

Read Mark 9:8-13

8 Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

9 As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

10 So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what he meant by “rising from the dead.”

11 Then they asked him, “Why do the teachers of religious law insist that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?”

12 Jesus responded, “Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready. Yet why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be treated with utter contempt?

13 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they chose to abuse him, just as the Scriptures predicted.”

The disciples were still on the mountaintop and when they looked around, what did they see (v. 8)? No one except Jesus. Moses and Elijah were gone.

When they were coming down the mountain, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do (v. 9)? Don't tell anyone what you saw until after I am raised from the dead.

What did the disciples do (v. 10)? They obeyed and didn't tell anyone. But they were trying to figure out what Jesus meant about rising from the dead. They didn't understand.

When will the disciples start to understand everything about Jesus? At Pentecost when they receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

What did the disciples ask Jesus (v. 11)? Why do the Jewish Bible teachers say that Elijah must come back before Jesus?

What's the answer? Why did Elijah have to come back before Jesus? It was prophesied in Malachi 4:5, four hundred years before this, that Elijah would come back before Jesus did. The disciples were probably wondering, “If Jesus is the Messiah, then where is Elijah?”

How did Jesus answer them (vv. 12-13)? Elijah has already come. **Who was Jesus referring to?** John the Baptist (Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13). John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecies about Elijah coming. John the Baptist was a type or a picture of Elijah.