



How Scripture Interprets Itself: Pt V

In the recent Artios teachings, we've been studying how God's Word interprets itself. In this article, we shall continue with Scripture build-up and delve into the subject of 'In the Context.'

We must with alacrity of mind and continued vigilance, remember that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. It either interprets itself in the verse, in the context, or where it was used before.

*(2 Pet 1:20 KJV)
Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

We have been dealing with In the Verse. Let's review the four points:

- Right where it is written,
- Biblical usage,
- In harmony with all other verses regarding the same subject.



- Scripture Build-up.

Now we shall learn the second way that scripture interprets itself, and that is: if it doesn't interpret itself in the verse, right where it is written, it has to interpret itself in the context, the entire story must be considered. We have to understand what the scripture is really trying to say.

In the context

We studied that all scripture interprets itself in the verse, spending some time with scripture build-up. Considering the individual word being studied, that word must always fit

with all other words in that verse, and must also relate to the context of that section.

When you are applying this principle of the word of God interprets itself in the context, you can never guess. You must always allow the word to speak for itself. You just never guess. In Sunday School, everybody gets to offer their opinion. One person says this, and another says that. If you don't know, say that you don't know. Sometimes, you may have to read one or two chapters to understand what is being taught. You never guess, just keep reading.

The transfiguration

TRANSFIGURED metemorphothe

We shall now look at the vision at the Transfiguration. Our understanding of 'transfiguration' comes from studying the Greek

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word, as well as understanding the surrounding context (in v.2). This is 'in the context.'

(Mat 17:1-2 KJV) And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, {2} And was **transfigured** before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

In verse 2, 'transfigured' is the Greek word metemorphothe. Two words make up this word, Meta and morphoo. Meta 'indicates change from one thing to another.' Morphoo means, 'to give shape to, mold, or fashion.' Literally, His appearance changed from one appearance to another. Then we are told of that change. "...His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. If you were to take the word 'transfigured' without studying the context, the immediate context in this situation, then you could easily privately interpret the word.

(Mat 17:3 KJV) And, behold, there **appeared** unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

'Appeared' is the Greek word optomai, meaning, 'seeing objectively' or 'envisioning.' There is another Greek word used for 'seeing,' the word blepo meaning, 'using the eyes to look at.' 'Appeared' means, 'to see without the eyes.' They received revelation.

(Mat 17:4-9 KJV) Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. {5} While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. {6} And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. {7} And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. {8} And when they had lifted up their

eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. {9} And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

The usage that the world places on a vision is not the same as is intended in the bible. In the bible, a loss of consciousness is never experienced. It is more a dormant state of mental activity. God provided a picture, a panoramic view of the situation, and the rest of the mind just stopped thinking about much else. God gave this information by word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. It is never possession. It is always via free will action because God never possesses.

God simply gave these men a vision of Moses and Elijah who had lived many years earlier. At this time, they were not made alive in order to meet Jesus on the mountain. They were only seen via a vision, revelation.

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(Josh 1:2 KJV) Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Joshua 1:2 boldly declared that "Moses my servant is dead." If a man is dead, then he is dead. Elijah was also dead as was recorded in 2 Kings 2. These two men were shown to Jesus and his disciples in a vision. They are still dead and are awaiting the resurrection.

In order to understand this section, we must allow God's word to interpret itself 'in the context' because it doesn't interpret itself in the verse. We looked at three Greek words and studied their meanings. By doing this, we were able to understand the biblical usage of these words. When Jesus was 'transfigured,' his appearance changed from one appearance to another. Then the word described that appearance. The understanding does not come from guess work. It comes from studying.

If the bible doesn't tell you, then you don't know. In the Gospels, you can see the disciples asking Jesus all of the time what things meant. They didn't offer their own interpretation. They would ask the Master. You must relate every word to the verse, and every verse to the context.

God Bless you,
Jerry D. Brown