

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

Elijah Has Come

Matthew 17:9-13

Jesus' Command (9)

And as they were coming down the mountain,
Jesus commanded them,
"Tell no one the vision,
until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

The Disciples' Question (10)

And the disciples asked him,
"*Then why* do the scribes say
that first Elijah must come?"

Jesus' Affirmation (11)

He answered, "Elijah does come,
and he will restore all things.

Jesus' Correction and Prophecy (12)

But I tell you that Elijah has already come,
and they did not recognize him,
but did to him whatever they pleased.
So also the Son of Man
will certainly suffer at their hands.”

The Disciples' "Understand" (13)

Then the disciples understood
that he was speaking to them
of John the Baptist.

Application/Participation

- When it comes to the *fulfillment of biblical prophecy* (i.e. promises), we must be *careful* and *humble* about the degree of our certainty.
 - Be careful of claims to a greater “literalism” and “just believing the Bible” with others.
 - Generally speaking, what is past is clearer than what is future.
 - There can be multiple fulfillments and types even in what seems some of the plainest passages.
 - The unfolding of God’s plan may be in an unexpected way.
 - The pattern of the ebb and flow of the display of God’s work in both power and weakness (Heb11).

Application/Participation

- HOWEVER...don't let that thwart our zeal in speaking of Jesus' return!
 - Focus on the essentials - especially the hope of the *ultimate restoration of all things* which was prepared for by JtB and initiated at Jesus' resurrection and fulfilled in His coming again.
 - The already/not yet dynamic in the New Covenant.
