

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 81

### Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End ~ Part 3

In our last post, we examined **Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End**, including suffering foretold, taking up our cross, and Kingdom within a lifetime. In this post, we examine **His Transfiguration**.

#### Yeshua's Transfiguration

I have always been fascinated with His **Transfiguration**. It means a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state. Not only that, but how did His three talmidim know that the two people with Him were **Moshe and Eliyahu**?

*<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Yeshua took Kefa, Ya'akov, and his brother Yochanan and led them up a high mountain privately. <sup>2</sup> As they watched, He began to change form - His face shone like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> Then they looked and saw Moshe and Eliyahu speaking with Him.*

**Yeshua's face shone like the sun, and his clothing became white as light.** Why? So that his glory would not be less than that of **Moshe and Eliyahu**, who was **speaking with Him**. According to **Jewish** tradition, when God sent an angel at the end of **Moshe's** life to fetch his soul, he "saw **Moshe** sitting and writing down the Unutterable Name of God, and how the radiance of his appearance was like that of the sun." This is an aggadic <sup>1</sup> extension of what the **Tanakh** itself says about him, "that the skin of his face shone" (Exodus 34:29–35).

*<sup>4</sup> Kefa said to Yeshua, "It's good that we're here, Lord. I'll put up three shelters if you want - one for you, one for Moshe, and one for Eliyahu." <sup>5</sup> While He was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them; and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the talmidim heard this, they were so frightened that they fell face down on the ground. <sup>7</sup> But Yeshua came and touched them. "Get up!" He said, "Don't be afraid." <sup>8</sup> So they opened their eyes, looked up, and saw only Yeshua by himself.*

*<sup>9</sup> As they came down the mountain, Yeshua ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

The **Transfiguration** confirmed **Yeshua's "coming in his kingdom"** (Mattityahu 16:28) to these three **talmidim**. Still, without the more public confirmation which followed His resurrection, the testimony would have been of little value in proving **Yeshua's** identity. It would have raised more questions than it answered. Hence **Yeshua** advised keeping quiet about what they had experienced for the time being.

*<sup>10</sup> The talmidim asked Him, "Then why do the Torah-teachers say that Eliyahu must come first?"*

**The Torah-teachers say Eliyahu must come first.** This teaching is based on Malachi 3:1 and 3:23–24, and it is kept alive in **Judaism** every **Pesach**, at the **Seder** meal, when an extra place is set for **Eliyahu HaNavi** ("Elijah the prophet"). The door is opened to welcome him, should he be there.

Three points: (1) **Yochanan the Immerser**, "if you are willing to accept it," was **Eliyahu** (Mattityahu 11:10–14), and (2) **Eliyahu** himself had, in fact, "come first" by appearing there on the mountain (v. 3), and (3) **Eliyahu** may yet appear before Yeshua's second coming (see Revelation 11:3–6).

*<sup>11</sup> He answered, "On the one hand, Eliyahu is coming and will restore all things; <sup>12</sup> on the other hand, I tell you that Eliyahu has come already, and people did not recognize him but did*

*whatever they pleased to him. In the same way, the Son of Man too is about to suffer at their hands."*<sup>13</sup> *Then the talmidim understood that he was talking to them about Yochanan the Immerser.*<sup>1</sup>

In our last post, we continued to examine our topic on **Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End**. In our next post, we will examine **Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End** by looking at **Yeshua Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy**.

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<sup>1</sup> Mattityahu 17:1–13 (see also Mark 9:2-13 & Luke 9:28-36b).