

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS ~ AND OURS

Dr. David Harper 8/6/2017

Lectionary Readings: Ex. 34:29-35; 2 Peter 1:13-21; Luke 9:28-36

The Scene: Jesus takes Peter, James and John to a mountain top for a time of prayer where much to their surprise they encounter Jesus as they've never seen him and two others from the distant past: Moses, leader of the Exodus, the Lawgiver; and Elijah, the mightiest and boldest of Israel's Prophets

But wait, there's more! Peter's "interruption" brings on an appearance of the rest of the Holy Trinity: God the Holy Spirit (in the cloud); and God the Father (in the voice)

1. JESUS' DEPARTURE (Greek ἐξοδος – exodos, as in The Exodus. Literally, "going out.")

James I. Packer: *"This was not just a way of leaving this world but also a way of redeeming his people, just as the exodus from Egypt that Moses led was to redeem Israel from bondage."*

So also Jesus comes to lead us out of the bondage of sin's PENALTY as well as its POWER.

2. JESUS' ARRIVAL a.k.a. "The ASCENSION" (Acts 1:8-11; John 20:17)

"...go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

Message: Because of what Jesus, our elder brother accomplished on the cross, those who believe in him and follow him know God as Father as well. We are family and will be reunited at his return! This speaks volumes about:

3. OUR OWN DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL.

"We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.... and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:6-8

Peter himself, in today's Epistle reading uses the same word *EXODOS* in 2 Peter 1:13 in speaking of his own death:

"I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things." 2 Peter 1:13

