

## *Matthew Chapter 17*

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- **Matthew 16:28** seems to belong with Chapter 17; it is a continuation of the same thought.
- Speaking of coming in His kingdom, referring to His Royalty, Glory.

**2 Peter 1:16**      “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

- Previews at the movies make you want to see the movies themselves. Here Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a preview of what is to come.

V: 1    “*Now after six days...*”

- Peter, James, John – an inner circle of sorts, singled out from the rest of the group on 3 occasions, all three times dealing in some way with death.
  1. Raising of Jairus’ daughter.
  2. Transfiguration.
  3. Gethsemene
    - Peter ended his life being crucified upside down.
    - James was beheaded.
    - John was initially boiled in oil with no effect, then banished to Patmos and eventually died of old age in Ephesus.
- The high mountain was probably Mt. Hermon.
  1. Proximity to Caesaria Phillippi / Banias.
  2. Highest mountain in the area.
  3. Mt. Tabor (traditional site) is too far away, past the sea of Galilee @ Nazareth.

V: 2    “Transfigured” (G-3339) “metamorphoo”, metamorphosis, transformed.

- Radiating light from within as opposed to reflecting it.
- Jesus radiated, Moses reflected.

**Revelation 1:13-17**      “<sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. <sup>14</sup>His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength.

<sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon Me, saying unto me, “fear not; I am the first and the last...”

**John 1:14** “And the Word was made flesh, and swelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**1 John 3:2** “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

V: 3 Moses & Elija → Law & Prophets → Both point to the cross.

**Matthew 22:37-40** <sup>37</sup>Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

**Matthew 5:17** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

**Galatians 3:11** “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”

- Jesus came to do what the Law could not do.

**Psalms 40:7 / Hebrews 10:7** “Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of me.”

- The Gospel of Luke gives us a couple more details:

**Luke 9:30-31** <sup>30</sup>And behold, there talked with Him two men, which were Moses and Elias: <sup>31</sup>Who appeared in glory, and spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.”

**John 10:18** <sup>17</sup>Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup>No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

**Acts 2:23** “Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

- Moses and Elija also represent 2 different dispensations (2-D).

1. Moses: Those who die in faith yet live with Christ.
2. Elija: Those who would not see death, but be raptured.

V: 4 *“Then answered Peter”* (KJV), was there a question? Other versions better translated as “Peter said” – exclaimed, blurted out.

**Matthew 16:14-16** Peter’s confession drew a significant distinction between Jesus and the prophets, as opposed to lumping them together as he does here.

- The mistake here was to bring Jesus down to the level of Moses and Elijah; or on the other end that of raising Moses & Elijah up to the level of Jesus.

**Isaiah 46:5** *“To whom will ye liken Me, and make me equal, and compare Me, that we may be like?”*

- We at times tend to forget that God is high and lifted up beyond the heavens.
- I’m not against sports or recreation, or other activities as such – but there is a trend within Christianity to elevate these things up to the level of God – where they then take precedence over God in our lives.

V: 5 God interrupts Peter – “Shekinah Glory”

- Again God the Father is confirming His only Son’s authority, affirming His ministry.
- Similar affirmations:

**Matthew 3:16-17** *“<sup>16</sup>And Jesus when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: <sup>17</sup>and lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

**John 12:28** *“Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”*

- God spoke to man through Moses & the Law, then through the prophets encouraging men to obey the law.
- Now God is speaking directly through His Son and saying, “listen to Him!”

**Hebrews 1:1-2** *“<sup>1</sup>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup>who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*

V: 6 When they heard God's voice they fell on their faces and were afraid:

**Isaiah 66:2** "... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word."

**Isaiah 66:5** "Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at His word;..."

- This scene portrays a contrast between those who fear the Lord and those who don't:

**Proverbs 1:29-30** <sup>29</sup>For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: <sup>30</sup>They would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof."

- This was a formative experience for Peter, he referred to this incident later in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter:

**2 Peter 1:16-18** <sup>16</sup>For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. <sup>18</sup>And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount."

1. On Mount Sinai the Law was given.
2. At the sermon on the mount, the Law was explained.
3. Here on the "holy mount", presumably Mt. Hermon, the Law was glorified.
4. Later on the mount, called Calvary – the Law would be fulfilled.

V: 7 Jesus touched them – comforted them, and said "*do not be afraid.*"

**Joshua 1:9** "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

**2 Timothy 1:7** "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

V: 8 **Jesus only!** I want that kind of focus!

**Hebrews 12:2** "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- We need to keep our eyes on Jesus!

**Philippians 3:14** “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- When we take our eyes off of Jesus, that’s when we sink.

**Matthew 14:29-30** <sup>29</sup>And He said, come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me!”

V: 9 Later, Peter talks of being an “eye witness”. **2 Peter 1:16**

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[Back to verse 1:](#)

V: 1 *“Now after six days...”*

- Genesis: 6 days of creation then God rested.
- 6 days of work / strife then on the 7<sup>th</sup> rest / Sabbath – end of strife.
- 6 the number of man, seven being the number of completion.
- 6 years a man may serve as a slave, then in the 7<sup>th</sup>, he is set free.
- The Law & Prophets, and the Grace of God all meet.
- A superior trinity, represented, seen by an inferior trinity.

If we back up a little and get the bigger picture:

1. In the previous chapter we see the bedrock of Christianity (petra), the confession of Jesus Christ as LORD.
  2. Then there is a time period of six days of walking with the Lord, faith being tested.
  3. Then we see the Lord in His glory, the transfiguration, Jesus in His glory reaching out to man.
  4. All that man can see is God in His glory – a picture of heaven.
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V's: 10-13 The disciples had been taught about the prophecy in **Malachi 4:5** that Elija would precede the Messiah.

- Now they’ve seen the Messiah in His glory, they ask Where’s Elija?
- Jesus explains **Isaiah 40:3** and **Malachi 3:1**, that John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elija.
- An angel of the Lord speaking with Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist described John’s ministry:

**Luke 1:17** “And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn their hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

- Today the Jews are waiting for the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of the Messiah, and His “forerunner” Elija.
  - Passover tradition of extra place setting and checking the door.
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- Peter, James, and John – have just had this incredible mountain top experience.
  - They’ve seen the glory of the Lord, they’ve heard the voice of God.
  - God has given them correction, direction, and comfort.
  - Now the journey down the hill, back down to earth so to speak, back to the reality of their lives.

Can anybody relate to this?

- They say that the sun shines the brightest on the mountain tops, but the fruit grows in the valleys.

V: 14-18

**Parallel passage: Mark 9:14-27** read

V: 14 Back to the other 9 apostles, the crowd, and the Scribes who were questioning the disciples.

- Jesus immediately came to their defense. Our advocate!

**Mark 9:14-16** “And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, “what are you discussing with them?””

- Basically His disciples were being swarmed by the religious leaders, put to the test.

**Romans 8:34** “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

**1 John 2:1** “My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

V: 15 **Lunatic**: “smitten by the moon” (Epileptic)

- Eastern culture: If you slept outside and the moon happened to shine on your face, it would drive you crazy.

**Psalms 121:6** “The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.”

- Sore vexed / troubled, cast into the fire, cast into water.

**Mark 9:18** “... he teareth <sup>(convulsed)</sup> at him, and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away...”

- This father is describing a terrible, heart wrenching situation.
- The attempts by the demon to destroy the boy and the torment all fall in line with Satan’s character as expressed by his titles.

**Revelation 9:11** “Abaddon” – Hebrew = destruction.  
“Apollyon” – Greek = destroyer.

V: 16 Back in Matthew Ch. 10 the disciples had been commissioned and empowered to deal with these things.

**Matthew 10:1** “And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

**Luke 10:17** “... Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.”

Given the power / ability by Jesus, yet unable? Why?

**Ephesians 3:20** “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

- Is this what the church looks like today? **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- We’re given a couple of clues in the next verse:

V: 17 “... *O faithless and perverse generation...*”

**Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- How are we justified? Through faith.

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”

**Matthew 13:54-58** <sup>54</sup>“And when He was come into His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? <sup>55</sup>Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? <sup>57</sup>And they were offended in Him. But Jesus said unto them, “a prophet is not without honour, save in His own country, and in his own house. <sup>58</sup>And He did not many mighty works there because of their un-belief.”

- While at this point we don’t know for sure who’s faith is being spoken of here, we do see that a lack of faith prevents miracles.
- We also see that Jesus and His faithfulness trumps everything!

2<sup>nd</sup> clue:

“*Perverse*” – 1<sup>st</sup> thought that He was also addressing the scribes.

Perverse: (G1294). diastrepho, dee-as-tref'-o; to distort, misinterpret, or corrupt, perverse, turn away.

“*How long shall I be with you?*”

- It’s almost as if Jesus were saying “If you’re having a difficult time in faith now, with Me being right here with you, what will happen when I’ve ascended to heaven?”

“*Bring him hither to Me.*” When someone’s got an issue – bring them to Jesus! Not to the psychiatrist, or to the pharmacy, and not necessarily to the church / religion. The answer to every problem; bring them to Jesus!

**2 Peter 1:2-3** <sup>2</sup>“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

V: 18 Jesus rebuked the devil / demon and he departed from him.  
This is the short version:

**Mark 9:20-24** “I believe, help my unbelief.”

- This issue of faith was dealt with first.
- Jesus didn’t heal first, then talk about faith.

Demonic world is real:  
Guys @ store late at night.  
K. Rosenthal, man w/knife – eyes.  
“Druggies”

Opening / invitation?  
Drugs, alcohol, weege board, music,  
tarrow cards etc.

**Mark 9:25-26** <sup>25</sup>“When Jesus saw the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. <sup>26</sup>And the spirit cried, and rent / convulsed him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, he is dead.”



- It got worse before it got better!
- The introduction of God's word initially brought pain, but eventually it brought deliverance.

**John 8:31-32** "If ye continue in My word, ye are My disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**Mark 9:27** "But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose."

- Ultimately it was the touch of our Lord Jesus; Jesus is the one who lifted him up and restored him.

V: 19 The disciples were confused; they had previously been empowered to do this, and had done it – they didn't know what had gone wrong.

- They'd been given the power. **Matthew 10:1**

V: 20 The disciples saw the power of Satan manifested in this incident to control the boy, they took their eyes off of Jesus. They forgot who really has the power.

**1 John 4:4** "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

- The media, government, schools, the world will do the same to us today if we let them.
- We see Satan manifested in these different groups, but that is not the end of it!
- He's just more obvious and louder now, he started off slowly: **Genesis 3:1** soft voice gently challenging God's Word & character.

**Illustration:** Jr. High School bully being beaten up by a nice ordinary guy – surprise!

**Isaiah 14:16** "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;"

- We need not yield any territory to the enemy! He's already defeated!

**"Faith"** **Romans 10:17** **1 Cor. 12:7-11** (gift of the Spirit)

**"Nothing shall be impossible"** **John 15:5** "apart from Me you can do nothing."

**Matthew 19:26** "... with God all things are possible."

**Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

V: 21 *“This kind”* – Implies that there are different kinds, ranking of demons?

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- Prayer & fasting: **prayer attaches** us to God, **fasting detaches** us from the flesh.

**Mark 8:34** “Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

**2 Corinthians 10:4** “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

H.A. Ironside *“Prayer is the expression of dependence upon God, which alone gives victory.”*

- Can't fast on the spot, instantly, must be done ahead of time, must be ready at all times, lifestyle.

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

**2 Peter 3:15** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

V: 22-23 This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> mention of His death.

- They heard the first part but didn't seem to hear the last part based on their reaction.

**Hebrews 12:2** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

*Subject jump?* Applies directly to the situation.

**John 16:7** “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.”

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- **Look to the cross!**

V: 24 Tribute money / temple tax described in Exodus as ½ shekel for each male over 20 years of age.

- Jesus always kept the parts of the law that were established by God.

V: 25 Peter said “yes” for Jesus without consulting Him.

- Knew Jesus would obey the law.
- “Prevented” means went before, meaning that Jesus spoke before Peter did.
- This is a demonstration of His omniscience.

V: 26 Jesus implies that He could file for an exemption, being the only begotten Son of the King of Kings... The Temple is His Father’s house. ☺

**Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

**John 8:36** “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- Free from the Law – after His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

V: 27 “Lest we should offend” [When the law is broken it is called an offense.](#)

**1 Corinthians 8:9** “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.”

**Ephesians 5:2** “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.”

**Romans 13** – submitting to authority.

**Matthew 22:21** “... render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

- Hook Vs net? **Luke 5:4 & John 21:6** {nets.
- Note that Jesus didn’t already have the money with Him.
- Material poverty / spiritual wealth.
- This incident is only recorded by Matthew, a tax collector.
- This is the only miracle involving money.

- While this miracle benefited Peter it is also the only miracle that in any way benefited Jesus.

**(V: 28)** Like Acts Ch. 29 - We read and assume that it happened by faith! There is no verse 28 but it sure seems like it's there.

**Joshua 21:45** “Not a word failed of any good things which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.”

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Jesus did various miracles that directly affected Peter.

1. Healed his mother in law.
2. Provided a boatload of fish.
3. Helped him to walk on water.
4. Put the severed ear back on Malchius.
5. Got to be with Jesus at the Mt. of transfiguration.
6. Provided tax money from the fish.
7. More fish after the resurrection.
8. Release from prison.

Peter, like Paul was singled out for a special ministry. We see him sleeping between two Roman guards, the peace of God being upon him. Peter had seen what God could and would do for him in several situations, trained up in faith.