

# The Transfiguration of Jesus

<b>Matthew 17</b>	<b>Mark 9</b>	<b>Luke 9</b>
1 After six days, <sup>1</sup> Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up into a high mountain by themselves.	2 <sup>(a)</sup> After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up onto a high mountain privately by themselves, [...]	28 About eight days after these sayings, he took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up onto the mountain to pray.
2 <sup>(a)</sup> He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, [...]	2 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] and he was changed into another form in front of them.	29 <sup>(a)</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, [...]
2 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] and his garments became as white as the light.	3 His clothing became glistening, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.	29 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] and his clothing became white and dazzling.
3 Behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them talking with him.	4 Elijah and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus.	30 Behold, two men were talking with him, who were Moses and Elijah,
• • •	• • •	31 who appeared in glory, and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
• • •	• • •	32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, <sup>2</sup> but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory, and the two men who stood with him.
4 Peter answered, and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, let’s make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>3</sup>	5 Peter answered Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”	33 <sup>(a)</sup> As they were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three tents: one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” [...]
• • •	6 For he didn’t know what to say, for they were very afraid.	33 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] not knowing what he said.
5 <sup>(a)</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. [...]	7 <sup>(a)</sup> A cloud came, overshadowing them, [...]	34 While he said these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 17:1 and Mark 9:2 appear to count the days *exclusively*—meaning that they count the days in between (1) the day of Peter’s confession and the teaching on taking up the cross and (2) the transfiguration, without counting either day. Luke 9:28 appears to count the days *inclusively*—meaning he counts the days of the events *and* the days in between.

<sup>2</sup> The transfiguration cannot be written off as a dream; Luke records that they are fully awake, besides which, if they were dreaming, there is no reason to believe that all three men would have seen the same thing.

<sup>3</sup> Peter expresses the desire to stay in that place to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Matthew 17	Mark 9	Luke 9
5 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] Behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." <sup>4</sup>	7 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."	35 A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"
6 When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were very afraid.	• • •	• • •
7 Jesus came and touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid."	• • •	• • •
8 Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone.	8 Suddenly looking around, they saw no one with them any more, except Jesus only.	36 <sup>(a)</sup> When the voice came, Jesus was found alone. [...].
9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Don't tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."	9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he commanded them that they should tell no one what things they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.	• • •
• • •	10 They kept this saying to themselves, questioning what the "rising from the dead" meant.	• • •
10 His disciples asked him, saying, "Then why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"	11 They asked him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"	• • •
11 Jesus answered them, "Elijah indeed comes first, and will restore all things,"	12 <sup>(a)</sup> He said to them, "Elijah indeed comes first, and restores all things." [...]	• • •
• • •	12 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] "How is it written about the Son of Man, that he should suffer many things and be despised?"	• • •
12 "but I tell you that Elijah has come already, and they didn't recognize him, but did to him whatever they wanted to. Even so the Son of Man will also suffer by them."	13 "But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they have also done to him whatever they wanted to, even as it is written about him."	• • •
13 Then the disciples understood that he spoke to them of John the Baptizer.	• • •	• • •
• • •	• • •	36 <sup>(b)</sup> [...] They were silent, and told no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

<sup>4</sup> Peter testified about this incident in I Peter 1:17-18.