

## Elijah in the Transfiguration

> **“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him” (Matthew 17:1-3)**



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Moses and Elijah, along with the Lord Jesus Christ, as they appeared on the mountain were discussing the death of the Lord, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Therefore, Moses here represents the law and Elijah represents the prophets, both of which had foretold the Lord Jesus Christ's death.

The Transfiguration was a necessary event in order to manifest the divinity and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ on the eighth day. Thus the Transfiguration of the Lord Christ is an announcement of His crucifixion. The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ was manifest on the mountain and Moses and Elijah also appeared in glory.

The apparition of Elijah has many symbols. First, as mentioned above, Elijah represents the prophets. The witness of the prophets along with the witness of the law,

represented by Moses, together foretold of the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ's glory on the Holy Cross.

Elijah as a prophet further symbolizes being filled with the Holy Spirit. Elijah also represents a life of chastity. Living a life which encompasses this virtue along with the communion of holy marriage, represented by Moses, together make us eligible to receive eternal glory. Based on the life he lived, Elijah also represents strength and courage in the truth and a life of solitude and retreat. According to these symbols, Elijah and Moses envelop almost all of the Old Testament, specifically the era of the law and the era of the prophets, fulfilling the Old Testament's witness to the coming of the Messiah while further representing the "communion of the saints."

The presence of Elijah and Moses in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ on the mountain of Transfiguration also reminds us of the persistence of humanity. Tertullian (c.197) wrote "...The Lord, again, in the retirement of the mountain, had changed His clothing for a robe of light. Yet, He still retained features that Peter could recognize. In that same scene, Moses and Elijah gave proof that the same condition of bodily existence may continue even in glory."

