

What's Most Needed Now?

Promise: the Scriptures are able to lead us in the path of Salvation

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Exodus 24:8-18; Ps 2:6-13; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

(The Transfiguration of Our Lord, 2/19/23)

A voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." – v. 5b

Lead In – Peter, James, and John. Those lucky duckies! The first three disciples called by Jesus are singled out for a special experience with Him. This won't be the only time. Here they have been chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus in an overwhelming and spectacular way. What I want us to especially note is what Peter will later write in his epistle concerning the lesson to be drawn from the event.

I. The Event Itself, the Transfiguration

A. Your familiarity with μεταμορφόω *metamorphoo*...

B. Jesus in all His glory belongs to the eschaton...

C. The appearance of Moses and Elijah...

II. Mountains, Tabernacles, And Chancels

A. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus all went up on mountains...

B. God chooses where and how He reveals Himself...

C. Lots of possibilities for the use of incense...

III. The Lesson the Father, Then Peter Draws for Us

A. Pointing to Jesus ID and importance of listening to...

B. The importance for us comes after Resurrection...

C. We listen to Christ by the lamp of God's Word...

Parting Shot – Peter, James, and John had the magnificent manifestation before Jesus' death and resurrection. And yet all three fled the scene at Jesus' arrest in the garden. All three were slow to believe the report of the women of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. But all three would be guided and strengthened in the way that any of us would be, by God's Word! And that Word after the resurrection would include a glimpse of our future glory, even as we through many tribulations follow just enough reliable light to guide us in this dark age. In the words of Peter, "We do well to pay attention to it!"

Metamorphosis -change of one form to a different form, such as larva to a pupa to a butterfly.

Mt 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Lk 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Je 23:24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

Ex 24:18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17:1-9 ESV

The Transfiguration

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

1Ki 19:8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

Ex 24:17 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.

Mt 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mt 17:9b Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

2Pe 1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Mt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.