

What would it be like to see the Lord face to face? What do we imagine He would look like? There are a lot of ways that we might picture the Lord, but certainly we imagine that He is majestic. He might be sitting on a throne. He might be radiant and beyond words to describe. We likely take our ideas from the visions that prophets have given us in the Old Testament, or from the vision that the apostles Peter, James and John had on top of the mountain.

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration this day. This day the Lord revealed Himself to His disciples. The Gospel teaches us that His clothes became as radiant as light, and His face became dazzling white. The Gospel recounts that the Lord Jesus was transfigured: that means that He did not change but that His outward appearance changed. The Lord changed from His normal appearance into a radiant appearance.

This event was foretold even in the times of the Old Testament. The first reading is from the Book of the prophet Daniel. The prophet sees the Lord mounting His throne. The prophet recounts that His hair was white and His clothing appeared as bright as snow. The prophet also gives details about the Son of Man, who received dominion and glory from God. The prophet Daniel is seeing in this vision the glory of the Lord, and seeing the Messiah receive His place in the Lord's court.

The prophet Daniel was not the only prophet to see a vision of the Lord. The prophet Isaiah saw the Lord in the Temple, with the train of His garment filling the Temple, and the Lord was surrounded by seraphim. Isaiah was commissioned as a prophet in this vision. He was sure that as a sinful man, he would die because he saw the Lord. However, one of the seraphim purified his tongue with coals from the altar of incense.

The prophet Ezekiel saw a vision as well. He described this vision as a likeness of the glory of the Lord. So, the prophet recognized that he was not seeing the Lord Himself, but only a picture of a picture, so to speak. Anyway, the prophet saw the Lord surrounded by fire and by brilliant light. The Lord's glory was radiant and the Lord was surrounded by this glory. Later, the prophet would see a similar vision of the Lord and His glory leaving the Temple, a message that the Lord was no longer present in the Temple.

We might also recount how Moses spoke to the Lord as we might speak to another person. He was not permitted to see God directly, or else he would be killed. However, the Lord