

Mark 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

Analysis

The Transfiguration occurred 'after six days' (μετὰ ἡμέρας ἕξ)—precise timing connecting it to Jesus' promise in 9:1. Jesus took only Peter, James, and John, His inner circle who also witnessed Jairus' daughter raised (Mark 5:37) and Gethsemane agony (Mark 14:33). The 'high mountain' (ὄρος ὑψηλόν) is traditionally identified as Mount Tabor or Mount Hermon. Mountains in Scripture signify divine revelation (Sinai, Horeb). Jesus 'was transfigured' (μετεμορφώθη, metemorphōthē)—the verb indicates transformation of outward appearance revealing inner reality. This is the same root as 'metamorphosis'—Jesus' divine glory, normally veiled in flesh, became visible. The transfiguration wasn't Jesus becoming something He wasn't, but revealing who He eternally is—God incarnate. This theophany strengthened disciples for the scandal of the cross and provided apostolic eyewitness testimony to Christ's majesty (2 Peter 1:16-18).

Historical Context

The 'six days' interval may parallel Moses' experience on Mount Sinai, where God's glory appeared after six days (Exodus 24:16), suggesting Jesus is the new Moses giving new covenant revelation. Mount Hermon (9,200 feet) near Caesarea Philippi was likely the site, though tradition favors Mount Tabor. The transfiguration occurred during Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem and crucifixion—a heavenly confirmation before earthly suffering. Moses and Elijah's appearance (v. 4) represented the Law and the Prophets, both pointing to Christ. Luke records they

discussed Jesus' 'exodus' (death) in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31), revealing that redemptive suffering was God's eternal plan, not an unfortunate deviation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the transfiguration demonstrate that Jesus' divine glory was always present but normally veiled during His earthly ministry?
2. What does God's timing in revealing Christ's glory (before the crucifixion) teach about His provision of spiritual strength before seasons of testing?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	μεθ'	ἡμέρας	ἕξ	παραλαμβάνει	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	τὸν
And	after	days	six	taketh		Jesus	
G2532	G3326	G2250	G1803	G3880	G3588	G2424	G3588
Πέτρον	καὶ	τὸν	Ἰάκωβον	καὶ	τὸν	Ἰωάννην	καὶ
with him Peter	And		James	And		John	And
G4074	G2532	G3588	G2385	G2532	G3588	G2491	G2532
ἀναφέρει	αὐτῶν	εἰς	ὄρος	ὕψηλόν	κατ'	ἰδίαν	
leadeth	them	into	mountain	an high	apart		
G399	G846	G1519	G3735	G5308	G2596	G2398	
μόνους	καὶ	μετεμορφώθη	ἔμπροσθεν	αὐτῶν			
by themselves	And	he was transfigured	before	them			
G3441	G2532	G3339	G1715	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:17 (Parallel theme): Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

Mark 5:37 (References Peter): And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

Mark 14:33 (References Peter): And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Exodus 24:13 (Parallel theme): And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.