

				•	
Jesus and the Kingdom of God Matthew 16-28					
	1. Mar 5	Who is Jesus?	16:13-28	Caesarea Philippi	
27	2. Mar 12	Is Jesus Fully God?	17:1-13	Transfiguration	
	3. Mar 19	What Is Required?	19:16-26	Rich Young Ruler	
	4. Mar 26	More than a Prophet	21:1-11	Triumphant Entry	. 10
	5. Apr 2	If I Reject Jesus?	21:33-45	Wicked Tenants	parable ble
	6. Apr 9	Offered to All?	22:1-14	Wedding Banquet	Parable Parable
	7. Apr 16	Where Is Jesus?	28:1-15	Resurrection	Happy Easter
	8. Apr 23	What About the Future?	24:36-5	51 Thief in Night	Parable
	9. Apr 30	How Do We Remember	? 26:36-4	16 Last Supper	
	10. May 7	Do I Have the Strength?	26:36-4	16 Gethsemane	
<u></u>	11. May 14	Loyal?	26-63-75	Peter's Denial	C
	12. May 21	Crucified	27:41-52	Crucifixion	
	13. May 28	What Do We Do Now?	28:16-20	Great Commissio	n 🤾

Lesson Author's Theme

As the Son, Jesus reveals God's glory to humanity

Matthew

17:1-6 Presence – Transfiguration

17:7-9 Purpose – Jesus Touched Them ... Don't Fear!

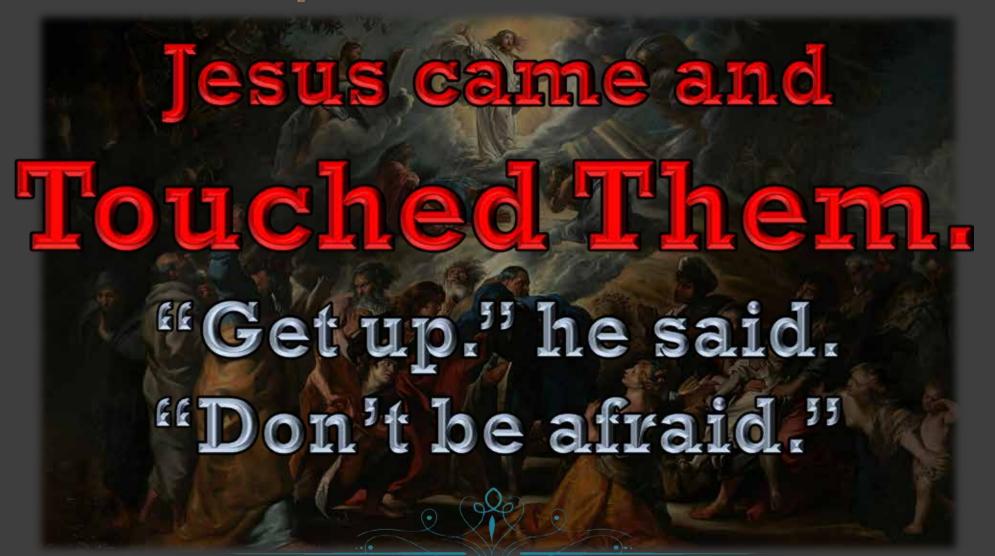
17:10-13 Perspective – Elijah and John the Baptist



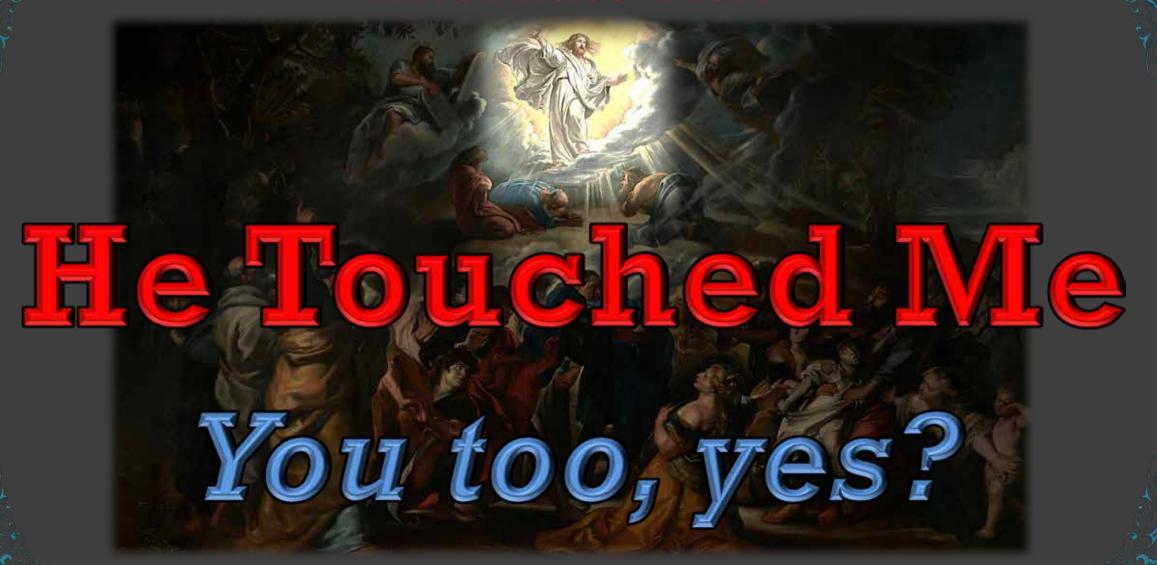




Key Verse Matthew 17:7



Alternate Title



Transfiguration, 1640, by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

one of the greatest Late Renaissance artists

One expert listed 1,403 pieces by Rubens' hand

Rubens was knighted by *both*

King Philip IV, Spain King Charles I, England

Maybe that makes him ...

Sir, Sir Rubens?

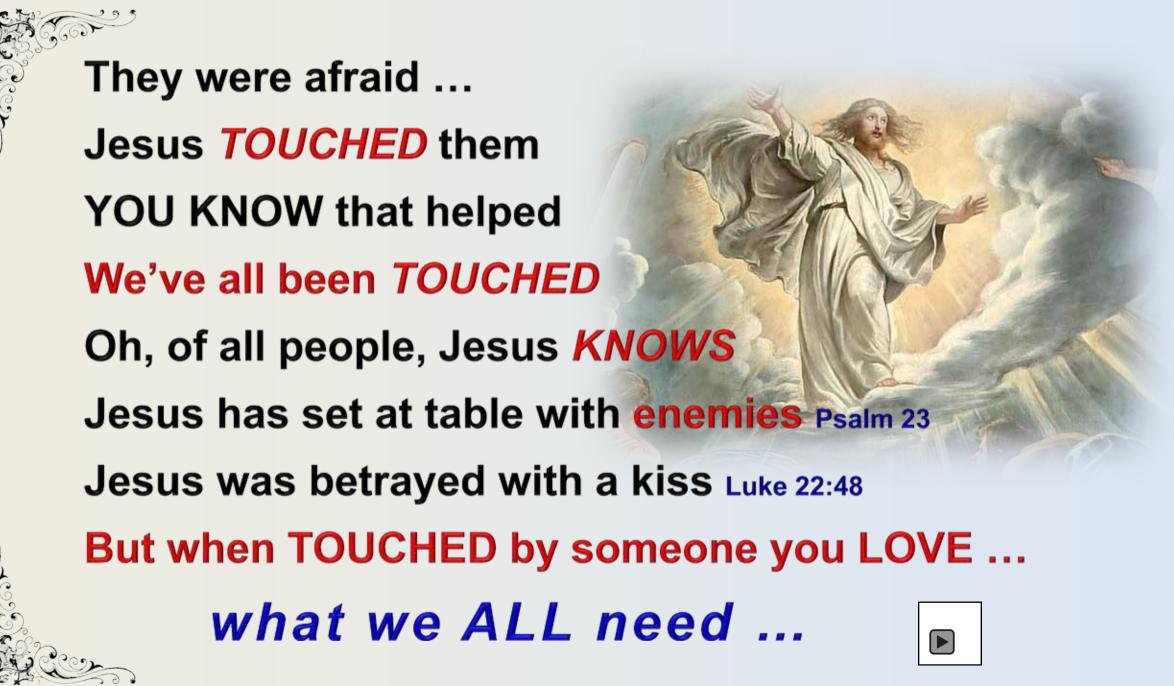


What a Masterpiece!





Transfiguration, 1640, by Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), a close up



After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

From Caesarea Philippi, Jesus's Inner Circle heads to a high mountain

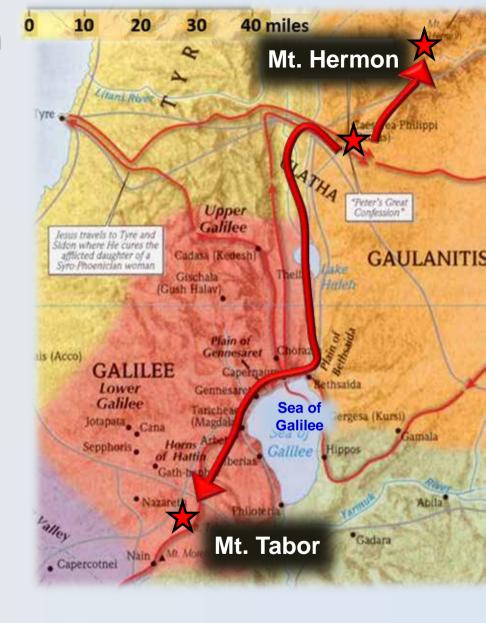
Which "high mountain" ... hmmm?

Tradition has it as Mt. Tabor, 1,886 feet

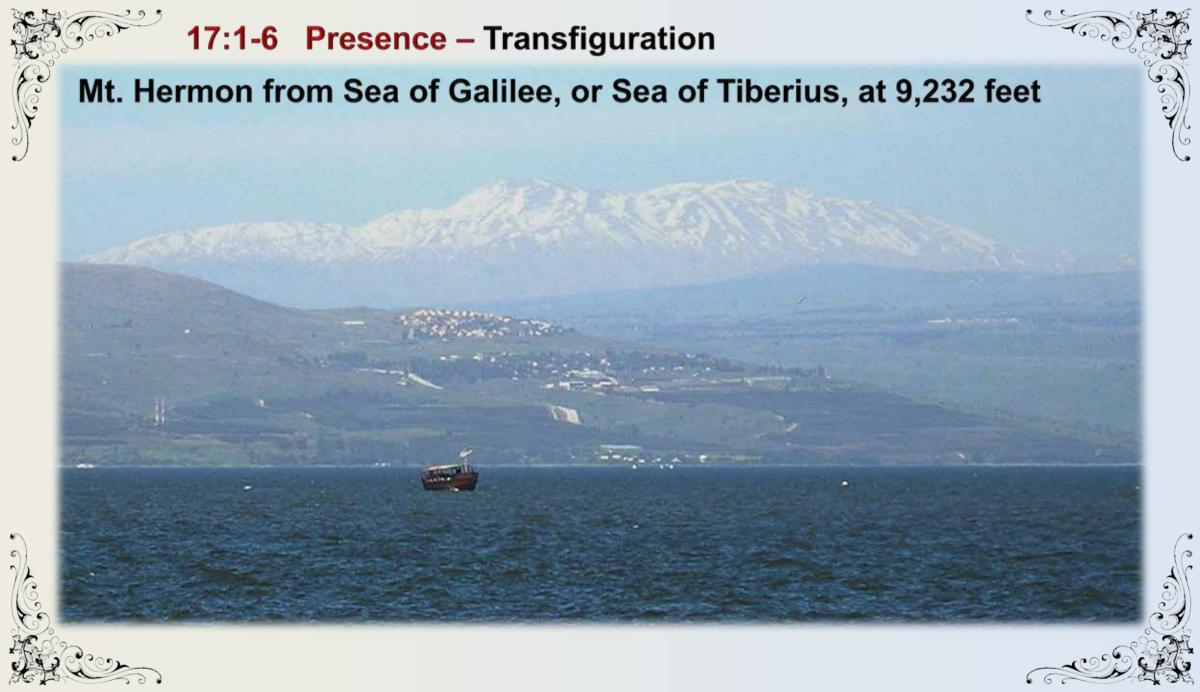
Yet, "HIGH" at 9,232 feet is Mt. Hermon

Did they HIKE up, up rugged Mt. Hermon?

Or did they travel to Mt. Tabor, some 80+ miles and several days?



There are cases, or guesses of about 4 other "mountains"



Mt. Tabor was setting for 1-29-16, Judges 4:1-6, Deborah summoned Barak from Kadesh (1-22-17):

"Hasn't the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you: 'Go, deploy the troops on Mount Tabor, and take with you 10,000 men....'?"

Of course, Deborah went WITH Barak ... and he won

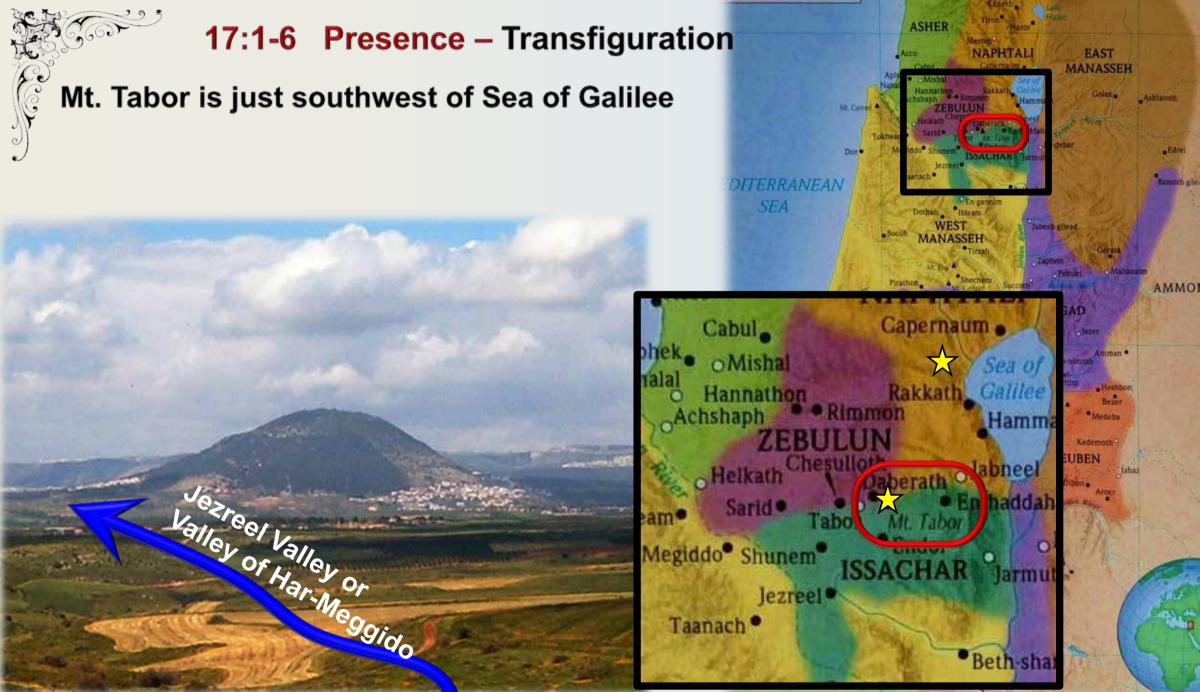
General Sisera RAN to the tent of the sweet Jael

she gave General Sisera a real hammering



Jael and Sisera, c. 1739, by Jacopo Amigoni (1682–1752) Museo del Settecento Veneziano, Ca' Rezzonico, Venice

Deborah and Barak, c. 1690, Luca Giordano



Mt. Tabor, eastern edge of Valley of Jezreel, or Har-Meggido

If you look close ... at Mt. Tabor
I think you can see a church
Back then ... EVERYONE knew
where Mt. Tabor was
Lot of "Country Folk"

For those with NO automobiles ... that's a "high" mountain

Mt. Tabor by Catherine Tobin, 1855

Je zree/ Valley Or Har-Meggido

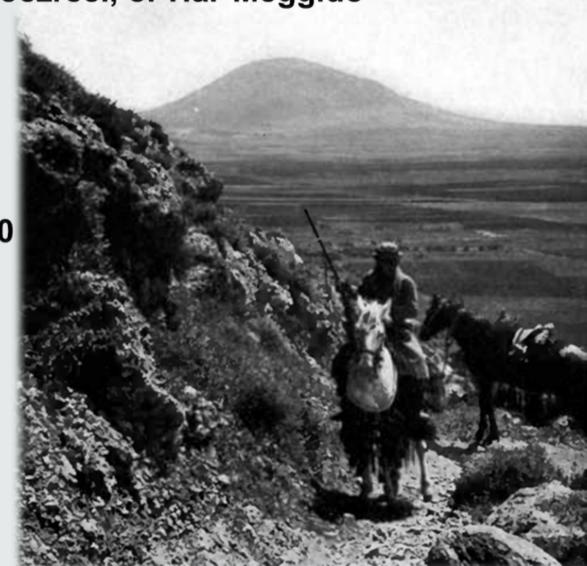
1912 Mt. Tabor, viewed from Mt. Carmel in northwest corner of eastern edge of Valley of Jezreel, or Har-Meggido

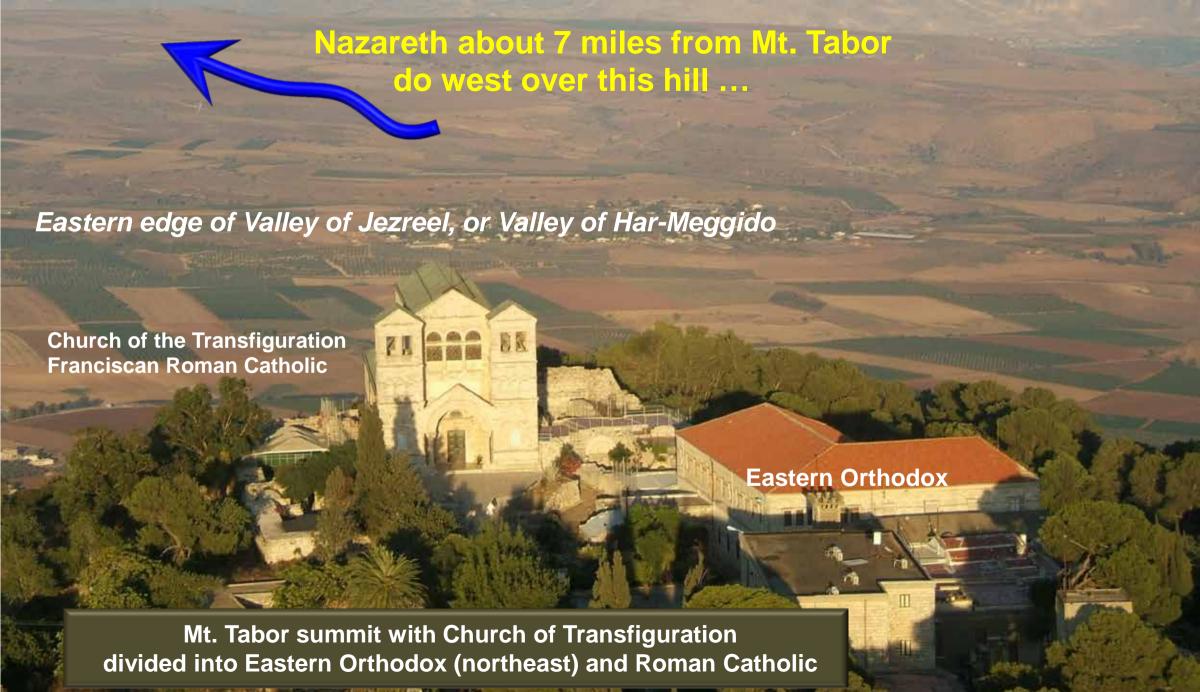
By 12th century, Mt. Tabor was believed the Mt. of Transfiguration

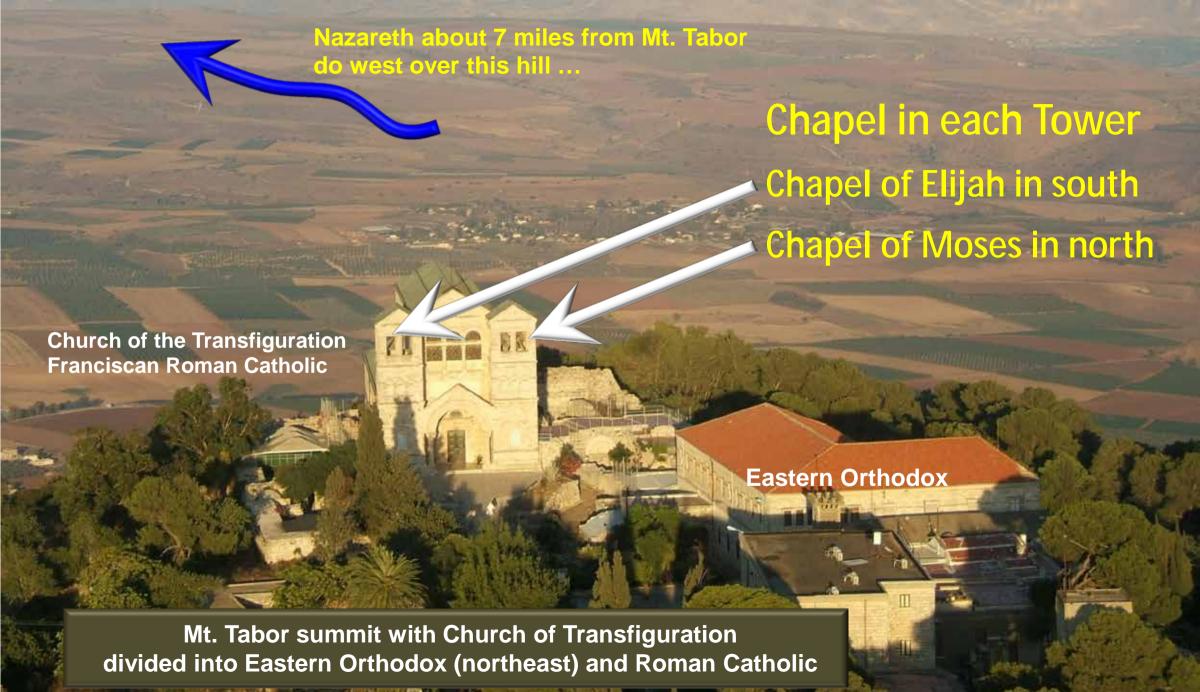
Top is almost 1,886 feet above the Valle of Jezreel or Har-Meggido

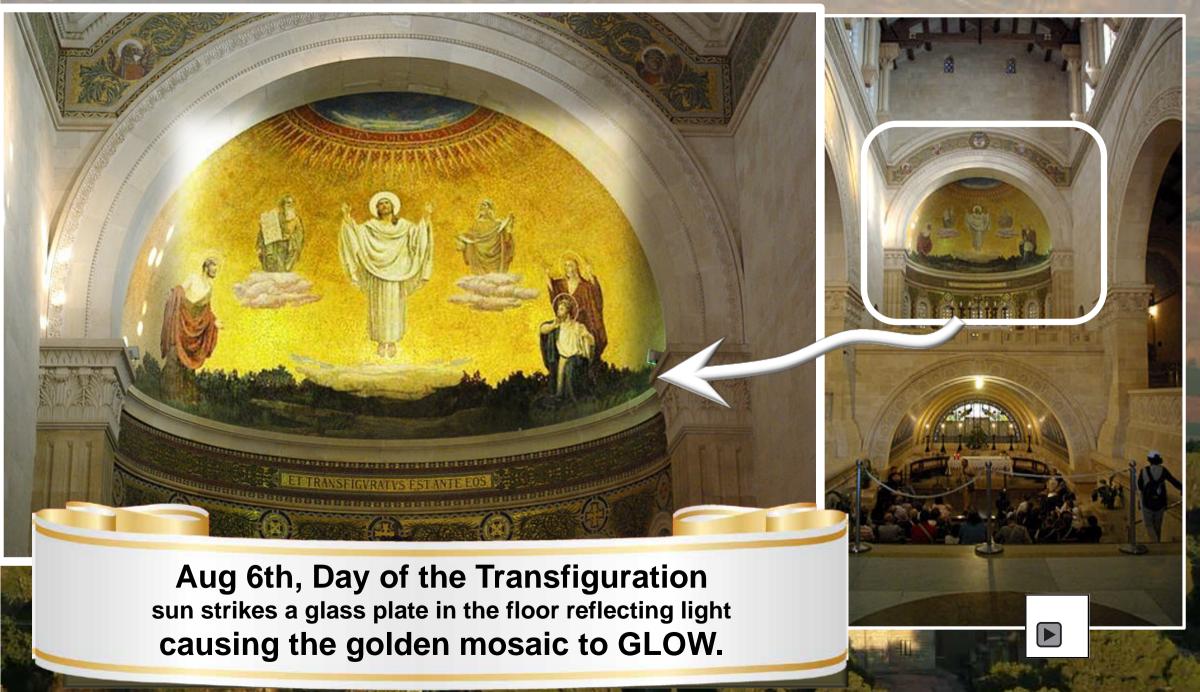
During 2nd Temple 516 B.C. - A.D. 70 a light beacon on top notified northern tribes of feast days and new months ...

Today, you can drive to the top









At the start ... the beginning ...

We MUST ask ...

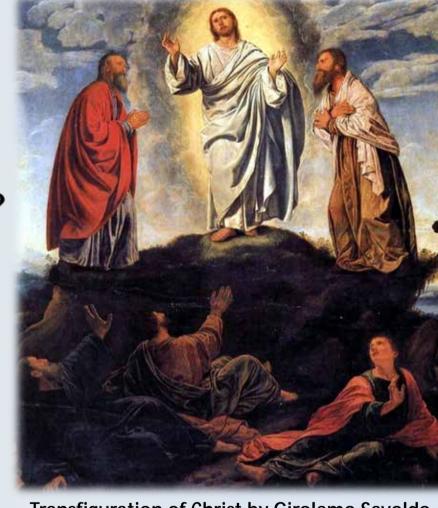
What is the PURPOSE of the Transfiguration?

Why? - Purpose?

Passage itself does NOT say WHY.

The ONLY reason given is by Peter in

2 Peter 1:17: JESUS received HONOR and GLORY from God the Father when the voice came to him from the MAJESTIC GLORY.



Transfiguration of Christ by Girolamo Savoldo also Girolamo da Brescia (c. 1480-1548)

It was for JESUS ... real HONOR to Jesus

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

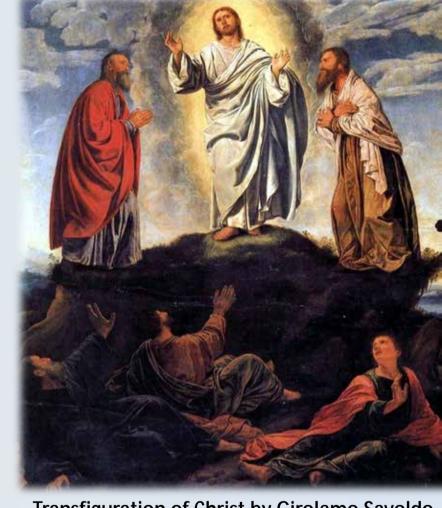
Inner Circle head to a high mountain

Three?—Why THREE?

At least, Jewish law, Deut. 17:6, demanded 2-3 witnesses for executions

Why THESE THREE? ... Only God knows

But I suspect because of the HONESTY of Peter, James & John, the latter "Sons of Thunder"



Transfiguration of Christ by Girolamo Savoldo also Girolamo da Brescia (c. 1480-1548)

These three seemed the BOLDEST in honesty!

Of course, that is just a guess of mine

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

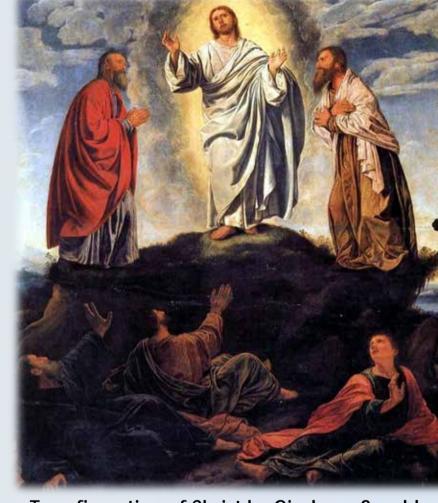
These three are with Jesus when

- ✓ Jesus raised Jairus' daughter
- ✓ Jesus' Transfiguration
- ✓ Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane

James & John, the Sons of Thunder

They did ask about seats on His left & right

We think it snobbish ... it WAS snobbish



Transfiguration of Christ by Girolamo Savoldo also Girolamo da Brescia (c. 1480-1548)

But the Sons of Thunder were HONEST ... perhaps, just asking first

Jesus, as HONESTLY, set straight to them, appearing unmoved

LATER, Acts 12:2, Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great

Herod kills James and also arrests Peter

Herod puts Peter in prison and PLANS to KILL Peter, too ...

But an Angel comes and delivers Peter

Herod Agrippa had FOUR squads of soldiers guarding Peter

Peter slept with a soldier on each side

CHURCH Prayed fervently ...

Angel comes and escorts Peter



Liberation of St. Peter, c. 1620 by Giovanni Lanfranco

30+ years later, about A.D. 64, Peter writes of Transfiguration in 2 Peter 1:16-18

Interprets Transfiguration in 2 Pet. 1:16-18:

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were *EYEWITNESSES* of his majesty.

17 He received *HONOR* and *GLORY* from God the Father when the voice came to him ...



Peter with Keys, c. 1616-18 by Peter Paul Rubens

INTEPRETATION PLEASE:

¹⁷ JESUS 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."

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

MAJESTIC GLORY MAGNIFICENCE



Transfiguration ... in three Gospels

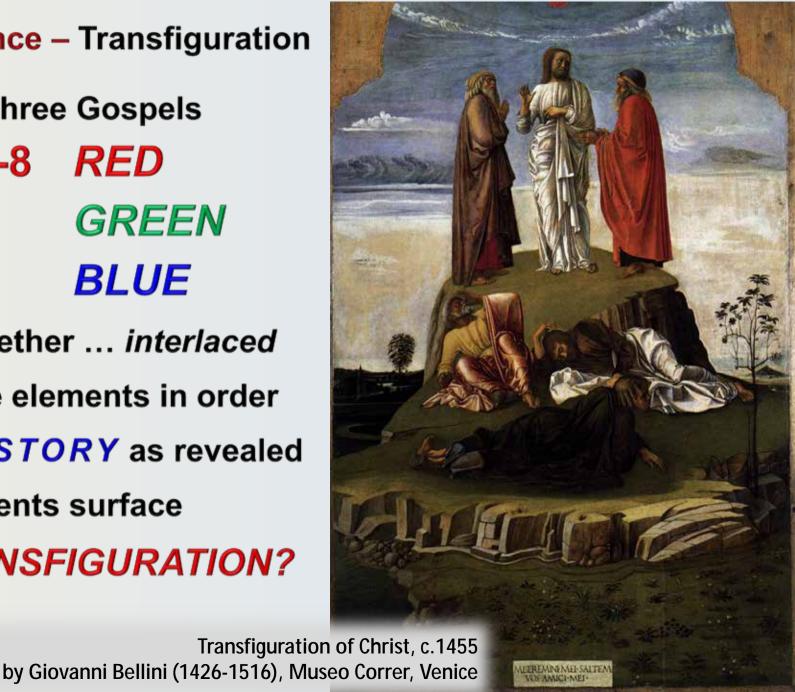
Matthew 17:2-8 RED

Mark 9:2-8 GREEN

BLUE Luke 9:28-36

If we look at them together ... interlaced That is with all unique elements in order We get the WHOLE STORY as revealed Some intriguing elements surface

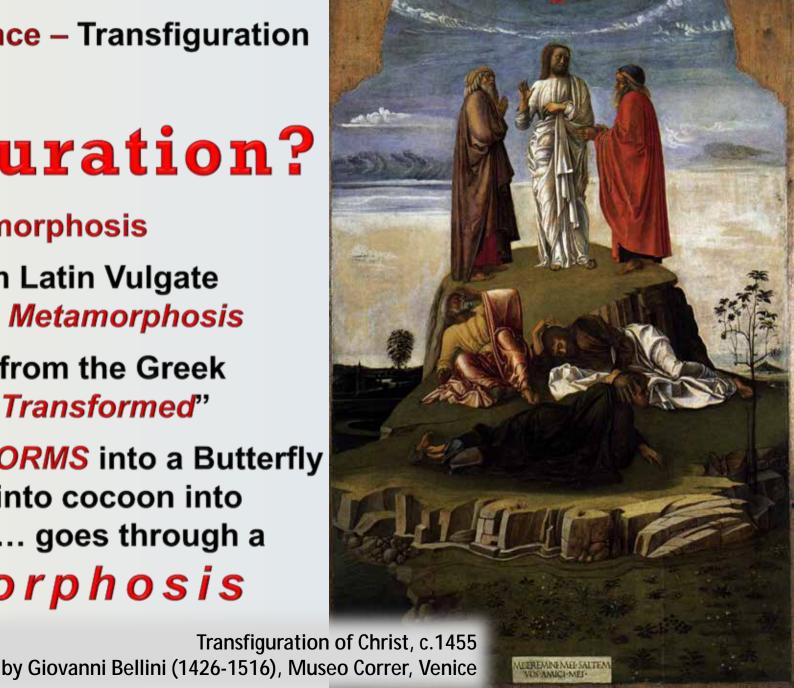
but FIRST ... TRANSFIGURATION?



What means

Transfiguration?

- ✓ Greek is from Metamorphosis
- ✓ Transfiguration from Latin Vulgate translation of Greek *Metamorphosis*
- ✓ Straight translation from the Greek into English is "Transformed"
- ✓ Caterpillar TRANSFORMS into a Butterfly i.e., the caterpillar into cocoon into Glorious Butterfly ... goes through a metamorphosis



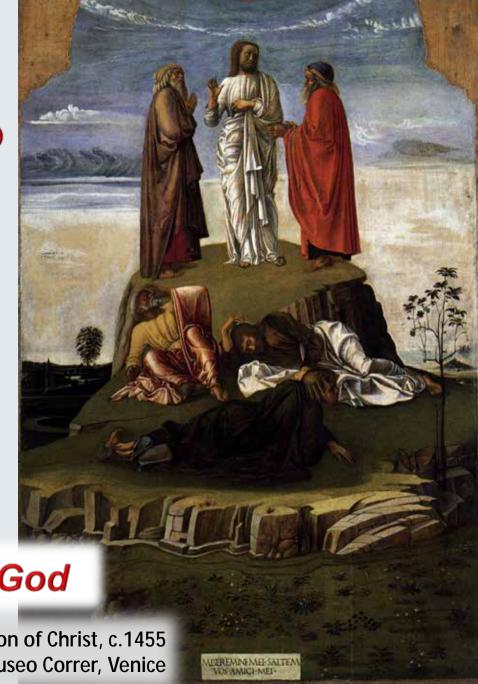
What means

Transfiguration?

- ✓ Metamorphosis == Transformed
- ✓ Face & Clothes LIT UP like the SUN
- ✓ SAME word as used in 2 Cor. 3:18:

All ... are being *TRANSFORMED* into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- ✓ NOT a VISION ... NOT a DREAM ...
- ✓ This was being In the PRESENCE of God



Transfiguration of Christ, c.1455 by Giovanni Bellini (1426-1516), Museo Correr, Venice

What means

Transfiguration?

- ✓ In Ex. 34:29-30, Moses' face glowed bright by being in the Presence of God
- ✓ John, "in the spirit on" on Sunday in Rev. 1:16 saw Jesus, too: His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.
- √ 1 John 1:15: Message we have heard from him and declare to you:

GOD IS LIGHT:

in him there is no darkness at all.



17:1-6 Presence – Transfiguration What means

Transfiguration?

- ✓ With WHO—Moses and Elijah
- ✓ Moses, author of the Torah, the LAW
- ✓ Elijah, the Prophet of Prophets
- ✓ Christ conferring with them on what?

 His upcoming road to the CROSS
- ✓ Moses & Elijah KNEW who Christ was too
- ✓ Christ, the fulfillment of both the

Law and the Prophets

Transfiguration of Christ, c.1455 by Giovanni Bellini (1426-1516), Museo Correr, Venice

Transfiguration ... in three Gospels

RED **Matthew 17:2-8**

Mark 9:2-8 GREEN

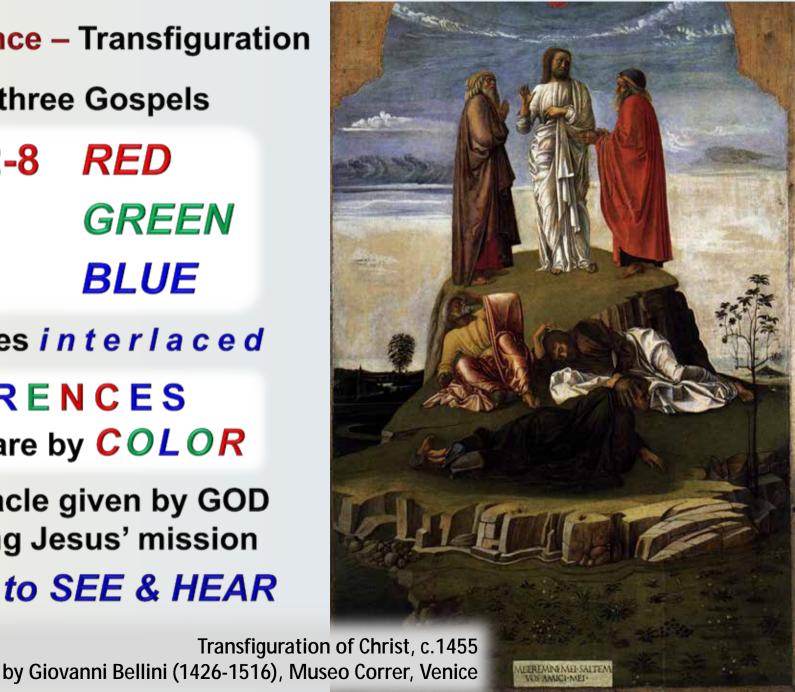
Luke 9:28-36 **BLUE**

Let's look at the verses interlaced

ALL of the DIFFERENCES from Matthew are by COLOR

A MAGNIFICENT Miracle given by GOD to Jesus ... confirming Jesus' mission

We—permitted to SEE & HEAR



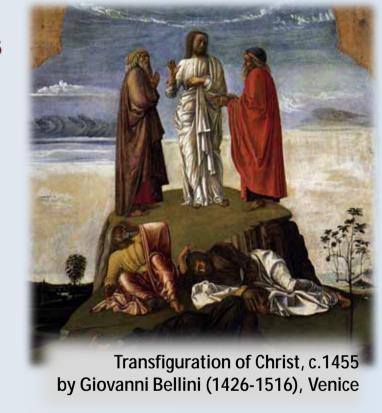
Transfiguration: Matthew 17:2-8 – Mark 9:2-8 – Luke 9:28-36

¹ After SIX days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up on a HIGH MOUNTAIN by themselves. ²⁸ About EIGHT days after ... went up onto A MOUNTAIN to pray.

^{2 & 9} There he was TRANSFIGURED before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

²⁹ As he was PRAYING, the appearance of his FACE CHANGED, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them

KJV, white as snow, so as no fuller on earth can white them.



Luke: 8 days in Luke, could

include travel time

Luke: A Mountain

Luke: PRAYING face changed

Transfiguration: Matthew 17:2-8 - Mark 9:2-8 - Luke 9:28-36

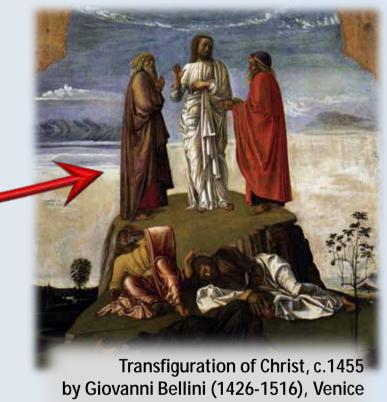
³ There appeared before them Moses and Elijah in glorious splendor, ³ talking with Jesus.

31 They SPOKE about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

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. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus,

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."

^{6 & 33} (Peter did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)



Luke: WHAT
Moses & Elijah
talked about!!!

Transfiguration: Matthew 17:2-8 – Mark 9:2-8 – Luke 9:28-36

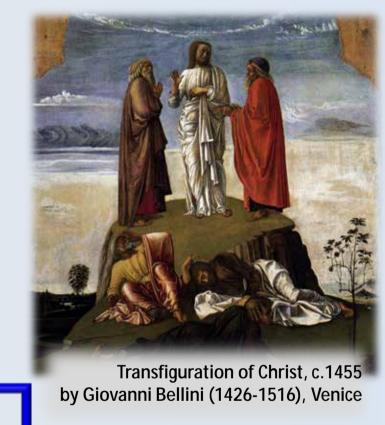
⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, ³⁴ and they were afraid as they ENTERED THE CLOUD, and a voice from the cloud said,

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

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

For Peter, James & John—the most CRITICAL statement is GOD speaking to THEM

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"



Luke: entered the Cloud

Transfiguration: Matthew 17:2-8 - Mark 9:2-8 - Luke 9:28-36

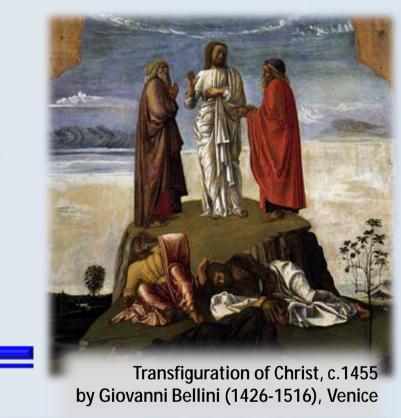
⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

⁷ But Jesus came and *TOUCHED* them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

³⁶ The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

For us in the 21st century, this passage ranks ALMOST as INFORMATIVE as the Resurrection itself ...

Yet, for us, it's NOT that important we COULD do CHURCH without it





Jesus had performed miracles for others

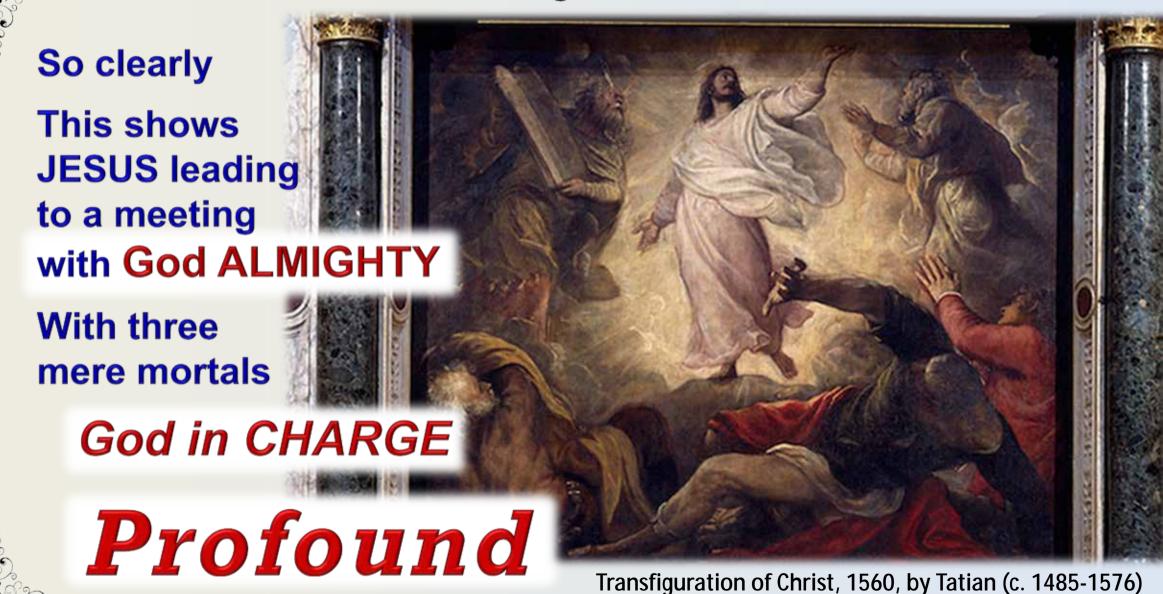
Here, GOD does a one for Jesus

Spiritual

Yet REAL



Transfiguration of Christ, 1560, by Tatian (c. 1485-1576) in Church of San Salvador, Venice



in Church of San Salvador, Venice

For us in the 21st century ...

After 2,000 years of "church"

Esp. AFTER last 200 years innovation, industrializ

We can FLY

Discovery of USE of OIL

Advent of *ELECTRICITY*

Inventions of the TELEPHONE and TELEVISION

Invention of the COMPUTER

Miracles in MEDICINE



For us in the 21st century ...

THESE very things

Science itself

David Copperfield Magic Tricks

Cinema SPECTACULAR shows

Nuclear GRANDEUR

DISTRACT us from the

TRANSFIGURATION

Peter, James & John saw it BEST



For us in the 21st century ...

Passage tells us a BOAT load on

- ✓ World itself
- Nature of Death
 - Nature of Life
 - Nature of GOD in the world
 - Life AFTER Death

And more BEFORE the RESURRECTION!





Transfiguration of Christ, 1560 by Tatian (c. 1485-1576) in Church of San Salvador, Venice

For us in the 21st century ...

ALSO tells us a BOAT load on

- ✓ On the Disciples
- ✓ Esp. the INNER CIRCLE

Furthermore:

- ✓ Why Peter?
- ✓ Why James & John, the Sons of Thunder?
- ✓ WHY only these THREE

And more BEFORE the RESURRECTION!





Transfiguration of Christ, 1560 by Tatian (c. 1485-1576) in Church of San Salvador, Venice

17:7-9 Purpose – Jesus Touched Them ... Don't Fear!

⁷ Then Jesus came up, *TOUCHED* them, and said, "Get up; don't be afraid."

8 When they looked up they saw no one except Him, Jesus, alone.

Oh, how comforting is a TOUCH
HUG

By someone who LOVES you

Esp. by one who can calm seas



our HUMAN nature NEEDS touch

Transfiguration of Christ, 1560 by Tatian (c. 1485-1576) in Church of San Salvador, Venice ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Don't TELL anyone!

Are you KIDING?

I catch the biggest fish, and I'm NOT supposed to tell my buddy!

I have the most STUPENDOUS experience—GOD talked to ME!

and DON'T TELL!



17:10-13 Perspective – Elijah and John the Baptist

10 So the disciples questioned Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

11 "Elijah is coming and will restore everything," He replied.

12 "But I tell you: Elijah has already come, and they didn't recognize him. On the contrary, they did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."

13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them about John the Baptist.

So, the "spirit" of Elijah CAME in John the Baptist?



Transfiguración by II Domingo de Cuare ma

Clearly, the prophecy is fulfilled

Yet ... HOW? ... LOOK!

Then ... LOOK ... there's Elijah!

Oh ... what?
What means this?
For us today?
In 21st Century?

There is an eternal spiritual meaning

Shows us who is REALLY in control

Subtle ... yet, surely UNFORGETABLE





This means that **BEFORE** the resurrection ...

In HEAVEN ...

Wherever is God's Abode

The dead LIVE ...

Those who are "In Christ" in the Old Testament ...

God can call forth to earth

King David said of his son 2 Sam. 12:23



Transfiguration of Christ, 1747 by Francesco Zuccarelli (1702-88)

But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

BEFORE the resurrection They SEE Moses & Elijah resurrected before their eyes! Better yet ... as it is heaven When God's GLORY shines WE WILL KNOW EVERYONE **Everyone as a GOOD family!** They KNEW Moses & Elijah Peter, James & John SAW They HEARD ... CONFIRMED



Yes ... Doubt NO MORE

Dead ARE up there ...

Waiting on us to join them!

They needed NOTHING more

They SAW the Glory

They HEARD God speak to THEM

They SAW Moses & Elijah

NO ONE would doubt them

FACT: you do NOT have to understand what you KNOW

This was TRUTH shining in Majestic Stupendous

Splendor



Transfiguration of Christ, 1747 by Francesco Zuccarelli (1702-88)

They were THERE ...
and very AFRAID
as anyone would be

One day, every knee will bow Jesus Touched them ...

That is all it takes ... sometimes

Just a touch from someone who you *KNOW* CARES

Just a touch from someone in whom you have 100% *FAITH*

Just a touch from someone in whom you put all *HOPE*

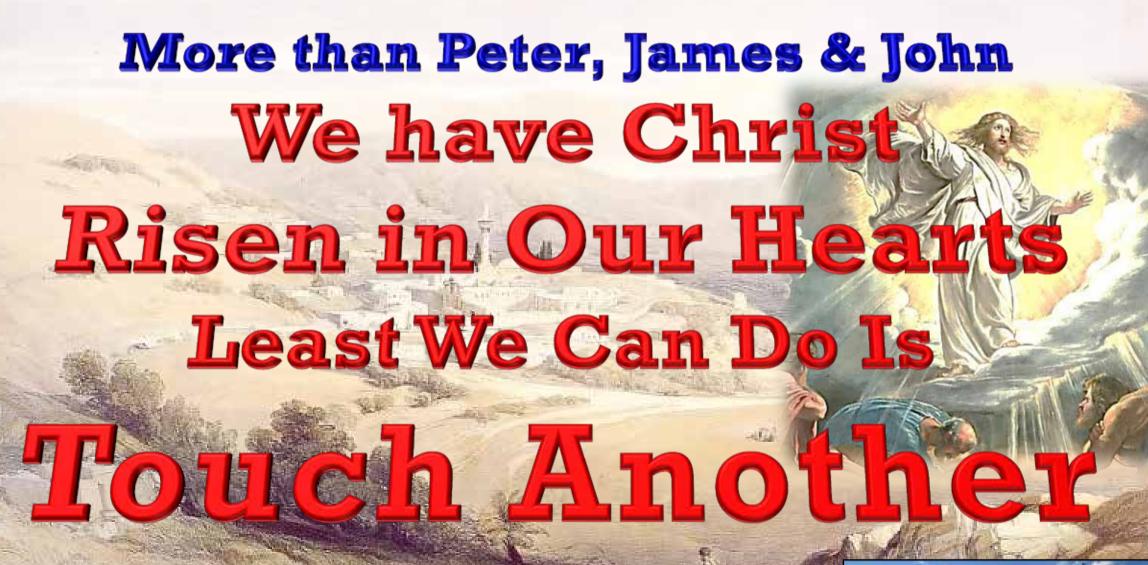
Just a touch from someone you wholly, truly *LOVE*

and your fears float away



by Francesco Zuccarelli (1702-88)

They were *THERE* ...
and very *AFRAID*then *TOUCHED*



Nazareth, 1842, The Holy Land, by David Roberts



