jesus is all we need to see also.

### Command to keep this experience secret until after Jesus' resurrection [Matthew 17:9, Mark 9:9]

- ✧ As with other occasions of great impact, the time was not yet come for this information to be spread abroad, it is reserved until it can be published after the resurrection of Jesus has proven beyond any possibility of doubt that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, and then the testimony of the Transfiguration can be supporting evidence for the message of the Gospel.

### Question regarding Elijah

- ✧ Still the Disciples had seen Elijah with Moses, and remembering the prophecies that Elijah must come first, they asked the normal question regarding the prophecy.
- ✧ Jesus again pointed to John the Baptist as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Elijah, confirming His previous statement to the multitude after the departure of John's disciples. [Matthew 11:1-15, 17:13, Mark 9:12-13]
- ✧ At the same time Jesus reminded them that as they had done to John the Baptist, so they would do to Jesus, and both for the same reason, because they did not know who either John was nor who Jesus is.
- ✧ Then the Disciples understood that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming Elijah. [Matthew 17:13]
- ✧ John came in the spirit and power of Elijah as predicted by the angel to his father Zacharias. [Luke 1:12-17]