

A Vision of Glory

Matthew 17:1-13 - NCBC, October 11, 2020

Main Point: **God reveals Himself to us so that we might die to our self.**

- Behold the glory of Jesus (1-8)
 - Jesus reveals God to us through His life (1-2)
 - Jesus fulfills the Law and Prophets through His death (3-4)
 - Jesus pleases God through His words (5-8)
- Behold the plan of Jesus (9-13)
 - Jesus delays His praise after His resurrection (9)
 - Jesus delays His arrival after His forerunner (10-13)
 - Jesus delays His reign after His suffering (12b)

Application: **Pursue great joy by dying to self and obeying Jesus!**

Opening Announcements:

- **Remember to visit myncbc.org** and follow our NCBC Facebook page to stay informed on all ministry/event updates during this season of careful regathering.
- **Are you seeking ways to serve Jesus and kill selfishness?** We are currently seeking several volunteers to help us serve our children with God's gospel on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Also we are seeking able-bodied volunteers to sign up

for our Church Work Day coming up on Saturday! More details available in today's worship folder.

<<Is He Worthy>>



Jesus is the Lamb of God who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!¹ What a privilege to worship Him who sits on Heaven's throne together with you this morning.

Please open your Bible to **Matthew chapter 17** where we catch a vision of glory in our Lord's transfiguration.

I want to especially welcome those who are joining our worship in our Extra Precautions Chapel or online. If you're joining us online, please use the links alongside the livestream for fill-in-the-blank sermon notes, the preaching manuscript, and children's coloring pages. At anytime you may pause this video, print those files, and then rejoin our worship with those notes in front of you.

¹ Revelation 5:12

Church, I'm so blessed to be part of this local church with each of you. Your faith in suffering inspires me. Your love for our neighbors encourages me. Your generosity humbles me. Obviously God gets all the glory for any good among us...but I want to just say thank you for being such a joy to shepherd. I love this gathering of believers, and it's an honor to be following Jesus alongside each of you.

Matthew 17 ushers us right up to the precipice of eternity and offers a glimpse of God's kingdom glory. Today's Scripture is a mountain-top experience, so buckle your seat belts and humble your heart as we prepare to read Scripture now.

If you are able, please stand in honor of God's Word. Matthew's mention of six days in **verse 1** is a very rare precise time reference in his gospel. Therefore, to connect the chronology I'm going to begin reading in **Matthew 16 verse 24, from the ESV:**

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

17 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high

mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." 10 And the disciples asked him, "Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 11 He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

This is the reading of God's Word.

Let's Pray Together.

Reading the Bible is an invitation to become a mountain-climber. This week I was fascinated to realize that it is

possible to trace the entire story of Scripture from mountain-top to mountain-top to mountain-top!²

Ezekiel 28 tells us that the Garden of Eden was located on “the holy mountain of God.”³ After judging the sinful world with a flood, God made a covenant with Noah on Mt. Ararat.⁴ God provided a substitutionary sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah.⁵ From the slopes of Mt. Horeb (which is another name for Mt. Sinai), God called Moses to deliver His people through a flaming bush, and provided water from a rock.⁶ From the peaks of Mt. Sinai, God showed Moses His glory, made a covenant with His people, and gave them His law.⁷ God gave Moses a vision of the promised land from the top of Mt. Nebo.⁸

God fought for His people and made the sun to stand still for Joshua on Mt. Gibeon.⁹ King David established his royal city in Jerusalem on the top of Mt. Zion.¹⁰ At the top of Mt. Carmel, God gave the fire of judgment and Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal.¹¹ From a cave at the top of Mt. Sinai God spoke to Elijah with a soft whisper.¹²

Even Jesus’ earthly ministry continued the mountain theme. At the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus overcame Satan’s temptations from the top of a high mountain.¹³ Much of Jesus’ public teaching and private

praying was done on mountains.¹⁴ From the Mount of Olives Jesus taught His disciples about His second coming.¹⁵ On the Mount of Crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide as Jesus died to pay the sin penalty for all who would believe on Him. Jesus ascended into the heavens from the Mount of Olives,¹⁶ the very place He will again return to someday to judge the wicked¹⁷ and establish His perfect righteousness on the earth from the exalted location of Mt. Zion!¹⁸

Truly the physical mountains of the Holy Land stand as immovable monuments to God’s promises being made, God’s instruction being given, God’s sacrifices being offered, and God’s glory being revealed!



So this morning I invite you to pull on your climbing boots, **and join me on the slopes of Mt. Hermon**. For this

² There are over 300 references to mountains in the Holy Scriptures!

³ Ezekiel 28:13-14

⁴ Genesis 8:4

⁵ Genesis 22:2

⁶ Exodus 3:1-12; cf. <https://www.gotquestions.org/mount-Horeb.html>

⁷ Exodus 19:20; 24:1-10; Deuteronomy 5:2, 6-21

⁸ Deuteronomy 32:49-50

⁹ Joshua 10:10-14

¹⁰ 2 Samuel 5:7

¹¹ 1 Kings 18:20-39

¹² 1 Kings 19:8-18

¹³ Matthew 4:8

¹⁴ Matthew 5:1; 14:23; 15:29; Mark 3:13; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12; John 6:3

¹⁵ Matthew 24:3

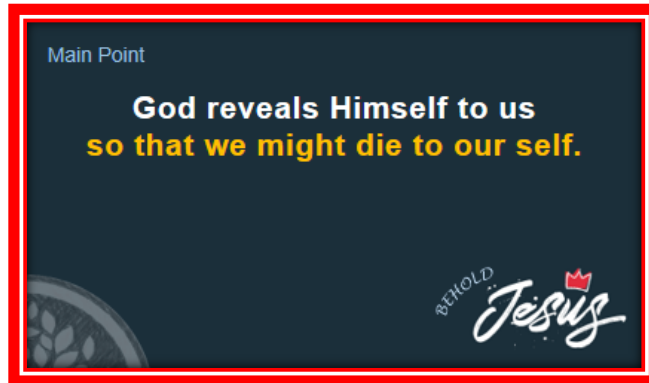
¹⁶ Acts 1:9-12

¹⁷ Zechariah 14:4-11

¹⁸ Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21:10ff

mountain rises some 9100 feet above sea-level and is the likely location for Jesus' transfiguration in **Matthew 17** due to its proximity to Caesarea-Philippi, where they were 6 days earlier.¹⁹

On this high mountain in **Matthew 17** God reveals His glory to Peter, James, and John – thereby



Revealing Himself to us so that we might die to our self.

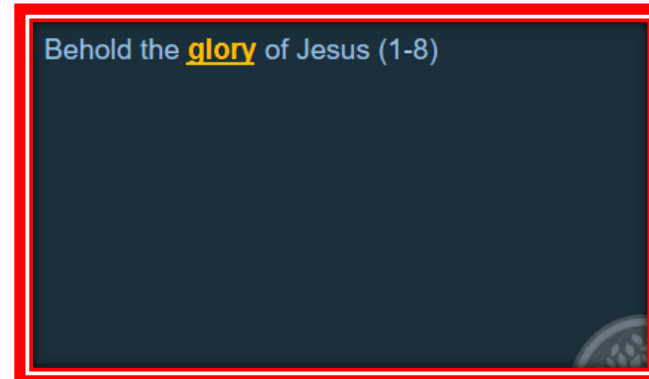
After all, this radiant display of Jesus' glory is sandwiched between Jesus' repeated teaching about his necessary death,²⁰ and immediately follows Jesus' call for every disciple to die to selfishness by submitting to His Lordship as our new way of living.²¹

So the transfiguration proves Jesus is God and offers a vision of the glory that awaits us in His eternal presence. The transfiguration is a fulfillment of the promise Jesus made in **Matthew 16:28**, just 6 days earlier, which helps us understand that this revelation of God's glory was intended to inspire and assure the disciples. God reveals

¹⁹ Matthew 17:1, 16:13

²⁰ Matthew 16:21 and Matthew 17:22-23

Himself here in beautiful splendor to awaken our hunger for dwelling with God forever and help us rightly evaluate the suffering of the cross from the perspective of eternity.



So let's Behold the glory of Jesus together in **verses 1-8**.

As we join Peter, James, and John on this life-changing encounter, understand this event likely happened about 6 months before Jesus' death. Jesus was crucified during Passover, but the transfiguration likely happens in October when the Jewish people annually celebrate the Feast of Booths, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

Does anyone here like to camp? Yeah?

Well the Feast of Tabernacles was essentially a week-long camping experience, where Jewish families would come to Jerusalem to live in simple shelters made from tree branches to remind them how God tabernacled with their ancestors as He delivered them from bondage to Egypt during the exodus.²² The Feast of Tabernacles fueled a longing for the arrival of God's promised

²¹ Matthew 16:24

²² Leviticus 23:33-43; Deuteronomy 16:13; C.f.

Messiah who would come someday to deliver His people from bondage to sin, and establish a righteous kingdom where all people could dwell safely together in the presence of God.²³

But this year, Jesus and his disciples weren't attending the feast at Jerusalem. Instead Jesus had asked His three closest disciples to join him for a prayer retreat in the mountains.²⁴

And while they were praying together, **verse 2** says matter-of-factly,

And Jesus was transfigured before them...

Now that's a fancy \$10 word... what's transfiguration?

Transfigured means Jesus' outward form was changed. Literally the word is "metamorphosis."



<https://www.gotquestions.org/Feast-of-Tabernacles.html>

²³ Interestingly Zechariah 14:16-21 seems to imply that the Feast of Booths is the only Jewish feast that will continue to be observed during the Millennial Reign of Christ on earth.

²⁴ Luke 9:28

Page **5a** of 14

So kids...think about how a tadpole becomes a frog, or how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. We call that process "metamorphosis," or a miraculous change in form.

The apostle Paul uses this same word to describe the transformation that Christ brings to the human soul in salvation.²⁵

So look again at **verse 2** and try to understand what's happening here:

His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Mark chapter 9 says it this way, *His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.*²⁶

Brilliant light.²⁷ Heavenly Purity. A physical manifestation of the holiness of God Himself radiating out of Jesus' person with blinding splendor!²⁸

Here God the Father reveals that Jesus is truly His Son. Jesus doesn't just reflect the radiance of God like Moses' face did after meeting with God on Mount Sinai.²⁹ Jesus doesn't just proclaim the beauty of God like the prophets. No... Jesus *is* the very revelation of God Himself to sinful humanity!

²⁵ C.f. Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18

²⁶ Mark 9:3

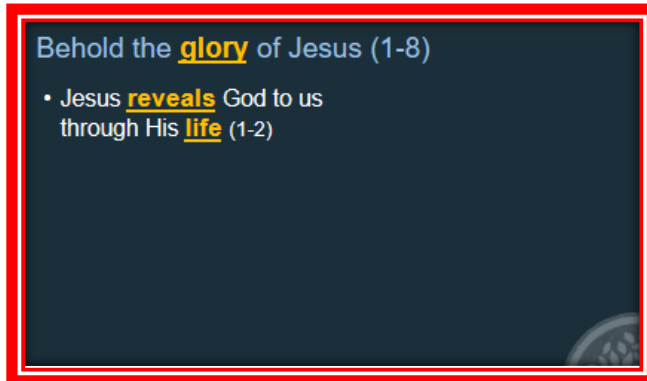
²⁷ James 1:17

²⁸ C.f. Acts 9:3; 22:11

²⁹ Exodus 34:29-35

Page **5b** of 14

In this moment in time, the curtain of Jesus' humanity³⁰ is peeled back, permitting his disciples to see Him as He truly is in the glory of His Father.³¹



Jesus reveals God to us through His life. Jesus makes the invisible God known to us through His personhood!

Hebrews 1:3 says it this way,

Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature...

The apostle John later writes,

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ... Jesus ...has made God known!³²

Behold the glory of Jesus, friends! Jesus is not only a good teacher or a good example. Jesus is God's Son who has revealed God to us through His life on earth.

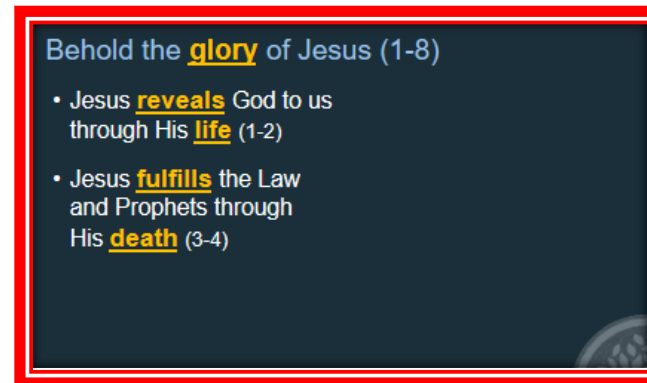
³⁰ Philippians 2:7

³¹ Matthew 16:27; C.f. John 17:5

³² John 1:14, 18

Do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the image of the invisible God?³³ Do you believe that in Jesus, all the fullness of God is pleased to dwell?³⁴ Do you believe that Jesus is able to reconcile you to God Himself?³⁵

Now consider the two heavenly witnesses in **verse 3** who help us understand that,



Jesus fulfills the Law and Prophets through His death.

Read **verse 3**, *And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.*

Now this is awesome! Two mostly highly esteemed Jewish prophets appear to witness of Jesus' deity and confirm His Messianic plan.

Moses represents the law or teaching of God, and Elijah represents all the prophets who were sent to call the people to obedience to God's law. So the law and the prophets, personified as Moses and Elijah, summarize

³³ Colossians 1:15

³⁴ Colossians 1:19

³⁵ Colossians 1:20

the entire written revelation of God to His people in the Old Testament.

Moses and Elijah's appearance with Jesus in His transfiguration testify that Jesus indeed has been sent to earth to fulfill all the promises of God in the law and the prophets.³⁶ Jesus doesn't abolish the Old Testament; Jesus fulfills or completes the Old Testament!

And notice, Moses and Elijah are *talking* with Jesus while His glory is displayed. Would you like to know what they were discussing?

Luke 9 verse 31 tells us that Moses and Elijah were literally speaking about Jesus' "exodus"³⁷ which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Don't miss this... they were talking to Jesus about how He would bring His people out of their slavery to sin through His substitutionary death on the cross!

So not only does the presence of Moses and Elijah affirm the deity of Jesus, but their speech also affirms His plan. Jesus must go to Jerusalem to die the death sinners deserve in order to provide an eternal life they could never earn.

Now in **verse 4** Peter foolishly³⁸ inserts his own voice saying, "Hey, I'm glad we're here instead of at Jerusalem.

Let's memorialize this moment with a building project, and then we can do this again next year!"

From the perspective of the Feast of Tabernacles, Peter is basically saying, let's usher in the kingdom right now!

But Peter makes the same mistake here as all man-centered and earth-bound religion. He fails to exalt the supremacy of Jesus above Moses and Elijah, he fails to appreciate the cross of Christ, he focuses only on personal experience, and he seeks eternal glory apart from suffering.

But while the words were still coming out of his mouth, **verse 5** says *behold, a bright cloud* appeared. This is the same cloud of God's Shekinah glory³⁹ that was the visible manifestation of God's presence with the Israelites over the Tabernacle.⁴⁰ This is the same visible manifestation of God's holy presence that filled Solomon's temple.⁴¹

Then the voice of God interrupts Peter,⁴² declaring with majestic authority:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.

³⁶ Matthew 5:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20

³⁷ The Greek word for "departure" in Luke 9:31 is literally the word for "exodus."

³⁸ Mark 9:6; Luke 9:33

³⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/shekinah-glory.html>. The Shekinah glory

is referred to 58x in the Scriptures.

⁴⁰ Exodus 13:20-22; 19:9, 16; 40:34-38

⁴¹ 1 Kings 8:10-13; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3

⁴² This is the second time in 1 week that God Himself has given a strong correction to Peter's words, cf. Matthew 16:23



Jesus pleases God through His words. Here God repeats the affirmation He had declared at Jesus' baptism.⁴³

This is my Son – Jesus has a Divine Nature. Jesus is God in human flesh. This is my *beloved* Son. Jesus not only has God's nature, Jesus has God's love.⁴⁴ And then the Heavenly voices adds something that wasn't said at Jesus' baptism:

Listen to Him!

When Jesus says He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again... listen to Him!

When Jesus says that you must deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Him to truly experience a joyful life... listen to Him!

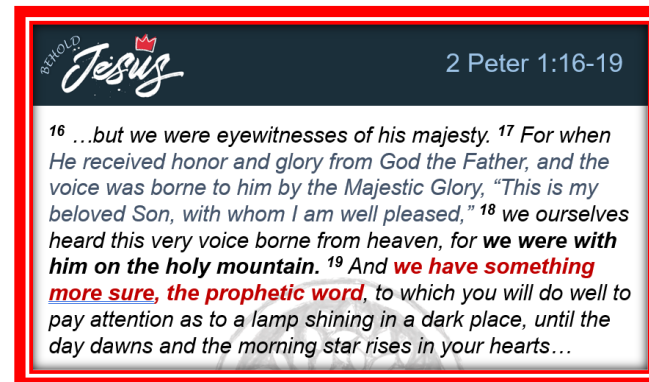
Jesus is greater than any prophet.⁴⁵ So it is to Him that you should listen!⁴⁶

⁴³ Matthew 3:17

⁴⁴ C.f. Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1

Church – pull over the bus for a moment. Do you take for granted that God has given us a written revelation of Himself? Do you take for granted that you can read the words of Jesus in your own language so that you might know the heart of our holy God?

So many times, we wrongly wish that we could just have a mountain-top experience like Peter, James, and John...and see the light, and hear the voice, and be humbled by some intense mystical experience of God's presence in our lives.



But in 2 Peter chapter 1, Peter writes about his experience at the transfiguration, and says in **verse 19**,

And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention...

In other words... Listen to Jesus! Pay attention to the word of God!

⁴⁵ Hebrews 3:3

⁴⁶ Deuteronomy 18:15ff

If you want to experience God, listen to Scripture! If you want to know God intimately and personally, listen to, and obey the Holy Scriptures which Peter says are more trustworthy than any mountain-top experience you could have!



The glory of God is revealed to us in the face of Jesus Christ.⁴⁷ God's glory is seen in Jesus' substitutionary death which "exoduses" sinners out of sin. And God's glory is revealed through the very words of Jesus which have been written down and preserved in the Scriptures.

No wonder the disciples fell on their faces in **verse 6**. For they knew now beyond a shadow of a doubt that they were sinners standing in the presence of their Sinless Creator and Righteous Judge.

But did you notice how King Jesus uses His divine authority in **verse 7**? He draws near to sinners who are painfully aware of their sins, and touches them, and speaks good news to their souls: "*Rise, and have no fear!*"

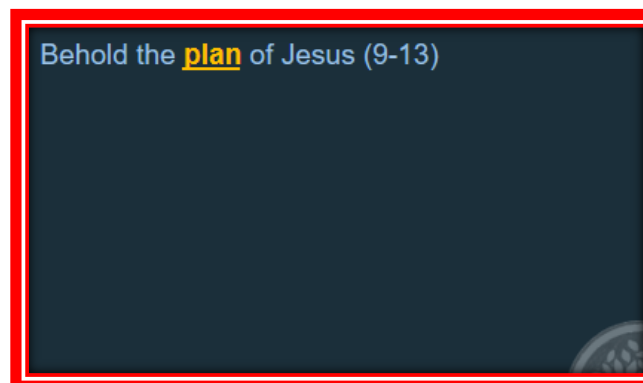
⁴⁷ 2 Corinthians 4:6

Dear friend... if the vision of Jesus' true identity terrifies your sinful soul... hear the life-giving words of Jesus this morning. Rise up from your weakness in the power of Jesus' command. When you believe that Jesus is God, and you obey His commands, you no longer have reason to fear!

Church – God has revealed Himself to us in Christ so that we might no longer hide from Him in fear, but rather tabernacle with Him for all of eternity!

Will you behold the glory of Jesus, and believe that Jesus and His future glory is worth more than anything in this whole world?

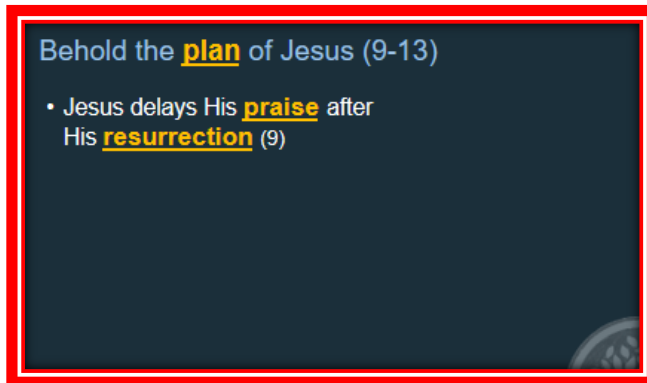
Now quickly, let's come down the mountain with the disciples as we,



Behold the **plan** of Jesus revealed in **verses 9-13**.

Because we like instant gratification, don't we? We aren't known for our patience. And yet, the vision of glory in Jesus' transfiguration calls us to recognize that suffering always precedes splendor.

First in **verse 9**,



Jesus delays His praise after His resurrection.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Again, Jesus keeps emphasizing the fact that He needs to go to Jerusalem to die. You can't separate the glory of God from the death of Christ.

My time to be praised is not until after I die, and after my resurrection from the dead. That's when people will need to hear about the glory I share with my Father!

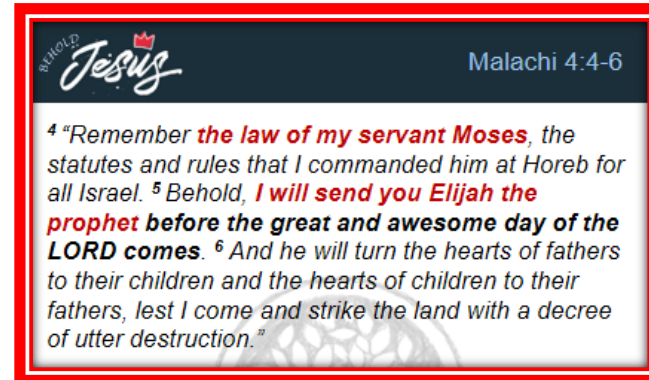
Jesus knew his people⁴⁸ were still hoping for a conquering king who would usher in an earthly reign of righteousness here and now. And nothing must now interfere with his path towards the cross.

⁴⁸ Even up to the day of Pentecost the disciples were confused about the timing of Jesus' earthly reign, c.f. Acts 1:6

⁴⁹ NOTE: Malachi 4:4-6 is not a verse about parenting. It's a verse about

But after what Peter, James, and John had just seen with Jesus and Moses and Elijah, they were confused about how to interpret the Scriptures related to Jesus' coming.

After all, the Jewish teachers taught from the,



Behold the plan of Jesus (9-13)

- Jesus delays His praise after His resurrection (9)
- Jesus delays His arrival after His forerunner (10-13)

Jesus does delay His arrival after His forerunner.

God's Anointed Deliverer – the Christ – will not reveal Himself to His people until after God sends Elijah the prophet to prepare His people.

But the restoration that Elijah brings is a restoration of repentance⁵⁰... not military power or political status.

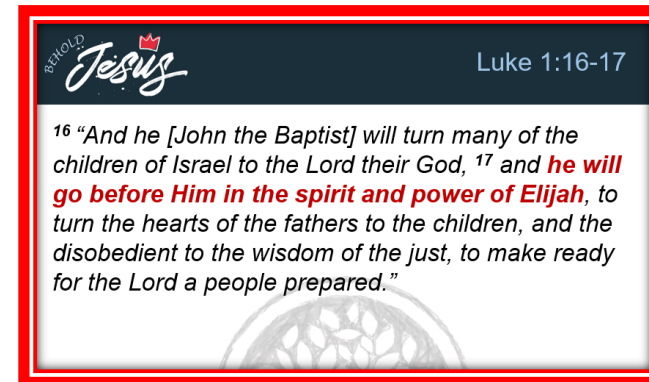
In fact, contrary to the teaching of the scribes, Jesus says in **verse 12**, I tell you that *Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased.*

Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

The religious leaders of Israel didn't recognize John the Baptist's preparation of repentance ... because they weren't primarily seeking a spiritual restoration of the nation, but a political and national restoration. Like most of us, the religious leaders couldn't see suffering, and

repentance, and self-denial as a path to glory, and life, and freedom.

But remember when John the Baptist was born, the angel told his father that,



*he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.*⁵¹

And in **Matthew 11:14** Jesus had already clearly told his disciples that the Elijah prophecy was fulfilled by John the Baptist's ministry.

But instead of recognizing John the Baptist for who he really was, they killed him.

And so also Jesus Himself must suffer at their hands.

⁵⁰ C.f. Matthew 3:1-12

⁵¹ Luke 1:16-17

Behold the **plan** of Jesus (9-13)

- Jesus delays His **praise** after His **resurrection** (9)
- Jesus delays His **arrival** after His **forerunner** (10-13)
- Jesus delays His **reign** after His **suffering** (12b)

Behold the plan of Jesus the Christ: **Jesus delays His kingdom reign after His suffering.**

Jesus must suffer and die in order to fulfill all the promises of God for the eternal restoration of His people. There will be no earthly kingdom of righteousness on the earth until the Son of Man first offers Himself as the sacrifice for our sins.

So immediately following Jesus' revelation of His soon-coming death and resurrection, Jesus gives His three closest disciples a vision of glory – as they see Jesus for who He truly is, and they see His plan for what it really is.

Main Point

**God reveals Himself to us
so that we might die to our self.**

BEHOLD
Jesus

God reveals Himself to us so that we might die to our self. God reveals Himself to us so that we might truly live! But there is no true living apart from the glory of God. You are never more alive than when you are in the presence of God Himself. Yet the glory of God demands the cross – where God Himself suffers to redeem us from our sins and bring us into eternal friendship with Him.

So as we close, let's ask ourselves the "so what?" question. What difference should the transfiguration of Jesus make in my faith and life today?

First, the transfiguration proves through the testimony of the saints and the testimony of God Himself that Jesus is God who is worthy of our worship. But second, the transfiguration shows us a glimpse of the future kingdom glory of Christ. And this vision of Christ's glory should motivate every Christian to,

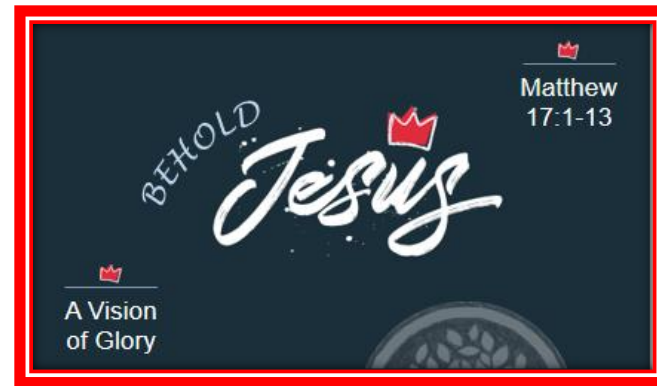


Pursue great joy by dying to self and obeying Jesus!

Listen to Jesus more than you listen to yourself! Obey the voice of the Lord as revealed in His Holy Scriptures. Yes, the Scriptures will call you to die to self-centered, earth-bound thinking. Yes, following Jesus will incur significant cost – perhaps even to the point of physical death – on this earth.

But there is no greater joy that is possible for a human soul than to dwell together with God in the light of His glory and grace.

May this mountain-top vision help us to overcome sin's lies as we behold the radiance of Jesus' glory in the Scriptures this week.

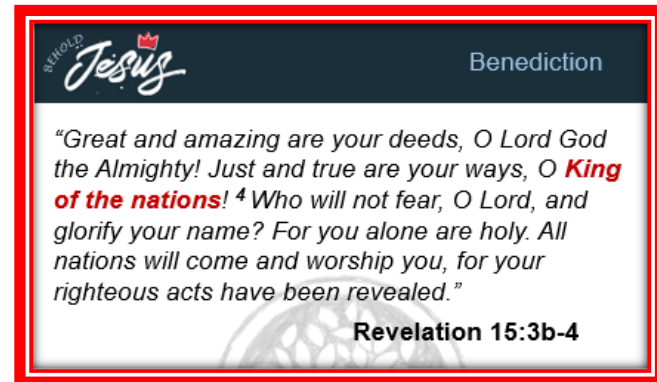


Let's pray.

<<Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery>>

Remember to take advantage of the online Downloads and links!

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4

Recommended Resources on A Vision of Glory:

- Deuteronomy 18:15-19
 - Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6
 - Matthew 3:17; 5:17; 7:12; 11:11-14; 16:27; 24:30; 25:31
 - Mark 9:2-8
 - Luke 1:17; 9:28-36
 - John 1:14, 21; 12:28
 - Romans 3:21
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:4-6
 - Colossians 1:15
 - Hebrews 1:1-3; 12:2
 - 2 Peter 1:16-18
 - Revelation 1:13-16; 11:1-13; 21:23; 22:4-5
-
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-story-of-our-glory>
 - <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/transfiguration/>
 - <https://www.gty.org/library/topical-series-library/150/christ-displays-his-glory>
-
- *The Glory of Christ*, Sproul
 - *Putting Jesus in His Place*, Bowman & Komoszewski

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review Matthew 16:21-28. How does the immediate context (6 days before the transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-13) help us understand the purpose for God revealing Christ's glory in this way?
2. Read Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7, 29-35. How does Moses' experience with God's glory on Mount Sinai compare with Jesus' revelation of His glory on the mountain in Matthew 17:1-13?
3. Read 1 Kings 19:8-13. How does Elijah's experience with God's glory on Mount Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb) compare with Jesus' revelation of His glory on the mountain in Matthew 17:1-13?
4. Compare Luke 9:31 with Matthew 17:3. What were Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus about? Since the Greek word for "departure" in Luke 9:31 is the word "exodus," what freedom from bondage is Jesus going to bring His people through His death at Jerusalem?
5. Read what Peter took away from the transfiguration years later, in 2 Peter 1:16-21. How does Peter's emphasis on the written revelation of God (Scripture) over the experiential revelation of God (transfiguration) recall God's testimony in Matthew 17:5? How is God's Word "more sure" than supernatural experiences?