

Title: The King Revealed

Passage: Mark 9:1-13

Context of Passage

Mark 8:29

And [Jesus] asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”

- the apex of the Gospel

Daniel 7:13-14 (OT: Son of Man given an eternal kingdom)

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- Disciples (including Peter) thinking of an earthly kingdom that would overthrow the Roman Empire.

Mark 8:30

And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- why quiet? They were anticipating a public and pompous coronation.

Mark 8:31

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- The disciples were misplacing the cross before the proper coronation

Mark 8:32-33

And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

- Flesh misplaced the proper perspective of God

EXPOSITION

Mark 9:1

And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

“see the kingdom of God after it has come with power”

Mark 8:38

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

2 Peter 1:16-18

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Mark 9:2

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Peter

- Even after Peter was chastised as “Satan”, Peter was brought near to the Transfiguration
 - At our most broken, God is close
- Transfiguration = word = metamorphosis
 - Mentioned only twice: Mark 9:2; Romans 12:2

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

- You cannot have Jesus as your savior without being also your king

Parallels with Moses on Mt. Sinai

Exodus 24:8-11

And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

- Israelites beheld God

John 1:18 (who was this? God the Father)

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Exodus 24:15-18

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

- Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 6 days, then God revealed Himself on the 7th.
 - here, after six days, Jesus took the three disciples up the mountain.
- “forty days and forty nights” = Peter thought they were camping there long-term.

Mark 9:3

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them

- Jesus radiated blinding light
- Note: Is there any pain or hurt or sin that can withstand the amazing glory of God? No!

Psalms 104:1-2

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

Mark 9:4

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Elijah with Moses

- Elijah and Moses had separately met with God on Mt. Sinai. Here, they both were meeting with God.
 - Moses: human author of the Law (great law-giver)
 - Elijah: taken up before death and would return in final judgment (great law-defender)
- Both faced God on Mt. Sinai and faced rejection from God's people.

Appeared to them

- reflects God's love as God took the initiative to appear to them.

They were talking with Jesus

- What? Eminent sufferings and glory
 - Luke's passage: spoke of Jesus' departure which He was going to accomplish
- Jesus was born to die.

Mark 9:5-6

And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

- Peter makes a suggestion rather than a command
 - Motive? Fear
 - Fear craves comfort
 - Contrast: God's kingdom comes by way of suffering and sacrifice.
- Application: Are you willing to love sacrificially?

Luke 9:23-24

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Mark 9:7

And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

A cloud overshadowed them

- cloud = shekinah glory
 - Often pictured God's presence and protection in the Old Testament.
- As we consider the glory of God, how can we not rest in Him?

Romans 8:32-33

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Mark 9:8

And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

Jesus only

Hebrews 1:1-4 (The Supremacy of God's Son)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

- Jesus who suffered and died now reigns over all the universe!

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Listen to Him

Mark 8:31

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- God the Father was admonishing the disciples to listen to Jesus as He would speak of the Messiah's suffering to become their savior.

Mark 9:9-10

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

Disciples discussion

- often misplaced and misperceived
- Yet Jesus remained close and was faithful
 - Note: Likewise, the only reason you are close to Him is He is faithful to you and remains close to you.

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

John 10:28

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Mark 9:11

And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?"

Disciples mention Elijah

Malachi 4:5-6 (very last verses of Old Testament)

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Mark 9:12

And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”

Disciples trying to avoid references to the Messiah's suffering

- But see Psalm 22; Isaiah 53

Mark 9:13

But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

Elijah's cry on Mt. Sinai

1 Kings 19:9-10

There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

Matthew 17:13

Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

- John the Baptist came preaching in the spirit of Elijah.

APPLICATION

We must live by what we know (and not by what we feel)

2 Peter 1:19

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.