



**GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --  
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS!**

**(SLIDE #1) GREAT EVENTS OF THE  
BIBLE -- THE TRANSFIGURATION!**

**Introduction:**

- A. In Our Last Study We Saw The Great Event When Jesus Asked Who People Said He Was; Peter Confessed That He Was The Son Of God; Jesus Prophesied That He Would Establish His Church And Declared That Peter Would Proclaim The Will Of God That Had Already Been Established In Heaven! Mt. 16:13-19
  
- B. Tonight, An Amazing Supernatural Event -- The Transfiguration!
  
- C. This Was Six Days After Peter's Confession!
  - 1. Luke says "about eight days." Likely this refers to the day of Peter's confession and the day of the Transfiguration; so there were likely six days between these two events.
  
  - 2. Mark says, "After six days."
  
  - 3. This is also thought to be exactly one year before His Ascension.
  
- D. Text: Matthew 17:1-13 [Parallel Passages Are Mk. 9:2-10 and Lk. 9:28-36]

**I. Text:**

- A. **(Slide #2)** "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; <sup>2</sup>and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' **(Slide #3)** <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!' <sup>6</sup>And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them and said, 'Arise, and do not be afraid.' <sup>8</sup>When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. **(Slide #4)** <sup>9</sup>Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, 'Tell the vision to no one until the

Son of Man is risen from the dead.’<sup>10</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. **(Slide #5)**<sup>12</sup> But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.’<sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”

**B. (Slide #6) Jesus Took Peter, James, And John With Him To A High Mountain.**

1. Tradition typically suggests that this is Mt. Tabor.
2. However, Mt. Tabor is only 1,800’ high, whereas Mt. Hermon is 9,000’ high. Too, Mt. Tabor was a three day’s journey from where they had been; Mt. Hermon was in close proximity.
3. However, some think it may have been a peak on Mt. Hermon. This seems to be supported by the fact that when they came down from the mountain, He left them in the region of Caesarea Philippi; this was a long way from Mt. Tabor.

**C. (►) He Was Transfigured As They Watched!**

1. “Transfigured” -- His appearance changed or was transformed.
2. “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”  
2
  - a. His face -- as bright as the sun! [Tonight on the way to preach this sermon, the sun was shining in the west! (We haven’t seen that much lately! I pushed up my visor and looked right into the sun; you can’t do it but for a couple of seconds!)]
  - b. His clothes -- the brightest white one can imagine!!
3. Mk. 9:3 describes the vivid brightness of His appearance -- “exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.” [Some of you who have had cataract surgery talk about the exceeding brightness of light and whites and the vividness of color after that surgery -- perhaps that is just a faint picture of what it was like!]
4. Peter, James, and John visibly saw this change of appearance!
5. **(Slide #7)** Typically, as depicted in this slide, people think that only Jesus appearance changed; however, see D3 below.

**D. (Slide #8) Moses And Elijah Appeared; They Were Talking With Jesus!**

1. Remember that Moses had died on Mt. Nebo at the end of Deuteronomy before Israel went into the Promised Land! Dt. 34:6
  - a. He was the great Lawgiver, the mediator of the Old Covenant, the Law of Moses.
  - b. He was the Prophet, a type of the Messiah!
    1. Dt. 18:15-18 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, <sup>16</sup>according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”
    2. Peter declared that JESUS was that prophet! Ac. 3:22,23 “For Moses truly said to the fathers, *‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <sup>23</sup>And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’*”
2. Elijah was the great itinerant prophet who went up into Heaven in a whirlwind! II Ki. 2:11-16
  - a. He had the great confrontation with the prophet of Baal and the prophets of the groves on Mt. Carmel. I Ki. 18
  - b. He did not die; God took him into Heaven! II Ki. 2
3. **(Slide #9)** Moses and Elijah appeared in a transfigured state too! The Greek language for “who appeared” are plural Greek words. Lk. 9:31
4. They were having a conversation!
  - a. Have you ever wondered about what other are discussing in a conversation?
    1. Surely you have done that!
    2. Often we wonder, “Are they talking about ME?”
  - b. Would you like to know what Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were discussing?
    1. Were they discussing some of the GREAT EVENTS of the past?
    2. Were they discussing Creation, Israel at Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law of Moses, Moses’ death and burial by God, the work of the prophets, Elijah’s translation into Heaven?
    3. YOU CAN KNOW what they were discussing!
  - c. Their conversation: they “spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” Lk. 9:31
  - d. They were discussing the GREATEST EVENT in the history of the world -- the Crucifixion of Jesus!

- E. **(Slide #10)** Emotional And Impetuous Peter Offered A Seemingly Great Idea!
1. Imagine being startled from a deep sleep and seeing this incredible light and conversation!!!!
  2. Peter was thrilled that he, James, and John had this amazing privilege: “Lord, it is good for us to be here.” Mt. 17:4; Mk. 9:5; Lk. 9:33
  3. Peter’s suggestion as Moses and Elijah were departing, Lk. 9:33: “If You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Mt. 17:4
    - a. Mk. 9:5 “Let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
    - b. Lk. 9:33 “Let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
    - c. A Tabernacle could be a place of abode; it likely here was a place for worship!
  4. This was a spur-of-the-moment, not well-thought-out suggestion!
    - a. Mk. 9:6 “because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.”
    - b. Lk. 9: 33 “not knowing what he said.”
    - c. Obviously Peter was overwhelmed by the events and made an emotional suggestion.
  5. The problem with his suggestion -- he was suggesting an equality of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. There was no way they were on an equality!!!
- F. **(►)** The Father’s Pointed Declaration Exalting Jesus!
1. At this time, Jesus was still transfigured and a bright cloud overshadowed them! Mt. 17:5
  2. The Father’s Message:
    - a. “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” Mt. 17:5
    - b. Mk. 9:7 “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”
    - c. Lk. 9:35 “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”
    - d. The “Hear Him!”, an addition to the Father’s statement at Jesus’ baptism, Mt. 3:17, in essence included this charge: “DO NOT HEAR MOSES!” or “DO NOT HEAR ELIJAH!” “AFTER JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION, MOSES AND THE PROPHETS WILL NO LONGER BE THE SPIRITUAL LAW IN EFFECT!”
  3. Peter, James, and John fell on their faces and were greatly afraid!!! Mt. 17:6
  4. Immediately Jesus told them to “Arise, and do not be afraid.” Mt. 17:7

5. **(Slide #11)** When they opened their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only!  
Mt. 17:8; Mk. 9:8

**G. (Slide #12) Events After Descending From The Mountain:**

1. (▶) Jesus commanded them to tell no one about this event until after His Resurrection:
  - a. “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”  
Mt. 17:9
  - b. Mk. 9:9 “Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”
  - c. They obeyed: “But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.” Lk. 9:36
  - d. They still had questions: “So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.” Mk. 9:10
  - e. Why would Jesus say this? They still did not really comprehend Jesus, His Mission, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, and His Kingdom. They needed to understand these things; as they grew in understanding, this amazing event of Transfiguration would validate everything about Jesus and His Kingdom!
2. (▶) Peter, James, and John asked Jesus about Elijah. Mt. 7:20-13
  - a. “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” 10
  - b. Jesus explained that Elijah had already come; it was John the Baptizer!  
11-13
    1. “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.’ <sup>13</sup>Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”
    2. He explained that Elijah was the “type” of John the Baptizer.
    3. He also explained that just as the Jews had mistreated John, Jesus would suffer at their hands too!

**II. (Slide #13) WHY Did The Transfiguration Occur?**

- A. (▶) It Was An Exultation Of Jesus!
1. He is GREATER than Moses AND the prophets!
  2. He is THE supernal One [celestial; eternal], the One with eternal glory!
  3. He is the ONLY Savior, the ONLY Lord, the ONLY King, the ONLY One With Authority, The One We Worship!

- B. (▶) Christ And His Law Are Greater Than The Law Of Moses!
1. The Transfiguration was to show the greatness of Jesus compared to Moses and his Law and the Prophets and their messages!
  2. Christ is the end of the Law of Moses for the Jews!
    - a. Rom. 10:4 “For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
    - b. Rom. 7:4 “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”
  3. Moses was a great spokesman for God; Christ is a much greater spokesman!
    - a. Heb. 3:5,6 “And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, <sup>6</sup>but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”
    - b. Heb. 8:6,7 “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. <sup>7</sup>For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.”
- C. (▶) Hear Jesus Above EVERYONE Else Who Has Ever Lived, Who Does Live, Or Who Will Ever Live On Earth!
1. He is the one with ALL spiritual authority! Mt. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”
  2. He has a name that is above EVERY name! Phil. 2:9,10 “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,”
  3. Ac. 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
  4. NEVER let anyone deceive you and cause you to stop listening to Christ!
  4. NEVER exalt any man to the level of Jesus in your mind; ALWAYS keep Him as THE Lord!
  5. That is Discipleship!

- D. **(Slide #14)** His Resurrection WAS Going To Occur! It HAS Occurred!
1. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were talking about His Death.
  2. Jesus told Peter, James, and John to tell no one about this Transfiguration until after His Resurrection!
  3. He was ASSURING them that He would be raised!
  4. And He Was!
  5. Peter, James, and John, in fact all of the Apostles except Judas SAW the resurrected Jesus numerous times!
    - a. Jn. 20:19-25
    - b. Jn. 20:26-29
  6. Then He met seven of the disciples, including Peter, James, and John as they made the miraculous catch of fish. It was during that time that he assisted Peter to forgive himself and be restored to his dedication. Jn. 21:1-25
  7. In I Cor. 15:6-8 His appearances to the Apostles and over 500 brethren at once are mentioned.
  8. And He appeared to the Eleven and gave the “Great Commission”, a subsequent commission, and when He ascended to Heaven! Mk. 16:15-20; Lk. 22:44-53; Ac. 1:3-12
- E. (►) The Impact Of Their Close Relationship With Jesus And Being At The Transfiguration:
1. They were with Him in Jairus’ house when He raised Jairus’ daughter; they were with Him in His agony in the Garden.
  2. Is it any wonder that Peter was one of the dynamic leaders on the Day of Pentecost who exalted Jesus as THE Christ, the Son of God? Is it any wonder that Peter took the Gospel first to the Jews and then was the first proclaimer of the Gospel to the Gentiles?
  3. Is it any wonder that James was one of the dynamic leaders of the Church in Jerusalem? Ac. 15:13
  4. Is it any wonder that John was the dynamic Apostle of love who loved Jesus and who exalted Christ as the Son of God, a member of the Godhead in the Gospel of John and in the epistle of I John? Is it any wonder that John was the comforter of persecuted disciples in the Revelation who would glorify Christ “Worthy Is The Lamb!”?

- F. (▶) There REALLY IS Life After Death!
1. Moses had been dead for almost 1,500 years! Yet, he existed and was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration!
  2. Elijah had been translated into heaven about 925 years earlier! Yet, he was with Jesus at the Transfiguration!
  3. The rich man and Lazarus both existed after their deaths; the rich man, in torment, saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom after both had died! Lk. 16:19-31
  4. Jesus died about a year later; He was buried, He was resurrected; 40 days later He ascended back to Heaven; He is there NOW!!!!
  5. And there is life after death for you!
    - a. Where will you be? In torment or Paradise in Hades the second after you die?
    - b. Where will you be after His Second Coming? Heaven or Hell?
    - c. How long? Not 925 years, not 1,500 years. You will be in Heaven or Hell FOREVER!!!!
  6. The answer to sin, death, and eternity? The TRANSFIGURED JESUS!
  7. In awe, believe in Him, humble yourself before Him, and submit to Him! START NOW!!!!