

Refrigerator Notes 26 February 2017
Priest, Prophet and King
Matthew 17:1-9

1. This past Sunday, we celebrated the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior.
2. The word "transfiguration" comes from the Latin roots 'trans' ("across") and 'figura' ("form, shape").
3. Transfiguration thus signifies a change of form or appearance -This is what happened to Jesus in the event known as the Transfiguration: Jesus' appearance changed and He became glorious.
4. In Luke 9:27, at the end of a speech to the twelve apostles, Jesus adds, enigmatically: "There are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God".
5. That promise that our Lord made then still stands today for the faithful and righteous.
6. On the mountain Peter, James and John see the glory of God's Kingdom shining out of Jesus.
7. On the mountain, in the conversation of the transfigured Jesus stands Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets.
8. On the mountain, the three disciples learn that Jesus is the Living Torah, the complete Word of God.
9. On the mountain, the three disciples see the 'power' (dynamism) of the Kingdom that is coming in Christ.
10. It's on the mountain that the disciples hear Moses and Elijah speak of Jesus' impending death.
11. It's here on the mountain that we learn of the symbolism of Moses; the first prophet (who spoke to the people for God), Priest (who spoke to God for the people) and king of Israel (who led the people out of Egypt).
12. Moses ruled over not only the nation of Israel (as non-anointed king) and was the priest of the first congregation of the Temple of Israel (Exodus 12:3).
13. Moses's appearance was to remind us that he provided the moral code that man is commended to live by and follow, even to this day.
14. Elijah; the last of the prophets in the Northern Kingdom, he was a dooms day king and Baal slayer, and he performed the duties of a priest when he sacrificed a bull that was inundated in water to prove who was the true God of Israel.
15. Elijah was considered the greatest prophet of all the Prophets.
16. Elijah existed at a time when the Israel and the kings of Israel were just out right wicked.
17. Elijah image is to remind us, when the world becomes too much for God to bear, He is going to destroy it; enter the Savior.
18. The transfiguration scene is the key to understanding the cross of Jesus and Jesus' commitment to die. In Luke's version of the story he tells us that Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah about his approaching death in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31).
19. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He would, indeed, be glorified, but it would not at all be the kind of glory most people were expecting (a worldly kind of supremacy).
20. Nor would Jesus gain that glory in the way most people thought He would (by physical war with Rome). The glory that lay in store for Jesus, which the disciples previewed in the transfiguration, would come through Jesus' death and resurrection
21. We as fallen men, ignorant, guilty, polluted, and helpless; we need a Savior who is a prophet to instruct us; a priest to atone and to make intercession for us; and a king to rule over and protect us