

MESSIANIC MILESTONES

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE MESSIAH

I. WHAT WAS THE TRANSFIGURATION?

A. **Matthew 17:1-2**

The transfiguration was an event in which Christ's visage was dramatically altered, such that His face radiated with the brilliance of the sun.

B. **Mark 9:2-3**

It was an occasion when His attire shined with light, whitened as no launderer could render it, as white as snow.

C. **Romans 12:2**

Other than this single happening, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the word appears one time, when Paul commands Christians to be transformed through mental renewal. As the appearance of Jesus was radically altered on one occasion, so the attitude of Christians must undergo drastic change.

II. WHEN DID THE TRANSFIGURATION HAPPEN?

A. **Luke 9:28-29**

He was transfigured when He was praying. Prayer does change things.

B. **James 5:16_b**

While we have no reason to expect our appearance to be altered during prayer, our hearts can be. And, really, if we walk away from prayer smiling, then maybe our appearance has changed.

III. WHO APPEARED AT THE TRANSFIGURATION?

A. **Luke 9:30-31**

Moses and Elijah returned from the dead to stand beside Jesus at this time. Interestingly, they conversed with Him about His forthcoming death. Moses

and Elijah had two of the most remarkable deaths ever, which clues the careful observer in to how unique the death of Christ might be.

1. **Deuteronomy 34:5-8; Jude 9**

In Moses' case, he died without injury, illness, or bodily diminution of any kind. He just died because God had appointed it time for him to die. Moreover, he was buried by God, personally, in an unmarked grave, thereby preventing pilgrimage to the site and turning his tomb into a shrine. The devil wants to know about Moses' body, but the archangel prevents it.

2. **2nd Kings 2:9-14**

In Elijah's case, His death is remarkable because it never happened. He departed earth deathlessly, ascending to heaven in a whirlwind, with the chariot of God parting him from his protégé Elisha.

B. Matthew 17:4-8

The presence of Moses and Elijah furthermore gave occasion to prove Christ's supremacy over them both. Moses was lawgiver to Israel, and Elijah foremost among the prophets; thus they were the very embodiment of *"the law and the prophets"*. When they vanished from the scene with the heavenly voice resounding, *"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"*, the lesson is plain that the words of Jesus take preeminence over all that the Old Testament taught.

1. **Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:44**

Christ declared first His intent and later His success in fulfilling the law and the prophets.

2. **Luke 16:16**

The law and the prophets held their relevance until John. Thereafter, the kingdom was being preached!

IV. HOW DID PETER REACT TO THE TRANSFIGURATION?

A. Luke 9:33; Mark 9:5-6

The apostle reacted thoughtlessly and fearfully.

B. Proverbs 21:23; Ecclesiastes 5:2-3

We must not be intimidated by silence, as Peter was, feeling the need to fill the void with words. We should choose our words deliberately and with care.

V. WHY DID THE TRANSFIGURATION HAPPEN?

A. 2nd Peter 1:16-18

The transfiguration occurred to give honor and glory to Jesus Christ, so the apostles, His eyewitnesses, could behold His majesty!

B. Luke 9:34-35; Hebrews 1:1-2

It transpired so that men may know to go to Christ for God's word.