

## II Peter – The Word of God II Pet. 1:16-21

*Thesis: To help us understand that the Bible is from God and that we are able to understand it.*

### Introduction:

Peter is about to get into the fact that false teachers are coming and they will deny God and His word (2:1). Before he begins to talk about these false teachers, Peter reminds them of the word of God. In particular, Peter gives them three reasons that they can know that their word of God is true.

Peter makes the case that he and the other apostles were following after the truths of God (1:16a). This was not just a scheme that they made up or fell into. Peter is telling them why they can know that the word of God (and even Christianity) is real, and not just a made up myth.

### I. Peter was an eyewitness of Christ (1:16-18).

- A. The example that Peter gives to the brethren is the mount of transfiguration.
  1. Lk. 9:28-36
  2. On this occasion, they saw the greatness of Jesus.
  3. They also understood that Jesus was great than both Moses and Elijah.
- B. Peter reminds the brethren that he was a witness to the majesty of Christ.
  1. Mt. 4:18-20 – Peter was one of the first appointed apostles of Christ.
  2. Mt. 14:22-33 – Peter walks on the water with Jesus.
  3. Mt. 16:13-19 – Peter confesses Jesus as the Son of God.
  4. Mt. 26:36-46 – Peter is with Jesus in the Garden just before He is betrayed.
  5. Jn. 18:10 – When they came to arrest Jesus, Peter drew a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.
  6. Peter even saw Jesus after His death and resurrection.
    - a. Peter, along with John, ran to the tomb of Jesus when the women came and reported that Jesus was no longer there.
    - b. I Cor. 15:3-5 - For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.
  7. The point is that Peter was with Jesus; and he was reminding the brethren that he was an eyewitness to the majesty of Christ.

## II. God Himself testified of Jesus (1:17).

- A. When Jesus was transfigured on the mount, it was God who proclaimed that Jesus was His Son.
  - 1. God Himself said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”
  - 2. There was no doubt in the mind of Peter that Jesus was the Son of God.
- B. God had always let it be known that Jesus was His Son.
  - 1. **Mt. 3:17** - And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
  - 2. **Jn. 12:27-30** - “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. {28} Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” {29} Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” {30} Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.”
  - 3. Even in the death of Jesus, God let it be known that this was His Son.
    - a. **Mt. 27:50-54** - And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. {51} Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, {52} and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; {53} and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. {54} So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!”
    - b. Even if the Jews did not understand who Jesus was, Roman centurion who was guarding the cross did.
- C. God also used miracles to confirm that Jesus was His Son.
  - 1. **Jn. 11:41-44** - Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. {42} And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” {43} Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” {44} And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”
  - 2. **Acts 2:22** - Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--
  - 3. Again, the point is that God Himself said that Jesus was His Son.

### III. The prophetic word was confirmed (1:19-21).

- A. Peter, throughout his teachings, focused a great deal on the prophecies concerning the Christ.
  1. Acts 2:16-21 – Peter quotes from Joel 2:28-32 to explain the events of Pentecost.
  2. Acts 2:25-28 – Peter quotes from Ps. 16:8-11 to show that Jesus has fulfilled David's prophecy concerning the resurrection of the Christ.
  3. Acts 3:18 – Peter refers to the prophecies concerning the suffering of the Lord.
  4. Acts 3:22-23 – Peter quotes from Moses (Deut. 18:15-19) concerning the fact that a greater prophet would come.
  5. Acts 10:43 – Peter refers to Zechariah 13:1 to show that in Christ we can have the forgiveness of sins.
  6. I Pet. 1:10-12 – Peter refers to the prophets that foretold of the sufferings of Christ.
- B. Notice the probability that Jesus would fulfill just eight of the prophecies that were written concerning Him.
  1. Told by Tom Holland (Taken directly from his Sermon Outlines from II Peter, pg. 79).
    - a. Peter Stoner, in Science Speaks, says that the science of probability rules out the possibility that Jesus could have fulfilled prophecy by coincidences in His life.
    - b. Stoner said that by using the science of probability in reference to just 8 prophecies of Jesus the chance that one could live and fulfill all 8 would be 1 in  $10^{17}$  (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).
    - c. He illustrated the matter. "We take  $10^{17}$  silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas, they would cover all the state two feet deep. Now mark these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one."
    - d. His chances of picking up the right dollar, Stoner declared, would be "the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man" (See Science Speaks, pp 106-107).
  2. Now consider the fact that there were over 300 prophecies concerning Christ.
    - a. If His chances are  $1 \times 10^{17}$  for fulfilling only eight prophecies, imagine what His chances would be of fulfilling all 300+!

## Conclusion:

Today, we have each of these three ways to tell that the word of God is true.

1. We have eyewitness accounts of Christ and His work.
2. We have the words of God declaring that these things are true.
3. We have the Old Testament prophecies that have been fulfilled.

There is another great thing about the word of God.

We are able to understand it (II Pet. 1:20-21).

There are those that teach others that they cannot understand the word of God.

However, God has made it so that we can understand it.

**Develop this idea a little further!**