

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

Chapter 9- Luke 9:26-36

175- The Son of Man Coming in His Kingdom- Part 2

August 26, 2012

Luke 9:26-36

26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

27 "But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

28 Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* gleaming.

30 And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah,

31 who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

33 And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not realizing what he was saying.

34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and *began* to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

35 Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, *My Chosen One*; listen to Him!"

36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

To the Glory of God

Now this Passage is a powerful account that contains both a narrative and great theological implications. Dr. Luke tells us that this happened and then that happened and then this came to pass- and that is the Narrative. But then as a careful and meticulous Pastor and Theologian- this Gentile Doctor also goes into great Theological implications about the Character and Nature of Jesus Christ as being both Man and God.

So the challenge that I face today is to rightly display the Narrative accurately without diminishing the Theology and to teach the Theology fully without diminishing the Narrative.

Back in verses 23-26- the Lord Jesus has just put forth the very heart and soul of the Gospel- that nobody is truly saved unless they come after Jesus and they can only come after Jesus by being given the ability to understand their own depraved and fallen nature- by denying that there is any good in themselves. And nobody can come after Jesus unless they are willing to abandon everything- not only those sins that dishonor God and that hurt us- but also those pleasant and wonderful things that life brings to us- like peace and prosperity and safety and long and easy lives- and be willing to take up the Cross on a daily basis. And finally- there can be and there is no Salvation- no true regeneration; no true Heavenly new Birth unless and until we begin to not only say that we love Jesus- but that we actually do what He has told us to do- that we obey Him and that we follow after Him to the degree that we keep His Commandments.

So the Biblical Gospel is threefold as taught by the Lord Himself:

1. An understanding and an acknowledgement that because of the Fall and because of Original Sin and because our natural and normal inclination as sinners is to run and hide from God and to try to earn God's approval by what we do for ourselves- absent God's Grace and to love darkness rather than light and because there is no good thing or intrinsic holiness or righteousness in us- therefore we *cannot* and we *will not* love and serve God based on any human initiated act or exercise of our own will absent a Sovereign Act of God the Holy Spirit to bring to us new life and a new heart and new eyes and new ears and grant to us the gift of

saving faith so that we may repent and believe. That is the essence of what Jesus meant when He said we must “deny ourselves”.

2. Because sin is just that grotesque and because Grace is just that magnificent- Salvation *always* brings about in the person's life a desire to love and serve God- regardless of the cost; regardless of the price; with no thought of the danger; or the loss of personal safety and security. All that matters is that I deserve to burn in hell forever and God has mercifully rescued me from that eternal damnation through no effort of my own- but by His Grace and therefore the only thing that I now live for; the only thing that allows my heart to beat and that allows joy and peace to flood my soul is that God be glorified through my life. That is the essence of what Jesus meant by saying that we must take up our cross daily.
3. A realization that talk is cheap and that essential love; true love; deep and abiding love for the Lord Jesus Christ is not found in words or measured in songs but love was defined by Jesus Himself as best manifested through our obedience to what He said and what He taught. And that without obedience- all we have left is our cheap talk. And that is the essence of what Jesus meant by saying that we must follow Him.

So Salvation is defined by Jesus in verse 23 in those three main ways and the result is found in verse 24 which says:

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

And we went over that is pretty good detail and now Jesus is going to show three of His Apostles and us what the Kingdom of God is really like. And He begins by telling them that there are three types of Glory that He will have in the Kingdom- look again at verse 26:

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

When Jesus comes back to this earth- He will come in His Own Glory; and in the Glory of His Father; and in the Glory of the Holy Angels. And then as these men are startled at that Statement- Jesus then proves that He is God by saying this in Verse 27:

But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.

So as I told you last week- one of the ways in which the Old Testament Prophets proved that they were speaking on God's behalf was to carry out amazing signs and wonders and miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit and another way to bring credibility to what they were saying so that people knew that what they said was from God was to not only talk about what was going to happen hundreds and even thousands of years in the future but to also talk about what was going to happen in the lives of the people during their lifetimes.

And Jesus follows this pattern when He tells these men that some of them would actually and literally see the Kingdom of God before they die. So Jesus was guaranteeing that they would not die until they saw this manifestation- once again proving that He was God Almighty in human flesh- because only God has the power of life and death.

So Jesus said, *"I'm going to show you more than the signs that point to the Kingdom. I'm going to show you more than the physical perception that it's there- I'm going to take some of you into the Kingdom itself. I am going to take some of you behind the scenes and behind the curtain and we're going backstage- where the Divine Operation actually takes place. And some of you are going to see the eternal Kingdom and the Glory and the Power that I will display in My Second Coming."* And that near prophecy came to pass within an eight-day period. Look again at verses 28&29:

28 Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* gleaming.

Now in order to get the fullness of this event- I will bring in what the other Gospel writers wrote from both Levi and John Mark so we can

understand this better.

Now any way you want to slice this- this is a staggering event. This is an amazing event. This is going behind the curtain of this way of life and into the other world. You and I live in a time/space world. Everything that we are and everything that we do is measured in both time and space. We live in a very finite and dimensional world that is suited to frail, weak, and fallen humanity. One of the main objections that I have with Science Fiction is that this man-made religion and human philosophy teaches that every limitation and every problem of Mankind can eventually be solved through Science and Reasoning and Technology- and that is simply not true. No amount of technological advancements or medical breakthroughs or scientific discoveries can eliminate the fact that Man is fallen and sinful and is cursed by God and will eventually die and no amount of technology or Science can wash away a single sin or make Man acceptable to God.

So while I detest ignorance and love science and while I encourage people to think and to read and to dream and to explore and to discover- we must understand that Man's biggest problem is not a lack of cures for cancer or the common cold or their lack of a reliable GPS system or a need to develop alternative sources of energy or world hunger- but our biggest problem by far is our sin and that we stand under the certain and Sure Damnation of a holy God and only the Blood of Jesus can wash away our sin and impute perfect Righteousness to us so we can stand before God with no fear.

And yet here on this mountain- Jesus peels back the division between God and Man and allows sinful frail and weak men see a glimpse of the Glory of God and His Kingdom.

Now notice very carefully how Dr. Luke phrases the first few words of verse 28:

Some eight days after these sayings...

The first word here is the word, "Some" which means that the eight days is not a rigid, eight 24 hour period- it is *not* a fixed reality. The word, "some" means that it's not a precise indication of eight days. Both Levi and John Mark wrote "six days" in **Mark 9:2** and **Matthew 17:1**.

So what do we do with this discrepancy? Have we found another

one of those so-called contradictions in the Bible. Nope. There are no contradictions anywhere in the entire Bible- every word is true and reliable. So this difference simply points out the various ways that people calculated time in the 1st Century and you see that a lot in Scripture. The way you should understand this is that it is six days in between the time that Jesus actually made this statement and the time it was fulfilled- but it is eight days if you actually count the day that Jesus made the prophecy and the day it actually came to pass. And that's why Luke says, "About," or "Some," eight days. So there's no discrepancy here whatsoever. Matthew and Mark simply refer to the intervening days and Luke chooses to include the day in which Jesus made the prophecy and the day in which it came to pass. And that's common in Biblical chronology- to see time counted in both of those ways.

So it was on that very eighth day that Jesus took along Peter, John and James, and He took them with Him to fulfill what He had just promised. Now these three men have already been designated as the “inner circle” of the Apostles- and back in **Luke 8:51** when Jesus went in to raise Jairus’ daughter from the dead. It says back there that Jesus took only Peter, John and James with Him. So they were the “inner circle” of all the Apostles- all the way through Jesus’ Ministry. And among these three- Peter was the “protos”- or the first.

And when we get to the Crucifixion- we will see again that when Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray- that He took with Him- Peter, James and John. Now why did our Lord choose *three* men to be His inner circle? Why not four? Or five? Or even the entire group of twelve men? Well, the answer is found back in **Deuteronomy 19:15** that says:

A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

As we learned from the time with the shepherds and with Joseph and Mary and with Simeon and with Anna- back in **Luke 2**- anything that is stated or written that makes the claim of being true- must be confirmed through the mouth of two or three *reliable* witnesses in order to give credibility to what is said or written. And those witnesses must

be godly and reliable people. And so Dr. Luke gives Theophilus and us- one credible witness after another all through his Gospel Record so that there can be no doubt whatsoever that what Luke wrote in this Book is absolutely true.

Now as to why it was these three men and not another three- we don't know- but that was the Lord's choosing- to take these three men to witness and record the most amazing and intimate details of Jesus's earthly Ministry and Life.

Peter, James and John were there on this mountain and they were with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane during the most intimate personal revelation of His pain and suffering and anticipation of the cross so that there would be believable accurate testimony to the reality of this event. So Jesus pulled these three men to Himself because evidently He either couldn't give Himself to rest of the Twelve to this extent or else He didn't desire to.

So Jesus pulled three out of the twelve to develop an far deeper relationship with them so that they could be the leaders of the others. And He pulled these three in order to fulfill the requirement that God Himself established about validating testimony. And by the way- the two or three witnesses standard is repeated at least four times throughout the New Testament and is the Standard that is used today in the Church- concerning testimony that is to be believed and is used in Church Discipline.

So these three are taken with Jesus. And it says that they went up into the mountain to pray with Jesus- which was a common activity. Jesus did this a lot. Jesus prayed a lot. Jesus set the standard for prayer and we should emulate His Prayer life. And Dr. Luke especially loves to record the prayer life of Jesus and His Apostles and he does so more than the other Gospel writers.

Now Levi wrote that it was a "high mountain". And some mountains in Israel can rise up over four thousand feet around Capernaum. But the good doctor Luke doesn't tell us which mountain and even though there has been a lot of speculation through the centuries about just which mountain is really was- the bottom line is that the Bible doesn't tell us and so I see no sense in us going into all that speculation. We simply don't know and it's not important because if it had been important or significant- God would have put it in the Bible for us to note. And so you have people running all over the

mountains near to Capernaum saying it was here and no, it's over there and no, it's over here and nobody knows for sure.

So somewhere near Capernaum- north of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus was conducting His ministry- Jesus took Peter James and John up into this high mountain to pray. Now we do know that it was near Galilee because right after this event- they all came down and went through Capernaum.

So Jesus takes these three men up into a high mountain. And what is going to happen there is the greatest Revelation of Jesus that anyone has seen yet. This single event is the greatest Revelation of Jesus Christ in between the time of His Birth and His Death.

Now I really love the way in which the Bible expresses profoundly powerful and inexplicable events- in very simple terms. And so even though this event is staggering- the words are so easy to understand. Look again at the first part of Verse 29:

And while He was praying...

Jesus was the only one Who was actually praying because verse 32 says that even though these three men were fishermen who had spent many nights fishing all night long without any sleep at all- for some reason- they had fallen asleep. And this is not the last time these three guys sleep through an important prayer meeting. They do it again in **Luke 22:45** at the Garden of Gethsemane- even after Jesus came in great distress and begged them to pray for Him.

Now there is a lot I can say about this. But let me simply mention that when I first read this back in the early 1970's as a new convert- this passage impressed upon me a strong vigilance where I will not allow myself to fall asleep in Church. Now before I was doing all the preaching- many times after a hard day's work- I might be very tired and there have been many times I had to stay up all night long- either working or tending to sick people and so I may have to even get up and walk around during the service or go to the back and stand up- but this passage showing that the Apostles fell asleep while Jesus was praying brought such conviction to me that I will not allow myself to fall asleep during Church.

But these guys fell asleep at two of the most critical times in the Ministry of Jesus- and yet they could stay up all night long and fish. So

why is that? One answer is that the flesh of Man is so weak and frail that when there are times of powerful spiritual tensions and pressures- that flesh cannot hold up against it. Another answer may be that when God's Glory is present- sinful fallen flesh must give way. But perhaps the best explanation is that which Scripture itself gives.

You see, no matter how monumental the event was- these three hardened fishermen- who were used to staying up all night long- seemed to be overcome by sleep. And it may indicate something of their weariness but actually in **Luke 22:45** it says that in Gethsemane they fell asleep:

... from sorrow,

So it seems that one of the ways these men dealt with their pain and their grief and their anxiety was to go to sleep. And they would be bearing a high level of anxiety here because Jesus had just declared to them that He's going to be killed by the leaders of Israel and that just didn't fit in with the way they thought all of this was going to work out.

And so it may have been that sadness also contributed to this sleep as it did in the 22nd Chapter when they fell asleep in Gethsemane. But whatever the reasons- as Jesus was praying- these men had fallen asleep and so like it was so often- Jesus was left to pray alone.

And Luke tells us that at the time of His praying- the appearance of Jesus' Face became different. The Greek word here is *heteron*- which means: *different* or *other than*. So Jesus' Face became different. But different than what? His Face was different than what it always had been- it was different- it was "other than". The Apostle Levi wrote in **Matthew 17:2**:

He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

And Levi uses the Greek verb, *metamorphoother*- so a metamorphosis took place. Now when you think about a metamorphosis- you think about a butterfly- because there's absolutely no way that you could assume that a beautiful butterfly could ever come from an ugly caterpillar. If you looked at what the caterpillar was before it went into the cocoon- and then look at the butterfly- you would

never guess that the one came forth from the other. The change is so powerful and so complete that they had to invent a word to describe it- and that word was *metamorphoother*.

So Jesus' Form *morphed* or changed; His Body changed. These men had only known Jesus as a human being. His Body had been a body like the body of any other human being. The Jewish historian Josephus was in Jerusalem and actually saw Jesus right before His Crucifixion and Josephus describes Jesus as being of average height and weight with no distinguishing characteristics. So Jesus looked like the average Jew of the 1st Century.

When the shepherds came to the horse trough- they saw a baby that looked like any other baby. When Mary picked up her baby- he looked like any other baby she had seen. When Joseph looked into the face of that little boy running around the carpenter shop in Nazareth- He looked like any other little boy that Joseph had ever seen. He had the same human characteristics and features that any boy has. And as He grew into a youth at the age of twelve- Jesus is in the temple having questions and answers with the doctors- what they saw- even though He said He had to be about His Father's business and was coming into the full awareness of His Sonship- they could see only a 12 year old Jewish boy.

And that was the way it was when the disciples saw Jesus. When they heard Jesus teach- He spoke just like any other man- even though what He said was much different from any other man. When they saw Him eat- they saw Him eat as a man. When they saw Him sleep- Jesus slept just like any other man sleeps. Jesus was fully God- but He was also fully Man and He walked and talked and behaved just like a man.

So here on this mountain- Jesus is being revealed as He was with God in the beginning and as He will be when he returns. So Jesus *morphed*. His form and His body and His Face was human, it was 100 percent human- it was what they were used to seeing- but now Jesus was changing.

Now they all knew on some level that there was Kingdom Power in Jesus and they knew that He had supernatural Power that came through Him and was even delegated to them. But it was not visible in His *physical* form. Jesus didn't walk around with a halo over His Head. I hate to foul up some medieval art and pop some of your bubbles- but those paintings simply reflect the Deity of Jesus and the Holiness and

Purity of Jesus- not that Jesus actually had a halo around His Head because He didn't. Most angels don't have wings and Jesus didn't have a halo.

Remember that when Judas betrayed Jesus- he had to identify Jesus with a kiss- so the Romans would know who to arrest. So if Jesus was 6 feet tall as some say or if He had blue eyes as some paintings portray or if He had European features- He would have stood out of the crowd and Judas would not have needed to identify Him with a kiss.

What we need to understand is that there was nothing about Jesus' humanness that would have distinguish Him from any other man- other than Jesus' human body might have been the finest craftsmanship that the Father ever made because it would have been untainted by sin and the Fall and Original Sin.

But even though all of that is true- all of a sudden a metamorphosis takes place and Levi wrote:

"His face shone like the sun."

So all of a sudden- Jesus' Face was as blazing as the noonday sun- impossible for a human to look at. And then it says, if you look down in **Luke 9:29:**

His clothing *became* white and gleaming

Jesus' clothing became *leukos*, that's the Greek word that Dr. Luke used here that means: *dazzling and brilliant*, and *exastrapton*- which means: *to flash like lightning*. So this Glory is not something coming *on* Jesus- it is something that is coming from *inside* Jesus. This is Who Jesus is. Now we need to know that this is not the first time that Jesus had this kind of Glory. Jesus Himself said in **John 17:5**

Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

So way before God the Father ever made the Universe- Jesus had this same kind of Glory with His Father- but now it is coming into view by these men. And Luke describes Jesus' Face and His Face is only the outward skin and Luke says here that it's brilliant- just like the sun

shining. And the rest of Jesus' Body began to manifest this Glory too and began to shine through His garments as dazzling as lightning flashes.

Now keep in mind that this is *not* the Glory of the sun- it is *not* real lightning. It is only phrased that way because Dr. Luke and everybody who wrote about it can only describe it along the limitations of their language. This is the literal Glory of God Almighty. This is God's Own Personal Glory. And the Hebrew Word for this is kind of Glory is:

the *Shekinah* of God.

When God manifested Himself in the Old Testament- He manifested Himself as light. The Apostle John wrote in **1John 1:5**:

... God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

And light is synonymous with eternal life and purity and power. So God has manifested Himself as light. Jesus Himself said in **John 8:12** and again in **John 9:5**:

... I am the Light of the world."

... and we reach the limits of our natural mind and the limitations of our language real quick when we try to describe this. Human beings simply cannot put into words the description of the Shekinah of God.

So here was an incredible glimpse of eternal life. This is what eternal life looked like when it's translated into light. And it permeated through Jesus' transfigured Body so that literally Jesus is now ablaze like a flame with the sun at its peak.

Now in the Old Testament- the Glory of God appeared a number of times. The Glory of God rested on Mt. Sinai and it was the blazing fiery light of God. The Glory of God also showed up in the mountain when Moses said,

Let me see Your glory...

... and God veiled him a little bit and let His Glory pass by and the

Glory was so dazzling and brilliant that it transferred onto the face of Moses. And in **Exodus 34**- when Moses went down the mountain- his own face was blazing with that reflected light. When the tabernacle was finished in **Exodus 40**- the Bible says that Glory of God descended out of heaven; came down; and went over the tabernacle and then went right into the Holy of Holies and there was the symbol of the indwelling Presence of God in the Tabernacle as that light- that blazing light- as it went into the Holy of Holies. And when the time came to move the tabernacle- the light went up and led the people as a cloud of light in the day and as a pillar of fire of light at night.

When the temple was finished in **1Kings 8:10&11**- the Word of God says the Glory of God came down into the Holy of Holies of the temple. God was once again manifesting Himself in blazing glory. So God chose light as the way to reveal the very essence of His spiritual eternity to man.

The Bible says in **Matthew 25:31** that Jesus is coming again in blazing glory and light- this same glory- the Shekinah. **The Revelation 1** shows Jesus moving in His church in blazing glory. **The Revelation 19** says that Jesus comes in this blazing glory. **The Revelation 21:23** says that there's so much Glory coming out of Jesus Christ that there is no need for the light of the sun or the light of the moon but the Lamb Himself is the light of that City.

So the glorious light of the very essence of God's Nature and the very essence of Christ and the very essence of the Spirit of God comes out of the jewel that is the New Jerusalem and refracts through all the jewels that make up the perimeter that makes up that city and spatters it light throughout the endless universe for all eternity. This is what the three men saw that day on this mountain.

But some might say, *"Wait a minute, Luke says that these men were asleep"*! Yeah, but they're going to wake up now real quick. Unfortunately for you they're not going to wake up until next Sunday- so you'll have to come back to hear the rest of this. But when they do wake up- I promise you- you're going to like it. And I'll venture to say there are things that you have never ever thought about regarding what happened here. This is really phenomenal. If you ever wondered Who Jesus is- this ought to stop your wondering. Jesus is the eternal God. He is the very essence of light. And remember- this light didn't shine *on* Jesus- it shined *from* Him. He Himself is the light. Remember that God

created light on the first day but He didn't create the sun or the moon until the fourth day. So there is a light that has nothing to do with the physical sun or moon. And this Light is from eternity past and until all eternity- it has no beginning and will have no end. So when Jesus said in **John 8:12**,

"I am the light of the world,"

... He meant that. So there's no question about Who Jesus is. He appeared as Man- but He was eternal. He appeared as a servant- but He was essential eternal life. Jesus Christ:

God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of very God; begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made.
Who, for us men for our salvation,
Came down from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
And was made man;
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into heaven,
And sits on the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again, with glory,
To judge the quick and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.¹

So for just a moment- on this mountain- on this day- to these three men- the very Shekinah of God Almighty was revealed to Man. People who deny the Deity of Jesus Christ have a major problem with this passage because here is Glory not coming *on* Jesus from somewhere else- but here is Glory coming *out from* inside Jesus. So this is the truest expression of Christ's essential equality with God. So the Son's transformation proves that He is God and it proves that He is the

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eternal Son and it proves that He is the Messiah and God Almighty in Human Flesh.

Now what is amazing is not just that Jesus was transfigured in Glory but that there were human beings who had been in Heaven for many centuries- who had an association with this Glory. Look again at **Luke 9:30&31:**

30 And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah,

31 who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

This is just so powerful that Luke just can't help but write,

"And behold,"

... because that expresses shock and surprise. It would be one thing to just see Jesus transfigured- that would have been enough. But now all of a sudden- there are two men- and again- I think this is reflective of the requirement to have two or three witnesses. But there are now two men appearing here on the mountain with Jesus- to affirm Jesus as the promised Messiah.

And these two men are standing there talking to Jesus in His Glorified state about His departure- which means His death- which confirms that Jesus' death is not a breach of some plan or some kind of failure of what God really wanted to do- but that it was God's Plan all along. And so here is Moses and Elijah- talking with Jesus about the planned death of the Savior that would bring about New Covenant Salvation to all who believe and repent.

So what this means is that Jesus' Death is not a failure on God's Part but is in itself the Plan. And Moses and Elijah knew that this was God's Plan- because Moses had been the instrument by which God had instituted the entire sacrificial system. Moses received the Divine instruction about the sacrificial system which simply was only symbolic of Jesus Who would come and give His life for sinners.

And the death of Jesus also didn't surprise Elijah either- because it was the message of the OT Prophets who foretold that the Messiah would come and the Messiah would have to provide for sinners- a new

and infinitely superior Covenant. So both the Law and the Prophets confirmed that Jesus had to die.

So everything is right on schedule. This is such marvelous news. Unfortunately, as I said, the three Apostles are asleep and haven't yet awakened to see what's going on. But notice that even though Moses and Elijah had been in Heaven for many, many centuries- yet Luke describes them as looking like men. Luke describes them as men.

So when we go to Heaven- we're not going to be some kind of vapor or floating spirit. We're not going to be like a mist or a cloud. No, the Bible is clear- we are going to have a body. Now we won't be like we are here on earth- in the sense that there's no marrying or giving in marriage- meaning there will be no male or female- but we will have some kind of body and that body will be glorious just like we see with Moses and Elijah here.

Our new bodies will be in absolute divine perfection- no sin; no sickness; no bodily failures; no heart disease; no bad backs; no foot pain; no medication; no poverty; perfect eyesight; no war; no misery; no suffering; no tears; no sighing; no fear; no worries; no injustice; no evil; no sin; no wickedness. And notice that these men were having a conversation with Jesus. And that's very encouraging. So in Heaven- there will be information passed around; there will be some form of communication- so there will be one language and everybody will have full use of this new language that has no earthly limitations- everybody will understand everybody else.

And so we see here that there's intelligence in Heaven. These two men were talking to Jesus about the Plan of God which means that in the Kingdom- there's usefulness and purposefulness and things are going on. And they're socializing, Moses and Elijah- hanging out with Jesus.

So over the next several weeks- we need to focus on every bit of information that Dr. Luke gives us here- because this is the way things will be in Heaven. And as you can see- Heaven is so glorious- that whatever you have to do to be there- is worthwhile and whatever you have to stop doing so that you will not miss a single moment of this kind of unimaginable Glory- is worthwhile. So I beg you today to repent and trust in the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ so that you will not miss a single glorious thing about Heaven.

Let's pray.