

Mark 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Analysis

Moses and Elijah appeared, 'talking with Jesus' (συλλαλοῦντες τῷ Ἰησοῦ). Their presence is theologically rich: Moses represents the Law, Elijah the Prophets—the entire Old Testament points to Christ. Both experienced unique encounters with God (Moses on Sinai, Elijah at Horeb). Both had unusual departures from earth (Moses' burial by God, Elijah's translation). Both were expected to return in Jewish eschatology (Deuteronomy 18:15; Malachi 4:5-6). Their conversation with Jesus (Luke 9:31 specifies they discussed His coming 'exodus' in Jerusalem) shows that redemptive history flows toward Christ's death and resurrection. The Law and Prophets don't stand independently but find fulfillment in Jesus. Their subordinate position (talking with Jesus, then disappearing, leaving 'Jesus only,' v. 8) demonstrates Christ's supremacy. Reformed theology emphasizes that all Scripture testifies to Christ (Luke 24:27; John 5:39).

Historical Context

Jewish expectation held that Moses would return as the 'prophet like unto me' (Deuteronomy 18:15) and Elijah would precede the Messiah (Malachi 4:5-6). Rabbinic traditions speculated about Moses' fate—he disappeared on Mount Nebo (Deuteronomy 34), and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11). Their appearance confirmed Jesus as the culmination of Law and Prophets. The discussion about Jesus' 'exodus' (Luke 9:31) deliberately uses exodus terminology for His death, connecting His sacrifice to Israel's deliverance from Egypt. This demonstrated that the cross wasn't defeat but the ultimate redemptive act,

surpassing even the exodus. Peter, James, and John's witness to this event strengthened apostolic testimony that Christianity fulfilled, not contradicted, Old Testament revelation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Moses and Elijah's appearance demonstrate that all of Scripture (Law and Prophets) points to and finds fulfillment in Christ?
2. What does their discussion of Jesus' coming 'exodus' (death) reveal about how the Old Testament redemptive acts prefigured Christ's ultimate deliverance?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὥφθη	αὐτοῖς	Ἡλίας	σὺν	Μωσεῖ,	καὶ	ἥσαν
And	there appeared	unto them	Elias	with	Moses	And	they were
G2532	G3700	G846	G2243	G4862	G3475	G2532	G2258

συλλαλοῦντες	τῷ	Ἰησοῦ
talking	G3588	with Jesus
G4814		G2424

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