

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study of the Second Epistle of Peter – Part 6

I. Exposition of Chapter One (Continued).

A. Verse 19 – **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;”**

1. **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed...”** – There are different views as to what the **“prophetic word”** is referring to. Douglas Moo gives insight, writing:

“Some think that Peter might have in mind the entire Old Testament or even Old and New Testament prophecy. But the context suggests rather that he refers specifically to Old Testament prophecies about the kingdom to be established by the Messiah at the end of history. This, as we have seen, is the point at issue in 2 Peter.”¹

a. The word **“confirmed”** means; **“pertaining to being able to be relied on or depended on— ‘dependable, reliable, trustworthy.”²**

b. It seems that most scholars believe that Peter is saying that his, John and James’ experience on the Mount of Transfiguration is a confirmation of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies of the coming Kingdom. New Testament Scholar, Daniel Wallace writes:

“Some would categorically object to any experience functioning as a confirmation of the scriptures and hence would tend to give the adjective a comparative force, with the ‘prophetic word’ being the greater authority over the apostolic experience: ‘we have the prophetic word as [that which is] more reliable [than our own experience].’ Yet Peter labors to show that his gospel is trustworthy precisely because he was an eyewitness of this great event. Further, to say that the OT scriptures (the most likely meaning of ‘the prophetic word’) were more trustworthy an authority than an apostle’s own experience of Christ is both to misconstrue how prophecy took place in the OT (did not the prophets have visions or other *experiences*?) and to deny the final revelation of God *in Christ* (cf. Heb 1:2).”³

2. **“...which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place...”**

a. The words **“to heed”** means; **“to pay close attention to something, with the possible implication of agreement—‘to pay close attention to, to consider carefully.”⁴**

b. **“...as a light that shines in a dark place...”** – Peter is saying that we should pay close attention to what the prophets wrote concerning Christ’s coming Kingdom.

3. **“...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;”** – Scholars state that this refers to prophecy as being illuminating or revelatory. Dr. Bob Utley adds:

“This is an allusion to Ps. 119:105 and possibly Prov. 6:23. God has provided fallen humanity all the information they need to respond to Him by faith. God’s self-revelation through the OT and supremely through Christ, which is recorded and explained by NT authors, is fully adequate (although not exhaustive). This revelation (OT and NT) is like a light shining in the darkness of human and angelic sin and rebellion. But one day the far better brighter light (i.e. a personal encounter with Christ) will illuminate every believer’s heart and mind. The goal of revelation is not information, but salvation.”⁵

B. Verses 20-21 - **“...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”**

1. **“...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation...”** – The word **“private”** means; **“pertaining to one’s self, one’s own; what is one’s own as opposed to belonging to another.”⁶** The word **“interpretation”** means; **“to explain the meaning of something, with the implication that the text in question is difficult or complex”⁷** – The primary idea here is to express the fact that the prophets of old did not come up with their prophecies on their own. The words they wrote and

¹ *The NIV Application Commentary: 2 Peter and Jude*, Douglas J. Moo (Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids, 1996.)

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 376.

³ The Translation of 2 Peter 1:19a | Bible.org

⁴ Louw and Nida, 353.

⁵ Robert James Dr. Utley, *The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 283.

⁶ Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 296.

⁷ Louw and Nida, 404.

spoke were given by God. Another possible application of this could be pertaining to the false teachers. They were putting their own “spin” on Scripture and twisting it to their own liking (cf. 3:16).

2. “...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*” – This continues the thought of verse 20. The word “holy” means; “separate from common condition and use; dedicated”⁸ The word “moved” means; “to so influence others as to cause them to follow a recommended course of action—‘to guide, to direct, to lead’”⁹

“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”

II Peter 1:20-21 – New Living Translation

II. Exposition of Chapter Two – False Prophets and Teachers.

A. Verse 1 – **“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.”**

1. “...there were also false prophets among the people...” – This, of course, is referring to the time period of the Old Testament. The Old Testament mentions false prophets often (cf. Numbers 22:5-7; Deuteronomy 13:1–5, 18:19–22; I Kings 18:19, 22:6; Jeremiah 5:3, 23:9–18).
2. “...even as there will be false teachers among you...” – Peter switches from false prophets of old to false teachers but it’s the same idea – they speak falsely. In other places, the New Testament speaks of false prophets affecting the church (cf. Matthew 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:26; Acts 13:6; I John 4:1; Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
3. “...who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...”

a. The of “secretly” implies deception. Many times false teachers bring in false teaching in a very stealthy way (cf. Galatians 2:4; Jude 4). Dr. Thomas Constable adds:

“To ‘secretly introduce’ literally means ‘to bring in alongside’ (other teaching). The heretics would seek to add some other teaching to the orthodox faith, and/or some other teaching as a substitute for the truth (cf. Gal. 2:4). The implication is that they would seek to do this in some underhanded way.”¹⁰

- b. “...destructive heresies...” – This is referring to teachings that bring ruin and destruction into people’s lives. This would include both the natural life and eternal life. Paul warned that there would be those who would “depart from the faith” because they embraced “doctrines of demons” (cf. I Timothy 4:1 also see II Peter 2:20-22).
- c. “...even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.” This confirms the danger of heresies bringing people to the place of forfeiting their salvation. The word “denying” means; “to deny, disclaim, disown, to renounce.”¹¹ This describes the ultimate heresy of denying the Lord Jesus – renouncing Him as Lord. This implies that these false teachers were, at one time, believers and would fall away (cf. Hebrews 10:26-39). The phrase “...bought them...” coincides with I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; Revelation 5:9.

⁸ William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 1071.

⁹ Louw and Nida, 464.

¹⁰ Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on 2 Peter* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2024), 42.

¹¹ Mounce, 1097.