

Mark 9:1-13 “The Glory of the Servant”

Please stand and open your bibles to Mark 9:1-13

This is such an important story that we have to tackle it all by itself. The first thing we need to remember is the book of Mark is Peter’s testimony of the ministry of Jesus as he had been teaching in the churches. They were the ones that asked Mark to do this. Even though this story is in three gospels, this one would be Peter’s account that he saw. All of them give us some interesting points and we will try to put them together here.

First, we need to remember that there were no chapter breaks in the original and we always have to go back to make sure we have the context. Our chapter begins with an “and” so we need to go back to chapter 8 before we move on...

Mark 8:38

“...For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Notice that last thing He said to us last week was He would be coming again. Now the whole section was about the fact that He has to die first. They did not fully understand the need for Him to die for our sins. He again is trying to correct their theology and eschatology.

Mark 9:1

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Now this verse if taken away from the rest of our story would confuse the reader into thinking Jesus would have to return before the end of their lifetime. In Mark it is included in chapter nine but that is not the case in Matthew where it is put at the end of chapter 16

Matthew 16:28

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Notice Matthew adds that they would see the “Son of Man” coming as Mark just mentions the Kingdom of God. We are told in our scripture that it will be “Present” in power. It could be translated “Having Come” but the emphasis is there that this is a very important appointment for some of them.

Mark 9:2

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves

Now we quickly need to deal with a supposed contradiction in scripture. As were told here in Mark and it is repeated the same

in Matthew that it was six days. The critics will cry “See!” and point to Luke that says...

Luke 9:28

Now it came to pass, **about** eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

And as I have highlighted that Luke, getting his information from someone else that wasn't exactly sure how many days it was rightly said “About”. The use of that word will actually bring more truth to the story. Not all testimony is going to agree word for word. This is a good thing and makes the Bible more credible than any other ancient document. Now let's look at what happened...

The Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-10

In this amazing event that has happened to the three disciples that Jesus brought up to this place is one of awe and wonder. It is hard to imagine trying to digest this on top of all that Jesus has done. Healing the sick, calming the storms, feeding the masses, teaching the truth and now this! Luke just told us that as He was praying, He started to change. This is the word that we get our English word for metamorphous. It is only used a few times in scripture, and you should be familiar with it in Romans 12:2. Verse 3 tells us of this change as He is Glorified right in their presence.

Notice though who shows up with Him? Moses and Elijah! I don't think they had nametags so we will always wonder how they knew it was them. What we need to understand though that they both represent something. Moses, the law and Elijah, the prophets. This is important as we see Jesus talking to them. What are they talking about? Luke tells us...

Luke 9:30-31

And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

He is talking about the same thing He has been telling them. His death and resurrection. And who else would He be talking about these things with? As we see the Law and the Prophets is what told us about Him...

To the men of Emmaus:

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

To the Disciples after His resurrection:

Luke 24:44

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled

which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

And Paul in his witnessing:

Acts 28:23

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Notice that they are His witnesses? This will be important before we leave today.

But of course, in all the excitement Peter has to speak up. He liked it so much He wanted to set up camp! And who wouldn't. Peter was honest about it in his witness to Mark as he confesses, he said it because he did not know what else to say. They still need to get to the cross. Jesus cannot come in His glory until sin is dealt with and He rises from the dead. But right as Peter is speaking guess who shows up? God the Father! And He repeats what they needed to hear, “This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him!” Are you listening to Him? There are lots of voices out there trying to get our attention. Make sure you are listening to Him!

Notice now as the cloud leaves and they are now just there back to normal. I wonder if there was a sense of disappointment. I know I would be! Take me back, please!

Now, as they come down the mountain, He tells them to keep it to themselves until He rises from the dead. So, what do they do? Have another “duh” moment! The thing is, this will mean something afterwards. It has a very important point and Peter saves it for His last letter.

The Servant is Coming!

2 Peter 1:12-21

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

So, Peter tells us that this event was a picture of His future coming. They witnessed it. Just as they saw the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, they saw His second coming. When we talk about the coming of Jesus it is not something we made up. Peter says that it was not a fable. Just as we have our salvation in the work of Christ on the cross and empty tomb, we will have deliverance when He comes again! But our study does not end here as all of this leads to a question...

What about Elijah?

Mark 9:11-13

Jesus does two things with this question. He tells them the right answer and then tries to steer them back into what they need to know and that is His first coming. It is also showing us the two-fold pattern of prophecy. There is always a near fulfilment that leads to a far. They asked about the Scribes saying that Elijah will come to announce the coming of the Messiah and Jesus says, yes, this will happen, but it also, has happened. We do know they understood what he meant in Matthew...

Matthew 17:13

Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Now, what does the Bible say about the coming of Elijah?

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers

You can't be clearer than that! But why would this be pointing to J the B?

If you remember when the angel gave the promise to Zacharias, he said this about J the B...

Luke 1:16-17

“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also 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 a people prepared for the Lord.”

So, we see this scripture used for his ministry but what about what the verse says literally? If Jesus is right that Elijah will come before the Second Coming, when will that be? Great question! Turn to Revelation 11...

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:1-14

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will

rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

So, the million-dollar question has been answered by many ideas and conjectures. But if we remember that prophecy is set by patterns that helps us place who the witnesses are. We can see that the things that these witnesses do refer to both Moses and Elijah. Most of us say with confidence that Elijah is one of them. Some say Enoch is the other and that is because that Bible says that it is appointed once for man to die. We do need to remember that is the rule, but God is capable to do what He wants with His rules.

What makes me confident that this is Moses and Elijah? It is this event we read today. Jesus is seen with both of them in His

glory taking about what He was going to do. They are used as the witnesses of His first coming and it seems logical that they will be the witnesses of His second Coming. When we put all this together it makes sense.

The first half of the Tribulation will start with the Antichrist making a Covenant/Treaty with all the Nations including the Nation of Israel. Israel will look at the Antichrist as a Messiah and will probably include the rebuilding and restarting of the temple and the sacrifices. This helps us understand what these witnesses will be witnessing. They will be warning Israel about what they are doing. That he is not the Messiah, and that Jesus is. They will be doing just what they were doing before Jesus first coming, pointing to Christ, or pointing back to Him. This is why the Beast, and all the people are trying to shut them up. Why are they trying to shut us up? They don't like our message.

What * is that Message?

The Savior has come, and we need to put our faith in Him!

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.