

Matthew 17

Read Matthew 17:1-8:

Jesus told his disciples that some present would see Jesus coming in his kingdom before they died. This chapter fulfills that same prophecy for Peter; James and John; on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus appeared in a similar way to how he will appear in heaven. Note the light. Note the location on a mountain.

“Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”
(Matthew 16:28)

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. (Ezekiel 43:2)

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Daniel 10:5-6)

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

Moses and Elijah are in heaven with Jesus. Moses represents the Law; and Elijah represents the prophets. Jesus is the fulfilment of all prophecy and the perfectly fulfilled letter of the Law. In heaven we will be able to talk to God and each other. We will have some recollection of those who we know and knew. We will be able to reconnect.

Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. (Genesis 25:8)

And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:22-23)

God warns the disciples to not glorify the saints. Don't build a temple to Elijah and Moses. Focus on Jesus. The Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church are way out of alignment here. The saints are not our buddies who can do us a favor; or get us in heaven's back door. The only one we have to deal with is Jesus.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)

Read Matthew 17:9-13: Elijah stepped into the scene originally during a very dark time.

Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in

Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. (1 Kings 16:30-33)

It is like Noah preaching hard to keep the world from falling into imminent judgement.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,

And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5-6)

Read Matthew 17:14-21: The root word is lunatic, not epileptic. These people knew nothing of epilepsy. This man had a son who was out of control, all over the place; and he repeatedly hurt himself. The boy was demon-possessed as it turned out. What are the characteristics of those who are demon possessed?

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.
(Matthew 8:28)

And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. (Luke 8:27)

For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. (Luke 8:29b)