

A Lamp Shining in a Dark Place

2 Peter 1:19-21

Thought for the Day: The Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God revealed to and recorded by holy men who were guided and protected by the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote is a reliable, trustworthy guide for life in this world that is spiritually darkened because of sin.

In 2 Peter 1:16-18 we learn that we can trust the Bible because it was written by men who were, for the most part, eyewitnesses of the events they recorded. The biblical accounts are not myths, fairytales, or legends; they are accurate, reliable, historical documents that reveal the truth concerning the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

The world of Peter's day, very much like our own, was full of false teachers who were propagating dangerous doctrines. So, how do we differentiate between the claims and teachings of one person and the claims and teachings of another? We compare them and evaluate them in light of the teachings of the Bible, the inspired Word of God.

"This section is a strong statement on the inspiration of Scripture. Peter affirms that the Old Testament prophets wrote God's messages. He puts himself and the other apostles in the same category, because they also proclaim God's truth. The Bible is not a collection of fables or human ideas about God. It is God's very words given *through* people *to* people. Peter emphasized his authority as an eyewitness as well as the God-inspired authority of Scripture to prepare the way for his harsh words against the false teachers [in chapter 2]. If these wicked men were contradicting the apostles and the Bible, their message could not be from God." (*Life Application Study Bible*, p. 2694)

19 And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

And we have the prophetic word made more sure / more fully confirmed.

- "The *prophetic word* here refers to all Scripture, not just the books of prophecy." (*Swindoll, 1 & 2 Peter*, p. 306) The entire Bible is the inspired Word of God to man.
- "The idea is that the 'prophetic word' (that is, Scripture) is a more complete, more permanent, more reliable, more authoritative testimony than anyone's personal experience, however genuine the person may be." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter*, p. 79)
- This phrase "...may be rephrased as 'we have the prophetic word as a surer confirmation.' As strong as an eyewitness account (vv. 16-18) may be, there is an even stronger confirmation that Jesus is who He said He was. The written Scriptures are even more trustworthy than the personal experience of the apostle Peter." (*NKJV Study Bible*, p. 2131)

To which you will do well to pay attention.

- We would be wise to pay attention to God's Word!
- "In Scripture, we have God's truth stated in written form, available for us to read, study, ponder, and apply by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. Its truth never changes. It never goes out of date." (*Swindoll, 1&2 Peter*, p. 306)

As to a lamp shining in a dark place.

- The Bible is like a bright light shining in a dark place—namely, the spiritual darkness of this world corrupted by sin. (Psalm 119:105)

Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

- Jesus Christ is the Morning Star! (John 8:12; Revelation 22:16) This phrase is a double-reference to Jesus' Second Coming.
- "God's Word is a lamp that shines in the darkness of this world until the second coming of Christ when the perfect but limited revelation of the written Word of God will give way to the perfect and complete revelation of the living Word of God, [Jesus Christ]." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 79*)
- When we see Christ, our salvation will be brought to completion! The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ is a purifying hope for the children of God. (1 John 3:2-3)
- Morning Star: "The Greek term means 'light-bearer' or 'light-bringer.'" Christ is the morning star as elsewhere He is called the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16) and the Dayspring, that is, the rising sun (Luke 1:78). Presently, Christ shines in our hearts; when He returns, He will arise in our hearts and bring us into a perfect day. His outward coming will be matched by an inward rising, 'an illuminating, transformation' of our spirits." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 2132*)

Knowing this first of all.

- The truth that follows is of utmost importance, so perk up, and pay attention!

That no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

- "This is a reference to all of the O.T. & by implication, all of the N.T." (*MacArthur, p. 79*)
- This verse "explains the origin of the prophecies of OT Scripture, namely that no prophecy of Scripture comes from (i.e., originates out of) someone's own interpretation (i.e., from someone's individual understanding of events, visions, or other things), but rather, that 'all prophecy of Scripture' came about from the Holy Spirit's leading... According to this view, then, Peter is assuring his readers that all the OT Scriptures that pointed to Christ were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that the readers should pay close attention to them." (*ESV Study Bible, p. 2420*)

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,

- "...the subject discussed is the origin of the apostolic message. Did it come from human imaginings, or was it from God? ...No prophecy of Scripture arose from a merely human interpretation of things." (*NIV Study Bible, p. 1900*)
- "No biblical prophecy was ever produced merely because a man wanted to prophesy (*by the will of man*). The prophecy in Scripture was given only by God through men, who 'spoke' as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 79*)

But men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- "The writers of Scripture were literally 'carried along' or 'borne along' by the will of the Spirit of God." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 79*)
- "...the same word...is used of a ship carried along by the wind." (*Green, 2 Peter, p. 89*)

If you have not yet made it a habit to spend time in God's Word every day, I strongly encourage you to do so! (Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)