

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

Text: Luke 9:28–36

—Bill Turner

‘God is not God of the Dead—but of the living’

Introduction:

1. When Robert Frost turned 80 he was asked what he had learned about life:
 - a. *“Everything I’ve learned about life can be summed up in 3 words – It Goes On.”*
 - b. A TRUTH: Life goes on here after we die. DEEPER TRUTH: Our Life goes on after death
 2. The Bible is clear—there is life after death...

But in God’s eternal plan—Jesus had to die for us so that we could live
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1. A GLIMPSE OF JESUS’ GLORY (v.28-29)

A. IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS JESUS WENT TO A MOUNTAIN TO PRAY

1. Jesus did not face all His difficulties and decisions alone...
2. Jesus went to the Father in prayer...
3. If Jesus faced difficult decisions with prayer—shouldn’t we?

B. WHILE HE IS PRAYING HE BEGINS RADIATING LIGHT

1. The Majesty and Splendor of Jesus was so incredible that the disciples struggled for the words to describe it...
 - a) LUKE: *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. (9:29)*
 - b) MATTHEW: *He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (17:2)*
 - c) MARK: *There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.*

C. THEY SAW A GLIMPSE OF JESUS SHINING IN GLORY!

1. JOHN: *“We beheld His glory...” (John 1:14)*
 2. PETER: *“We were eyewitnesses to His majesty...” (2 Pet. 1:16)*
 3. PAUL: was blinded by the glory of Jesus.
 4. JOHN: *On Island of Patmos saw Jesus shining in glory...*
 - a) Holding 7 stars in His right hand... His face was shining like the sun...
 - b) and John was so overwhelmed that he fell at His feet as if dead
 - c) But Jesus placed His right hand on John and said, *Do Not Be Afraid.*
- EX: If the tip of a small pin was heated to the core temperature of the sun, it would kill all life within an 800 mile radius
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2. A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE VEIL OF DEATH (v.30)

A. TWO MEN—MOSES AND ELIJAH APEAR IN GLORY

1. Moses Had Been Dead for almost 2000 Years!
2. Elijah had left this earth almost 1,000 years before this
3. How is this possible?

B. THE BIBLE IS CLEAR ABOUT THE FACT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH—

1. This is one of the most amazing accounts of scripture...

All Those Who Have Ever Lived and Died and Alive RIGHT NOW!

a) We were created in the IMAGE OF GOD... with a Spirit that exists forever

2. The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection, so they tried to trap Jesus w/ trick questions to mock the idea of life after death...

a) Jesus said, Have you not read the scriptures? When God told Moses

"I Am the God of Abraham, the God of Issac and the God of Jacob..."

b) Abraham, Issac and Jacob had already Died! — But They Were Not Dead...

3. Then Jesus said: '*God is not God of the Dead—but of the living*'

C. DEATH DOES NOT...

1. Does Not End Our Existence...

a) The Body returns to the dust, the spirit returns to God who created it (Ecc. 12:7)

b) No "annihilation" from Existence — unplug computer > screen goes black.

2. Does Not End Our Personal Identity...

a) Moses and Elijah are Identified as Individuals

b) Not absorbed into some impersonal life force

c) Moses is still Moses... Elijah is still Elijah... but in a new glorified state

3. Does Not End Our Consciousness...

a) No "soul-sleep"... or unconscious state...

b) Moses and Elijah are ALIVE and AWARE and speaking with Jesus!

4. Death Does Not End Our Place in God's Plan...

a) Notice How Moses and Elijah are encouraging Jesus in this final Battle!

3. A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN (v.31)

A. MOSES & ELIJAH ARE ALIVE AND SPEAKING TO JESUS...

1. They had lived on earth centuries before—and now are in a glorified state!

a) Moses was not allowed into the promise land—and could only see it from the top of Mount Nebo where he died.

b) Elijah was one of only two people who had been allowed to be caught up to heaven without experiencing death.

2. But Jesus the Son of God, Who Left the Glory of Heaven to take on Human Flesh in the form of a servant, will die a terrible death...

a) A Death so Inhumane that only very few would have to experience

3. Moses Represents the LAW — Elijah Represents the Prophets...

a) And it is the Law and the Prophets that Pointed to Christ!

B. THESE SAINTS IN GLORY WERE AWARE OF JESUS ATONING DEATH

1. I remember wondering what they were talking about...

a) Mathew & Mark Don't Tell us but Luke Does—They spoke of His Impending Death

2. **They are talking to Jesus about His crucifixion and resurrection which will take place in Jerusalem — Encouraging Him in this final battle!**
 - a) Think of the RISK Jesus took to live and die in human form—If He Failed only Once!
 - b) And on the Cross—He could've called 12 Legions of Angels

C. JESUS ATONING DEATH IS FOR THE SINS OF ALL HUMANITY

1. **The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...**
 - a) The blood of bulls and goats was not enough to take away sin...
 - b) So Even these OT Saints would have to rely on the blood of the Lamb
2. **God Chose to Provide the PERFECT Sacrifice for sin—
—through the death, of His Own Son!**

4. A GLIMPSE OF MAN MISUNDERSTANDING (v.32-33)

A. JESUS HAD BEEN PRAYING INTO THE NIGHT...And the Disciples Had Fallen Asleep and Were Just Waking Up...

1. **What they Witnessed was so incredible they were Frightened and Struggling to Comprehend it!**
 - a) Mark: “because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.”
 - b) And Luke: Peter was “...not knowing what he said.”

B. PETER STARTS MAKING SUGGESTIONS!

1. **Lets Build Three Tabernacles...**
 - a) Was He thinking Moses and Elijah needed a shelter?
 - b) Was he wanting to institutionalize this event as a Memorial?
 - c) We don't Know What Peter was Thinking—I don't think Peter even knew!
2. **Peter was a man of action — he wants to do something...**
 - a) but there is a time to be still... a time for reverence, and contemplation
 - b) As Psalm 46 says: ‘Be Still and Know that I Am God’ (Ps 46:10)

C. A LESSON FOR US

1. **Sometimes we can be so busy and distracted that we act without thinking**
 - a) Like Peter was prone to do...
 - b) and forget that God has a plan from before time began!
2. **But there is another possibility... that Peter wants this moment to last.**
 - a) To stay on the mountain and not go back down to the everyday problems and common things again... but to remain forever in the radiance of this glory...¹
3. **The plan for Jesus was not to stay on the but Mountain but Go to the Cross**
‘The Mountain of Transfiguration is always more enjoyable than the daily ministry or the way of the Cross.’ –A. H. McNeile.
 - a) But God gives us the spiritual strength to carry the cross and do the will of God

¹ Barclay, Daily Bible Study Series

5. A GLIMPSE OF JESUS DIVINE AUTHORITY (v.34-36)

A. WHILE PETER IS STILL SPEAKING—A BRIGHT CLOUD DESCENDS

1. Mathew says it was A Bright Cloud—like a cloud of light
2. This is what the Jews Called the Shekinah Glory...

A Visible Manifestation of God's Glory surrounded them!

- Like the Pillar of Cloud by day and Pillar of Fire by night in Wilderness
 - Like the Smoke that Filled the Temple When it was Dedicated by King Solomon
 - Like the Burning Bush Moses saw in the Desert... or the Fire on Mt Sinai
 - Like the Fire & Earthquake when Elijah was on the Mountain (**1 Kings 19:11–12**)
- No one can see God and live—but God is Spirit—our eyes only see Visible light which is only a small band of Electromagnetic Spectrum from X-ray to Gamma-ray to infrared

B. THEY'RE ENVELOPED BY A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWING THEM

1. And a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"
 - a) Matthew: "And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

2. IF There Had Been Any Doubt of Jesus True Identity—It's Now Gone!

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God Who Has Come to Save the World!

C. JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH...

1. Many good and not so good men and women have lived on earth...

But Please Do Not Try to Put them in the same category as Jesus.

- a) Mohammad, Ghandi, Budda, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Plato, Einstein, Darwin
- b) Whoever Your Human Celebrity is... They Couldn't Save You —and never wanted to

2. You can search all the worlds religions... faith systems and ideologies...

but you will not find grace in any of them!

- a) Only Jesus Left the Glory of Heaven to Take on the Form of a Servant
- b) Not to be Served but to Serve and Give His Life as an Atoning Sacrifice to Save Your Soul From Eternal Darkness. (**John 17:1–5**)

3. Jesus Accomplished this at the Cross

- a) And Now Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (**Mt 28:18-20**)
- b) Some say you don't need to be baptized... All you have to do is believe...
- c) but even the demons believe and tremble...so who has all authority? JESUS!

CONCLUSION: You and I Are Living on the Edge of Forever...

"We are not HUMAN Beings having a spiritual experience, we are SPIRITUAL beings having a human experience. (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

- But flesh & blood cannot inherit heaven, we must be born again, transformed (**Phil 3:20**)

1. Jesus Left the Glory of Heaven—so we could enter the glory of heaven!
2. He Became Like us—So We Can Become Like Him! (**1 John 3:2**)