

That question is quite distinct from this one: Shall we know each other in heaven? But the fact that Moses and Elijah knew each other has a bearing upon universal recognition there. Edersheim is surely wrong in attributing the disciples' knowledge to "their heightened sensitiveness to spiritual phenomena." Most probably it came through the conversation, perhaps by Jesus, Moses, and Elijah addressing each other by personal names.

Luke adds that they "appeared in glory," not in the same form their bodies were on earth, but in these glorified. The body of Elijah had been translated; that of Moses may have been raised again as a pledge of the resurrection.

These two men were typical in more ways than one.

1. They were types of the economy, which by sacrifice and prophecy pointed to his death. "What a testimony to the evangelical scope of that economy! Not only is Christ the great end of it all, but a dying Christ." "Hence we gather that a dying Messiah was the great article of a true Jewish theology, from which it had fallen quite away. Thus, while false Judaism rejects the Messiah, the true, in the persons of its most eminent representatives, owns and adores."—Brown,

2. They were types of all the redeemed when he shall come again in glory. Moses who had died alone with God upon another mount, was typical, in his softened and glorified death (the Rabbis said it was by the kiss of God) of those who fall asleep in Christ; and Elijah, who tasted not of death, of those who shall be 'changed' and caught up with their Lord in the air.

He spake of his decease, Luke 9: 31. The Greek word is *exodus*, departure. "It implies not only his death, but its manner, and even his resurrection and ascension. Thus we can understand the better on the lips of Moses and Elijah, this about 'accomplishing' that *exodus* in all its fullness.—Edersheim."

4.—'Answered' here, as so often in Scripture, refers, not to words spoken to Peter, but to events which suggest his thought. Luke makes clear that the occasion was the approaching departure of Moses and Elijah. He spoke in unreflecting eagerness. Yet he still refers his wish to his Master's will.

Luke has a remarkable expression, 'they

were heavy with sleep, but having kept awake throughout,' Revised Version, margin. Sleep was natural, yet they struggled against it while their Master prayed. Who that has sat as a watcher by a sick-bed has not experienced this condition?

'It is good.'—There are two possible meanings.

1. It is a pleasant experience, which he wished to prolong.

2. It is an opportune circumstance, inasmuch as they can provide for the comfort of Jesus and his guests. The latter is probably to be preferred.

The R. V. adopts, as correct the reading, 'I will make,' Peter taking his usual place as leader and speaking for the rest. Such booths would be made of branches, similar to those of the Feast of Tabernacles. Travellers often used them for a night.

Fleetwood suggests that Peter imagined Jesus had now assumed his proper dignity and that Elijah had come according to Malachi's prediction. Accordingly, he would provide booths, intending to bring the rest of the disciples and the multitudes to behold his matchless glory.

5.—*While he yet spake.*—A close comparison of Matthew and Luke shows that Moses and Elijah had gone before the cloud appeared. This is no ordinary cloud. Its brightness connects it with the Pillar of cloud and Fire. It is the Shechinah, which led Israel forth from Egypt, rested on Sinai, stood over the Tabernacle, filled the temple at its dedication; whose return Ezekiel prophesied; which shone upon the shepherds at the birth of Christ, received him at his ascension, and will again surround him at his second coming.

A voice.—The same which had been heard once before at his baptism, and should again be heard before his passion, the voice of God. Doubtless now as then it came 'for their sakes.' John 12: 30. The testimony given is threefold.

1. To the mystery of his person;
2. To his absolutely holy character and perfect work;
3. To his divine authority. 'Hear him' has a special emphasis, and is supposed by many to be the end-in-view of the whole scene.

Coming after his announcement of his death it sealed that testimony, and in view of it,