

Doctrine of Transfiguration

INTRODUCTION

KJV

Mat 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

NIV

Mat 16:28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

1. The comment in verse 28 is perplexing if one misunderstands the verse to teach that some of the disciples would not die until the millennial kingdom is established.

2. If such a misunderstanding is forced then much of the New Testament chronology must be reinterpreted.

3. There have been varying interpretations but there is only one interpretation which fits. The Scripture is clearly fulfilled in the Transfiguration predicted in Mat 16:28.

4. In the light of the three synoptic gospels the next recorded event following is the Transfiguration. It will occur approximately six days later.

5. The proximity, along with a common sense interpretation, certainly supports the position that the Transfiguration fulfills our Lord's statement.

6. The Transfiguration is a preview of what is to come.

7. Peter in his later writings spoke of the Transfiguration; there is no evidence that the favored three rushed out to tell what they had witnessed.

7.1 Peter, James and John were faithful to the Lord Who had told them to tell no one of what they had seen, until after His resurrection.

Mat 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

7.2 One would think their vision of Jesus coming in His Kingdom would have been of such "news" that they just had to tell. It is also possible the three did not understand the meaning of what they had seen.

7.3 The nature and timing of the second coming was terribly misunderstood by most in the early church.

8. The Transfiguration is part and parcel of many prophecies relating to our Lord's return, the nature of which was, at best for the early church, abstruse.

9. Not until some twenty years after our Lord's ascension will the early church understand the basics of eschatological timing.

9.1 Let's look at several passages which when taken together will reveal this problem of faulty eschatological interpretations.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Acts 2:15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

Peter Fails to Interpret the Eschatological Relationship of Tongues

Acts 2:16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Acts 2:17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Acts 2:18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Acts 2:19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

Acts 2:20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

The Fellowship of the Believers

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 2:44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Acts 2:45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 2:47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Peter Speaks to the Onlookers

Acts 3:18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Acts 3:20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you -- even Jesus.

Acts 3:21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Acts 3:22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.

Acts 3:23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

Acts 3:24 "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days.

Jesus Speaks as to Timing

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Acts 1:5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Acts 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

Paul Speaks as to Timing - About 20 Years Later

1Th 5:1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

1Th 5:2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

The Thessalonians Had Been Taught Timing By Then

2Th 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2:2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

10. It seems a great pity that Mat 16:28 was not made the opening verse of chapter seventeen.

Mat 16:28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

11. In the corresponding accounts found in both Mark and Luke our Lord's announcement is linked directly with the transfiguration scene.

Mark's Account

Mar 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Mar 9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

Mar 9:3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

Mar 9:4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Mar 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Mar 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Mar 9:7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mar 9:8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

Mar 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mar 9:10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

Mar 9:11 And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Mar 9:12 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?"

Mar 9:13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Luke's Account

Luk 9:27 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Luk 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

Luk 9:29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Luk 9:30 Two men, Moses and Elijah,

Luk 9:31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Luk 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

Luk 9:33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

Luk 9:34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

Luk 9:35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Luk 9:36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

12. Knowing the context made clear in Mat 16:28 and Mar 9:1 is in fact the key to a correct understanding of this glorious vision which was intended to be, as translated in Mark, a presentation of "the Kingdom of God come with power."

13. This is confirmed for us by the Apostle Peter who in his Second Epistle writes, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty ... when we were with Him on the holy mountain (2Pe 1:16, 18).

14. On the Mount of Transfiguration the Saviour appeared in the glory in which He will be manifested when He returns to take His great power and reign (Rev 11:15-19 and Reve 19:11-21).

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great -- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Rev 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Rev 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Rev 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

Rev 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Rev 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

15. H.A. Ironsides has an interesting interpretation of the glorious vision:

"The two heavenly saints who appeared with Him in glory depict two groups of believers who will share the Kingdom with Him. Moses represents those who, having died, will be raised in glorified bodies, and Elijah depicts all believers, who at the Rapture, will be caught up to heaven without passing through death (1Th 4:13-18).

"The three favored Apostles who beheld His glory and heard the Father's voice, speak of Israel restored to the Lord in the latter day and so entering into the blessing of the kingdoms. The scene at the foot of the mountain illustrates the effect of the second advent binding Satan and giving to the troubled nations deliverance from his power."

16. Let's look first at Matthew's description of The Transfiguration, then Mark's description, followed by Luke's description. After the three descriptions I want to give you several points concerning the powerful event.

Matthew

Mat 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Mat 17:2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Mat 17:3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Mat 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Mat 17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

Mat 17:7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

Mat 17:8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Mark

Mar 9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

Mar 9:3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

Mar 9:4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Mar 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Mar 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Mar 9:7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mar 9:8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

Luke

Luk 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

Luk 9:29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Luk 9:30 Two men, Moses and Elijah,

Luk 9:31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Luk 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

Luk 9:33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

Luk 9:34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

Luk 9:35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Luk 9:36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

Points Concerning the Powerful Event

1. At this strategic moment in the ministry of Jesus (just after he had evoked from Peter His true identity) Jesus provides a preview of His coming in His Kingdom.

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mar 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

2. Matthew in regard to the timing writes in his gospel, "After six days." So also does Mark in Mar 9:2, however Luke in his gospel gives us a timing of "after about eight days."

2.1 Peter, James and John, former business associates (Luk 5:10) were granted special privileges on two other occasions (Luk 8:51; Mat 26:37). Wycliffe asks: "can it be that they had more spiritual perception at this time than the others?"

Luk 5:10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

Luk 8:51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.

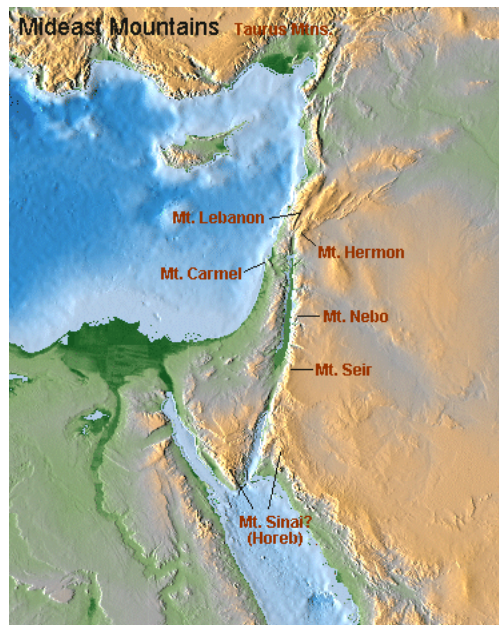
Mat 26:37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Mat 26:38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

3. What of the location of the high mountain?

3.1 The traditional Mount Tabor cited by many is contextually unlikely. More probable is a location near Caesarea Philippi, perhaps one of the spurs of Hermon.

Mountains of the Region



4. He was transfigured before them. The verb (**Metanoia**) denotes a transformation of the essential form.

4.1 **Metanoia** is used in Rom 12:2 of the spiritual transformation which a believer can manifest by the consistent use of the two power options.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

5. Though for believers this transformation is a gradual experience, to be completed when Christ is seen (1Jo 3:2), in the case of Jesus, the glorious form, usually veiled, was briefly displayed.

1Jo 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

6. Moses and Elijah appeared talking with Him about the coming events at Jerusalem.

Luk 9:30 Two men, Moses and Elijah,

Luk 9:31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

7. Such conversation showed the disciples that the death of the Messiah was not incompatible with the Old Testament, while also providing useful commentary and encouragement regarding His return to earth after His ascension.

8. Some have seen in Moses (who had died) and Elijah (who had passed from this life without dying) as being representatives of the two groups that Christ will bring with Him to establish His Kingdom: dead saints who are resurrected and living saints who have been translated.

9. Lewis Sperry Chafer in his book *Systematic Theology*, Volume V, pages 85-94 has written, "likewise the three disciples are seen as representing men living on earth at the time of the Second Advent."

10. Responding to this experience Peter is prompted to offer to erect (I will make) three tabernacles, such as worshipers built for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Mar 9:4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Mar 9:5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

11. In response, a Divine voice came out of the cloud acknowledging Jesus as God's beloved Son, and commanding the disciples, listen to Him.

11.1 He is the new and complete revelation.

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

Heb 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

12. The disciples are at first frightened by the voice but then they are reassured and cautioned at the conclusion of these events.

13. Tell the vision to no man. Apparently not even the other disciples were to be informed at this time. The things they had witnessed would only confuse and politically arouse the less perceptive.

Mat 17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

Mat 17:7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

Mat 17:8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Mat 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

14. In Mat 17:10 the disciples ask the Lord: "why do the scribes say that Elijah must first come?"

Mat 17:10 The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

15. The presence of Elijah on the mount and the command to be silent must have prompted the question.

16. If this was the predicted coming of Elijah (Mal 4:5), then surely it was time for a public announcement and not silence.

Mal 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

17. If this was not the appearance of Elijah, how could Jesus be the Messiah, for Elijah must come before Messianic Kingdom?

18. In Mat 17:11 our Lord responds: "Elijah indeed cometh. Jesus here claims that Mal 4:5 will be fulfilled.

Mat 17:11 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.

19. Our Lord adds: "Elijah is come already." Let's look further at Jesus's explanation of his statement. "Elijah has come ..."

Mat 17:12 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."

Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Mar 9:11 And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Mar 9:12 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?"

Mar 9:13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Mat 11:13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

Mat 11:14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

20. To the unspiritual Jews who were merely hunting for signs, John himself had said, "I am not Elijah" (i.e., the resurrected Old Testament prophet, Joh 1:21).

Joh 1:21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

21. Yet to those who were spiritually sensitive, John had come "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luk 1:17), and men had been directed to Christ by him.

Luk 1:17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous -- to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

22. Thus Jesus' offer of the Kingdom was a valid offer, contingent upon national acceptance, and Israel could not blame the absence of Elijah for her failure to recognize Jesus.

23. God in His foreknowledge knew tht Israel, at the first coming of Christ, would not be ready for the final ministry of Elijah, and so he sent John "in the spirit and power of Elijah" instead.

24. Conclusion and Summary:

24.1 The word transfiguration is derived from the Latin term used to translate the Greek **Metamorphoo**, "to change into another form."

24.2 The transfiguration of Christ is mentioned in all the Synoptic Gospels and also by Peter in his second letter.

Mat 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Mar 9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

Luk 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

2Pe 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2Pe 1:17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

2Pe 1:18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

24.3 Three possible locations have been suggested: the Mount of Olives, Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon.

24.4 Mount Hermon seems to some to be the most likely because of its great height (9,232 feet) and its proximity to Caesarea Philippi.

24.5 Both the Mount of Olives and Mount Tabor appear to have been too inhabited for an event that called for such privacy and quiet as the transfiguration.

24.6 Christ took His three closest disciples, Peter, James and John, with Him on this occasion.

24.7 The transfiguration occurred as He was praying (Luk 9:29).

Luk 9:29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

24.8 The disciples, who were asleep (Luk 9:32), awakened to see Christ transformed.

Luk 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

24.9 His face shone with a brightness like the sun, even as it was to shine after His ascension and glorification as revealed in the book of The Revelation, and His raiment was white as snow.

Rev 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

Rev 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

Rev 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

24.10 The glory which the Son of God possessed in His own right returned for a moment to enshroud Him.

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

24.11 The heavenly voice which spoke, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; hear Him!:" (Mat 17:5), was the same as at Jesus' baptism (Mat 3:16-17).

Mat 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

Mat 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

24.12 The voice identified Jesus not only as the Messiah but also as the Prophet of Deu 18:15-19, the One who was truly proclaiming that the Messiah must suffer death and the cross was the will of God.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Deu 18:16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

Deu 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

