

## Lesson XII.

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

June 17, 1906

Luke 9 : 28-36. Commit to memory vs. 30, 31. Read Matthew 17 : 1-13; Mark 9 : 2-13.

GOLDEN TEXT—This is my beloved Son: hear him.—Luke 9 : 35.

28 And it came to pass about <sup>1</sup>an eight days after these sayings, he took <sup>2</sup>Pe'ter and John and James, and went up into <sup>3</sup>a mountain to pray.

29 And as he <sup>4</sup>prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment <sup>5</sup>was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Mo'ses and <sup>6</sup>Eli'as :

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he <sup>7</sup>should accomplish at Jeru'salem.

32 <sup>8</sup>But Pe'ter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep : <sup>9</sup>and when they were <sup>10</sup>awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Revised Version.—<sup>1</sup>Omit an; <sup>2</sup>with him; <sup>3</sup>the; <sup>4</sup>was praying; <sup>5</sup>became white and dazzling; <sup>6</sup>Elijah; <sup>7</sup>was about to; <sup>8</sup>Now; <sup>9</sup>but; <sup>10</sup>fully; <sup>11</sup>were parting; <sup>12</sup>And while he said these things; <sup>13</sup>a voice came; <sup>14</sup>my Son, my chosen: hear ye him; <sup>15</sup>came; <sup>16</sup>held their peace; <sup>17</sup>the.

33 And it came to pass, as they <sup>11</sup>departed from him, Pe'ter said unto Je'sus, Master, it is good for us to be here : and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Mo'ses, and one for <sup>6</sup>Eli'as : not knowing what he said.

34 <sup>12</sup>While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them : and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35 And <sup>13</sup>there came a voice out of the cloud saying, This is <sup>14</sup>my beloved Son : hear him.

36 And when the voice <sup>15</sup>was past, Je'sus was found alone. And they <sup>16</sup>kept it close, and told no man in those days any of <sup>17</sup>those things which they had seen.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—Autumn of A.D. 29, a week after the last Lesson; a spur of Mount Hermon.

**Connection**—Jesus had been speaking about His approaching sufferings and death; also (Mark 9 : 1) of the coming of His kingdom with power. At the Transfiguration, His heavenly glory is displayed; two of the greatest of the glorified saints witness to His coming decease; and the Father confirms the Son's authority.

## I. JESUS AND HIS

## DISCIPLES.—28.

About an eight days after. Matthew (ch. 17 : 1) and Mark (ch. 9 : 2) say, "after six days." Luke includes the days between which the reckoning is made. These sayings; concerning His death and coming again in glory (see last Lesson). Peter and John and James; the privileged three, as at the raising of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5 : 37), and in Gethsemane, Matt. 26 : 37. Into a

mountain. Mark (ch. 9 : 2) says "an high mountain." Hermon, the mountain of Palestine, was nearly 10,000 feet high, and was called by the Sidonians, Siron (breast-plate), from its rounded, glittering top, when the sun's rays are reflected from the snow that covers it. To pray. Of the Gospel writers, Luke most frequently speaks of our Lord's prayers (compare chs. 3 : 21; 6 : 12; 22 : 41; 23 : 34, 46).

29. As he prayed. What followed was the result of His prayer. Countenance was altered. "His face did shine as the sun," says Matthew, ch. 17 : 2. Compare Paul's vision of Christ (Acts 9 : 3), and John's (Rev. 1 : 16); and the shining face of Moses (Ex. 34 : 29), and of Stephen, Acts 6 : 15. Raiment . . . white; "white as the light" (Matthew), "white as snow" (Mark). Glistening; flashing like lightning.



The Transfiguration (Raphael)

**II. JESUS AND HIS VISITORS.—30, 31.** Behold. A new wonder is coming. Two men; in their actual, glorified bodies. One had not died (2 Kgs. 2 : 11); the body of the other was drawn from the power of death, Deut. 34 : 5, 6; Jude, v. 9. Moses; the great lawgiver of the Jews. Elias (Elijah); one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. Appeared in glory; with radiant bodies and garments, somewhat like Jesus. Spake

of his decease ("departure"); including His death, resurrection and ascension. Doubtless this conversation would comfort our Lord, and strengthen Him for all He was to suffer. At Jerusalem; the place appointed for His death, Matt. 16 : 21.

32, 33. Heavy with sleep. It was night, and the disciples fell asleep while the Master prayed, as at Gethsemane, ch. 22 : 45. It was while they slept that the visitors came. Fully awake

(Rev. Ver.) . . . saw. They started up in the middle of the vision. As they departed. Peter would fain have kept them. Good for us; for the disciples, wonderful company, and for the Master, Peter thought, better than to be rejected by the Jews and slain. Three tabernacles; booths made from boughs of trees, such as the Israelites used at the Feast of Tabernacles. Not knowing. Mark says the three were "sore afraid," like Moses at Sinai (Heb. 12 : 21), Isaiah in the temple (Isa. 6 : 5), and John on Patmos, Rev. 1 : 17.

**III. JESUS AND HIS FATHER.—34-36.** Cloud (Matthew, "a bright cloud") . . . overshadowed them; Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Perhaps this was the cloud of divine glory that descended on the tabernacle (Ex. 33 : 9), and filled the temple, 1 Kgs. 8 : 10. They feared, etc. No mere mountain