

Matthew 17: 1-9

Exodus 24: 1f

God said to Moses: come up to Yahweh, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and bow down at a distance: Moses alone will approach Yahweh; the others will not approach, nor will the people come up with him.

Exodus 24: 12ff

Yahweh said to Moses, *Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the stone tablets - the Law and the Commandment - which I have written for their instruction.* Moses made ready, with Joshua his assistant, and they went up the mountain of God. He said to the elders: *Wait here until we come back to you. You have Aaron and Hur with you. If anyone has any matter to settle, let him go to them.* Moses then went up the mountain.

Cloud covered the mountain. The glory of Yahweh rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day Yahweh called to Moses from within the cloud. To the watching Israelites, the glory of Yahweh looked like a devouring fire on the mountain-top. Moses went right into the cloud and went on up the mountain. Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 34: 29ff

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, as he was coming down the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face was radiant because he had been talking to (God). And when Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was so radiant that they were afraid to go near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the community rejoined him, and Moses talked to them, after which all the Israelites came closer, and Moses passed on to them all the orders that Yahweh had given to him on Mount Sinai. Once Moses had finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went into Yahweh's presence to speak with him, he took the veil off until he came out. And when he came out, he would tell the Israelites what orders he had been given. And the Israelites would see Moses' face radiant. Then Moses would put the veil over his face until he went in to speak with him next time.

Hebrews 1: 1-3, 3: 1-6

At many moments in the past, and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in our own time, in the last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the ages. He is the reflection of God's glory, and bears the impress of God's own being, sustaining all things by his powerful command....

That is why all you who are holy brothers and share the same heavenly call should turn your minds to Jesus, the apostle and High Priest of our profession of faith. He was trustworthy to the one who appointed him, just like Moses, who remained trustworthy in all his household; but he deserves a greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of the house is more honoured than the house itself. Every house is built by someone, of course; but God built everything that exists. It is true that Moses was trustworthy in the house of God, as a servant is, acting as a witness to the things yet to be revealed; but Christ is trustworthy as a Son is, over his household. And we are his household, as long as we fearlessly maintain the hope in which we glory.

The Cloud

Isaiah 4: 4-6 When the Lord has washed away the filth of Zion's daughters and with the wind of judgment and the wind of fire cleansed Jerusalem of the blood shed in her, Yahweh will create over every house on Mount Zion, and over those who assemble there, a cloud by day, and by night smoke with the brightness of a flaring fire. And over all will be the Glory as canopy and tent, to give shade by day from the heat, refuge and shelter from the storm and rain.

2 Maccabees 2: 4-8 The same document also describes how the prophet (Jeremiah) warned by an oracle, gave orders for the Tent and the Ark to go with him, when he set out for the mountain which Moses had climbed to survey God's heritage. On his arrival, Jeremiah found a cave-dwelling, into which he put the Tent, the Ark, and the Altar of incense, afterwards blocking up the entrance. Some of his companions went back later to mark out the path but were unable to find it. When Jeremiah learned this he reproached them. *The place is to remain unknown, he said, until God gathers his people together again and shows them his mercy. Then the Lord will bring these things once more to light, and the glory of the Lord will be seen, and so will the Cloud, as it was revealed in the time of Moses, and when Solomon prayed that the Holy Place might be gloriously hallowed.*

The Transfiguration as Apologetic: 2 Pet 1: 16-19

When we told you about the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not slavishly repeating cleverly invented myths; no, we had seen his majesty with our own eyes. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when a voice came to him from the transcendent glory, *This is my Son, the Beloved: he enjoys my favour.* We ourselves heard this voice from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have confirmation of the words of the prophets; and you will be right to pay attention to it as to a lamp for lighting a way through the dark, until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The Astonishing Diptych between Transfiguration and Cross

THE TRANSFIGURATION			THE EXECUTION		
	Private Epiphany			Public Spectacle	
Light		Glorification	Darkness		Humiliation
	JESUS			JESUS	
	Moses	Elijah	Criminal		Criminal
	The High Mountain			Elevation on the Cross	
	Jesus takes others with him			Jesus is taken by others	
	onlookers (3 named disciples)			onlookers (3 named women)	
	Jesus confessed as Son of God			Jesus confessed as Son of God	
	Elijah is present			"let us see if Elijah will come"	
	"they were afraid"			"they were afraid"	
	garments glisten			garments torn and taken away	
	"after six days"			"from the sixth hour there was darkness"	