

Jesus Transfigured

Matthew 17:1-13

by Don Falkos

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Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and went up on a high mountain to be alone. There he was transformed before their eyes. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly Moses and the prophet Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.

Peter blurted out, "Teacher, it's wonderful for us to be here! If you like, I could build three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him."

The disciples fell face down on the ground, overcome by fear. Jesus came over to them and touched them, saying, "Get up. Don't be afraid." Peter, James, and John looked up and saw that Jesus was alone. Moses and Elijah had gone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus warned them, "Don't tell anyone what you just saw until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

The three disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the experts in the Law say that Elijah must come before the Messiah?"

Jesus replied, "As the prophet Malachi said, Elijah does come first to set everything in order, to begin the reformation of the world. But you see, Elijah has already come. You didn't recognize him; no one did. In fact, he was badly mistreated. And just as he was rejected and killed, so too the Son of Man will be rejected and killed."

The disciples realized Jesus was talking about John the Baptist.