

Caesarea Philippi: In an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon. It was adjacent to a spring, grotto and related shrines around a cave dedicated to the Greek god Pan. The god of fertility. The Grotto of Pan) was amazing because of many reasons, the waters flowed out of the cave and fed the Jordan River, there was a bottomless pit inside that contained so much water that it could not be measured. Natural features not only impressed the Greeks but they believed them to be a dwelling place of the gods. This belief greatly influenced the Romans. The places is mentioned only twice in the Bible: both as place where Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah. Why? Because of Pan? Or was it because it(was in this area that the first king of Israel (Jeroboam) led the northern kingdom of Israel into idolatry. This was also the same place where the Greeks and Romans received revelations from the god Pan who was mentioned in classical writings as a "seer" or fortune teller and a giver of revelations. You can still visit the cave today.

ON THE WAY : the word "way" in Greek is "hodos" is is the name used for the early Christians (the people of the Way), a metaphor for the Christian life of following Jesus. So they are literally on the path traveling to a new area, and also walking the way of Jesus, the path of faith: implicating us too - this is the way of faith for all followers of Jesus.

Messiah: the Hebrew word is translated as "Christos" or "Christ" in Greek. It means the "annointed one"; the expected king to come in the line of King David.

the Son of Man: this title is a mysterious one, first used in scriptures in Daniel 7 to talk of the Messiah-ish (like) human leader that coems before YAHWEH in a vision of the end times. See also Psalm 8:4.

¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like **a son of man** coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed."

Daniel 7:13-14

Mark 8:27-9:8

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and **ON THE WAY** he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the *Messiah*." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that **the Son of Man** must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "~~Get behind me, Satan!~~ For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become *my followers*, let them ~~deny themselves~~ and **TAKE UP THEIR CROSS** and *follow me*." ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them **the Son of Man** will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

rebuked: 1. to show honor to, to honor; 2. to raise the price of; 3. to adjudge, award (from τιμή in the sense of merited penalty; 4. to tax with fault, rate, chide, rebuke, reprove, censure severely.

Get behind me, Satan!: the imperative “get behind me” can mean several things: 1) get physically out of my way, as in you’re blocking/impeding me; 2) come behind me and follow me in the way I walk (a sort of call to repentance); The name **Satan**: means the one who divides (one from another, one from oneself, one from God).

Followers: τε ακολουθεό in Greek, meaning: 1). to follow one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him: 2). to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple; side with his party

deny themselves: deny, disown, repudiate (either another person or myself), disregar

TAKE UP THEIR CROSS: when crucified the condemned was forced to carry their cross to their place of execution, a way of increasing the public shame. Jesus is advocating to voluntarily take on the shame and visibility of crucifixion.

the kingdom of God: the word ‘kingdom’ can mean a geographical place, as well as a temporal one, or a spiritual one – translatable with “

A HIGH MOUNTAIN: throughout the 1st Testament and the Ancient World high mountain places were considered to be places where heaven and earth met, where the Divine could be most easily encountered.

transfigured: [metamorphó] to change into another form, to transfigure, transform.

dazzling white: an established OT metaphor for purity. “Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be [white] like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Elijah: the greatest of the prophets, who didn’t die but was taken up into heaven. Symbol of the prophetic line.

Moses: the greatest Jewish leader, symbol of the Torah and 10 commandments.

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”: The words of the voice point backwards in the gospel to the baptism of Jesus: “¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” *Mark 1:11* and forwards to his death - “³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” *Mark 15:39*

cloud: pointing back to the presence of YAHWEH in the desert “The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.” *Exodus 13:21*

a voice: “The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.” *Psalms 29:4*. Read the rest of the psalm. God speaks with a

9 ¹ And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that **the kingdom of God** has come with power.”

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up **A HIGH MOUNTAIN** apart, by themselves. And he was **transfigured** before them, ³ and his clothes became *dazzling white*, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them **Elijah** with **Moses**, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for **Moses**, and one for **Elijah**.”

⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were *terrified*. ⁷ Then a **cloud** overshadowed them, and from the **cloud** there came a voice,

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.