

The Mount of Transfiguration

The transfiguration was a crucial moment in the life of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-8). It was an occasion when Jesus was confirmed to be the Messiah and chief spokesman for God.

Let's travel up the mountain and consider what the Bible reveals about this glorious event.

What does the Bible tell us about this glorious event?

- It happened on a "high mountain" (Matthew 17:1). We don't know precisely which mountain. Many scholars believe that may have occurred on Mount Hermon. This mountain is over 9,000 feet and is in the northern part of Israel.
- Peter, James, and John were with Jesus (Matthew 17:1). These three apostles were closest to Jesus (Mark 5:37; Matthew 26:37). Jesus spends time in prayer while these apostles took a nap (Luke 9:28-32).
- Jesus was transfigured (Matthew 17:2). The Greek word is "metaphoo." It is used in both Matthew's and Mark's accounts of the transfiguration. Paul also uses it in 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Romans 12:2. The words for one to experience inward change that manifests itself outwardly. By experiencing "metamorphosis," the glory of Jesus from within is shown to the apostles (John 1:14; 2 Peter 1:16-18). They saw Jesus radiant and shining forth the glory of His deity (Hebrews 1:3).
- Moses and Elijah appeared (Matthew 17:3). They were talking with the Lord about His death on the cross in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31). Both men were tied to the work of the Messiah (Deuteronomy 18:15; Malachi 4:5-6). Jesus fulfilled the words of Moses, and John the Baptist fulfilled the words of Elijah (Mark 1:4; Matthew 17:9-13).
- God the Father spoke (Matthew 17:4-5). His words were similar to what John heard (Matthew 3:17). They confirmed Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15).

What do we need to see on the mountain?

- We need to see the glory of Jesus. While we have not seen Jesus transfigured on the mountain, we can see His glory through His word. Everything the Bible reveals about Jesus radiates His glory!
- We need to see Jesus the Messiah. The transfiguration confirmed that Jesus is the only Messiah. He may not have been the Messiah that many of the Jews wanted, but He is the One whom God the Father appointed to accomplish His will.
- We need to see the value in listening to His words (Matthew 17:5). God wants us to listen to His Son above anyone (John 12:48).

Conclusion:

Are you following the one and only Messiah?

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