

## Matthew 17:1-13 **Transfiguration of Jesus**

### Glorious Transfiguration

<sup>1</sup> Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; <sup>2</sup> and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

### Peter's suggestion

<sup>4</sup> Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

### God's Response

<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

### They saw Jesus only

<sup>6</sup> And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

### Command to keep this experience secret until after Jesus' resurrection

<sup>9</sup> Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

### Question regarding Elijah

<sup>10</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. 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 9:29]

✧ 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]

