

"A Sure Word of Prophecy"

2 Peter 1:16-21

Introduction: The last time we were together we were looking at Peter reminder to his readers in chapter 1.

Notice 2 Peter 1:12-15

Peter knew his time on earth was quickly coming to an end and therefore he penned this letter so that his readers would always have a reminder after he was passed on of their need to be spiritually mature.

Before this Peter wrote of the provisions which God gives to believers as a means of spiritual growth, then he went on to describe what spiritual growth looks like as the believer climbs the growth ladder. He then went on to talk about the benefits of spiritual growth.

Notice 2 Peter 1:8-11

1. We will bear fruit.
2. We will experience the new life in Christ.
3. We will have assurance of our salvation.
4. We will be spiritually stable.
5. We will have an abundance of rewards in eternity.

Now in verse 11 Peter mentioned the Kingdom.

Notice 2 Peter 1:11 again.

Now let us keep in mind that Peter is writing to Jewish believers.

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

I underlined the word "scattered" because it is very important. It is the word "**diaspora**." This word means "to be dispersed" and it is only used of the Jews. Getting back to 2 Peter 2:11 and understanding that Peter is writing to Jewish believers we must understand that in there minds they had a major question. They wanted to know that they were following the real Messiah. They were facing persecution and that did not fit with how they understood the Old Testament.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

You see, as they read these verses, they understood that the King and the Kingdom would be together. They also knew other texts from the Old Testament that told of the peace, justice, and the prosperity of the Kingdom. But in their lives, there was no sight of the Kingdom therefore they wanted to know where it was and if they were truly following the real Messiah. They were feeling just like John the Baptist and his disciples did.

Luke 7:19-22

¹⁹ And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

²⁰ When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

²¹ And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

²² Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

John the Baptist also understood the Old Testament to teach that the King and the Kingdom go hand in hand and John saw no signs of the Kingdom, so he too had doubts. This is exactly what Peter's listeners were experiencing. They were having doubts and therefore Peter is going to address their doubts and he is going to give them two assurances of the coming Kingdom.

I. Assurance #1 - The Transfiguration.

Notice 2 Peter 1:16-18

Peter reveals here that he was an eyewitness of the majesty of Jesus Christ, he heard the voice of the Father, and it happened on the mount. What mount? The Mount of

transfiguration. Let us go back 30 years earlier in Peter's life and look at what he is pointing to.

Matthew 17:1-8

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

² *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

³ *And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

⁴ *Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.*

⁵ *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

⁶ *And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.*

⁷ *And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.*

⁸ *And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.*

Before we get into this text deeper let me just point out something here. The disciples fell down in fear when they witnessed the transfiguration. This is the reaction of sinful man in the presence of holiness. I point this out because I have heard people say that when they get to see God, they have some questions for Him because of the path they were given to walk. Those who say this have no idea about what they are saying. When they stand before the Lord they will be struck with an overwhelming fear and a sense of reverence. They will not be able to say anything.

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

² *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

⁴ *And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*

⁵ *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

Revelation 1:17

¹⁷ *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

Now let us get back to Matthew 17. The transfiguration in Matthew 17 is very important. In Matthew 12 the offer of the Kingdom was taken away from the Jews because they had attributed the works of Jesus to Satan. So when you come to Matthew 17, we need to understand that while the Kingdom has been postponed Jesus gave this token to show that it will come one day. Matthew 17 is a token to show the promise of the Kingdom has not been cast away but is postponed and it will come when the time is right.

Notice 2 Peter 1:16-18 again.

Peter is telling his readers here that while they do not see any evidence of the Kingdom it will certainly come one day, and we know this to be true because I was an eyewitness to the token. In verse 16 Peter tells his readers that he did not follow cunningly devised fables but instead he was an eyewitness. Unlike the Gnostics who claimed to have secret knowledge, Peter tells his readers he saw Jesus in all His glory and He heard the voice of the Father in the Mount.

The Mount of Transfiguration was a message to all of us who are believers that the Kingdom is a sure thing, and it will one day come but it will be according to God's timing. So to his readers he is telling them to be patient because the Kingdom is coming, and I am an eyewitness of the guarantee that God will do what He has promised.

That is the first assurance of the Kingdom, and it is the eyewitness of Peter.

II. Assurance #2 - The Old Testament Prophecies

Notice 2 Peter 1:19-21

We will get into these verses in a moment but first I want to point out that what Peter is saying to his readers. There is something far more reliable than his eyewitness account and that is the Scriptures, the Hebrew Old Testament.

Application:

This is a point that really needs to be understood. There are many people who want to acceptance experience over the Bible meaning that they do not pay attention to what the Bible says as much as they pay attention to their or someone else's experiences. One of the present-day examples would be people who claim to die and go to heaven or hell and then come back and write a book. People will listen to what the person claims to have experienced instead of believing what the Bible says. Peter is very clear in our text that the Bible is a more sure testimony than someone's experience. The Bible is the Absolute Truth and the final Authority. I have also heard people talk about their friends who claim to have the gift of healing or the gift of tongues and so they believe those people based upon their experiences. That is wrong! The Bible is very clear that the apostolic gifts have ceased and therefore we believe the Bible and not someone's experience. So, someone would then ask, "How do you explain the experiences of my friends?" First of all we do not need to explain them because if the Bible tells me one thing and someone's experience says something else then I know very well their experience is wrong because if not the Bible is wrong. I would also be quick to remind you that Satan is a counterfeiter so he will allow people to have certain experiences to cause confusion.

Now let us get back to the verses.

Notice 2 Peter 1:19

Peter encourages his readers to trust in the Bible as a light for a dark path. Peter is pointing back to Psalm 119.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

The idea here is that they were to rest in God's promises in the midst of a dark and sinful world. Peter also tells them how long they were to do this. Until the day dawn and the day star would arise in their hearts. This was another way of saying, "Until the return of Jesus Christ."

Revelation 22:16-17

¹⁶ *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

¹⁷ *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Now Peter will now point to the inerrancy of the Scriptures.

Notice 2 Peter 1:20

This verse is meant to contrast the message of the false teachers. The false teachers spoke their own private interpretations out of their own minds. Keep in mind the Gnostics claimed to have their **own** secret knowledge. They basically speak only their private thoughts that no one else would have access to. Jeremiah wrote of such false teachers.

Jeremiah 23:16

¹⁶ *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.*

Notice what Ezekiel wrote.

Ezekiel 13:3, 6

³ *Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!*

⁶ *They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.*

Notice 2 Peter 1:21

The Holy men who gave the Old Testament prophecies were "MOVED" which means they were "CARRIED ALONG" by the Holy Spirit as spoke the prophecies and wrote the Scriptures. God allowed each man to use his own literary style, but it was the Holy Spirit who directed them in the Truth. There is a parallel passage in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ *All scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

¹⁷ *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The word "inspiration" means "breathed" which means the Scriptures are directly from the breath of God.

Conclusion:

Peter therefore gives two solid proofs that the Kingdom is coming in the future. First there was the token given on the Mount of Transfiguration and second there is the Word of God that tells us it will come to pass.

Hebrews 6:18-19

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;