

Matthew 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Analysis

The transformation—'he was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light'—reveals Jesus' divine glory temporarily unveiled. 'Transfigured' (Greek: metamorphoō) means to change form, revealing His true nature. His shining face recalls Moses' glowing face after encountering God (Exodus 34:29-30), but exceeds it ('as the sun'). The brilliant white garments symbolize divine purity and heavenly glory. This glimpse of Jesus' pre-incarnate and post-resurrection glory strengthened disciples for coming trials.

Historical Context

The transfiguration temporarily revealed Jesus' divine nature usually veiled by His humanity. The shining face and garments manifested the Shekinah glory. Mark adds the whiteness exceeded any earthly bleaching (Mark 9:3). This confirmed Jesus' deity and prefigured His resurrection glory, encouraging the disciples during the dark days ahead.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does contemplating Christ's glory transform your worship?
2. What does the transfiguration reveal about Jesus' true nature?

Interlinear Text

καὶ μετεμορφώθη ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλαμψεν τὸ
And **was transfigured** **before** **his** **And** **did shine** G3588
G2532 G3339 G1715 G846 G2532 G2989

πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος τὰ δὲ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ
face **his** **as** G3588 **the sun** G3588 **and** **raiment** **his**
G4383 G846 G5613 G2246 G1161 G2440 G846

ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς
was **white** **as** G3588 **the light**
G1096 G3022 G5613 G5457

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:2 (Light): Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

Matthew 28:3 (Light): His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Luke 9:29 (Parallel theme): And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

Revelation 10:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

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.

Mark 9:3 (Parallel theme): And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Romans 12:2 (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.