

Mark 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

Analysis

After the Father's voice affirmed Jesus, the disciples 'saw no man any more, save Jesus only' (οὐκέτι οὐδένα εἶδον ἀλλὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον). The phrase 'Jesus only' (ton Iēsoun monon) is theologically emphatic—Moses and Elijah disappeared, leaving Jesus alone as the focus. This visual reinforces the Father's command to 'hear him' (v. 7)—Jesus alone is God's final revelation. The Law (Moses) and Prophets (Elijah) pointed to Christ but don't remain as independent authorities alongside Him. Jesus fulfills and supersedes them. This doesn't negate the Old Testament but establishes Christ as its interpretive key and ultimate fulfillment. Reformed theology emphasizes solus Christus (Christ alone)—salvation, revelation, and authority rest in Jesus exclusively. The transfiguration visually enacted this principle: the mountain-top revelation concluded with 'Jesus only,' teaching that all other voices fade before the incarnate Son.

Historical Context

The disappearance of Moses and Elijah and the phrase 'Jesus only' became a crucial New Testament theological emphasis. Hebrews 1:1-2 states that God 'spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets' but 'hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.' Jesus is God's final, complete revelation. The early church's Christological controversies centered on Jesus' unique identity—not a great teacher among others, but God's only Son. Various heresies (Arianism, Adoptionism, Ebionism) diminished Christ's deity or uniqueness; orthodox Christianity confessed Jesus as fully God and fully man, the exclusive mediator (1

Timothy 2:5). The transfiguration's 'Jesus only' conclusion visually demonstrated this exclusivity, strengthening apostolic witness against syncretism and pluralism.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does 'Jesus only' challenge contemporary religious pluralism that places Jesus among many valid spiritual paths?
2. What does the disappearance of Moses and Elijah teach about how the Old Testament finds its fulfillment and proper interpretation in Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξάπινα	περιβλεψάμενοι	οὐκέτι	οὐδένα	εἶδον
And	suddenly	when they had looked round about	any more	no man	they saw
G2532	G1819	G4017	G3765	G3762	G1492
ἀλλὰ	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	μόνον	μεθ'	ἑαυτῶν
save		Jesus	only	with	themselves
G235	G3588	G2424	G3441	G3326	G1438

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