

Chapter Seventeen

The Transfiguration

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus told His disciples that SOME of them would get to see the Kingdom of heaven before their death
- B. They probably didn't think he was talking so soon!
- C. In less than a week later, the King appears and a taste of the kingdom appears with Him
- D. All of the emphasis on the coming kingdom makes for a good time for Jesus to teach about
 - 1. His deity
 - 2. Who will be alive in the kingdom of heaven
 - 3. Whether demons will be allowed
 - 4. Whether Christians should live free from this world's restraints, or do we have to pay taxes here
 - 5. And, that Christ's kingdom will NOT be set up right then, but DEATH waited for Him in Jerusalem

II. Lesson

- A. **Jesus Reveals His _____** – The Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-9)
 - 1. After _____ Days (Cf 2Pet 3:8) – so, it is on the SEVENTH day since Jesus promised a few of them to see Christ's Kingdom, what it will be like, and what HE will be like!
 - 2. God does everything in sevens!
 - a. Work six days, rest the seventh
 - b. There are six weeks from the new year until Pentecost
 - c. There are six months from the new year until the feast of tabernacles
 - d. Work the land six years, and then allow it to rest the seventh (crop rotation)
 - e. Work a debt for up to 49 years (7 x 7), and then on the 50th year, celebrate the year of Jubilee and forgive all debts
 - f. The book of the revelation has LOADS of Sevenses: 7 trumpets, 7 seals, 7 vials, 7 churches, 7 candlesticks, 7 spirits, 7 stars!
 - g. Not too far a stretch to apply to the age of the earth: Six thousand years, then the last thousand years are the Millennium
 - 3. The _____
 - a. Transformation – from _____, to Deity (Inside Out)
 - b. This is what Jesus is like UNDER the skin (John 1:14)
 - c. ONLY the Messiah has such an experience (2Pet 1:16,17)
 - d. Seen again by John in Rev 1:14-16
 - 4. _____ and _____ (Rev 11)
 - a. Not _____, like most, modern scholars seem bent on believing! Enoch HAS to stay raptured – he is a type of the New testament believer who never dies!
 - b. Both of these men will live again because of this vision
 - c. Disproves “_____”
 - 1) They are conscious
 - 2) They are the same as when they were physically alive – even though 700 and 1,400 years older!
 - d. The two witnesses HAVE to be
 - 1) Moses – turning water into blood
 - 2) Elijah – stopping it from raining for 3 ½ years
 - 5. Tabernacles
 - a. Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23)
 - b. Feast of remembering Israel in the wilderness

- c. Tribulation scenario, with Jesus _____ in the middle of the Tribulation, and Israel worshipping JESUS – just as when Saul of Tarsus got saved!
6. A Mystery (17:9)
- This is my beloved _____ – Not an _____ (Heb 1:5,13), but THE Angel of the Lord
 - Jesus commands His disciples and others to NOT reveal Himself (Mt 8:4; 16:20; Lk 5:14; 8:56)
 - The disciples get hung up on “the rising from the dead”
 - Knew and believed in the general resurrection concept of Dan 12:2
 - But not about a resurrection applied to an individual
 - Especially to their Messiah
- B. Jesus Answers Why Elijah Must First Come (Mt 17:10-13)**
- Elijah must first come (Cf John 1:21,25; Mt 27:47)
 - John the Baptist was “in type” Elijah, coming as the Messiah’s forerunner, herald. He did everything Elijah will do. But he was NOT Elijah
 - God in His foreknowledge knew Israel as a nation would reject their Messiah, and so saves the REAL Elijah for a later date
 - John has the “_____” of Elijah, so he works, and is just as good as the real thing
 - Elijah MUST still come (Mal 4:5), and will come with Moses!
- C. Jesus Heals a _____ (Mt 17:14-21)**
- A father’s plea – “Lord”
 - Lunatic – demon possessed – NOT epileptic as in some of the new bibles!
 - Signs of demon possession
 - Influenced by the moon (its phases, gravity, etc), by seasons, superstitions, obsessed by the moon
 - Sore vexed – constantly troubled, worried, disturbed about things – anxious
 - Seeking physical pain – throwing himself often in fire and water (Cf lake of fire)
 - Other signs include (Mt 8:28; Mk 5:2):
 - Cutting themselves
 - Overmuch sorrow
 - Crying, uncontrolled emotions
 - Nakedness – disregard for modesty
 - Focused on death and dark places
 - Fierce and angry – uncontrollable rage
 - Speaking with other voices
 - Unusual strength
 - Unable to sleep, or to get on a routine
 - Healable
 - By _____ and _____
 - This is missing in almost all new perversions (See here, Mark 9:29; 1Cor 7:5; 2Cor 6:5; 2Cor 11:27)
- D. Jesus Warns About His Crucifixion (Mt 17:22,23)**
- This is the _____ attempt to let them know of His Substitutionary death.
 - His first was in Mt 16:21
 - John had hinted at it in John 1:29
 - He will try again in Mt 20:17,18
- E. Jesus Answers About Paying Taxes (Mt 17:24-27)**
- In Capernaum again
 - Israel is an occupied territory of Rome
 - The tax-man, _____, customs officer

4. The Government official _____ this new religious group – are you all going to do like all other religious groups and rebel against taxation? Or, does your LEADER pay taxes?
5. Jesus is the Messiah, the King of kings
6. Peter simply says _____, and then wonders if he should have said NO
7. Jesus quizzes Peter
 - a. Who do governments normally tax? Strangers or nationals?
 - b. Peter replies, Strangers
 - c. Jesus said, that is true, but let's not offend – let's _____ (Rom 13:1-4; Cf Lk 23:1,2)
8. Principles
 - a. We belong to another kingdom and therefore are subject to THOSE laws, and taxes
 - b. It is right to pay taxes to your OWN nation – as the Jews did
 - c. But we are strangers and pilgrims here, and will be taxed as strangers (Heb 11:13)
 - d. As Christ-followers, we will not go against the government simply because taxes are oppressive, or even wrong
 - e. We will pay taxes (Rom 13:7)
 - f. We can trust Jesus
 - 1) By us working to pay our taxes – it is our God given duty
 - 2) By trusting Him to supply when we have nothing to pay (Philp 4:19)
 - 3) Jesus has absolute authority over all of nature!
 - 4) Trust Jesus Christ to conquer unjust nations through preaching of the cross, not through riots and warfare (John 18:36)!!!