

True Prophecy: Scripture and the Eyewitness of His Majesty

2 Peter 1:12–21

WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT TO DO?

Scripture is true prophecy. Embrace God's truth; make Jesus your Lord & Savior!

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Second Peter 1:12–21 serves a pivotal role in the letter. It provides the purpose, incentive, and reliability for what Peter is writing in this epistle and deals with the theme of true prophecy.¹ Peter senses death is on the horizon, and out of love for God's people, he seeks to stir them into action by reminding them of the truths that they have been taught from God's Word (Scripture).

From the start of His ministry, Jesus makes it clear that His authority and Scripture's authority are the exact same. Jesus is the living Word (John 1), and His truth and Scripture's truth are inseparable. Scripture declares the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an eye-witness disciple of Jesus, who claimed to embody the truth (John 14:6), Peter says the reliability of what he is writing and what the people have been taught remain unquestionable. God's desire to rescue sinners through Christ-crucified is not a human invention. It is a gift from God, and even though its message is communicated through humans, God's plan is to use those truths to liberate people from the bonds of this world. The truth shall set you free (John 8:31, 32).

- 1.) **Remembering** God's **reliable truths** ought to **stir us** into action (v. 12–15)
 - a. It is important to **remember** and **be reminded** of the Gospel and the truths about Jesus Christ.
 - b. Peter is writing to enrich and broaden the understanding his readers already had about God's **plan of salvation** for humanity.
 - c. **Do not forget "these things!"** Even though they were "established in the truth," Peter's readers could still benefit from Peter's teaching.

- 2.) An Eyewitness of **Christ's Majesty** (v. 16–18)
 - a. Peter's personal experience; **not** cleverly contrived **myths** (v.16)
 - b. Transfiguration as a **confirming** event (v. 17–18; also Mt. 17:1–6); Jesus was seen ("eyewitnesses") and perceived ("we heard his voice")

- 3.) Prophetic **Word** and Its **Reliability** (v. 19–21)
 - a. The prophetic Word is **a Light in Darkness** (v. 19)
 - b. Origin and Authority of Prophecy; True prophecy does not **originate** with **man** but in the mind of **God**. (v. 20–21)

APPLICATION: *Given the strong confirmation and unwavering foundation of God's Word, pay attention to it, believe it, and be saved by trusting in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior!*

¹ Samra, J. James, *1 & 2 Peter, & Jude*. Ed. M. Strauss and J. Walton. *Teach the Text Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016