

1. Goal of Transfiguration Series – to study the Transfiguration account through the lens of...

- Lens of first-century culture – how would the first readers of the Gospels understand the account?
- Second Temple Period – the development of Jewish theological views between the Old and New Testaments.
- Rabbinic Thought – the Rabbis have a unique way of understanding the Old Testament. We can study Rabbinic thought to help us see how the Old Testament was understood in the first century.
- Allusions to the Old Testament – Jesus and the New Testament writers use allusions to the Old Testament to convey their message to their audiences by bringing in the meaning or interpretational understanding of the OT scripture.

2. Two Main Categories:

- Jesus as the Redeemer of Israel.
- Understanding the reality of Jesus' heavenly nature.

3. Redeemer of Israel:

- Exodus 24 & 34
- Deuteronomy 18:15 – the Prophet that God will raise up
- Psalm 43
- Rabbinic Midrash (explanation) of Psalm 43.
- Isaiah 42

4. Jesus' Heavenly Nature:

- Heavenly Righteous – The common belief in the first century was that the righteous would shine like the sun in their heavenly state (Apocalypse of Baruch 51:3^{1 2}).
- Last Adam – A theological concept that existed in the first century that the Messiah would be the Last Adam who redeems what was lost in the beginning. Jesus is seen as the “Last” or “Final Adam.” Jesus restores the glory that was lost when the first Adam sinned.
- Heavenly Man – A theological concept that existed in the first century that helps explain the apparent paradox between a God with no image and humanity being made in the image of God. The Heavenly Man is the finite aspect of God through which the world was created (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16).

¹ <http://wesley.nnu.edu/sermons-essays-books/noncanonical-literature/noncanonical-literature-ot-pseudepigrapha/the-book-of-the-apocalypse-of-baruch-the-son-of-neriah-or-2-baruch/>

² Early Jewish Writings - <http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/2baruch.html>

5. Biblical Allusion –

- John’s Gospel portrays Jesus as the Last Adam through Biblical Allusion rather than explicitly explaining it.
- John 20:15.

6. Psalm 42 and Caesarea Philippi:

Psalm 42	Caesarea Philippi
Living God	Living God
Mt. Hermon	Mt. Hermon
Rock	Rock

Psalm 43 & <i>Midrash</i> on Ps. 43	Transfiguration
Redemption	Redemption
Light & Truth (v. 3)	
Elijah & Messiah	Elijah