

2 Peter 1:16-21

Verse 16

Peter did follow or proclaim tales, myths, or fables when he declared the power and the coming of God. What he had proclaimed was truth as he was an eyewitness of the majesty of God. Peter did not die for a tale that was not true, but rather died as a martyr for God and the truth of God.

- *Verses that warn against following tales, myths, fables:*
 - o **2 Timothy 4: 3-4** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
 - o **Titus 1:9-14** holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain. ¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
 - o **1 Timothy 1:3-4** As I urged you ^[a] upon my departure for Macedonia, ^[b] remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, ⁴ nor to ^[c] pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* ^[d] the administration of God which is by faith.

Peter was an eyewitness of His majesty. We know that Peter was an apostle and one the requirements to be an apostle according to **Acts 1:22** was to be an eyewitness to resurrection. Peter was an eyewitness to many things including miracles and the resurrection. However, Peter describes the event that took place on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured to further indicate and show how he was an eyewitness to the glory and majesty of the Lord. The full story of Jesus’ transfiguration is found in **Matthew 17:1-13**.

Verse 17

When Jesus had unveiled His glory and majesty on the mountain, God the Father declared full approval of His Son as He proclaimed “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.” We also see the Father declare His approval of His Son in a similar manner at Jesus’ baptism in **Matthew 3:13-17**. We also see the Father’s approval of the Son with His death and in His resurrection (**John 10:17-18**). The incarnation was a veil on the Divine nature of Jesus Christ.

Verse 18

Peter again reiterates that the things he was telling them concerning Christ was not something he had heard passed down, but rather was an eyewitness and also an earwitness as he heard the voice of the Father. Peter had a trinitarian experience in his life. He heard the Father, walked with the Son, and was indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Verse 19

Peter when speaking of the prophetic word made sure, he is speaking of the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus was a validation of the truths that were written in the Old Testament. Jesus is spoken of in the Old Testament including the lineage He would come through, His birth place, His sufferings, His death, and His resurrection. The New Testament makes no sense if there is no Old Testament. The Old Testament prophets as well as the recorded accounts of the New Testament apostles give us assurance of the truth to which they spoke. The foundation of the church is the prophets and apostle (**Ephesians 2:19-22**).

“The New Testament in the Old Testament concealed, the Old Testament in New Testament revealed.” -Augustine

Peter tells his readers (now us) that they will do well to pay attention to the scriptures and the words of God which are a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star arises in their hearts. There are two different interpretations of the meaning of this part of the verse:

- o The Bible is a lamp unto our feet (**Psalm 119:105**) in this midst of the this dark and sinful world until the day (Last Day) when the Morning Star (Jesus) arises in us and we are with the Word, the Logos(**Jesus, John 1:1-5**).
 - **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
 - **Numbers 24:17** "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the ^[a]forehead of Moab, And ^[b]tear down all the sons of ^[c]Sheth.
 - **Revelation 22:16** "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things ^[a]for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."
- o Before our salvation we are in the domain of darkness (**Col 1:13**). We hate the Light and are unable to come to the Light on our own, as our hearts are in darkness(**John 3:19-21**). When the imperishable seed which is the Word of God (**1 Peter 1:23-25**) comes to the heart of His people (their hearts are the good soil(**Luke 8:4-15**) because He has the cultivated and tilled the soil of their hearts via regeneration), the Morning Star (Jesus) arises in our hearts. Then we are to be diligent in learning and paying attention to this Word until our last day on earth as it is the lamp unto our feet.

Verses 20-21

Scripture is from God. God used men as instruments that He would work through to record and preserve His words. Scripture's origin is not from men, Scripture is not the will of men, and the words of Scripture are not the ideas or opinions of the authors, but all scripture is God breathed and from God Himself. The Word of God is flawless, consistent, truth, and immutable because they are His words. The Holy Spirit moved in the souls of men to record the sacred words of God.

- o **2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- o **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Men moved by the Holy Spirit: The word used for moved in this verse can be translated "carried along" and finds imagery on the sea as a ship is moved along by the wind. The ships were at the mercy of the wind as to the direction it would go. The same though can be applied to the men who God used to write the Bible. They were at the mercy and under the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide them and carry them along in the words of God. The Holy Spirit is mentioned as wind in John 3:8.

- o **John 3:8** The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.