

Meaning of God's Word

1 **The Memory and Majesty of God's Word**

2 PETER 1:12-21 – PART 1

2 **2 Peter 1:15-21 (KJV)**

► *Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:15–21, KJV)*

3 **2 Peter 1:12-21 (LEB)**

► *And I will also make every effort that you are able at any time, after my departure, to recall these things to mind. For we did not make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ by following ingeniously concocted myths, but by being eyewitnesses of that one's majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice such as this was brought to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we ourselves heard this voice brought from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain, and we possess as more reliable the prophetic word, to which you do well if you pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, recognizing this above all, that every prophecy of scripture does not come about from one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:15–21, LEB)*

4 **A quick review**

THE MEMORY OF GOD'S WORD

THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S WORD

5 **The Meaning of God's Word**

NEXT TIME – 2 PETER 1:19-21

6 7 8 **The Revelation of Scripture**9 **Revelation by transfiguration**

- Peter learned about the second coming of Christ and the reality of a life beyond this one from seeing the transfigured Savior as we read about in Matthew 17.
- He learned what Moses and Elijah look like in the fact that they were preparing Jesus for his death.
- He had a sense of the awesome majesty of the word spoken by God as well as a sense of the majesty of Jesus Christ.
- So God spoke to Peter through the experience on the Mount of Transfiguration.

10 **Revelation by inspiration**

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▶ Perhaps the most important truth that Peter learned from the Mount of Transfiguration is that the word of the prophets was made ever more certain to him because both the prophets in the Transfiguration pointing to Jesus kingdom on earth.

▶ The sure word of prophecy mentioned by Peter in verse 19 is the written revelation of God in the Scriptures – which would have only included the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures at that time.

▶

11 **Revelation deserves attention**

▶ “Pay attention” (1:19)

▶ God's written word has validity and authority.

▶ Experience can be deceptive

▶ Men's traditions can be error-laden.

▶ For Peter, the Transfiguration provided decisive proof for the fact that the Old Testament Scriptures were inspired and absolutely reliable.

12

13 **The illumination of Scripture**14 **We live in a darkened world.**

▶ *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.* (Isaiah 9:2, KJV)

15 **God provides illumination through His Word**

▶ *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.* (Romans 13:12, KJV)

▶ *...as unto a Light that shineth in a dark place, until the Day [of Christ] dawn, and the Day star arise in your hearts:* (2 Peter 1:19, KJV)

▶ Phosphoros = “Light bringer”

▶ The OT prophecies are like lights that pale in comparison with the reality of the coming of the Bright and Morning Star Jesus Christ.

▶ Until His return we are to let God's Word ILLUMINE our hearts.

16 **Numbers 24:17**

▶ *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: There shall come a Star out of Jacob, And a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And shall smite the corners of Moab, And destroy all the children of Sheth.* (Numbers 24:17, KJV) -- Reference to Christ

▶ *Arise in our hearts* -- When Jesus returns, we will receive the ultimate illumination of God's Word – our understanding will be made perfect because the express image of God will be in our midst.

17 **God's prophetic words lights up the future**

▶ By virtue of their witness to the transfiguration, and specifically to the divine voice, the apostles have confirmation of the prophetic word in its affirmation of Jesus as exalted Son of God who will return in judgment.

▶ The prophetic word functions as a light. The image is a common one.

▶ *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”* (Ps 119:105; cf. Prov 6:23)

▶ In other words, the prophetic word illumines people with the truth about the end of history.

▶ The false teachers had deviated from the truth.

18 **You will not need the Bible forever**

- ▶ The Bible is absolutely essential now as we need it moment by moment to give light in a darkened world to the path that each of us should take.
- ▶ However, verse 19 tells us that we will obviously not need the written revelation of God's word when "the day dawns." This is the day of the Lord – a day of judgment and final salvation.

19 **What is the day of the Lord?**20 21 22 **The Day of the Lord in the Old Testament**

- ▶ The Old Testament focuses on the aspect of God's judgment when it mentions the Day of the Lord
 - ▶ Isaiah 13:6
 - ▶ Joel 1:15
 - ▶ Joel 2:1
 - ▶ Joel 2:11
 - ▶ Joel 2:31
 - ▶ Zephaniah 1:7,14

23 24 **The Day of the Lord in the New Testament**

- ▶ Judgment is definitely there
 - ▶ Acts 2:20
- ▶ But the Christian will rejoice in the Day of the Lord
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 1:14 – reason to rejoice
 - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:2 – comes unexpectedly
 - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 2:2 – we should take comfort in it rather than be frightened of it

25 26 **God directly revealed contents of written Scripture**

- ▶ *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (2 Peter 1:20, KJV)*
 - ▶ Literally, "Above all recognize that every prophecy of Scripture did not arise or come about from one's own explanation"
- ▶ God directly revealed His truths to the writers of Scripture who recorded it with their own personalities and vocabulary, being superintended by the Spirit of God to render that Word inerrant and infallible.
- ▶

27 28 **No private interpretation**

- ▶ Peter responded to the opponents, who claimed that the prophets misinterpreted their revelations from God.
- ▶ Peter insisted that the revelation and the interpretation are of one piece. Both the revelation and the interpretation of what is revealed do not originate from the prophet. The vision and the explanation of the vision both come from God.

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- ▶ A genuine prophetic word does not simply consist of the content of the dream but an accurate interpretation of what the dream says.
- ▶ Peter defended, then, both the revelation given, and the interpretation of the revelation provided by the prophets.

29 **Jeremiah 1:11-14**

- ▶ *And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, "What are you seeing, Jeremiah?" And I said, "I am seeing a branch of an almond tree." Then Yahweh said to me, "You did well to see, for I am watching over my word to perform it." And the word of Yahweh came to me a second time, saying, "What are you seeing?" And I said, "I am seeing a boiling pot, and its face is from the face of the north." Then Yahweh said to me, "From the north disaster will be unleashed on all the inhabitants of the land. (Jeremiah 1:11-14, LEB)*

30 **Zechariah 1:8-11**

- ▶ *I had a vision in the night, and look, a man riding on a red horse. And he was standing between the myrtle shrubs that were in the ravine, and behind him were red, reddish-brown, and white horses. And I asked, "What are these, my lord?" And the angel who was talking with me said, "I will show you what these are." And the man standing between the myrtle shrubs answered and said, "These are those whom Yahweh has sent to patrol the earth." And they answered the angel of Yahweh who was standing between the myrtle shrubs, and they said, "We have patrolled the earth, and look, all the earth is dwelling in peace." (Zechariah 1:8-11, LEB)*

31 **Interpretation – Prophets**

- ▶ As Scripture was being written, prophets in both the old and new Testaments often experienced visions but they were not left to decide on their own what these visions meant. Instead, God explained the visions to them.

32 **Interpretation -- Us**

- ▶ However, when we study the written word of God, we must use a proper Bible study method – the historical-grammatical-contextual method of Bible study – to properly determine what the Bible writers were thinking when they conveyed their revealed truth to us.
- ▶ There is only one correct interpretation but many possible applications.
- ▶ *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV 1900)*

33 **What do we need to learn how to do?**

- ▶ Read God's word with pen and paper in hand
- ▶ Look for verses that tell you who the reader is, the education for writing, the author, the problems that were being addressed, truths about Christ, prophecies about the future, truths about God the father, etc. – and then categorize them.
- ▶ Look for ways to outline the verses after you have read the entire Bible book through several times.

34 **What should we not do?**

- ▶ The false teachers of Peter's day interpreted prophecy to support their own views.
- ▶ We should allow God's word to dictate our theology.
- ▶ We should not use God's word to proof-text our own preconceived views.

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- ▶ Be like the Bereans and double-check with God's word everything you hear the pastor say.

35 **Acts 17:10-11**

- ▶ And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Acts 17:10–11, KJV 1900)

36 37 **Inspiration – “Men spoke from God”**

- ▶ *Prophecy came not from the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ In verse 21, Peter states the truth both negatively and positively.
 - ▶ Negatively, prophecy does not originate in the will of human beings. It is a divine work and cannot be attributed to human ingenuity.
 - ▶ Positively, prophecy comes from God himself.
 - ▶ Human beings spoke with their own personalities and literary styles, so inspiration does not require dictation.
 - ▶ However as they spoke the words ultimately came from God because they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Since verse 20 speaks of the *prophecy of the Scripture*, Peter refers to the written word of God directly.

38 **They were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

- ▶ The writers of Scripture were impelled or borne along by God's Spirit.
 - ▶ *Pheromenoi* = Luke used this word in referring to a sailing vessel carried along by the wind (Acts 27:15, 17).
 - ▶ The Scriptures' human authors were controlled by the divine Author, the Holy Spirit.
 - ▶ They were consciously involved in the process
 - ▶ They neither took dictation, nor did they write in a state of ecstasy or a trance.
 - ▶ God's Word was too important to God for Him to allow error to enter into the process! The Words of the 66 books of the Bible are the words of God Himself!

39 **Westminster Confession of Faith**

- ▶ *The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men* (1.6, emphasis added).

40 **John MacArthur**41 **Time to re-commit**

- ▶ We have at our access a Book that is supernatural in origin
 - ▶ 100% accurate
 - ▶ Never fails
 - ▶ God-breathed
 - ▶ Illuminates our path with truth
- ▶ So how often do we spend time in it?
- ▶ How often do we memorize it?