

Visions and Revelations

Message 19: The Transfiguration of Jesus

¹ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (Matthew 17:1–3)

- I. This vision portrays the Christian's life ("after six days").
 - A. First, we have a revelation.
 - B. Second, we have a close relationship with the Lord, close to the point there is seemingly something "secret."
 - C. Third, we are one with the Lord from one stage of height to another stage ("a high mountain").
 1. We have nothing to do with the world, whether sinful things or high quality things. We have left them behind.
 2. We are elevated to where Christ is. When we are so one with Him, He can unveil such a vision to us.
 - D. This is precious to all Jesus-lovers.
- II. The Lord totally unveiled Himself in transfiguration (v.2).
 - A. His face "shone like the sun"—expressing the glory of who God really is.

- B. His clothes became “as white as the light”—not just testifying the highest humanity, with no spot or wrinkle in His walk with God, but even expressing a purity just as God is pure.
- C. This is the highest expression of a God-man—God manifested in the flesh in glory.

III. In glory, Moses and Elijah appeared (v. 3).

- A. “to them”—to the disciples
- B. Yet, “talking with Him.”
- C. This shows our lifelong pursuing and serving experience.

IV. In the Old Testament, the kingship, the priesthood according to the law, and the prophets were the three most crucial elements to God’s testimony. Here, Christ is the unique and all-inclusive King. In His operation, Moses represented the law, and Elijah represented the prophets.

- A. Their appearance with Christ in glory was a declaration of the change of the age:
 - 1. From the age of law to the age of grace.
 - 2. From the Old Testament age to the New Testament age.
 - 3. From the outward God to the inward God.
 - 4. From a God of leading to the God of inward anointing.

5. From an outward, all-wise, mighty God to the indwelling, operating, might of life.
- B. The result of this transfer was the glory of God manifested through the unique prototype—the God-man, Jesus Christ.
- C. Moses and Elijah talked with the Lord in transcending glory.
1. They entered into communion with the Lord in glory.
 2. While in this sense of exhilaration, they worshipped Christ.
 3. They realized the end of the law is Christ (Rom. 10:4).
 4. All the prophets lead us to Christ Himself (Luke 24:27).
 5. Yet the whole realm is a realm of glory.
- V. This is the most glorious picture in the whole Bible. God and man are one. Christ is the substance of the law and the prophets. And the reality of the whole is glory.