

LEA Weekly Devotion

2011–2012 series: *This Week*
February 21, 2012

This week in salvation history

[2 Kings 2:1–12](#) or [Exodus 34:29–35](#)
[2 Corinthians 3:12–13; 4:1–6](#)
[Mark 9:2–9](#)

This week in world history

1473: [Copernicus born](#)

Bright Students

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake” (2 Corinthians 4:4–5 ESV).

Copernicus is to blame.

Probably for lots of things, but most notably in this writer's life, for his mother's stern observation: “The world doesn't revolve around you, son.”

The religious community didn't much like Copernicus. The same was true of the scientific community. He was too bright for them. He veiled his theory about everything revolving around the sun instead of the popular teaching that everything revolved around Earth—even before earth became upper cased! Eventually, others came around to accept his observation, even causing the conviction of Galileo on heresy charges many years later. (Martin Luther too objected to the heliocentric view, but then he never went to a Lutheran school and NASA was still trying to invent a space shuttle, so it probably wasn't his fault.)

Copernicus indeed was a bright student, but the trio of readings for this week unveils other bright students—bright with the glory of God. Moses had to wear a veil, and it wasn't to hide a bad case of acne! He had been in God's presence and shone with God's glory ([Exodus 34:29–35](#)). Now that's really bright!

Then there was the transfiguration event ([Mark 9:2–9](#)), when three of Jesus' closest followers got to see the Savior shining as the light of the world—with two enlightened witnesses from Old Testament days present!

Later, God provided Paul to teach us about the Light around which everything revolves. And He has entrusted Paul's message to us—not to keep veiled for fear of ridicule or attack or even bedazzlement, but to boldly proclaim ([2 Corinthians](#)

[3:12–13; 4:1–6](#)). This is not easily accomplished.

You are subject to attack and ridicule. If you taught in a public school, you could be disciplined for teaching the truth about the Holy Trinity and the Divine role in the sustenance of the universe, most notably our little chunk of space known as Earth. Paul seems to say that unbelievers simply do not know any better; they are blinded by their unbelief.

You and your students, in God-gifted faith, are truly the bright students of the world. As was the case for Copernicus, some day everyone will testify to the truths you teach.

Today, we might say that you and your students “rock.” But the world doesn’t revolve around you. It’s Creator God who rocks; and the Spirit told us so. Finally, bright students still know that the universe revolves around the Son.

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