

# Luke 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.

## Analysis

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**And of some, that Elias had appeared**—The Greek Ἐλίας (Ἐλίας) is Elijah, whose return was prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6 to precede "the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Jewish expectation held that Elijah would reappear before the Messiah to restore all things. Some saw Jesus's miracles and authority as fulfilling this eschatological hope.

**And of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again** (ὅτι προφήτης τις τῶν ἀρχαίων ἀνέστη, hoti prophētēs tis tōn archaiōn anestē)—the verb anestē ("rose up, was resurrected") indicates literal resurrection, not metaphorical renewal. The people recognized that Jesus's ministry bore the marks of the great prophets—Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah—but with unprecedented power. The speculation reveals partial truth: Jesus was indeed a prophet (Luke 7:16, 24:19), but infinitely more than a prophet—He is the Son of God, the Messiah. These inadequate categories show humanity's tendency to fit Jesus into familiar boxes rather than recognizing His unique identity.

## Historical Context

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Jewish messianic expectation in the first century was diverse and complex. Some anticipated Elijah's return based on Malachi; others expected the "prophet like Moses" (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). Intertestamental literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls reveal expectations of multiple eschatological figures—a prophet, a priestly Messiah, and a kingly Messiah. Jesus's miracles (healing, multiplication of food,

raising the dead) paralleled both Moses and Elijah-Elisha cycles, fueling these speculations.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Why do people tend to fit Jesus into inadequate categories (great teacher, prophet, moral example) rather than accepting His claim to be God's unique Son?
2. How does the expectation of Elijah's return before the Messiah help explain John the Baptist's preparatory ministry?
3. What does the diversity of speculation about Jesus's identity reveal about human attempts to understand divine revelation?

## Interlinear Text

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ὑπό	τινων	δὲ	ὅτι	Ἐλίας	ἐφάνη	ἄλλων	δὲ	ὅτι
of	some	And	that	Elias	had appeared	of others	And	that
G5259	G5100	G1161	G3754	G2243	G5316	G243	G1161	G3754
προφήτης	εἷς	τῶν	ἀρχαίων		ἀνέστη			
prophets	one	G3588	of the old		was risen again			
G4396	G1520		G744		G450			

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 1:21** (Prophecy): And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

**Luke 9:19** (Resurrection): They answering said, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again.

