

September 17, 2017

The Sacred Mountain

Matthew 17:1-13

The Transfiguration of Jesus *(v. 1-13)*

- Jesus' burden now is to teach and train His disciples about His true Identity and His coming death and resurrection.
- There is a strong probability that Matthew records this event against the background of **Exodus 24:15-17**.

***Exodus 24:15-17** Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel...*

- "Six Days" (**v. 1; Ex. 24:16**)
- "His Face shone" (**v. 2; Ex. 34:29**)
- In being transfigured, Jesus' human outward form was changed to reflect His inward Divine reality.

- “A cloud overshadowed them” (**v. 5; Ex. 24:15**)
- “God spoke from the cloud” (**v. 5; Ex. 25:1**)
- In the Exodus account, God constitutes Israel as His *holy nation* (**Ex. 19:6**) by giving them the Law through Moses.
- However, in **Deut. 18:15**, Moses understood that God would raise up another Prophet greater than himself who would fulfill God’s purposes.
 - Moses & Elijah: The Law & the Prophets (**Matt. 5:17; 7:12**)
 - Moses was God’s Law giver (**Ex. 20**) and Elijah was God’s law enforcer (**1 Kings 18**)

The Divine Significance of the Transfiguration

- In the transfiguration, God was giving the disciples a visible glimpse of the significance of Peter’s confession in **16:16**.
 - “You are the Christ”
 - “The Son of the Living God”

- The Brightness of Jesus' face:

Ex 34:29-30 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone...

- When the Son of God took to Himself the Humanity of Jesus, His essential Divine Nature was shrouded from public view, only to be revealed through His words and deeds.

Phil. 2:7-8 ...Jesus ...took upon Him the form (morphe) of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...

- "White as Light"

John 8:12 I am the Light of the world...

1 John 1:5 ...God is Light

- The glory of the Lord in the Temple (**Ex. 40:34; 2 Chron 7:1; John 1:14**).
- For the Second time (see **Matt. 3:17**), the Father affirms that Jesus is His "Beloved Son."

- As Adam was God's son on the mountain of Eden (**Gen. 2:10**), so Jesus is God's Son on the mountain.

- What God's glory in the Temple of Jesus' anticipates...

Rev 21:22-24 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb