

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 ἔξ)—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 ὑψηλὸν) 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 ἔξ παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν
And after days six taketh G3588 Jesus G3588
G2532 G3326 G2250 G1803 G3880 G2424

Πέτρον καὶ τὸν Ἰάκωβον καὶ τὸν Ἰωάννην καὶ
with him Peter And G3588 James And G3588 John And
G4074 G2532 G2385 G2532 G2491 G2532

ἀναφέρει αὐτῶν εἰς ὅρος ὑψηλὸν κατ' ἵδιαν
leadeth them into mountain an high apart G2398
G399 G846 G1519 G3735 G5308 G2596

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.

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