

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

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 9- Luke 9:26-36**

176- The Son of Man Coming in His Kingdom- Part 3

September 2, 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 please put your finger here in **Luke 9** and turn with me to the Old Testament- to **Isaiah 40**. About 600 years before Jesus was transfigured before these three Apostles on this mountain on this day- the Prophet Isaiah was moved upon by God the Holy Spirit to pen down this passage in **Isaiah 40**- beginning with verse 1:

1 "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.

2 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the Lord's hand Double for all her sins."

3 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Now **Isaiah 40** is a very significant Chapter because it describes the coming of John Baptist and his preparation for the long awaited Messiah. And as we went over John Baptist's Ministry early on in our Journey through Luke- you remember that I told you that until Chapter 40- for 39 previous Chapters- God is pronouncing Damnation and Judgment on Israel for their sins and now here in Chapter 40 and continuing on through the 66th Chapter- God is now promising several key aspects of the New Covenant such as:

- ✓ **Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God (Isaiah 40:1)**
- ✓ **Call out to her, that her warfare (against God) has ended (Isaiah 40:2a)**
- ✓ **Her iniquity has been (Sovereignly) removed in verse 2 (Isaiah 40:2b)**
- ✓ **She has received of the Lord's hand Double (Forgiveness) for all her sins (Isaiah 40:2c)**

Now read again verse 5 with me:

**Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

So here the great Prophet Isaiah predicts the coming of John Baptist- the one who will be a voice crying in the wilderness- the one who will be the forerunner to the Messiah. And Isaiah utters a Divine Promise that this prophet will come and he will announce the Messiah's coming. And then Isaiah speaks of the Messiah Himself- but speaks of Him in these words,

... the glory of the Lord will be revealed...

So Isaiah identifies the Messiah- the Lord Jesus Christ- as the Glory of God. They are one and the same. The Lord Jesus Christ is the very Glory of God. So part of the reason why Jesus was made born of a virgin was so that He could seek and save that which was lost- but another very important reason why God became Man was so that Man could have the Glory of God revealed to them. Now last week we found out that the Hebrew word is Shekinah- Jesus Christ is the Shekinah of God Almighty in human form. Listen to the way that the Apostle Paul describes Jesus in **2Corinthians 4:1-7:**

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

So the Apostle Paul says here that the very “**Light of the knowledge of the glory of God**” is not found in its fullness a waterfall or a sunset or a super nova or a sub-atomic particle- but the very “**Light of the knowledge of the glory of God**” is *best* found; it is found in its *fullness* in the very “**Face**” of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please turn with me to **Hebrews 1** and let us read what the writer of Hebrews tells us about God’s Glory in **Hebrews 1:1-4**:

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

So the writer of the **Epistle to the Hebrews** says that Jesus Christ is the very “**Radiance**” of God’s Glory. So when Isaiah predicted that God’s Glory would be revealed or uncovered or manifested- he was talking about the *first* Incarnation of Jesus Christ- he was talking about the time when God Almighty took on human flesh and was born of a virgin and became Man.

And so here on this mountain; on this day; to these three men- this 600 year old prophecy of Isaiah is about to come to pass.

Now those of us who know the Scriptures know that God revealed a portion of Himself and a portion of His Glory on many occasions in the Old Testament. For example- Moses told the people of Israel that the Glory of the Lord would appear to them- and it did- according to **Leviticus 9**. It was in the wilderness where God was feeding Israel with manna and a portion of God’s Glory was seen by the people.

A portion of God’s Glory was also revealed at Mount Sinai when Moses went up to commune with God and the Glory of the Lord covered the mountain and shined into the face of Moses. A portion of God’s Glory was also revealed at the completion of the Tabernacle and the Glory of the Lord descended and dwelt over the Holy of Holies in the

Tabernacle. A portion of God's Glory was revealed at the initiation of the priestly office itself and the Glory of the Lord was seen. A portion of God's Glory was manifest at Kadesh Barnea- where the people of Israel rebelled in the wilderness. A portion of the Glory of God was revealed during the time of the terrible sins of Korah, Dathan and Abiram- who illegitimately intruded into the priestly office and the Scriptures teach us that the Glory of the Lord appeared to Judge them.

A portion of the Glory of God was displayed when the people rebelled against Moses and Aaron in **Numbers 16** and when the Glory of God was manifest- it threatened to consume them all in a moment. When the people were thirsty in the wilderness of Meribah and Moses and Aaron fell face down before the Lord- **Numbers 20** says a portion of the Glory of the Lord was present. And at the completion of the temple the Glory of the Lord was manifest again in **1Kings 8**. In fact, on the occasion of the first offering in the Temple- the Bible says that the Glory of God was seen and the people worshiped.

So wherever and whenever the Glory of the Lord appeared- it was a manifestation of God Himself. All these appearances were simply ways in which the invisible God- the eternal God- could manifest Himself. And He chose to do it in shining light or a cloud or a fire or blazing light.

The mystery of this indescribable Revelation of God's Glory was attempted to be explained again in **Ezekiel 1** as the Prophet looks at the blazing Glory of God and describes it as light refracted and light spinning in wheels. But God's Glory is so magnificent; so incredible; so amazing; and so profound- it is far too mysterious to be described in any human language- but we do have those Old Testament pictures.

Now what we need to know is that in each of those OT manifestations- The Glory of the Lord- the *Shekinah*- is shrouded in great mystery- we simply cannot fathom it. But we are grateful for God's Self-Revelation- as mysterious as it may be- and we are grateful that God did not remain completely hidden and we are grateful that God did not remain completely silent and that God did not remain invisible and that God did not remain shrouded in some kind of eternal darkness- but that He shined the Light His Glory- even though it was wrapped in the mystery of the *Shekinah*- in ways which were visible and which were recorded in Scripture.

So what we know by that is that God was present in His Creation. God was present in Providence. And God was present in history. As the President of Southern Seminary- Albert Mohler- said,

"God is there- and He is not silent!"

In **Job 26:14**- Job put it this way,

"Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; And how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?"

The OT Revelation of God and His Glory were but faint words and whispers. They were vague and general and symbolic and in part and on the outskirts of our minds. And in the single most personal OT experience of human beings ever seeing or being around God's Glory- when God showed Moses His Glory- God nevertheless only showed him His afterglow- just the fringe of His Glory- because the Truth is that full Manifestation of the Glory of God distributed without the Grace of God- would incinerate any person who came before it.

Even the prophets like Daniel- who received such powerful and amazing Revelations from God- who were given visions of the Glory of God, said,

Daniel 12:8b

... "I heard but I didn't understand." ...

So al throughout the entire Old Covenant- the Glory of God was present- but it was far too mysterious to fully grasp. God "whispered" to the Old Covenant saints in His *Shekinah*. But what He whispered to them- He shouted to us through His Son.

So it is in the Lord Jesus Christ- the Son of God- that the Glory of God is most marvelously and clearly and fully manifested- for it is in Him- that we see the complexity and all of the particularities of all of God's Own Personal Divine Attributes and Characteristics manifest through a single Being draped in human flesh- which is finally understandable and comprehensible to us. John said in **1John 1:1**

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with

our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

Never has the Glory of God been so brightly manifest; never has the Nature of God been so exactly revealed; never has the entirety of God's Own Personal Magnificent Characteristics been so clearly identified as they are in the Person of Jesus Christ.

So when you see Jesus Christ- Biblically; correctly; When you see Him high and lifted up- you see the fullness of God's Glory; you see God's Own Personal Nature in a form that you can understand. The writer in **Hebrews 1** says Jesus is the “Brightness” or the “Radiance” or the very epitome of God's Glory. He is the *apogazma* that is to say Jesus is the sending forth- He is the shining out of God.

Jesus best expresses God's Attributes and God's Essence and God's Nature to us. Just as the radiance of the sun reaches the earth and lights the earth and warms the earth and gives life and growth to the earth- so in Christ the glorious Light of the very Nature of God Himself shines into the hearts of men and women. And wherever that Light shines- hearts and minds are transformed.

That is exactly what Paul meant in **2Corinthians** when he said the Glory of God shines best to us- not on Mt Sinai or through manna or in the Temple or the Tabernacle- but rather in the Face of Jesus Christ. 1,000 years before Jesus was born- King David said in **Psalms 24** that Jesus is the “**King of Glory**”- or the highest expression of Glory. Jesus reveals the Nature of God and the Essence of God in a way that the “whispers” of Creation and the “whispers” of the *Shekinah* and the whispers of the Law could not even imagine. Jesus is what the Prophet said in **Malachi 4:2**,

The Sun of Righteousness Who arises with healing in His wings

And although neither God nor Jesus has literal wings- that is simply another way of saying that Jesus is the Glory of God. Jesus is the very best and the fullest manifestation of God Himself.

Now go back to our text from **Luke 9** and we have from verses 26 to 36 an event in the Life of our Lord Jesus Christ that is the most powerful and dramatic proof that He is the Glory of God- that He is

the *Shekinah*. In fact, we have to begin in verse 26 with the words of Jesus,

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.*

And here Jesus speaks of His return- His Second Coming- in an even *fuller* Glory than was manifest in His First Coming! The first time Jesus He came- it was very clear that He was the Glory of God because **John 1:14** says:

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John says, “*We saw Jesus’ Glory and it was the very same Glory that belongs only to God Himself- the Shekinah.*” But even though the Glory of Christ in His First Coming reveals God in ways that the whispers of the Old Testament could never do- that first coming is still not yet the full Revelation of the Glory of God. That will be manifested in the Kingdom. For example- if you read **Matthew 24, Matthew 25**, if you read **Daniel 7** and **The Revelation 19**- you will see that at Christ’s Second Coming- Jesus will come in full blazing Glory without the veil of human flesh and this Glory will be so powerful- that unrepentant men and women all across the world- from every nation on earth- will cry out for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them- to hide them in darkness from the Face- the blazing Face of the glorious returning Lamb of God. And listen to the way that the Prophet Isaiah describes this Second Coming in **Isaiah 11:9**:

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD , as the waters cover the sea.

“...the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (2Corinthians 4:6b). So when Jesus returns- His Glory will fill the whole earth. Jesus will come in full Glory- so full that the Creation that has known sin will have to be reborn in order to be able to withstand it and survive.

So Jesus says in **Luke 9:26**- *"I'm coming back in Glory. I am the glory of God and I have already come in a Glory that far outshines anything that the OT saints knew about- but I'm coming back in an even greater Glory."*

Now how do we know that that's true? How do we know that Jesus is the Glory of God? How do we know that He came the first time in the greatest Glory that had ever been manifest but will come again in an even greater glory? How do we know that?

Well, in verse 27- Jesus used an ancient method that gave great hope to the people- that was also used by the OT Prophets. Not only did the OT Prophets give predictions about events and people that wouldn't come to pass for thousands of years- but the OT Prophets also gave predictions that would come to pass during the lifetime of the people who knew them. And here Jesus uses that same method with His Own Apostles when He said:

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."

In other words- Jesus was telling them- *"I say to you truthfully," I want to prove this to you, I don't want you to have any doubts. So, "There are some of those standing here, some of those people standing there, who shall not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God."*

In this statement- Jesus says- *"Just in case you might have any doubts that I am the Glory of God or doubts that though I am going to be turned over to the Jewish leaders and be murdered and die- just in case you have any doubts about any of that- you need to understand this- none of that is the end."*

You see- back in verse 22- Jesus told them plainly that He would be rejected and that He would suffer and that He would be killed. But He also told them that He would be raised up on the third day. So Jesus made them a Promise that would come to pass during their lifetimes. And once the Apostles got into the throes of His death- and they had a hard time hanging on to confidence about His resurrection- Jesus wanting to affirm and confirm their faith- even beyond His far away Promises about His Second Coming- so He gives them a preview of the Kingdom of God and of the fullness of His Own Glory.

So He says in verse 27, "*Some of you are going to see this before you die. Not all of you- but some of you.*"

And verses 28-31 are the fulfillment of that Promise in verse 27. And Dr. Luke writes:

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.

So Jesus took along Peter, and John, and James and went up to the mountain to pray. So He took these three because they were the inner circle among the Apostles. So they were the three men to whom Jesus referred in verse 27 as the "some of those standing here". It was important that there be three of them because the Law in Deuteronomy said that all things had to be verified out of the mouth of two or three witnesses- and what these men are about to see- is going to be so unbelievable, so miraculous and so important- that it is crucial for future generations that the maximum number of witnesses be able to verify this miracle at the appropriate time.

So Jesus takes along Peter, James and John up into the mountain to pray. And these three guys are going to have an experience that will leave its mark on them and the Church after them- forever.

So beginning at verse 29- we come to the Event called "The Transfiguration". IT is right here on this mountain on that day to these three men that Jesus manifests the very same Glory that He had with the Father before the world was and the same Glory that He will have with the Father in the Kingdom of God.

And Jesus' Glory is revealed here in at least four ways:

1. Through the Son's Transfiguration (**Luke 9:29**)
2. Through the Manifestation of the Personification of The Law and the Prophets- Moses and Elijah (**Luke 9:30&31**)
3. Through the Weakness of Human Flesh (**Luke 9:32-34**)

4. Through the Father's Verification (**Luke 9:35**)

And we went over the first two last week- so I will hurry through this review.

1. Through the Son's Transfiguration

Luke 9:29

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

Dr. Luke says, “**His face became different**”. The English word, “different” comes from the Greek word, *heteron*, which means that Jesus’ Face “took on another form”. Levi says that Jesus was “transfigured” where he uses another Greek word from which we get the English word, “*metamorphosis*” which means: *to go through a complete change of form.*

Dr. Luke says Jesus’ face was different. Levi says it blazed like the sun. It was like looking into the sun at high noon. And then Luke writes,

His clothing became white and gleaming.

It wasn’t so much the cloth itself- but the skin of Jesus that became dazzling- *leukos- which means: brilliant-* not so much the flat white that we think of, like a white piece of cloth or paint that's white- but rather something that's stunningly dazzling brilliantly white- that's shining like a diamond and gleaming which is used to describe lightning. So Jesus’ Face is like the sun and His body is like blazing lightning coming through His clothing.

Now what exactly are these men seeing? And this is real important- so listen up. These three Apostles are not seeing this great brilliant Light shining *on* Jesus- no, they're seeing the very Shekinah Glory of God shining *out from* Jesus. And this once again proves that Jesus is Deity. So this is the Revelation of God’s Glory that Isaiah predicted 600 years earlier- the *Shekinah-* the very same Presence and Glory of God that walked in the Garden in the cool of the day and talked with Adam and Eve; the same Presence that appeared to Moses

on Mount Sinai in the Glory that shined on His face; the very same Presence that appeared in the wilderness leading the children of Israel by a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night; the same glorious, blazing Light that came into the tabernacle and into the temple.

So this is God- this is the Glory of God Almighty manifest- not just on Jesus as on the face of Moses- but from within Jesus to give irrefutable evidence that this is God Himself. So the Truth of Who God Himself is- is revealed in the Son's Transfiguration.

2. Through the Manifestation of the Personification of The Law and the Prophets- Moses and Elijah

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.

Moses and Elijah were also appearing in Glory with Jesus. They were in this glorious kind of transcendent form and they were speaking of Jesus' departure or His Death by Crucifixion. Now the Greek word for departure is *exodus*- which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

So this scene becomes even more dramatic. Here is Jesus and from within Him is shining out the very Essence of the Nature of God Almighty in this brilliant light and then standing with Him are Moses and Elijah- the two greatest men of the Old Testament.

Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah- the greatest upholder of the Law. So together- these two men represent the entire Old Covenant- which was known to the Jews as the Law and the Prophets. And why are they here? Because they are two witnesses from the Old Testament- attesting to two very important things:

- A. The full Deity of Jesus Christ
- B. That the New Covenant is not a new religion- but the fulfillment of what God began with the Law and the Prophets

Now what are these two OT saints doing? They're having a conversation with the Son of God. They're talking with Him and they're talking about Jesus' *departure*- which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. So they both know Jesus. They knew Jesus in part through shadows and signs and types during their earthly lives and they have known Him in fullness since they arrived in Heaven- centuries before this event.

Now in talking about Jesus' departure- they were discussing His Death; His Resurrection; and His Ascension from Jerusalem into Heaven. So this is the giants of redemptive history- recognizing Jesus as God Almighty and the Messiah of the New Covenant- as they stand there engulfed in His Glory. And by them being there- they were signifying that Christianity is not a departure from OT Truth- but rather the fullness of it in the Person of Jesus Christ.

3. Through the Weakness of Human Flesh

Luke 9:32-34

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.

Now I began to get into this last week- but I really want to cover this third point this morning- even if we don't finish the rest of this today. Now first of all- I don't think that anybody should ever fall asleep in Church. Part of my weekly effort of serving God is to prepare my heart and mind for the Lord's Day on Saturday. Go to bed early on Saturday and pray and read Scripture before you fall asleep and leave the TV off and on Sunday Morning as you prepare to come to Church and get there early and spend time before God- getting your mind away from the cares of life.

I invite every single man in this building today to join with me at 10am every single Sunday Morning to pray in my office so that as we

enter into the Sanctuary to begin the Service- we are already ready to hear from God. I want this Church to literally tremble in expectation of entering into God's Presence here every Lord's Day Morning.

But even though all of that is true- we need to remember that this Passage has absolutely nothing to do with people falling asleep in Church. There was no degree of disinterest or apathy here that led these three Apostles to this sleep and I know that because of the language of the Greek that Dr. Luke uses here. Look closely again at the beginning of verse 32:

Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep...

Now the Greek word from which we get the English word, "overcome" means: *something that overpowers an individual or something that is not voluntary*. These three men had entered into a sleep that was not voluntary. This is a perfect passive tense in the Greek- so they had entered into a condition, or a state in which they were *bareo*- the verb means: *to be heavy*.

They couldn't stay awake and so they went into sleep, *hupno* from which we get our word- hypnosis. And all of this language shows us that there wasn't some indifference here- there wasn't some personal disinterest in the situation- it wasn't that having been called up into the mountain to pray with Jesus they really just didn't want to participate- because they did. Do not equate these men falling asleep out of their great sorrow with you being sleepy because you played video games all night long- that isn't the correct comparison.

Levi says that these men were overcome with grief and sorrow. They just couldn't help it in their weak flesh. Now remember that these were not office workers- these men were hardened fishermen who were used to fishing all night long. They had spent the majority of their lives staying up all night long in the employ of their trade. But here they were literally overwhelmed with sleep.

Now some leaders in the modern Church have suggested that this was a Divine Act of God and that God sort of Sovereignly knocked them out- but that isn't true because Jesus woke them up to take in what was going on and in the Garden of Gethsemane- Jesus rebuked them for not praying with Him.

I personally believe that there is some truth to the fact that

human flesh is too weak to withstand the intense spiritual manifestation of the Glory of God. And I get that because almost every single time the Shekinah was manifest in the Old Testament- the people who were around- all could not stand. For example in **1Kings 8:11**- the Bible says:

So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD .

But now this Biblical Truth about these priests certainly does not justify all of this falling down on the ground that has become so popular in the modern Church. What these men experienced and what some call, “being slain in the Spirit” are not the same thing precisely because most of these OT priests who could not stand before God’s Glory were not even saved- they were simply filling in their duty as a priest. So please- do not take this verse out of context to justify weird behavior in the Church- because you simply can’t get there from here.

But from the actual words that Luke and Levi used to describe this event on the Mountain with Jesus- the weariness of the Apostles was simply that they were unduly burdened and confused with all that was going on and with all that Jesus said to them and then Levi adds that they were deeply burdened or sorrowful- evidently because Jesus had just told them that He was going to suffer many things and be rejected and killed by the leaders of Israel which had immense implications. So this illustrates the weakness of human flesh.

So in their minds- after waiting for hundreds of years for Messiah to come- now He is going to being killed by the very people He's come to redeem. And who among us at that time- with no knowledge yet of what was coming and what was going to be done would not have thought the very same thing?

And not only have they just heard that Jesus is going to be killed but they had also just been told that if they're going to follow Him- that they too have to take up their own cross which means that they themselves are going to likely end up being killed as well. And so the burden is very heavy on their hearts.

Now this does lead me to believe that Jesus did have a physical strength or stamina that was beyond normal. It wasn't beyond being human- it was just beyond being normal- because His Body was not

impacted by sin. It was not a Body that was negatively affected by the Fall. So Jesus had a level of strength and a stamina that the others evidently did not have. But even at that- there were times when even Jesus went to sleep out of extreme weariness- such as on the boat in the Sea of Galilee in the middle of a hurricane.

But for now- Jesus was fully awake and praying and being transfigured and these men were asleep. Now the last part of verse 32 says:

... but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

And that phrase, "**When they were fully awake,**" indicates that it took a little time to awaken them. And you can just imagine that when they initially were awakened by Jesus and they saw what they saw- they were busy rubbing their eyes and wondering whether they were in a dream or not because there they see Jesus in this blazing Glory and there they see Moses and Elijah talking with Him.

Now this question always comes up- "*How did these three Apostles know that was Moses and Elijah?*" Did these two Old Testament saints have name tags or badges, or what? Did Moses have the Law in his arms and did Elijah have some prophetic robe that the Apostles recognized?

No, it was simply that God Sovereignly revealed it to them or else Moses and Elijah introduced themselves or that as the Apostles listened to these two Old Testament saints talk with Jesus- their speech gave them away or some combination of all three.

But however they knew who these two men were- it says that when they were fully awake they saw Jesus' Glory- and that was the main reason for Jesus having them there- to see the Glory of God- the Shekinah of God in the blazing Face of Jesus.

So they saw Jesus' Face like the sun and they saw His Body with what was like lightning coming through the clothing. In other words- these three Apostles saw Jesus Christ as He was with the Father before the world was and they saw Jesus as He will be in His Father's Kingdom. And they saw also the two men standing with Him.

And to them- this was a critical confirmation that Jesus was in fact the Shekinah Glory of God and that was further confirmed by Moses and Elijah- the two greatest Old Testament figures.

So if there was ever any doubt in the mind of these three men Who Jesus was- this glorious scene answered the question. They had seen exactly what the Lord wanted them to see and this short term prophecy being fulfilled right before them gave them great hope about the far away prophecies that have yet to come to pass.

And so we see this great event take shape and Lord willing, we will go into this further next week.

Let's pray.