

<sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus [Moses – *the one God personally buried*; Elijah – *the one taken to heaven alive in a chariot of fire* (2 Kings 2:11)]. They spoke about his departure [literally, His exodus], which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem [Take note: No one TOOK Jesus' life; He brought about His own departure; HE LAID DOWN HIS OWN LIFE! The Bible says that Jesus “was handed over...by God's set purpose and foreknowledge” (Act 2:1 NIV)]...

<sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” [Peter seemed to KNOW Moses and Elijah – *even though they had lived 1,400 and 800 years earlier*. SO WAS THAT MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE A GLIMPSE OF HOW THINGS WILL BE IN HEAVEN? The Bible says: “Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (1 Cor. 13:12b NIV)]

<sup>34</sup> While he was speaking, a cloud appeared... <sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” [God loves us, so He calls us to LISTEN to His Son! To listen means to pay attention, to hear; then – by God's grace – to understand and apply God's Holy Word!]

### Conclusion:

- In life – *let us tell of God's forgiveness in Jesus!* (and)
- In death – *let us die knowing our sins are forgiven through Jesus!*

And all God's people said: *Amen!*

**February 17 is Ash Wednesday; join us at 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.**

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# Some Realities of Life, Death, and Heaven!

Based on Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36

*The Transfiguration of our Lord – 2010*

Sunday, February 14 → 8:15 & 10:45

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, *right now we are alive but someday our bodies will die!* Whenever that moment comes, God wants us to know that He will take us home to heaven – not because we are good, but because Jesus Christ – *the One in whom we trust* – was perfectly good in our place!

Today's sermon will be included with the Scripture readings. As I'm reading, I will point out some realities of **life, death, and heaven!**

1. **Deuteronomy 34:1-12 – Moses – his life, his sin, his death, and his significance!** <sup>1</sup> Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo... There the LORD showed him the whole land... as far as the western sea [that is, the Mediterranean, which is about 60 miles away]... <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath [about 500 years earlier] to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ [Remember, the Lord knows about our lives now and the lives of our descendants in the future! Then the He said to Moses:] I have let you see [the land of promise] with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

**Why not?** Earlier, the Lord said to Moses: “SPEAK to that rock...and it will pour out its water.” (Num. 20:8) But,

instead, Moses STRUCK the rock twice (v. 11), so the Lord said: “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy [by doing what I said]..., you will not bring this community into the land I give them.” (v. 12) That is a reminder to us that “the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23)

<sup>5</sup> And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> He [the Lord] buried him in Moab... [Is it right or wrong to bury those who die? The Lord showed us it is RIGHT by personally burying Moses!]

<sup>8</sup> The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days [Death brings separation, which causes us to weep and mourn. However, when we and our loved die in the Lord (Rev. 14:13), we know that the separation is TEMPORARY and look forward to the blessed reunion yet to come! (John 11:23-27)]...

<sup>10</sup> Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup> who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt... <sup>12</sup> For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. [No one – until Jesus! Moses was the greatest prophet until the Son of God came into the world; but now and forever JESUS IS CERTAINLY SUPERIOR TO MOSES!]

2. **Hebrews 3:1-6** – Jesus – the One on whom we should focus – is MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT than Moses!

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling [that is, the invitation that comes from heaven – by the Spirit through Baptism and the Bible – to lead us to heaven], fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle [the One sent from the Father] and high priest [the One who sacrificed Himself for our sins] whom we confess. So how are you fixing your

thoughts on Jesus? In other words: **What are you doing with the Scriptures, which testify about Jesus** (John 5:39)?

- Have you been LISTENING to them?
- Do you want to UNDERSTAND them?
- Are you planning to DO whatever they say?

<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. [God used Moses – and he cooperated – to lead the people of Israel to the land of promise, but God used Jesus – and He cooperated with absolute perfection – to make the ONE WAY to the ultimate land of promise – which is heaven!]

<sup>6</sup> ...And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. [The FOUNDATION of the house is the apostles and prophets – thus the Word of God; the CHIEF CORNERSTONE of the house is Jesus Christ; and we – TRUE BELIEVERS – are the house! Furthermore, God has ✚ shown us the truth of His Word and ✚ given us faith in Jesus; NOW, by His grace, may we always CONTINUE in such things! (Eph 2:20)]

3. **Luke 9:28-36** – Jesus – knowing He is the Son of God, let us listen to Him! <sup>28</sup> ...Jesus ...took Peter, John and James

[the inner circle, His closest apostles] with him and went up onto a mountain to pray [probably Mount Hermon]. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying [speaking to God in words and thoughts], the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning [Jesus was transfigured ⇐ in such a way that it became obvious that He was MUCH MORE THAN A MAN. Earlier ✚ His baptism, ✚ His teachings and ✚ His miracles pointed in that direction; now His very appearance!].