

## The Last Days re-visited

Lloyd Dale – 2002

### Chapter two

The heart of **him that has understanding seeks knowledge...**  
**Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that has it.**

(Proverbs 15:14a & 16:22a )

Many modern day Christians have been brain-washed by **fiction writers posing as Bible teachers**. This form of brain-washing began in the late 18th century with the writing and teaching of the Baptist fiction writer named Morgan Edwards (May 9, 1722-1795), Emmanuel Lacunza, Irving Edwards, and others; it continued through J. N. Darby, the Millerites, and others in the 19th century; then, C. I. Scofield, John Walvood, Hal Lindsey, and others in the 20th Century, and is continuing in incredible fashion in the 21st century through the writings of Tim LaHaye, Jerry Jenkins and others. (For complete documentation of these things see [The Origin of the Pre-Tribulation Teaching and Morgan Edwards and the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Teaching](#), written by the Baptist pastor and evangelist John L. Bray, PO Box 90129, Lakeland, Florida, 33804)

Dear reader, are you one of those who has been brainwashed by these **fiction writers posing as Bible teachers**? It is very easy to tell: if you are not willing to consider any other point of view, but the one you presently hold; if you are not willing to read, study, and Biblically test this document, and/or others like it; but think that people in your Christian circles should sit by quietly, without objection, while you or your pastor expound your particular belief, then you are brainwashed not educated! **It is time that Christians become educated not brainwashed!** Education only occurs when Christians become “Bereans:”

“These (the Christians in Berea) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**” (Acts 17:11 AV)

**Let’s be Bereans!**

In his document entitled “My Understanding of These Verses” a local pastor quoted 1 Peter 1:16-18 as proof of his belief that “the transfiguration was a miniature picture of the kingdom.”

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and presence our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. (2 Peter 1:16-18 AV)

So let's take a good look at that passage. In order to do that, we need to put it in its proper context. (Please get out your Bible and read 2 Peter 1 - 2:1a) The section we wish to examine begins with chapter 1, verse 13:

Yes, I think it proper as long as I am in this tabernacle (Peter's body), to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle (body of flesh) even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown<sup>1</sup> me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease (death) to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when **we made known unto you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when *at His Baptism* there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this *same* voice which came from heaven *at the baptism of Jesus* we heard *again*, when we were with him *at the transfiguration* in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first; that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (release). For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. But there were false prophets also among the people of *Israel*, even as there shall be false prophets among you,...(2 Peter 1:13-2:1a)

Peter expresses his purpose for writing this section, which was to “stir up” **his first century readers** by reminding them of some important truths in addition to **the fundamentals of the faith** he had already reminded them of **in verses 2-12**. First, let us list the things that Peter said these people already knew, but he wanted to remind his readers of them again.

- Shortly I (Peter) must die “even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me.” (v.14)

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<sup>1</sup> Here, Peter is referring to the event recorded in the fourth Gospel 21:12-22.

- After he died that they would “always have these things (everything in Peter’s letters) in their memory.” (v. 15)
- “We have not followed cunningly devised fables”. (v.16a)
- “When we made know to you (his first century readers) **the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” (v. 16b)
- “We were eyewitnesses of His majesty:
  1. When He received from God the Father honor and glory when, at the baptism of Jesus, there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, *saying* this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (vs 16c-17, See the accounts of Jesus’ baptism, Matt.3:13ff; Mark 1:9ff; Luke3:21ff)
  2. And we heard this voice from heaven *again*, when we were with Him (at the transfiguration) in the Holy Mount. (vs. 18, Matt. 17; Mark 9; & Luke 9)
- We have a more sure word of prophecy: (19a)
  - I. Which you would do well to take heed of. (19c)
  - II. For it (that “sure word of prophecy”) is a light that shines in a dark place. (19d)
  - III. Until the day (shall) dawn (at the presence of Jesus Christ). (19e)
  - IV. And the day star (shall) arise in your heart (at the presence of Jesus Christ). (19f)
- Knowing this first:
  1. That no prophecy is of any private release, i.e. the prophet did not give his own understanding or interpretation of the prophecy; he just prophesied what Yahweh gave him. (20)
  2. Prophecy came not by the will of man. (21)
  3. Prophecy only came when holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (21)
- **But** there were false prophets among the (ancient) people of Israel. (2:1a)
- **And** there shall be false prophets among you (the people, there, then, in the first century, *not necessarily among us, the people of the 21st century*): (2:1b)
  - A. These first century false teachers will stealthily bring in (2:1c)
  - B. destructive heresies (2:1d)
  - C. **and** bring on themselves swift destruction, in the first century. (2:1e)

Now, the question is: **How does this passage show that the transfiguration was a “picture of the Son of Man coming in His kingdom?” It doesn’t!**

In the above passage of Scripture, Peter explains, to his first century readers, that the Gospel message, which he had previously “made known unto you,” is ***not a cunningly devised fable***, for it was given to them by the Master Himself, “our

**Lord Jesus Christ,”** and they were eyewitnesses of His majesty. They had personally seen His presence<sup>2</sup> and His power. They saw how that Jesus Christ had “received from Yahweh the father honor and glory,” when **the father spoke**, at the baptism of Jesus, **saying “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**

Then Peter explains how they heard the **same voice speak to them**; at that time, on the holy mount, **when Jesus was transfigured.**

Thus, there is only one mention of the transfiguration in this passage, “And this same voice which came from heaven (at the baptism of Jesus) we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.” This portion only states that the disciples (Peter, James, and John), who were with Jesus at the time of His transfiguration, heard the same voice that was heard when Jesus was Baptized in the river Jordan. All three of the Synoptic Gospels record this event, and they all three record that they heard “a voice from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22b)

Now the question is: How does hearing the same voice at the transfiguration which was heard after Jesus was baptized show that the **transfiguration was a “picture of the Son of Man coming in His kingdom?”** **It doesn’t!**

At the time of the transfiguration, Peter wanted to make three tabernacles, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but they were encompassed by a “cloud, and they heard a voice from the cloud saying, This is my beloved Son: hear Him.”

Now the question is: How does the voice of Yahweh, saying the same thing at the transfiguration as He said at the time when Jesus was baptized, establish that the **transfiguration was a “picture of the Son of Man coming in His kingdom?”** **It doesn’t!**

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<sup>2</sup> The Greek word used here is “parousia,” which is erroneously translated “coming” in many places in English translations, note especially Matthew 24:3; however, it was not translated here as “coming” because the translators knew that His “coming” was yet future so they translated it correctly here. Parousia literally means “presence” not coming as is clearly demonstrate in this text itself. Peter is writing about what they were eyewitnesses to. They had personally seen the presence of Jesus Christ, and they had personally seen His power displayed in numerous miracles, but they **had not seen His “coming”**; **because at the time Peter wrote this letter, the “coming” was still future!** Thus, “parousia” should properly be translated “presence” in this statement, and in every other place it occurs in Scripture, not “coming”! (For a complete discussion of this truth see this writers other papers on these subjects.)

The answer, by now, should be obvious; **it does not establish any such thing! If that were true, then we would be required to say that the Baptism of Jesus was a “picture of the Son of Man coming in His kingdom” also!! Do you know of anyone that has ever made that claim? This writer doesn’t. The reason they do not is because the baptism of Jesus was not “a picture of the Son of man coming in His kingdom,” and neither was the transfiguration.**

In one of our conversations, that pastor told me that “Today the east gate of the temple in Jerusalem is still sealed shut.” My response to him was that “the temple in Jerusalem was totally destroyed, stone by stone, in September of 70 AD so today there is no east gate of the temple of Jerusalem, it could not still be sealed today.” No temple -- no sealed gate.

In the document referred to above he wrote, “today the east gate spoken of in Ezekiel 44:2, called the Golden Gate, of the sacred Moslem area (Haaram esh - sharif) in Jerusalem is likewise (sic) sealed shut.” That Moslem gate may be sealed shut; however, this pagan Moslem site and its temple have absolutely **nothing to do with the east gate of the Temple of Yahweh today, or at any other time for that matter**