



“TRANSFIGURATION BRINGS GLORIFICATION!”

MATTHEW Chapter 17:1-13

> (v1-2) TRANSFIGURATION brings GLORIFICATION!

(v1) This event is continued evidence that JESUS is the promised Jewish MESSIAH!

- **Let's understand why six days are mentioned.**

It was **six days** ago that Jesus was announced as the Christ; *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,”* whereas, in the Old Testament in Exodus 24:16-17 - *Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.*

- We must not forget that the Messiah was prophesied to be like Moses, Deuteronomy 18:15 – *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”*

(v2) Luke adds (Luke 9:28) that Jesus went to the mountain to pray. Then He was *Transfigured*; in the Greek it's *metamorphoomai*, “to be transformed.”

- We find this same Greek word in regards to a Christian's transfiguration in Romans 12:2 - *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- At this event we find *Peter, James and John*; Peter gave reference to this event in his second epistle written in A.D. 66 - *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. (2 Peter 1:16-18).*

- John, the beloved wrote, *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

> (v3-4) Let's UNDERSTAND the EXPLANATION of this CONVERSATION!

- The manifestation of Moses and Elijah becomes further proof of life after death!

- **What were Jesus, Moses and Elijah talking about?**

The details are found in Luke 9:30-31 - *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

- **Why Moses and Elijah?**

Moses was the Lawgiver, Jesus was the Law fulfiller, the great prophet of the last days (Deut 18:15).

The *Transfiguration* calls to mind both God's redemption through the Exodus and the future return and glory of Christ, His Son.

- Observe the fulfillments of Christ in comparison to the life of Moses:

(1) Moses was a *deliverer* (Exodus, Acts 7:35)—Jesus delivers every believer from *sin, death and Devil himself* (Heb. 2:14).

(2) Moses was a *lawgiver* (Ex. 20)—Jesus *fulfilled the Law* (Rom. 8:3-4).

(3) Moses was a *mediator*—Jesus is our *mediator* (Heb. 9:15).

(4) Moses prepared the *Passover Lamb* (Ex. 11 & 12)—Jesus is the *Passover Lamb* (1 Cor. 5:7 - *For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*)

(5) Moses ate the “*manna*” from heaven (Ex. 16)—Jesus is the “*bread of life*” (John 6).

(6) Moses drank of the *water from the rock* (Ex. 17)—Jesus is the *living water* (Jn. 7:37-38).

(7) Moses raised up a *bronze serpent upon a pole to save the children of Israel* (Numbers 21:4-9)—Jesus was raised up on the cross *to save us from eternal judgment.*

- Jesus said in John 3:14-16 - *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

> (v5-8) Remember GOD’s EXHORTATION leads to our ILLUMINATION!

(v5) Our first observation is “*Behold a bright cloud overshadowed them*”

- Yahweh Himself was present in the cloud (Ex 19:9; 24:16; 34:5) and His glory filled the places where the cloud was (Ex 16:10; 40:38; Num 10:34); “*The cloud filled the house of Yahweh*” (1 Kings 8:10).

- In the New Testament we often have “*the Son of man coming on*” or “*with clouds*” (Matt 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27) and received up *by clouds* (Acts 1:9).

- The glory of the second coming is indicated in Revelation 1:7 for “*he cometh with the clouds*” and “*we that are alive.... shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord*” and dwell with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

- Secondly in this passage God says, “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*”

- In Hebrews 12:2 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

> (v7-13) Let’s understand ELIJAH, JOHN THE BAPTIST, and the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!

- Unger writes the following about Elijah, “His faith in God seemed to know no limit or questioning. His zeal for Jehovah was an all-absorbing motive of his life, so that he justly said, “*I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts.*”

- In later Jewish thought, the messianic age was frequently associated with Elijah's return. The Old Testament spoke of the reappearance of Elijah.

- The prophet Malachi prophesied that the Lord would send Elijah before the day of the Lord arrived (Malachi 4:5-6 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*").

- There is an interesting passage in Revelation Ch. 11:3-14 regarding two witnesses during "The Great Tribulation," most Bible scholars believe this to be Moses and Elijah. (Let's read.)

In Revelation 3:10 we read that the church (like Enoch) will be raptured before *the dreadful day of the LORD - Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

- Three questions:

#1 - Have you been *transfigured* spiritually by being *born again of the Holy Spirit*?

#2 - Are you being *transfigured* (transformed) daily into *His image* through obedience to His Word?

#3 - Are you ready to be fully *transfigured* at the *rapture of the church*?