

Pentwater Bible Church

*Gospel of Mark
Message 33*

November 16, 2014



The Transfiguration by Raphael Cir. 1516-1520

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Mark
Message Thirty-Three
JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED
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JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED BY GIOVANNI BELLINI CIR. 1490

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Mark 9:1-10

¹And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. ²And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. ³And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. ⁴And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. ⁶For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. ⁷And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. ⁸And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. ⁹And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead. ¹⁰And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean (KJV).

JESUS PREPARES THE APOSTLES FOR THE FUTURE

Mark 9:1

¹And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power (KJV).

Jesus let His disciples know that some of them would not die until they that seen a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. He had just finished explaining to them that if anybody would be ashamed of Jesus now Jesus would be ashamed of them when He returned. As a consequence they would be rejected from eternal life and Heaven. Many can battle in the armed forces or prevail in powerful debates but when it comes to confessing the name of Jesus they cower in fear and embarrassment over His name and will not stand up for Him. What laid yet future to them were the death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus as well as the formation of the Church on the first day of Pentecost. In all of these events they would see the appearance of some of the celestial beings that occupy Heaven. This would include the angels and the Holy Spirit who all reside in the Kingdom of Heaven. The only apostle who would not see it would be Judas because he would take his own life in humiliation over his betrayal of Jesus to the ruling Jewish authorities. The transfiguration which followed this statement almost a week later served as a preview of the future earthly Millennial Kingdom which will be established at Jesus Second Coming.

THE INNER CIRCLE ACCOMPANY HIM

Mark 9:2

²And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them (KJV).

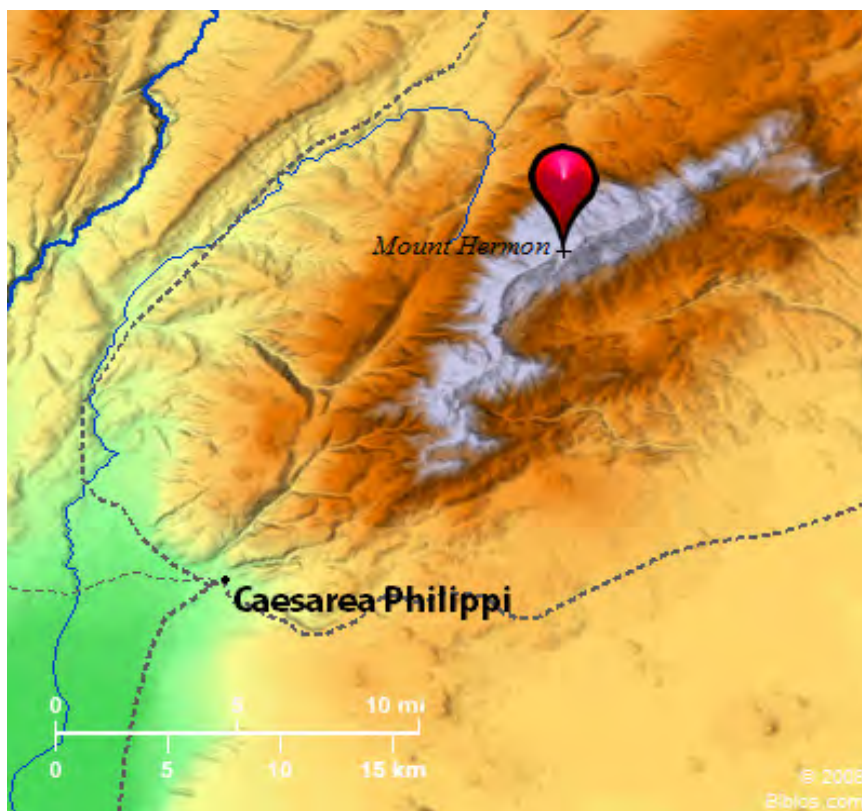
The event from which the six days is measured is the walk from Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi. It was during that long walk that He revealed His impending death and Resurrection to all His apostles. He told them they must deny themselves and live for Him up to and including their death. Now He was going to demonstrate exactly what He meant of the importance of having a Heavenly view of life. This is not all there is. The best is coming and it is essential that the believer have that outlook so as to prepare for Heaven and lessen the burden of the cares of this life here. In order to prepare them for this Jesus opens up a special prophetic view of Heaven and events that will soon come to them. Because the text says it was a high mountain it was probably Mount Hermon, which is about 9,00 feet high and closely located only twelve miles northeast of Caesarea Philippi.

Hermon marked the northern limit of Joshua's victorious campaigns (Joshua 12:1, etc.). It was part, of the dominion of Og who was the last of the evil Rephaites. They were a race of giant people who were nine to twelve feet tall (Joshua 12:5). When evil Og was defeated Mount Hermon came under Israelite control. It is remote and a very high which was attractive to pagan and evil worshippers. Eusebius' Onomasticon (a directory of place names, but which ancients had no category for), speaks of a temple on the summit much frequented by the surrounding Gentile peoples; and the remains of many temples of the Roman period have been found on the sides and at the base of the mountain. The

sacredness of Hermon may be inferred from the allusion in Psalm 89:12 and referenced in Enoch 6:6. The Enoch reference is one of pure evil when fallen angels broke into the earthy domain at Mount Hermon to begin their wickedness, which cause the Flood. It is entirely fitting that Jesus chose this location to demonstrate His Heavenly origin and deity. His death and Resurrection would bring a cleansing of the Heavenly Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:23) and the transfiguration would indicate the cleansing that the pagans as well as the fallen angels polluted at Mount Hermon.

Enoch 6:6

1 And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto 2 them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men 3 and beget us children.' And Semjaza, who was their leader, said unto them: 'I fear ye will not 4 indeed agree to do this deed, and I alone shall have to pay the penalty of a great sin.' And they all answered him and said: 'Let us all swear an oath, and all bind ourselves by mutual imprecations 5 not to abandon this plan but to do this thing.' Then swore they all together and bound themselves 6 by mutual imprecations upon it. And they were in all two hundred; who descended in the days of Jared on the summit of Mount Hermon, and they called it Mount Hermon, because they had sworn 7 and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it. And these are the names of their leaders: Samlazaz, their leader, Araklba, Rameel, Kokablel, Tamlel, Ramlel, Danel, Ezeqeel, Baraqijal, 8 Asael, Armaros, Batarel, Ananel, Zaqiel, Samsapeel, Satarel, Turel, Jomjael, Sariel. These are their chiefs of tens.



Map from BibleMapper

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Mark 9:3

³ *And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no [launderer] on earth can white them (KJV).*

The actual transformation of Jesus took place in the presence of Peter, James and John. Mark in an attempt to describe the appearance the apostles' saw says that even a professional who treated new cloth by bleaching, shrinking and cleansing could not achieve this unusual brilliance. It was so bright that Mark had no earthly example with which to make a comparison. This brilliance is what Jesus took on and gave them a foretaste of the Millennial Kingdom. He had brilliance when He was resurrected too. The Greek word used to describe the Transfiguration is *metamorphothe* from which we get metamorphosis. It is an outward change that comes from within. It was not just an outer change of appearance it came from within indication Jesus deity was not of this world and outside of it. For even though Jesus had a human body he was God in His Spirit and this is what was radiating through His body to emanate in a brilliant glow. This was a complete change. One might say Jesus was turned inside out! These were the robes of God that Daniel saw in his vision.

Daniel 7:9

⁹ *I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. ¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened (ASV 1901).*

ELIJAH AND MOSES APPEAR

Mark 9:4

⁴ *And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus (KJV).*

These two powerful Old Testament saints both represented the redeemed that have gone before us. They left Heaven and came to be with Jesus at this extraordinary event. Moses represented the redeemed that passed through death to glory and Elijah who passed through translation (Rapture) to glory. Both of these men are prophets. Moses also represented the Law or the Old Covenant and Elijah the foretelling of the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5-6). The Law and the Prophets are represented here attesting to the authority of them to tell of God's plan (Law) and His promises (Messiah and Kingdom).

Deuteronomy 34:1-7

¹ *And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And Jehovah showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, ² and all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,*

and all the land of Judah, unto the hinder sea,³ and the South, and the Plain of the valley of Jericho the city of palm-trees, unto Zoar.⁴ And Jehovah said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.⁵ So Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of Jehovah (ASV 1901).

II Kings 2:1-12

¹And it came to pass, when Jehovah would take up Elijah by a whirlwind into heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.² And Elijah said unto Elisha, I Corinthians Tarry here, I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me as far as Beth-el. And Elisha said, As Jehovah liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.³ And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that Jehovah will take away thy master from thy head to-day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.⁴ And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As Jehovah liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.⁵ And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that Jehovah will take away thy master from thy head to-day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.⁶ And Elijah said unto him, Tarry here, I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me to the Jordan. And he said, As Jehovah liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.⁷ And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood over against them afar off: and they two stood by the Jordan.⁸ And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.⁹ And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.¹⁰ And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.¹¹ And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, which parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof (ASV 1901) !

I Corinthians 15:21-24

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all [die], but we shall all be changed,⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory (KJV).

The Transfiguration clearly demonstrates that both those who die as believers and those who are translated (changed) will be in Heaven. It will occur extremely fast as the text says in the *twinkling of an eye*. Our corrupted physical bodies will immediately be given an incorruptible permanent body like our Lord Jesus had both at the Transfiguration and after the Resurrection.

PETER BECOMES AFRAID

Mark 9:5-6

⁵ And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. ⁶ For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid (KJV).

Peter clearly did not understand what was taking place because he impetuously interrupts the conversation between Jesus, Elijah and Moses demonstrating his fear and uncomfot with what he is witnessing. As Peter called Jesus rabbi (Master) he seemed to equate the three men. He did not understand the deity of Jesus and would not until after the Resurrection. This again was Satan influencing Peter's thinking. Thinking that the earthly Messianic Kingdom had arrived Peter offered to build three tents (tabernacles) for the Feast of Tabernacles which will be a major festival in the Millennial Kingdom for which even the Gentiles will be required to keep on an annual basis (Zechariah 14:16). This feast, described in Leviticus 23:42, and still celebrated by the Jews today and called Sukkot. It commemorates the forty years of wandering in the wilderness by the ancient Israelites. It reminds them how God had brought His people out of Egypt and how the people lived in tents or booths in the wilderness. The celebration occurs five days after the Day of Atonement. The two in conjunction are a reminder of humanity's total dependence upon God.

THE CLOUD DESCENDS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Mark 9:7

⁷ And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him (KJV).

In order to dispel and thoughts to the contrary God the Father in the cloud on the mountain just as He had done to Moses in the Sinai spoke to those who were there to affirm the deity of Jesus and what His relationship was to God the Father. This was also done at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11). God's voice then told Peter, James and John to listen to Jesus and not to the voices that were leading them astray. This affirmed the deity of Jesus and let Peter know that he had to listen to Jesus. The cloud not only affirmed God The Father's appearance to Moses and the Children of Israel but also will be the way Jesus would leave at the ascension (Acts 1:9-11) and return at the Second Coming (Revelation 19).

JESUS WARNS THEM

Mark 9:8-10

⁸ *And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.* ⁹ *And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.* ¹⁰ *And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean (KJV).*

Just as suddenly as Moses and Elijah had appeared from Heaven to speak with the Messiah they left. God the Father had concluded what He needed to say then Jesus was left by Himself along with the three apostles. The brief connection with the other side was concluded and Jesus had returned to our existence in time and space to complete His mission. This was merely a glimpse of what was to come. Jesus told the three that *they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.* He did this because nobody would understand these events until the Resurrection had occurred and it became more understandable exactly who Jesus was, where He came from and where He was going. It would also undermine His mission. He had everything time perfectly including His death. The three had much more to learn regarding the significance of Jesus' death and Resurrection and its importance to this world. Apostle Paul reminds us of the perfect timing God pinpointed in all human history to send the Messiah (Galatians 4:4).

They did keep all these things to themselves. They didn't understand what Jesus meant by rising from the dead. They were aware of people coming back from the dead. Abraham, ready to do God's command and sacrifice his son, expected Isaac to be raised from the dead (Hebrews 11:19), and Elijah raised a widow's son from death (2 Kings. 4:32-37). So the concept was not foreign to the Jews. The difficulty the disciples had was that realizing now that Jesus was God how could He die and come back to life? The necessity of Jesus suffering, dying and coming back to life was just outside of their capacity to assimilate.

NEXT WEEK: MARK: THE COMING OF ELIJAH

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

E-mail info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Toll Free 877-706-2479