

Studies in 2 Peter  
The Message Verified  
**2 Peter 1:16-21**



## 2 Peter - Previously

- In our last lesson, we addressed Peter's personal appeal as he realizes that his time was limited.  
He wants to leave a reminder after his departure.
- In this lesson, Peter is defending his authority and his message.



# Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *We did not follow cunningly devised fables*
- “Cleverly devised tales” (NASB)  
“Cleverly devised myths” (ESV, LSB)  
The Greek word is the origin of our English word “myths”
- Greek & Roman gods had many outlandish myths attached to their origins & purposes.
- While Jesus did perform supernatural acts, the accounts of His life are realistic & historical.
- Were some questioning Peter's credentials?



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *We made known to you the coming of Jesus*
- They preached Jesus as one who validated His claims with powerful works  
**Romans 1:3-4, John 20:30-31, etc.**
- Contextually, is Peter referring to that or the Lord's return? (**cf. 2 Peter 3:10ff**)
- The word for "coming" is **παρουσία (parousia)**, and when spoken of Jesus always references His future return (17x, including 3 in **Matt. 24**)  
7x it has reference to others
- Peter is reminding them that he had previously taught this



# Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *We were eyewitnesses*
- The book of Acts makes several declarations of the apostles as eyewitnesses
  - Acts 2:32** – witnesses of the resurrection
  - Acts 5:30-32** - Peter & others before the council
  - Acts 10:39-43** - Peter before CorneliusEach of these make reference to the resurrection of Jesus



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *We were eyewitnesses*
- NOTE that Peter uses the plural here - multiple witnesses (i.e., “multiple attestation”)
- *Of His majesty* - they had seen powerful declarations by Jesus during His ministry.  
**Acts 10:39-41, 1 John 1:1**
- **Matthew 16:13-17, John 6:67-69, etc.**  
Because of His works they KNEW who Jesus was
- In essence, Peter was saying, “I was there!”



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *For He received from God the Father...*
- Peter references the occasion of the “transfiguration” and God’s verbal declaration, “This is My beloved Son...”  
**Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36**
- That occasion was a powerful declaration of Jesus as a culmination of His work.  
Jesus was gloriously seen - **Matt. 17:2**  
Moses and Elijah were there



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *For He received from God the Father...*
- The gospel accounts add, “Hear Him!”  
Why Peter did not include this is contextual.  
It was not relevant to the point that he was an apostle and eyewitness.
- But, the expression DOES declare the authority of Jesus



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *For He received from God the Father...*
- NOTE: In this passage, Peter is clearly identifying himself as the author of this letter. Either Peter wrote it or it is a fraud.
- One reason we accept the books of the NT is because of their “apostolic authority” (either written by or association with an apostle).
- We accept them because they were men of integrity. There is NOTHING to question that in historical writings.



# Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *For He received from God the Father...*
- Concerning NT letters and integrity
- Skeptics rarely question the integrity of NT writers. They argue that either
  - 1) They were misguided and deluded with what they believed they saw
  - 2) The letters were written later as legend!
- There is NO evidence to corroborate either of these speculations. Reason is typically that **they don't want to believe!**



## Peter's Apostolic Authority - 1:16-18

- *For He received from God the Father...*
- Again, in essence Peter is declaring, “I was there! And so were others.”

**Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37** - see the declaration of Paul



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed...*
- Peter now appeals to God's word as a source of verification - specifically prophecy.
- Prophecy is a powerful proof of God and His word! Why? Because only God can with pinpoint accuracy foretell what is going to happen  
**Cf. Isaiah 46:9-10, 41:21-23** - these passages are addressing the folly of idolatry.  
Also, God foretells what will happen  
**(44:28-45:1)**



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed...*
- Peter declares that there were prophecies about Jesus coming to this earth and what would happen while here.
- **Genesis 12:3** - all nations blessed  
**Deuteronomy 18:15** – a prophet like Moses  
**2 Samuel 7** - David's throne, see Acts 2  
**Psalms 22 & Isaiah 53** - the death of Jesus



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed...*
- Peter declares that there were prophecies about Jesus coming to this earth and what would happen while here.
- **Zechariah 9:9** - Jesus riding in on a donkey  
**Zechariah 11:12-13** - 30 pieces of silver  
**Zechariah 12:10** - they looked on Him whom they pierced  
**Zechariah 13:7** - smite the shepherd...
- Truly God's hand was at work!



# God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *Which you do well to heed...*
- If it is God's word, we need to consider it  
**2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- **Romans 15:4** - even the Old Testament has relevance as God's word!
- The apostles regularly appealed to OT prophecies
  - **Acts 2:25-31 (Psalm 16:8-11)**
  - **Acts 3:22-23 (Deut. 18:15)**
  - **Acts 13:32-33 (Psalm 2:7)**
  - **Acts 17:2-3** - Paul reasoned in synagogues from scripture proving Jesus



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *Which you do well to heed...*
- Peter in his first letter often quoted the OT
  - **1:24-25 (Isa. 40:6-8)**
  - **2:4-19 (Isa. 28:16, Psa. 118:22, Isa. 8:14)**
  - **2:22 (Isa. 53:9)**
  - **3:10-12 (Psa. 34:12-16)**
  - **4:18 (Prov. 11:31)**
  - **5:5 (Prov. 3:34)**
- Finally, consider **Luke 24:44**



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *Until the day dawns and the morning star rises...*
- A challenging statement
  - Some view it as the Lord's future return - we must continue to heed His word until He returns
  - A better interpretation - keep studying until you are FULLY convicted ("*in your hearts*")  
**2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:11-14ff**
- Morning star likely a reference to Jesus - **cf. Malachi 4:2, Revelation 22:16.**  
See **Ephesians 3:17** - He dwells in our hearts



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *Knowing this first, no prophecy is of private interpretation...*
- A clear declaration
- In much of mythology, stories and legends developed over time as man made gods in their own image - cf. **Romans 1:20-23**
- They were not written by *eyewitnesses*. BUT, as we have noted, our scriptures CLEARLY show the hand of God at work. **But how?**



## God's prophetic word- 1:19-21

- *For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*
- These prophets wrote EXACTLY what God intended for them to write!  
**Acts 1:16** - as Judas was replaced  
**Acts 28:25** - Paul in Rome - the Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah
- The apostles were promised the Holy Spirit -  
**John 14:25-26, 16:12-15. Cf. Gal. 1:11-12**



As we read, study and  
teach the Bible, we  
can do so with  
confidence that it IS  
God's word!



What is your  
confidence in  
His word?



Let us pray!