



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-13; 3:1-17
- Mal. 4:1-6; Rom 16:25-26

OBJECT LESSON: THE PROPHETIC

WORD CONFIRMED

- Eyewitnesses
- The Prophetic Scriptures

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“For we didn’t follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses of His majesty**. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were **with Him on the holy mountain. We have the prophetic word confirmed**; and you do well that you heed it as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts, **knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.**”

2 Peter 1:16-21

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the

revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages, but **now is revealed through the prophetic Scriptures**, according to the commandment of the eternal God, and is made known because of **obedience to the faith to all the nations**; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.” Romans 14:24-26 WEBUS or 16:25-27

INTRODUCTION: Object Lesson: The Prophetic Word Confirmed

There are prophetic moments in history when events collide and what is revealed alters mankind forever. You cannot unsee what you have seen. And even though those who were blessed to be the eyewitnesses of such an event were instructed to keep it under wraps until the proper time, and they were obedient to do so, that time had come.

Here in Peter’s last will and testament, he has been faithful to remind us of what it takes to attain to Christlikeness. And then he harkens back to a prophetic moment that links together the events beginning at Y’shua’s baptism and all the way into the future of our prophetic destiny.

We have the prophetic word confirmed. Obedience to the faith opens up what is revealed through the prophetic Scriptures to holy men being moved by the Holy Spirit. Are you such a person who can be trusted to steward God’s prophetic Word. Paul wrote,

“Let a man think of us as Christ’s servants and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” Let us faithfully execute this ministry and begin to interconnect all the pieces from that prophetic moment almost 2000 years ago: the prophecies and the players; and then let’s take a sneak peak into our prophetic destiny.

EYEWITNESSES

1. A Prophetic Moment in History

A. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

(1) Connecting the dots...

(a) Mountaintop Revelation

1. “For we didn’t follow cunningly devised fables **when we made known to you** the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** We heard this voice come out of **heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.**” 2 Peter 1:16-18 WEBUS

a) Let’s keep things in context...

- 1) *“Moreover I will be careful to ensure that **you always have a reminder of these things** after my decease.”* II Peter 1:15 NKJV
- 2) Peter wants us all to remember his critical teaching in the preceding 14 verses, the crux of which is the ultimate transformation, via a specific discipleship protocol, of converts to the Christian faith, by the practice of faith, into the Christlike image of God, the perfect expression of love.
- 3) He follows that teaching by revealing something of which only he and two fellow disciples (James and John) were eyewitnesses.
- b) And he does so in complete compliance with the instructions Y’shua gave at the time of the event.
 - 1) *“As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, **“Don’t tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”**”* Matthew 17:9 WEBUS
- c) What does Peter reveal?
 - 1) He reveals that what he saw on the mountain was the fulfillment of specific prophecies!

- 2) Our assignment today is to identify and explain those prophecies and how they are fulfilled.
- d) This was not some sly man-made myth...
 - 1) As per the Lord's instructions, we waited to report what we saw until Y'shua had risen.
 - 2) It was a powerful foreshadowing of what the Lord would become, and by extension, what we would become.
 - 3) And this was not just a conversation describing it to us (Peter, James and John); we witnessed His majestic glory with our own eyes.
 - 4) The entire thing was confirmed by the Father with His own voice. We literally heard Yahweh's voice come from heaven with our own ears.
 - 5) And... His words were the exact words He declared when John baptized Y'shua. ***"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***
 - 6) His baptism was the beginning of this prophetic journey.
 - a. In this study will interconnect all the pieces: the prophecies, the participants, and the fulfillment.
 - 7) Let's review that historical event now...

(2) What had they witnessed?

(a) Y'shua's face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

1. "After six days, Jesus took with him **Peter, James, and John** his brother, and brought them up into a **high mountain** by themselves. **He was changed before them.** His **face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light.** Behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared** to them talking with him. Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, let's make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. **Behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."** When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces, and were very afraid. Jesus came and touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid." Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. **As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Don't tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of**

Man has risen from the dead.”” Matthew 17:1-9

WEBUS

- a) **Participants:** Y’shua, Peter, James, and John
- b) **Prophetic Location:** on the mountaintop.
- c) **Prophetic Foreshadow:** Y’shua was transfigured into a being of light.
- d) **Prophetic Significance:** two wilderness prophets appeared with them—Moses and Elijah
- e) **Prophetic Connection:** Yahweh’s voice from heaven, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.”
- f) **Prophetic Instructions:** “Don’t tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”
- g) Two Significant Prophecies!
 - 1) ***“Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him **in Horeb** for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers,*****

lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.””

Malachi 4:4-6

- 2) ***“The voice of one who calls out, “Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness! Make a level highway in the desert for our God. {13} Who has directed Yahweh’s Spirit, or has taught him as his counselor?”*** Isaiah 40:3, 13 WEBUS

h) Prophetic Significance of Moses and Elijah

- 1) ***““Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Christ Jesus, who was ordained for you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God spoke long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets. For Moses indeed said to the fathers, ‘The Lord God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, like me. You shall listen to him in all things whatever he says to you. It will be that every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly destroyed from among the people.’”*** Acts 3:19-23 WEBUS

i) Significant Prophetic Connections of John to Elijah.

1) *“**He [John]** will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **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 prepare a people prepared for the Lord.”* Luke 1:16-17 WEBUS

2) *“**He [John]** came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “**The voice of one crying in the wilderness**, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”* Luke 3:3-4 WEBUS

j) Significant Prophetic Connection to Christians!

1) *““For **who has known the mind of the Lord** that he should instruct him?” But **we have Christ’s mind**.”* 1 Corinthians 2:16 WEBUS

(3) How do we connect John the Baptist to this mountaintop revelation?

(a) We do so at Y’shua’s baptism (excerpts from Matthew 3)...

1. “In those days, John the Baptizer came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”** For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying, **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make the way of the Lord ready! Make his paths straight!”** ... **“I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”** **Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John,** to be baptized by him. But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?” But Jesus, answering, said to him, **“Allow it now, for this is the fitting way for us to fulfill all righteousness [prophecy].”** Then he allowed him. Jesus, when he was baptized, went up directly from the water: and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him. **Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”**” Matthew 3:1-17 WEBUS

a) Connecting the dots... John the Baptist and Elijah

- 1) "The voice of one crying, in the wilderness make the way of the Lord ready! Make his paths straight!"
 - 2) Immediately following His baptism, Y'shua was led into the wilderness (Mat. 4) by the "voice crying, in the wilderness."
- b) Connecting the dots... Y'shua's Baptism and the Transfiguration
- 1) **The beginning of Y'shua's ministry at His baptism:** *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:1-17
 - 2) **The foreshadow of man's transformation at Y'shua's transfiguration:** *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."* Matthew 17:5
 - 3) **The prophetic word confirmed:** *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* 2 Peter 1:17

THE PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES

2. A Sneak Preview

- A. This is Peter's interpretation for why he witnessed the transfiguration...

(1) The Prophetic Word Confirmed

(a) Available to holy men moved by the Holy Spirit

1. **“We have the more sure word of prophecy [the prophetic word confirmed]; and you do well that you heed it as to a lamp [light] shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts, knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.”** 2 Peter 1:19-21 WEBUS

- a) We know that Peter had previously revealed what he witnessed on the mountain to those whom he was discipling!
- b) As he transitioned into the prophetic portion of his letter He said, *“When we made known to you...”* (2 Peter 1:16) so, we know that he is now writing down what he already taught them.
- c) And he had done so in accordance with Y’shua’s directive...
 - 1) *“Don’t tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”* Matthew 17:9

- d) Let's first explore what Peter believes about the event he eye witnessed and then we will go back to the actual event and break it down into its prophetic components to reveal the interconnections.
- 1) What Peter witnessed was the confirmation of prophecy...(we introduced Malachi 4 and Isaiah 40 above and will go into greater detail shortly!)
 - 2) He calls what he witnessed a light shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the **morning star** arises in your hearts.
- e) Peter had these ideas in mind and he sees what is in Y'shua as also becoming what is in us!
- 1) "...**A star** will come out of Jacob. A scepter will rise out of Israel..." Numbers 24:17 WEBUS
 - 2) ""**Arise, shine; for your light has come, and Yahweh's glory has risen on you!** For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; **but Yahweh will arise on you, and his glory shall be seen on you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**" Isaiah 60:1-3 WEBUS

- 3) ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it. {9} The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world."*** John 1:5, 9 WEBUS
- 4) **Y'shua later literally calls Himself the Morning Star:** *"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies. **I am** the root and the offspring of David, **the Bright and Morning Star.**"* Revelation 22:16 WEBUS
- f) Peter emphasizes that...
 - 1) True prophecy is corporate and must align with Scripture; it has no private meaning.
 - 2) Prophecy should never be used to satisfy man's personal desires!
 - 3) Prophecy is true only if those discerning it are inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- g) With that in mind, let's explore further!
- (b) Through the encouragement of the Scriptures...
 1. "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that through perseverance and **through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.** Now the God of perseverance and of encouragement grant you **to be of the same mind**

with one another according to Christ Jesus,” Romans
15:4-5 WEBUS

a) Everything written in Scripture is there for our
benefit...

- 1) to learn from...
- 2) to persevere through...
- 3) to be encouraged by...
- 4) to find hope in...

b) Paul calls God the God of perseverance and
encouragement and prays we would all come into
agreement with these thoughts as they are
consistent with the mind of Christ Jesus.

- 1) And we already read Paul’s belief on this... “We
have Christ’s mind.” 1 Corinthians 2:16

(c) Revealed by the prophetic Scriptures...

1. “Now to him who is able to establish you according
to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery which has
been kept secret through long ages, but **now is
revealed, and by the Scriptures of the prophets [the
prophetic Scriptures]**, according to the
commandment of the eternal God, is made known
for **obedience of faith [to the faith] to all the nations;**

to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.” Romans 14:24-26

WEBUS or Romans 16:25-27 (depending on version

a) **First a bit of housekeeping:** *The above passage can appear in different translations in two different chapters. For instance, in the WEB it is entered as Romans 14:24-26 and the NKJV it is entered as Romans 16:25-27. The passages are identical but are translated from different manuscripts.*

b) When you were born again and received the Holy Spirit, revelation of mysteries which had been held secret from long ago were made available.

1) They were there all along, already contained in the prophetic Scriptures, but now they are made known.

2) It comes about by a combination of access to the Holy Spirit and obedience to the faith.

3) It is meant to benefit all nations for God’s glory.

(2) What was the prophecy to which Peter is referring?

(a) This is the revelation of a mystery once a secret, but now made available! (See: [In the Image of God](#))

1. “His disciples asked him, saying, “Then **why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**” Jesus

answered them, **“Elijah indeed comes first, and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has come already,** and they didn’t recognize him, but did to him whatever they wanted to. Even so the Son of Man will also suffer by them.” Then **the disciples understood that he spoke to them of John the Baptizer.”** Matthew 17:10-13 WEBUS

a) Stewardship of God’s mysteries!

1) *“So let a man **think of us as Christ’s servants and stewards of God’s mysteries.** Here, moreover, it is required of **stewards** that they **be found faithful.**”* 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 WEBUS

2) As faithful stewards, let’s work our way through what it means that Elijah comes first to restore all things!

3) But first, we must make sense of what Peter, James and John witnessed on the mountain when they saw...*“He was changed before them. **His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light.**”* Matthew 17:2

b) We go back to the event on the mountain...

1) **Awareness to ask this prophetic question:** *“Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”*

- 2) **Y'shua's answer:** *"Elijah comes first to restore all things; he came already; they didn't recognize him; they murdered him like they will Me!"*
- 3) **Prophetic Understanding:** They knew He was referring to John the Baptist. How'd they know?
- 4) **Everything we studied in the previous 19 sermons on 2 Peter 1 leads to this one thing:** the maturing of the body of Christ into the image of Christ.

B. The Prophetic Word Confirmed!

(1) What is the Image of Christ?

(a) God's Image

1. "Then God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image,** according to **Our likeness;** let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **"Be fruitful and multiply;** fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion..." Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

a) His Image should be recognizable in the earth.

b) What invisible qualities should be clearly seen?

2. “For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even **His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse**,” Romans 1:20 NKJV

a) These are His invisible qualities

- 1) God is an us (male, female, child)
- 2) Man was created in God’s image as “Us” (male and female DNA and children within him)
- 3) However, when observing Adam, the Female and Child **were invisible**. They were not recognizable or clearly seen!

(b) How does God make these invisible attributes “clear to see”?

1. **He extracts the Woman:** *“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.**”* Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV

2. **He creates Marriage:** *“And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be*

called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV

3. **The blessing of Children:** "Adam knew Eve his wife, and she **conceived and bore Cain**, and said, "**I have acquired a man from the Lord.**"'" Genesis 4:1 NKJV

- a) He extracts Eve from Adam.
- b) The two reconnect in Marriage as they are still One flesh.
- c) Then the male and female intimately reunify to form a child.
- d) Connect the Dots! This is the Image of God!
 - 1) His invisible attributes are now clearly seen...
 - 2) Which ARE His eternal power and Godhead...
 - 3) So there can be no excuse!
 - 4) Denial of this image = Denial of the One true God!

- (c) Y'shua's teaching on the importance of His Father's Image as expressed in gender and marriage.

- 1. Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning '**made them male and female** [Genesis

1:27],’ and said, ‘**For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and **the two shall become one flesh**’? [Genesis 2:24] So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**”” Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV

a) For what reason?

- 1) Because Adam was made with both male and female DNA...
- 2) And because he had invisible attributes...
- 3) And because those hidden attributes were revealed when the woman was extracted from Adam...
- 4) Because that separated them, and God needed us to understand that they remained One as He is One...
- 5) God gave us MARRIAGE!
- 6) And Jesus let us know in no uncertain terms that this oneness CAN NEVER BE SEPARATED!

(d) If see His once invisible qualities—the male, female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to mankind, what would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image?

1. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them [as He showed Eve to Adam].**” Romans 1:18-19 NKJV
 - a) Suppression of the truth is a dangerous thing.
 - b) What is ultimately being suppressed? (Gender, Marriage, and Children)
- (e) NO EXCUSES!
 1. “because, although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and their foolish **hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Romans 1:21-23 NKJV
 - a) Pervert God’s invisible attributes and this is what happens!
- (f) The Root Manifestation of Perverting God’s Image (talking points Romans 1:24-32)

1. **God gave them up** to uncleanness to **the lusts of their hearts.**
 2. **They** worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.
 3. God gave them up to **vile passions.**
 4. **They did not like to retain God in their knowledge (acknowledge His invisible attributes),** so God gave them over to a **debased mind** and **sexual immorality.**
 5. And what follows **THE ROOT SIN** is **A LONG LIST OF ATROCIOUS TRANSGRESSIONS!**
 - a) The first on the list—the corruption of gender!
 - 1) *God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
 - b) All else follows!
- (2) How do we fix this mess? It's called the Restoration!
- (a) Corrupted Creation is delivered from bondage with the revealing of the sons of God.
 1. “For the earnest expectation of the **creation** eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God.** For the **creation** was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the**

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole **creation** groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:19-22 NKJV

- a) The fall of creation in Genesis 3 is still manifesting in the earth.
 - b) The corruption is ultimately manifested in denial of God’s image (two genders, marriage, children).
 - c) Therefore, when creation is delivered from the bondage of that corruption, we will see a **RESTORATION** of God’s image!
 - d) When is that restoration coming and who is responsible?
- (b) This brings us back to the Mountaintop Revelation: Elijah comes first and will restore all things.
1. “And His disciples asked Him, saying, “**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**” Jesus answered and said to them, “**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”

Then the disciples understood that **He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**" Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV

a) John the Baptist points toward Elijah in Malachi...

1) ***"And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children... Luke 1:16-17***

(c) What will the restoration look like? The final words of the Old Testament! Radical Obedience and Restored Families...

1. ***"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*** Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

- a) Notice the restoration of the family as the key indicator of Elijah's effectiveness.
- b) Then notice what happens as long as that restoration is thwarted.

- c) The earth will remain in the curse! What curse?
 - 1) The curse that Paul later refers to in Romans 8 as the bondage of corruption of creation that will only be released when the sons of God are revealed and creation is set free.
 - d) Yes—the whole of creation is waiting for the restoration of what was corrupted back in Genesis, **the family as the image of God!**
 - e) And isn't that precisely what is the chief problem in the earth today, the destruction of the family (gender, marriage, children) and thereby the very denial of God's existence.
- (d) Elijah comes first and what is his job?
1. **Elijah comes first to restore all things and John the Baptist was a picture of that before the first coming of Christ, and Elijah must come first again—Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV**
 - a) Elijah comes first to restore all things and John the Baptist was a picture of that before the first coming of Christ (*in the spirit and power of Elijah*), and Elijah must come first again—THIS WILL CORRESPOND WITH THE REVEALING OF THE SONS OF GOD!

b) Prophecy about John the Baptist...

- 1) **John the Baptist has the call as prophesied in Malachi— “*And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ ...*”** Luke 1:16-17 NKJV
- 2) **John the Baptist has the call as prophesied in Isaiah 40—“...*“The voice of one crying, ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. ...*”** Luke 3:3-6

(3) Whose job is the restoration?

(a) Not Y’shua’s! He’s in heaven until the restoration...

1. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**, and that He may send **Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before, **whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken **by the mouth of all His holy prophets [Malachi 4:4-6]** since the world began.” Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

a) Radical obedience to God’s commands or the curse remains!

- 1) *“And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**” Malachi 4:6*
- b) You cannot have restoration if you continue to act with the same lawlessness that had Jesus crucified in the first place!
 - 1) *“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have **taken by lawless hands**, have crucified, and put to death;” Acts 2:23 NKJV*
- c) Obedience opens our eyes to revelation as we’ve previously discussed...
 - 1) *“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages, but **now is revealed through the prophetic Scriptures**, according to the commandment of the eternal God, and is made known **because of obedience to the faith...**”*
Romans 14:24-26 WEBUS or 16:25-27

(4) THE IMAGE OF GOD RESTORED!

(a) The end looks like the beginning...

1. **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word **[THAT IS YOU!]; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,** and **that the world may know that You have sent Me,** and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:17-23 NKJV

a) The Image of God—made perfect in One!

- 1) At the very end of His longest discourse, Jesus gets down to the bottom line truth!
- 2) Currently we have rampant denial of distinct genders, the holiness of marriage, and the sanctity of the life of the unborn—a blatant

destruction of family and therefore the denial of the ONE AND ONLY GOD!

- 3) When the Image of God as One (with three parts) is perfectly represented by His people (family as one with three parts)—then the world will know who He is!
- 4) In other words, when God's invisible attributes are clearly acknowledged once again, then the world will recognize His Image!
- 5) That process begins with the revealing of the sons of God—the deliverance of creation from bondage—and the restoration of the family!

2. "There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called in **one** hope of your calling; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV

a) One+One+One+One+One+One+One = One

C. Animal Skins and the Transformation from Glory to Glory

- (1) It would seem that at creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God.

(a) Something happened when sin came into the world. Man looked upon the glory of his own body, and instead of seeing the glory of God, he became afraid and attempted to cover what he now saw as “nakedness.”

1. “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked;** and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

Genesis 3:6-7 NKJV

- a) Who told you that you were naked?
- b) And why do you find it necessary to hide?
- c) Are you ashamed of something?
- d) Do you actually think you can hide from God?
- e) Do you really believe God does not know where you are?

- 1) *“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of***

*the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “**Where are you?**” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.**” And He said, “**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?””*

Genesis 3:8-11 NKJV

- f) Maybe He is not asking about your current physical location, but instead about the current condition of your heart!
 - g) What took place next has great prophetic significance...
- (b) God saw man’s new sense of embarrassment over his original glory and accommodated him by causing him to be covered with a “new skin”, an animal skin, a certain downgrade.
1. “Also for Adam and his wife **the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And **now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life,** and eat, and live forever”—” Genesis 3:21-22 NKJV

- a) Yahweh covers the “glory shown by man’s original garment” and clothes them with the skin of “animals”.
- b) And with this “new downgraded identity” comes nasty restrictions.
- c) He removes them from the garden and prevents them from reentering, thus preventing access to the tree of life!

1) *“therefore the LORD God **sent him out of the garden** of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life.**”*

Genesis 3:23-24 NKJV

- (c) This downgrade would now plague mankind into the future and does not seem to have a any resolution until the revealing of the sons of God as seen in Romans 8:18-21, at which time “creation is restored.” We will see those “animal skins” removed, once again revealing the glory of God.
- (2) Clothed in Christ
 - (a) The imagery is that of a dressing room.

1. “But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfill its lusts.” Romans 13:14 NKJV
 - a) You have tried on and worn many garments, but now it is time to cover your skin one last time, and this change of clothes is the only one that really matters.
 - b) You were once dressed in sin and shame and condemnation. But now you walk according to the Spirit not the flesh.
 - 1) “*There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***” Romans 8:1 NKJV
 - c) Your ultimate destiny is Christ fully formed in you; that is when you will look in the mirror and see you are wearing the image of Christ. (See: [Object Lesson: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory](#))
 - 1) “*My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you,***” Galatians 4:19 NKJV
 - 2) “*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the*

*Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***” Colossians 1:27 NKJV

3) *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**”* II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV

(b) Our ultimate hope...

1. “For we know that if our **earthly house**, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, **earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, **not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed**, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.” II Corinthians 5:1-5 NKJV

- a) To be clothed with a restored heavenly image, so we shall not be found naked like Adam was after he violated God's instructions.
 - b) And this too is the exact choice you must make.
 - c) "Do you remain clothed in sin and shame, or do you allow yourself to be sanctified from glory to glory?"
- (c) This depends on one thing only; will you take on your new identity in Christ. In other words, will you become a new creation, or will you insist on returning to the old you? It's the choice every Christian must make.
1. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**" II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
- a) Taking on your new identity, what we now recognize as putting on a new skin that reflects God's glory, is something about which our Savior taught and He used wineskins as an object lesson. (See the full teaching: [New Wineskins II](#))
- 1) *"Then He spoke a parable to them: **No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one**; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does*

*not match the old. And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. **But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'** """ Luke 5:36-39 NKJV*

- b) Just below the surface is this profound lesson:
 - 1) *"The Holy Spirit in you cannot radiate the purity and glory of God if you insist on holding onto your old life. The incongruence will simply ruin your witness, as if there is nothing authentic in you that represents God. All that will emanate from you is hypocrisy, a brand of cultural christianity, a poor forgery of what should otherwise be a masterpiece. Ironically, at that point you will be trusted by neither Christians nor heathens."*
- c) And as Peter revealed... your new life must be accompanied by evidence of a true Christlike transformation that shines for all the world to see. This will preserve both God's reputation and yours.

1) *“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And **we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain [Matthew 17:1-13].** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which **you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,** until the day dawns and the **morning star** rises in your hearts;”* II Peter 1:17-19 NKJV

d) It's time to put on your new wineskin! In other words, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Be clothed with your habitation is from heaven so you are not found naked. Be clothed so that the shame of your nakedness may no longer be revealed.”

1) *“**that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that **you put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV

2) “For we know that if our **earthly house**, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, **earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, **not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed**, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”
II Corinthians 5:1-5 NKJV

3) “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, **and naked**— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; **and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;** and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” Revelation 3:17-18 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Refer to Matthew 17:1-13.

- A. Describe what Peter was referring to when he said he was an eyewitness in 2 Peter 1:16-18.
- B. How was Peter specifically obedient to Matthew 17:9?

2. Who was present on the mountain in Matthew 17:1-13?

- A. Who appeared and how were those present able to identify them? (Hint: Use Malachi 4 and Isaiah 40 to help).

3. Describe the prophetic connection between the following:

- A. Moses and Elijah (see Acts 3:19-23)
- B. John the Baptist and Elijah (see Luke 1:16-17; 3:3-4)
- C. 2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-13 and Matthew 3:1-17

4. What is the prophetic word confirmed in 2 Peter 1:19-21?

- A. Again see Malachi 4 and Isaiah 40 (use Romans 16:25-27 to help).

5. Use the Sermon Notes Pages 19-32 to craft an essay about the Image of God.

- A. Your essay should be a minimum of 1000 words.

6. Use the Sermon Notes Pages 32-41 to craft an essay about "Animal Skins and the Process of Transformation."

- A. Your essay should be a minimum of 1000 words.