



## From Our Vicar

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### The Transfiguration of Jesus ... and Us! Mark 9:2-9

Jesus' transfiguration has strong links to Old Testament precedent that helps clarify its meaning.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah, who also met God on a mountain, represent the Law and the Prophets, which were the authoritative testimony of God to the Israelites. God's authorisation of and approval of Jesus is therefore being emphasised. (Luke also reveals that they spoke to Jesus about his impending 'departure' at Jerusalem - underlining the divine significance of the cross that awaited Jesus and preparing him for that trial).

Regarding Moses in centuries past, God came down to him in a glory cloud. As Moses descended from his Sinai meeting with God, his face shone brightly from the glory of the Lord, so that he had to put a veil over his face.

In contrast, Jesus' whole body was lit up like lightning – demonstrating that here is one greater than Moses.

Jesus is full of the glory of God, as the very Son of God! Revelation 1:12 describes the ascended Jesus who appears to John in a vision in all this glory and more!

Moses had also spoken of God's promise of another prophet like Moses who would come (Deut 18:15) with the instruction that when he comes, people must 'listen to him.' Deut 34:10-12 further underlines that no prophet had arisen since who was like Moses, who knew God face to face and who did such miraculous signs and wonders.

While Elijah and Elisha had done many mighty miracles, Jesus replicated and exceeded them, combining also the law giving and teaching role that Moses performed. For example, 'You have heard it said, but I say to you ...'

The words, 'listen to him' are the very words spoken to the disciples from the cloud about Jesus. 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.'

It is easy to gloss over this familiar account. Yet Peter in his letter speaks of this event to which he was an eyewitness (2 Pet 1:16-19), urging his readers to 'pay attention to it as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.'

What dark place might you be in that needs such a shining light, and such attentive perseverance of listening to this same exalted Jesus, until the day dawns?

*Wayne*