

BEREANS Bible Institute Module III.

“Ghost Stories” in the Bible – Part 4

Moses & Elijah as Ghosts? (Matt. 16:27 – 17:11; Mark 8:38 – 9:8; Luke 9:26-36)

1. The Transfiguration portrayed Christ’s Kingdom:

A. Jesus had just prophesied of His second coming.

1. Matthew 16:27 *“For **the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels**, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*

2. Mark 8:38 *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed **when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**”*

3. Luke 9:26 *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed **when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.**”*

B. He promised a preview of the Kingdom to “some standing here”:

1. Matthew 16:28 *“Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see **the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**”*

2. Mark 9:1 *“Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see **the kingdom of God present with power.**”*

3. Luke 9:27 *“But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see **the kingdom of God.**”*

2. The Transfiguration was “after six days” (Matt. 17:1 & Mark 9:2), but also “after eight days” (Luke 9:28).

A. Eight days from when Jesus said this on Thursday.

B. After the regular six days of the week, on the seventh day – the Sabbath Rest.

1. Weekdays were numbered 1-6 + Sabbath (Gen. 1:5,8,13,19,23,31 & 2:2-3)

3. Moses’ and Elijah’s presence appeared to be bodily, not as ghosts.

A. Peter wanted to build a physical temporary shelter for each of them, because he thought they all were physically present in the flesh.

B. Moses and Elijah appeared “*in glory*” (Lk. 9:31), a term used for those who have been resurrected (John 7:39; Rom. 8:18-19; 1 Cor. 15:43; Col. 3:4).

4. The whole experience was a “*vision*” (Matt. 17:9), a term used exclusively of experiences that are NOT actual present events, (Acts 12:9). The disciples saw a *vision* of the future Kingdom, with Moses and Elijah having been resurrected.

5. The voice from heaven, “*This is My beloved Son,*” referenced Psalm 2, a prophecy of Jesus Christ being installed as King over the nations by the Father.

6. Peter described this incident as a preview of the “*parousia*” and Kingdom of Christ. (2 Peter 1:16-21). The “*parousia*” is only used of Jesus’ second coming.