

## Are you ready for a treat from the Word of God?



The '**Mount of Transfiguration**' event is a picture of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

**Matthew 16:28-17:8:** *"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. 17:1: And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, <sup>2</sup>And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. <sup>3</sup>And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. <sup>5</sup>While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. <sup>6</sup>And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. <sup>7</sup>And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. <sup>8</sup>And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only."*

If you have studied the Scriptures for any length of time, then you have probably noticed that the Bible is full of "patterns", "types" and "shadows". One such example is the frequency of the number "**seven**". "**Seven**" is God's favorite number in the Bible. It is the "Covenant" number of the entire Bible. I believe the Matthew 17 passage is another such example.

There are three ways of interpreting Scripture: Literally, Figuratively, and Prophetically. The Jewish rabbis have four levels: 'Pesat, Resh, Drosh, and Sode'. Most people never reach the point of discovering the "Diamonds and Nuggets" in reading God's Word. Similarly today

when eating at a good restaurant most of us skip the dessert portion of a full-course meal. Few readers of the Bible ever get to the dessert portion of the Bible.

Few pastors understand or teach there are three ways of interpreting Scripture: Literally, Figuratively and Prophetically, and, even though all three do not always apply, applying all three can often show us more of what God has revealed and is saying to us.

I believe the 'Transfiguration' event is a 'word-picture' of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and who will be taken. Let's examine the passage in-depth but first a short lesson in 'Typology'. Regretfully, you will not learn this at church.

'Typology' is God's way of bringing the Bible alive to readers. God's favorite number "seven" is the "**Key**" that unlocks the Bible's riddles. As an example of 'Typology', the reader is presented with both a "Type" and an "Anti-Type". Here are a couple examples of this word-picture concept: In Genesis, Joseph is a 'type' of Jesus Christ just over 100 times. Likewise, Moses is a 'type' of Jesus Christ over 50 times in your Bible. When something is built, the first one or two off the assembly line is considered a "prototype", be it a new airplane, automobile, clothing apparel, or a kitchen device. All subsequent production copies are considered "Anti-Types".

## **40 means judgement in the Bible**

Of all the “types” and “shadows” of the Old Testament, none is as pervasive and important as the shadows revealed in the relationship between "forty," and the fulfillment of promises.

- The rains (in Noah's day) fell for 40 days and nights -(Genesis 7:4)
- Israel ate Manna for 40 years -(Exodus 16:35)
- Moses was with God in the mount, 40 days and nights -(Exodus 24:18)
- Moses was again with God 40 days and 40 nights -(Exodus 34:28)
- Moses led Israel from Egypt at age 80 (2 times 40), and after 40 years in the wilderness, died at 120 (3 times 40; Deuteronomy 34:7)
- The spies searched the land of Canaan for 40 days -(Numbers 13:25)
- Therefore, God made Israel wander for 40 years -(Numbers 14:33-34)
- 40 stripes was the maximum whipping penalty -(Deuteronomy 25:3)
- God allowed the land to rest for 40 years -(Judges 3:11)
- God again allowed the land to rest for 40 years -(Judges 5:31)
- God again allowed the land to rest for 40 years -(Judges 8:28)
- Abdon (a judge in Israel) had 40 sons -(Judges 12:14)
- Israel did evil; God gave them to an enemy for 40 years -(Judges 13:1)
- Eli judged Israel for 40 years -(1 Samuel 4:18)
- Goliath presented himself to Israel for 40 days -(1 Samuel 17:16)
- Saul reigned for 40 years -(Acts 13:21)

- Ishbosheth (Saul's son) was 40 when he began to reign -(2 Samuel 2:10)
- David reigned over Israel for 40 years -(2 Samuel 5:4, 1 Kings 2:11)
- The holy place of the temple was 40 cubits long -(1 Kings 6:17)
- 40 baths (measurement) was size of lavers in Temple -(1 Kings 7:38)
- The sockets of silver are in groups of 40 -(Exodus 26:19 & 21)
- Solomon reigned the same length as his father; 40 years -(1 Kings 11:42)
- Elijah had one meal that gave him strength for 40 days -(1 Kings 19:8)
- Ezekiel bore the iniquity of the house of Judah for 40 days -(Ezekiel 4:6)
- Jehoash (Joash) reigned 40 years in Jerusalem -(2 Kings 12:1)
- Egypt to be laid desolate for 40 years -(Ezekiel 29:11-12)
- Ezekiel's (symbolic) temple is 40 cubits long -(Ezekiel 41:2)
- The courts in Ezekiel's temple were 40 cubits long -(Ezra 46:22)
- God gave Nineveh 40 days to repent -(Jonah 3:4)
- Jesus fasted 40 days and nights -(Matthew 4:2)
- Jesus was tempted 40 days -(Luke 4:2, Mark 1:13)
- Jesus remained on earth 40 days after His resurrection -(Acts 1:3)
- Women are pregnant for 40 weeks -(time of testing).

The above passage (Matthew 16:28-17:6) begins with Jesus telling His followers that there would be some who would ***"not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."*** History tells us that most of the apostles died a martyr's death, and there is no record of anyone being translated (raptured) like Enoch either. So I think we can safely assume that the Mount of Transfiguration was this glimpse of the coming kingdom that Christ was referring to.

Now this is pretty deep, but we are looking at 'types' and 'figures' so I think that's ok. Notice that it says ***"after six days"*** that Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to the mountain. I don't believe this is by accident from the wording here in the Greek text of the New Testament. In 2nd Peter chapter 3 and Psalm 90 we read that a day with the Lord is as ***"a thousand years"***. Hosea 6:2 also further strengthens this theory.

Hosea 6:2: ***"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."***

Now we know that this is not two literal 24-hour days, because the Jewish people (as a whole) are not in a covenant relationship with the Messiah (Jesus Christ) at this present time. Also, we (the church) have not been raised up to ***"live in His sight"***. There have been nearly 6 days (or 6,000 years) of human history recorded, and interestingly enough there have been 2 days (roughly 2,000 years) for the church age. With this thought in mind, the passage in Matthew comes alive.

Literally, after 6 thousand years, Peter, James, and John (a picture of the remnant overcoming church) is taken up to the mountain to be with the LORD. These 3 are always present when Jesus was doing His greatest works on earth, and they are a picture of the Godly remnant who walk close with the LORD. Were they without faults? Of course not. But they are a picture of the overcomer. None of us are without fault, but we are always to be striving for the mark and trying to walk as closely as we can to Jesus.

Note then that Christ was **"transfigured"** before them. There is no doubt that it describes the symbolic aspect of our "change" that is coming.

The apostle Paul writes in First Corinthians 15:51-52: ***"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>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."***

Philippians 3:20-21: ***"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>21</sup>Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."***

1st John 3:2: ***"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."***

Then there is this significant pair that appears from out of nowhere in the presence of Jesus and the three disciples - Moses and Elijah.

I think it's very interesting that these two Old Testament men are found on the "Mount of Transfiguration". Moses represents the "dead in Christ", those who have gone on to be with the LORD, and Elijah represents the raptured saints who will not die, but will be changed and caught up to meet the LORD in the air at the Rapture.

1st Thessalonians 4:15-17 reads: ***"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."***

So with Moses and Elijah, we have both groups represented with Christ in the resurrection. But what about the other 9 disciples or apostles you ask? Well, it's interesting that you would mention them. I believe the nine represent those believers who are left behind. I know this might sound shocking. But let's read a little further in the chapter and see how the LORD refers to the group that didn't go up on the mount of transfiguration.

Matthew 17:14-20: ***"And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, <sup>15</sup>Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. <sup>16</sup>And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. <sup>19</sup>Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? <sup>20</sup>And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."***

Notice that this group is admonished as being a "faithless" generation and rebuked for their unbelief. The Scriptures state that ***"the just shall live by faith"***. The Christian's life is a lifestyle of faith, and not just sporadic moments of faith. Remember Enoch? He was raptured (or translated, if you prefer that terminology), and his faith was mentioned as a catalyst. Take a look:

Hebrews 11:5-6: ***"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. <sup>6</sup>But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."***

I know this message isn't popular, but God never called us to win a popularity contest. We must speak the truth in love. Let us walk as closely to the LORD as we can that we may be accounted worthy to escape the terrible tribulation period that is just over the horizon. The third US Navy aircraft carrier (USS Nimitz) is a few days from meeting up with (USS Reagan and USS Vinson) arriving in the Sea of Japan and Korea. The experts in these geo-political matters agree that war is imminent!

Luke 21:36: ***"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."***

Most people read the "Transfiguration" event narrative beginning with Matthew 17:1, totally unaware and oblivious to the fact that the "Transfiguration" is the actual event spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 16:28, the last verse of chapter 16 is but one verse earlier to 17:1. Chances are you missed it when I noted it first at the top of this message.

I have only begun to share some of the "Typology" of the "Transfiguration" event narrative. There is so much more I could share with you but as we at the 100 Day Mark approaching September 22/23rd do not be like those scoffers the apostle Peter referred to in 2nd Peter 3:4 or like the five unprepared virgins of Matthew 25. The Bible contains between 250 and 300 examples of "Typology" pointing to the theme of "Deliverance before Judgment".

A free copy of my E-book "*The Season of the Rapture: God's Three-Fold Witness*" and the second half on the Biblical '*Harpazo*', which contains the 'Typology' of the '*Feast Days of the Lord*' and the '*Theme of the Bride*', can be yours or sent to a loved one upon request.

**It is truly free indeed!**

The "Transfiguration" is one of the clearest examples of Biblical types of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture in the Bible. The Apostle Peter, who was one of the three present when this event took place, later relates this experience to what the Second Coming of the Lord will be like. "*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*" -(1 Peter 2:16). The transfiguration narrative is directly linked to the Second Coming of Christ in great majesty. Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah and talked with them. Both Moses and Elijah shone with the same brightness and splendor as the Lord Jesus did. This event teaches us about the Rapture and the Resurrection of the Church. In fact as we have already said the Rapture and the Resurrection are the same event but separated by "Seven" years of Tribulation for the Jewish nation and the non-Christian world. Moses represents those believers who have died physically in Christ while Elijah represents those believers who are still alive in Christ when He comes again. Both those who have died and those who are alive receive their resurrected bodies at the same time.

**Today marks the 100 day point until September 22/23!**

I learned days ago that NASA has blocked out the Constellation Virgo for viewers using their site. Virgo plays a major role in the "*Mazzaroth*" message.

The Bible makes it clear in Revelation 20 that after the Rapture, following the "Seven" Year Tribulation known as Daniel's 70th Week, we return to live and reign with Christ Jesus for 1,000 years.

***Maranatha!***

Pastor Bob

[EvanTeachr@aol.com](mailto:EvanTeachr@aol.com)