



Matthew 17:9-13

Matt. 17:9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

Matt. 17:10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

Matt. 17:11 Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.

Matt. 17:12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”

Matt. 17:13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Mark’s Gospel tells us a little bit more about what Peter, James & John were talking about as they came down from the mountain—check it out...

Mark 9:10 So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

Observations & Discussion

1. You can imagine that Peter, James & John would have wanted to tell everyone what they had just seen on the mountain! Yet, in vs. 9 we read that Jesus told them **not to tell anyone** what they had seen until after the Resurrection! Why do you think Jesus wanted them to keep quiet until after He rose from the dead?

2. Why do you think it was so hard for the disciples to understand what Jesus meant when He said that He would rise from the dead? (ref. Mark 9:10).

3. Before we tackle the disciples question about Elijah, and Jesus' response we need to look at some other Scriptures. Compare Matthew 17:11-13 with what the following verses tell us about Elijah & his ministry:

Malachi 4:5-6

Luke 1:15-17

John 1:21-23

In view of what you just read should we expect Elijah to return to the earth before Jesus' 2nd Advent?

If you answered "yes" to the question above, what do you think Elijah will be doing when he returns?

In what way was John the Baptist like Elijah?

Was John the Baptist actually Elijah? Why or why not?