

## 2: **SCRIPTURES** and **EYEWITNESSES** (2 Peter 1:12-21)

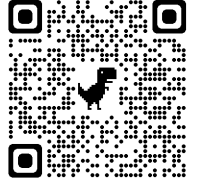
Some think the Bible is full of fairy tales, told so often that people just believe the fanciful stories, but the **Scriptures** were written by those who were **eyewitnesses** of the Creator who revealed Himself to His creation. Today we are reminded why the Scriptures & Eyewitnesses can be trusted.

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## today's teaching

### **BIG TRUTH: God uses the Scriptures and Eyewitnesses to SPEAK to People through People.**

Although God could use *dreams* and *angels* to share *who Jesus is* and *what Jesus says*, He rarely does. Instead, God uses the Scriptures and Eyewitnesses to speak to people through people.

#### Catch the Context

##### **2 Peter 1:10-11** (NIV)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is GOOD to examine our lives and see if how we *BEHAVE* demonstrates what we *BELIEVE*. And that's where we pick up in this letter from the apostle Peter.

#### Urgency & Sincerity

##### **2 Peter 1:12-15** (NIV)

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Peter wants to do all he can to help these maturing sheep of God's flock to continue to grow and until he dies. But until then, Peter will **make every effort** to leave them with a message that will not fade away. Just before Simon Peter wrote this letter, Jesus had revealed that his death was drawing near.

#### The Death of Simon Peter Foretold By Jesus

**John 21:17-19** (NIV)...Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this **to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God**. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter was later arrested and led out to be crucified under the reign of Emperor Nero. But before that occurs Simon Peter uses his last bit of ink to write these most powerful memories and challenges to sheep under his care.

## No Fairy Tales

### 2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but **we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty**.

What Simon Peter and others said about Jesus were not **cleverly devised stories** or **ancient fairy tales**.

The Greek word for **stories** is *mythos* (where we get our English word *myths* - legendary stories of supernatural beings and cultural heroes performing extraordinary feats<sup>1</sup>). But the apostles of Jesus were not making up fanciful super-hero stories. These men had seen Jesus heal, heard Jesus teach, and were trained by Him over several years.

## The Testimony of Eyewitnesses

### 2 Peter 1:17-18 (NIV)

He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." **We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven** when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Peter is remembering the **transfiguration** of Jesus (read more in [Matthew 17](#) & [Mark 9](#)). The Scriptures tell us how Jesus' face was shining like the sun and His clothing was whiter than any launderer could make them (Mk 9:3). They even saw Moses & Elijah (who lived hundred of years beforehand) talking with Jesus.

Simon Peter was most impacted by **this voice that came from heaven** - the voice from God the Father that said, "**This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**" (a fulfillment of [Ps 2:6-7](#)) This event gave the disciples of Jesus a glimpse of *WHO* He really was and they became **eyewitnesses of His Majesty** (v16).

## The Testimony of Scriptures

### 2 Peter 1:19 (NIV)

We also have **the prophetic message** as something **completely reliable**, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to **a light shining** in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The eyewitness testimony of the apostles is trustworthy, but **the prophetic message is completely reliable** (referring to the Old Testament Scriptures). Peter wants his audience to know that the Scriptures can be trusted to guide them, like **a light shining in a dark place**.

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**Psalm 119:105 (NIV)** Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

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What God says - His **word** - is what guides us into all truth. Further, the Old Testament Scriptures point to where the Messiah would be born, that He would be born to a virgin, where the Messiah would grow up, how the Messiah would teach and heal, how the Messiah would suffer, die, be buried, and raised from the dead.

## Jesus' Audacious Claims

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**John 5:39-40 (NIV)** You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. **These are the very Scriptures that testify about me**, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

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**Luke 24:27 (NIV)** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them **what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself**.

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## ***BIG TRUTH: God uses the Scriptures and Eyewitnesses to SPEAK to People through People.***

While we are bombarded with lies from our culture and lies from the enemy, the Scriptures point us to the truth of God, like **light shining** in the middle of a **dark place**. We are to hold onto the truth of God's reliable Scriptures, **until the day dawns** (a phrase likely referring to the day that Jesus returns).

## TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 389.

**The morning star** is a term that normally refers to Venus as the 'light bringer' that precedes the dawn.<sup>2</sup> This is the term Peter uses for the return of Jesus to Earth. This reminds the reader of another OT prophecy that finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

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**Numbers 24:17a** (NIV) I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. **A star will come out of Jacob;** a scepter will rise out of Israel.

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**Revelation 22:16** (NIV) **I, Jesus,** have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and **the bright Morning Star.**"

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Until Jesus returns, we have good reasons to trust the *EYEWITNESSES* and the *SCRIPTURES*.

## God speaks to People through People

**2 Peter 1:20-21** (NIV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of **Scripture** came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but **prophets**, though human, **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

God speaks *TO* people *THROUGH* people who were **carried along by the Holy Spirit.** The Greek word for **carried along** is *pharoe* - where we get our word "ferry".<sup>3</sup> God carried along different authors writing different genres to the same destination with One Author behind it all - **prophets carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

**BIG TRUTH: God uses the Scriptures and Eyewitnesses to SPEAK to People through People.**

The Scriptures and the Eyewitnesses of Jesus stand arm in arm to demonstrate that Jesus IS the Messiah, the King of Kings, and God the Son.

## QUESTIONS

- ② Are you spending TIME in the Scriptures?
- ② Are you TRUSTING what is in the Scriptures?

## heretoseveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

## discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why.
2. **Read 2 Peter 2:1-16-18.** Share some reasons why you trust/distrust the credibility of the eyewitnesses of Jesus. What did they see or experience that leads you to believe their claims about Jesus are true?
3. **Read 2 Peter 2:19-21.** Share some reasons why you trust/distrust the Scriptures. Can you give any examples of Scriptures that speak the truth or foretold future events that have been fulfilled?
4. **Read Matthew 4:4, 10; 21:23; 26:24, 31; Mark 12:24; 12:46; 14:49; Jn 5:39.** What was Jesus' view of the authority of the Scriptures and why should ours be the same view as His?
5. Consider briefly sharing about a time when your experience/feelings did NOT align with what the Scriptures said and what you chose to do about it.
6. What Scriptures have you been reading lately and what insights or questions do you have from your readings?
7. Share prayer needs. Continue to pray for the Supreme Court decision that could overturn Roe v. Wade.

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<sup>2</sup>J. N. D. Kelly, *The Epistles of Peter and of Jude*, Black's New Testament Commentary (London: Continuum, 1969), 322.

<sup>3</sup>David R. Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ's Sufferings, Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 219.