THE BOOKFOLIO

When Heaven Speaks, Heaven Agrees

SAGA 3 OF 7 — THE TRANSFIGURATION

MATTHEW 17:3, 5

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

This excerpt: the Saga Book (student) pages for Saga 3, followed by the Teacher's Master notes for Saga 3.

The Transfiguration

MATTHEW 17:3, 5 • KING JAMES VERSION

The Scene, Told Plainly

At the river, the Father spoke about His Son. Now Jesus takes three of His disciples — Peter, James, and John — and brings them up on a high mountain, away from the crowd.

And there, right in front of their eyes, Jesus was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became white as the light. For a short moment, the three men were allowed to see Jesus as He truly is — full of glory.

And they were not alone on that mountain. Two men appeared and talked with Jesus: Moses and Elijah — in the King James Bible, Elijah's name is written *Elias*. Moses had lived more than a thousand years before. Elijah had lived hundreds of years before. Moses stands for the Law God gave. Elijah stands for the prophets God sent. And now both of them stand on the mountain, talking with Jesus.

Peter was so full of joy that he started talking. He wanted to build three shelters — one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah — as if the three of them were all the same.

But while Peter was still speaking, Heaven spoke again. A bright cloud covered them, and a voice came out of the cloud. It was the Father's voice, and He said the same words He said at the river — *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased* — and then He added three more words: *hear ye him.*

Hear *him*. Not Moses. Not Elijah. Him — the Son. Moses and Elijah were great servants of God, and God honors

them. But the Father points past both of them to one Person, and He tells us whose voice to follow.

Stop and see it plain. On the mountain: the Son, shining in glory. Moses and Elijah, standing with Him. And the Father, speaking from the cloud about the Son. When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees.

The Scripture — Word for Word

> "And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him:" — MATTHEW 17:3
>
> *"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." — MATTHEW 17:5*

The Father's spoken words in this saga are in that second verse. Read them slowly, out loud if you can. The Father wanted them heard — and then obeyed.

Who Is Speaking

The Father — He speaks out of the bright cloud in this saga; He names Jesus His beloved Son, says He is well pleased with Him, and adds, "hear ye him."

The Son — He is Jesus on the mountain, shining in glory and talking with Moses and Elijah; He does not speak in these two verses — the Father speaks about Him.

The Holy Spirit — He is not named in these two verses; in this moment Heaven puts the Father's voice and the Son's glory in front of us, and the Father's one command is to hear the Son.

One Thing to Think About

ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT — At the river, the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." On the mountain, He said those same words again — and added three more: "hear ye him." Why do you think the Father added those three words, and what does it mean for you to hear Jesus — to really listen to Him and do what He says?

Journal

Write it in your own words. Moses and Elijah were standing right there, and still the Father said, "hear ye him" — hear Jesus. What is one thing Jesus has said that you need to listen to more closely? Write it down plain.

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The Transfiguration — Teacher's Notes

MATTHEW 17:3, 5 • KING JAMES VERSION

Church, I want you to notice that Heaven says the same thing twice — and the second time, the Father adds to it. At the river He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." On the mountain He says those same words again, word for word, and then He adds three words that are aimed right at us: "hear ye him." I want to show you something: the Father is not just telling us who Jesus is. He is telling us what to do about it. Listen to Him.

> "And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him: While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." — MATTHEW 17:3, 5

The Answer to the Student Question

The students were asked: the Father said the same words on the mountain as at the river, and added "hear ye him" — why did He add those three words, and what does it mean to hear Jesus?

Here is the answer I want you to teach, plain and straight: **because Moses and Elijah were standing right there, and the Father would not let anybody put them on the same level as His Son.** Peter wanted three shelters — one for Jesus, one for Moses, one for Elijah — three in a row,

all equal. While Peter was still talking, the Father spoke and settled it: My Son is the One. Hear *Him*. Moses brought the Law and Elijah spoke for the prophets, and both of them point to Jesus. To hear Jesus means to listen to His words as the final word — to take what He says, believe it, and do it. When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees, and on that mountain Heaven agreed on this: the Son has the Father's full backing, so the Son gets our full attention.

Verse by Verse — Matthew 17:3, 5

"**there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him**" — Elias is Elijah's name in the King James Bible — say it plain so nobody is lost. Moses stands for the Law; Elijah stands for the prophets. Church, see what that means: the whole Old Testament — the Law and the prophets together — stands on that mountain talking with Jesus. They are not against Him. They are with Him. Heaven is one story, and Jesus is the center of it.

"**While he yet spake**" — That is Peter, still talking about his three shelters. I want you to notice the timing: the Father does not wait for Peter to finish. When a man starts putting Jesus on the same level as everybody else, Heaven speaks up. The Father interrupts — gently, but plainly — because the honor of His Son is not up for discussion.

"**a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud**" — At the river the voice came from heaven. On the mountain the voice comes out of the bright cloud, close, right over them. Same Father. Same voice. Same words about the same Son. God is consistent — what He said in private moments and public moments does not change from place to place.

"**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him**" — The first part is the river all over again: beloved Son, well pleased. The Father repeats Himself on

purpose, so we know this is not a new message — it is the same Heaven, still agreeing. Then the new part: *hear ye him.* Three short words, and they are a command, not a suggestion. The Father who delights in the Son now directs us to the Son. If you want to honor the Father, here is how: hear the Son.

A Short Preachable Outline

I. **The Law and the prophets stand with Jesus** — Moses and Elias appear, talking with Him (Matthew 17:3).
II. **Man tries to make Jesus one among equals** — Peter speaks of three shelters, all in a row (Matthew 17:5 — "while he yet spake").
III. **The Father speaks and settles it** — the voice out of the bright cloud names the Son again: beloved, well pleased.
IV. **The Father adds the command for us** — "hear ye him": listen to the Son, believe the Son, obey the Son.

Preaching Lines

> "When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees — at the river the Father named His Son, and on the mountain He named Him again and added: hear ye him."

> "Moses and Elijah point to Jesus, but the Father points past them both and says: this is My Son — hear Him."