

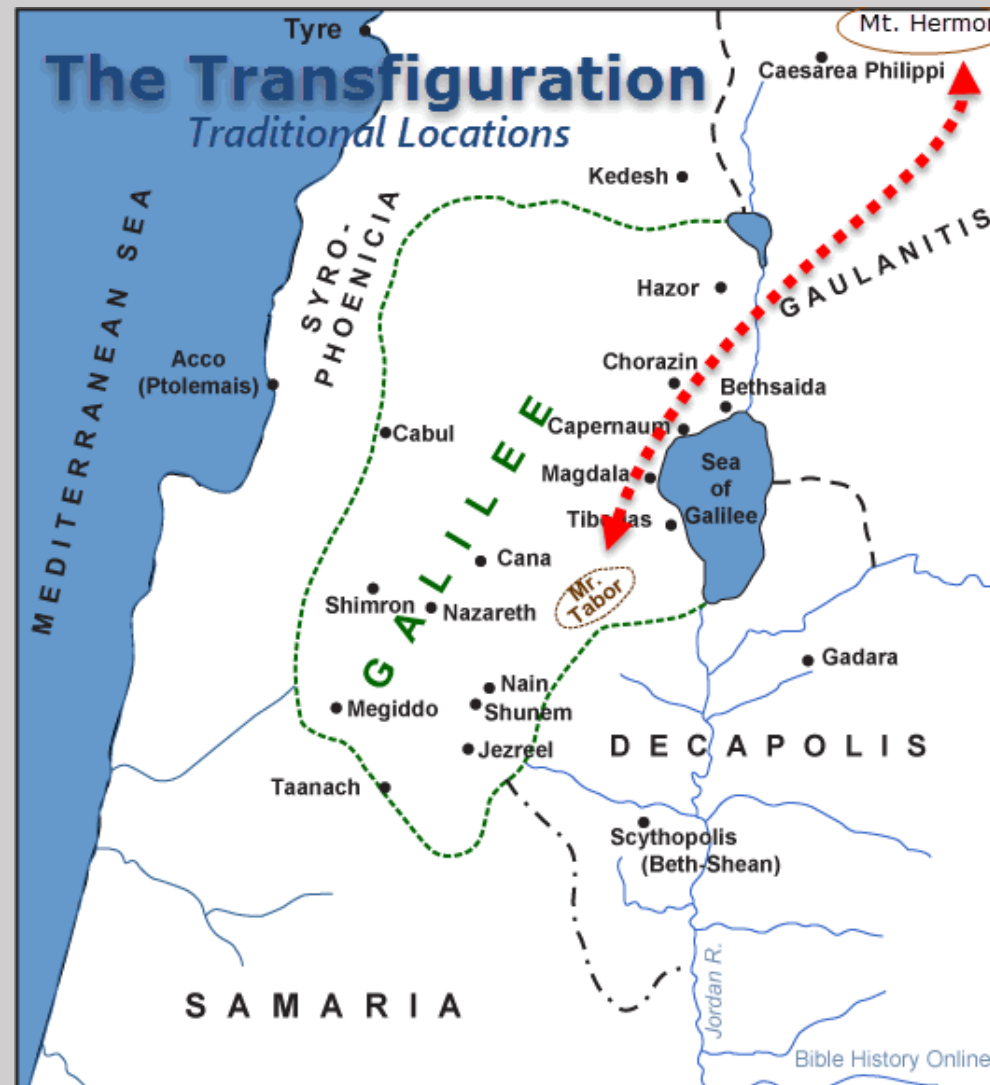


**Divine Essence: The Transfiguration of Jesus**  
**Mark 9:2-13**

# Mount Hermon near Caesarea Philippi (Mark 9:2)



# Mount Tabor as a second possibility (Mark 9:2)



# Distant from Jerusalem (Mark 9:2)



# ***In Medias Res: What happened six days ago?*** **(Connections to Mark 9:2)**

- Jesus asked whom the disciples thought he was
- Peter professed his faith that Jesus was the “Messiah”
- Jesus explained that he must die and rise again in three days
- Peter rebuffed Jesus for such talk
- Jesus rebuffed Peter: “Get thee behind me Satan!”

# Jesus' Death as God's Plan of Salvation

- <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> 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." (Mark 8:31-33)

# God's Ways are Mysterious

- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

# Transfiguration: What does it mean?

## (Connections to Mark 9:2b-3)

- “Transfigure” is from *metamorpheo* (Greek)
- *Metamorpheo* (from which we get *metamorphosis*): “a change of essential form, not just a superficial change of outward appearance”





# Conversation with Moses and Elijah (Elias) (Connections to Mark 9:4)

- **Luke 9:28-31, the topic of conversation:** “<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and ***spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem***”

# Jesus: the ONLY way to God (Connections to Mark 9:7-8)

- God removes Moses and Elijah to emphasize the importance of Jesus alone
- <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6)

# **An aside: Moses finally makes it to the promised land!**

- <sup>51</sup> because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel. <sup>52</sup> For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel.”

--Deuteronomy 32:51-52

# Connections to Old Testament Prophecy

## (Connections to Mark 9:11)

- **Malachi 4:4-6, The prophecy of the coming of Elijah:**
- <sup>4</sup> “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.
- <sup>5</sup> “***Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*** <sup>6</sup> 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.”

# The Elijah and John-the-Baptist Connection (Connections to Mark 9:13)

- **Matthew 17: 12-13, John the Baptist has already come in the likeness of Elijah:**
- “<sup>12</sup> But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”<sup>13</sup> ***Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.***”

# Angel of the Lord to Zechariah re: John (Connections to Mark 9:13)

- “he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup> ***and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah***, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” (Luke 1:15b-17)

# Jesus as BOTH God and Man (Mark 9:13)

- The transfiguration: Christ's humanity shown (the form of a man)
- The transfiguration: Christ's divinity shown (his divine glow)
- The crucifixion: Christ's humanity shown (physical death)
- The crucifixion: Christ's divinity shown (miracles occurred)



# Transfiguration: What does it mean?

- “Transfigure” is from *metamorpheo* (Greek)
- *Metamorpheo* (from which we get *metamorphosis*): “a change of essential form, not a superficial change of outward appearance”
- Analysis: the Jesus that the disciples saw was no longer the human/physical Jesus, but the revealing of his divine essence
- Interpretation: a foreshadowing (a glimpse into the future) of Jesus’ glorious resurrection, and his ultimate return to rule the new heaven and the new earth
- Application: possibly a glimpse into what our own (non-divine) “glorified bodies” will be like

# Takeaways

- Jesus is wholly human and wholly divine
- God is closer than you think
- Moving forward requires faith

# God Helps Us On Our Journey

- <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

--Matthew 11:28-30

# We are More than Conquerors

- <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

--Romans 8:37-39

# Let Us Pray: The Nicene Creed



# The Nicene Creed

- We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

# The Nicene Creed

- And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.
- Through him all things were made.

# The Nicene Creed

- For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.
- He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.



# The Nicene Creed

- He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

# The Nicene Creed

- And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.

# The Nicene Creed

- We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.