

MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

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The transfiguration of Christ on the mountain; A striking preview and guarantee of His future coming in glory (cf. 2Pe 1:16-18). What happened on the mount? Simply put, "They Beheld His Majesty". Note first of all..

THEY BEHELD THE MAJESTY OF HIS PERSON

EVIDENCED BY HIS TRANSFIGURATION...

- **He was transfigured** - Mk 9:2
 - *Grk, metamorphoo {met-am-or-fo'-o}*-Meaning to change, transfigure, transform
- **This change affected His face and clothing**
 - *His face shone like the sun - Mt 17:2*
 - *(Luke says the appearance of His face was altered - Lk 9:29)*
- **His clothes became as white as the light** - Mt 17:2
 - *Shining, exceedingly white, like snow, more than any launderer can whiten them - Mk 9:3*
 - *White and glistening - Lk 9:29*
- **later wrote that what he saw was His "majesty"** (2Pe 1:16); the effulgence of His glory possibly representing His deity as the Son of God - cf. He 1:1-3

EVIDENCED BY THE PRESENCE OF MOSES AND ELIJAH...

- **They were talking with Jesus** - Mk 9:4
 - *They also appeared in glory - Lk 9:31a*
 - *Discussing with Jesus about His coming death in Jerusalem - Lk 9:31b*
 - *Peter, James, and John had been sleeping, but awoke to see Jesus in His glory, and talking with Moses and Elijah - Lk 9:32*
 - *Moses and Elijah then began to depart - Lk 9:33*
- **That Moses and Elijah would appear with Jesus was not lost on Peter** - Mk 9:5-6
 - *Moses and Elijah were the epitome of the Law and the Prophets*
 - *Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah*
- **Jesus had evidently been elevated to the same level as Moses and Elijah in Peter's mind!**

[But Peter was soon to learn that Jesus was greater than Moses and Elijah, especially in regards to His authority. Therefore as we continue we note that...]

THEY BEHELD THE MAJESTY OF HIS COMING KINGDOM

EVIDENCED BY THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN...

- **While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them** - Mk 9:7
- **Peter, James, and John, fearfully entered the cloud** - Lk 9:34
- **A voice came out of the cloud: "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"** - Mk 9:7
 - *This terrified the disciples - Mt 17:6*
 - *Jesus then sought to comfort them - Mt 17:7*
- **The command, "Hear Him!" implies...**
 - *That God would now speak through His Son, not the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) - cf. He 1:1-2*
 - *That the rule and reign of God would be exercised through His Son, as He would be given all authority in heaven and earth - cf. Mt 28:18*
- **Of course, this rule and reign (i.e., Christ's kingdom) would begin after Christ suffered (i.e., His death) and entered into glory (i.e., His ascension)** - cf. Lk 24:26
 - *Which explains why He told them to tell no one the vision until after His resurrection - Mk 9:9*
 - *What they witnessed was a foretaste, a foreshadowing of His coming glory and rule in His kingdom!*

EVIDENCED BY THE ABSENCE OF MOSES AND ELIJAH...

- *After hearing the voice, and lifting up their eyes, only Jesus was present - Mk 9:8*
- *Perhaps symbolizing what the voice clearly declared: that Jesus was the one they were to hear, not Moses and Elijah who likely represented the Law and the Prophets*
- **"They Beheld His Majesty"...**
 - *They beheld the majesty of His person*
 - *Transfigured before them*
 - *Exalted even above Moses and Elijah*

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EVENT...?

- **I take it to be the fulfillment Jesus' promise in Mk 9:1; Mt 16:28; Lk 9:27**
 - *That some would see the kingdom of God "present" with power*
 - *That some would see the Son of Man "coming" in His kingdom*
 - *That some would see the kingdom of God (i.e., His rule or reign)*

There is a lesson here that you probably have not heard preached about much.

What God wants for his Kingdom is not the same thing that we want for His Kingdom.

John 12:27-33

"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him.

John 13

31 So when Judas had left, Jesus said, "Now is [the time for] the Son of Man [to be] glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32 (e)[if God is glorified in Him,] God will also glorify Him (the Son) in Himself, and will glorify Him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you [only] a little longer. You will look for Me and, as I told the Jews, so I tell you now, 'Where I am going, you are not able to come.' 34 I am giving you a new commandment, that you (f)love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another."

WHAT DOES GOD DESIRE OF US TODAY...?

NOT TABERNACLES OR TEMPLES ERECTED IN THE MEMORY OF HIS SON

BUT FOR US TO SIMPLY OBEY WHAT GOD SAID AT THE MOUNT: "HEAR HIM!"

If we desire to add to the honor and glory that Jesus so richly deserves, and to one day behold His majesty in heaven, then be careful to heed what He himself said regarding His authority:

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." - Mt 28:18-20