

**“Some Standing Here
Will Not Taste Death”**

“For ***the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father*** with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until ***they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.***”

(Matthew 16:27–28)

What was Jesus talking about when He said, “some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom”?

Undoubtedly, He was speaking of His transfiguration—glimpse of His future, glorious coming.

In order to understand this, we must first understand the Old Testament teaching concerning the Coming of God.

The foundation passage is Deuteronomy 33

“The Lord will **come** from Sinai, and
dawn on them from Seir; He will **shine**
forth from Mount Paran, and He will **come**
from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; at
His right hand will flash forth **lightning**.

(Deuteronomy 33:2)



The coming of God from heaven is primarily described using the language of the rising and shining forth of the Sun.

He is seen shining over the tallest mountains to the south of Israel: Sinai, Paran and Seir.

God will come in radiant shining light or glory

Note also that He comes from the midst of ten thousand holy ones.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the themes of the coming of God and the Glory of God repeatedly linked together:

God will **come** from Teman,
And the Holy One from Mount Paran.
Selah.

His **splendor** will fill the skies,
And the earth will be full of His praise.

His radiance will be like the sunlight;

He will have ***rays flashing from His hand,***

For there is the hiding of His power.

(Habakkuk 3:3–4)

The wilderness and the desert will be glad,
And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus
It will blossom profusely
And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the glory of the Lord,

The majesty of our God.
Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.
Say to those with anxious heart,
“Take courage, fear not.

Behold, your God will come with vengeance;

The recompense of God will come,
But He will save you.”

(Isaiah 35:1–4)

A voice of one crying out:
Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness;
make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

Every valley will be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled;
the uneven ground will become smooth
and the rough places, a plain.

***And the glory of the Lord will appear,
and all humanity together will see it,***

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

(Isaiah 40:3–5)

Arise, shine; ***for your light has come.***
The glory of the Lord has ***risen*** upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth
and deep darkness the peoples; but ***the***
Lord will rise upon you and ***His glory will***
appear upon you.

(Isaiah 60:1–2)

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. “But for you who fear My name, ***the sun of righteousness will rise*** with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

(Malachi 4:1-2)

The New Testament simply adopts and reiterates this theme but applies it to the return of Jesus.

***“For the Son of Man is going **to come**
in the glory of His Father with His
angels, and will then repay every man
according to his deeds.***

(Matthew 16:27)

For just as *the lightning* comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will *the coming of the Son of Man* be.

(Matthew 24:27)

“So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them.

For just as the [the morning light] comes from the east and shines to the west, so will *the coming of the Son of Man*

be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

(Matthew 24:26–28)

And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration ***when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne***, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

(Matthew 19:28)

“But when ***the Son of Man comes***
in His glory, and all the angels with
Him, then He will sit on ***His glorious***
throne.

(Matthew 25:31)

The Transfiguration

“For ***the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father*** with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until ***they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.***”

(Matthew 16:27–28)

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and ***His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.***

(Matthew 17:1–2)

Notice how Peter interprets the transfiguration. He says that he was an eyewitness to the Lord's coming and identified the transfiguration with His coming.

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you ***the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” — and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were ***with Him on the holy mountain.*** So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, ***until the day dawns and the morning star*** arises in your hearts.

(2 Peter 1:16–20)

But notice that he does not view the transfiguration as His ultimate future coming.

Know this first of all, that ***in the last days*** mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “***Where is the promise of His coming?***” For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, ***kept for the day of judgment*** and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow ***about His promise***, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:3–9)