



01-18-19

The Light of Men  
Pt. 3, On the Mount

Happy Friday, and welcome back to our theme for the month: The Light of Men. Our theme is taken from John's introduction to his Gospel. John 1:1-4 reads,

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 **In him was life; and the life was the light of men.***

Today, Part 3: On the Mount.

Truly, God IS Light (1John 1:5), and not just in the metaphorical "spiritual" sense. Our Creator God has, on occasion, manifested Himself to humanity through that Divine glory called "Shekinah". On Day 1 of the Creation Week, Creator Jesus filled space-time with His glory when He cried out, *Let there be light* (Genesis 1:3). And last week we studied how, for 40 years God used His glory to lead and protect his nation Israel. As a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, God was a Guide and Protector.

This week we'll explore yet another manifestation of the Glory of God, revealed by the God-Man Jesus Christ, while he spoke with Moses and Elijah on what we call The Mount of Transfiguration. The account is found in Matthew 17:1-9.

On a certain day Jesus separated out three of his disciples—Peter and brothers James and John—and He led just these three up into a high mountain. And Matthew records that suddenly Jesus, *...was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light* (Matthew 17:2). I believe the Apostle John was remembering this very event when in John 1:14 he wrote, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (**and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.*

That word *transfigured* is used only twice in the entire Holy Bible. It is found in Matthew and Mark's description of this mountain top event. The Greek infinitive is pronounced *met-am-or-fo* 'o, and if you think that sounds a bit like our word "metamorphosis" you are right! It means to change form; to transform. We use the word to describe how a worm-like caterpillar changes into a moth or butterfly. At some point, the skin of the caterpillar hardens into a case called a chrysalis, and inside that case the larvae literally dissolves and marvelously reforms into its adult form.

Now, unlike the caterpillar-become-moth, Jesus didn't permanently change form while on that Mount. He simply allowed the Shekinah of God to temporarily show forth through the mask of His humanity. It was in His Glory-form that Jesus revealed Himself to Saul on the road to Damascus. When Saul, now called Paul, recounted his experience to King Agrippa he stated that this light that he saw was, *...above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me* (Acts 26:13).

Friends, the Scriptures are very plain: The man whom the Jews called the carpenter's son and the Nazarene, the man whom the hate-filled Sanhedrin called an illegitimate devil, is none other than The Creator, The Second Person of the Godhead, The Eternally Incarnated God-Man, Jesus. It is this Jesus Who is coming again to judge both the quick (i.e., those made spiritually alive by repentance and faith) and the dead (i.e., those who, in pride and self-will have rejected the free gift of God's salvation).

Of that return Jesus Himself warned,

*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Glorious King Jesus is coming again; that isn't in question. What IS in question is this: are you ready? I pray that you are among those who are even now crying out with the Apostle John, *Even so come, Lord Jesus* (Revelation 22:20).

God bless and consider!