

Revelation 22

If I See, Believe, Heed, And Trust, I'll Be Unbelievably Blessed Pastor JD Farag

KAPONO: Thank You Lord. Would You join me as we pray? Lord, thank You so much. Thank You. Thank You, Lord. For some of us, we came in here carrying some heavy loads, Lord, whether physically, spiritually. Whatever's going on in our lives, Lord, would we give those things to You right now. And, Holy Spirit, would You just calm our hearts and minds that we may be able to focus, Lord, through Your power on the teaching before us? We praise Your name, and we give You the glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PASTOR JD: Amen and Amen. And good morning and welcome. So glad you're here. You can be seated. Those of you online, we're so glad that you're joining with us. Trust that you'll all be blessed that you came and joined with us.

You probably already know this, but we're in the *Book of Revelation*, at the end of the *Book of Revelation*, in the last chapter of *Revelation*, *Chapter 22*. And our text today is going to be *verses 6-10*.

Let me explain something here about why I'm kind of wanting to savor the flavor. You know how don't want something good to end? I don't want this to end. So you'll forgive me, but I'm just going to take, you know, it's still expositional verse-by-verse teaching, but it's more textual. You just take smaller portions of the text.

And so this is the portion before us today. And what I'll ask you to do – I know you just sat down. I don't want to give you Catholicism flashbacks. But if you're able, if not, no worries, stand for the reading of God's word. You can follow along as I read the text beginning in *verse 6*, where John, by the Holy Spirit writes, **"The angel said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His servants the things that must soon take place.' 'Behold, [Verse 7] I am coming [Quickly or] soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.'**

[Verse 8] I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me [Verse 9], 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God! Then he told me, [Verse 10] 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, Because the time is near.'" The time is at hand. The time is now.

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Let's pray. Father. Thank You. Thank You for this book. Thank You for just this portion, these verses here in this last chapter. Lord, we know that they're written here for us for a reason. So would You, by the Holy Spirit, open our eyes to why it is that You want us to know this, what You want for us to take home with us from this?

Lord, I pray – I have a strong sense. It's not a thus saith the Lord or anything. But as Kapono so aptly prayed, there are so many that are hurting so bad, struggling so hard. Lord, would You, as only You can, speak into their lives and have it be a soothing, healing balm on a broken, hurting heart. Because this is – this awaits us. What we just read, wow! Will You use it to bless, to encourage, to edify, to refocus, to redirect, to strengthen, to encourage. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. You can be seated. Thank you so much.

So I want to talk with you today about a truth so powerful that if I would – I want you to notice the way I'm – I know it's a long title, but I want you to notice the order. 'If I would but see, believe, heed, and trust. I'll be so unbelievably blessed,' and not just temporarily in this life on earth, but ultimately for eternal life in heaven. How? By way of God's infallible and unbreakable promises and prophecies.

And maybe this is a word for someone today who really needs to be encouraged. This is not just fodder. It's not to fill up space. Like God needs to do that. You know, let's round it off at 22 chapters, John, the *Book of Revelation*. What do you think? Yeah. Go ahead. No. Every word in God's word.

Okay, Lord. So we just read a portion in Your word and in the text we just read and will now see, Jesus reveals the absolute and certain trusted and true promise and prophecy that He's a coming. And not – it's not down the road, the long-distant future. I made this comment last week, and it's not hyperbole. It's literally. This is very – the propensity for what I'm about to say to be true is very – what's the word I'm looking for? This is why I use notes – or don't and should.

I'm going to just say it again, maybe the same thing in a different way. Do you realize that what we just read and what we're going to look at now in depth could be seven plus a thousand years for the Millennial Reign, which will be like a day? Oh, we gotta wait a

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thousand years for heaven? Oh, that's a long time. No, no, no, no, no, no. You'll be in your glorified bodies. When He appears, we'll be like Him.

Well, what's He like? Well, I'll tell you what He's like. He's like a thousand years for us is like one day for Him. That's what He's like. Okay, so did I lose you on that one? So don't think: A thousand! Oh, man. What time is it now? We got 999 years to go. No, no, no, no. What we just read is a breath away, if I can say it that way.

What am I trying to do here? What I'm trying to do – I mean, when we read God's word, and it says it's trusted and true, trustworthy and true, that means it's trustworthy and true. So take it seriously. Don't blow it off. Don't shine it on. Don't push it out into the distant future. No, we're talking about something that is more real than the very seats you're sitting on today.

I know that's maybe hard to wrap your mind around, but it's true. The reality of eternity is more real than this life temporarily. It's for this reason that the *Book of Revelation* is the only book in the Bible – 66 books in the Bible – that promises a blessing to those who read it and heed it. And this promise of blessing is predicated upon reading and heeding. But also notice the order again: seeing and believing, hearing and trusting.

Well, wait. I thought believing is seeing. I mean, seeing is believing. No, no, no. Jesus said, believe and you'll see. How does faith, trust come? By hearing. That's a dynamic. It's a principle across the board. What are you hearing? That's what you will put your faith in. So that's why the Apostle Paul is inspired to write – or is it the writer of Hebrews? I don't know. It's been a very long week – is inspired to qualify it by saying, **“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

What you – put it another way. What you put your faith in, is what you're hearing of. So what are you hearing? Rubbish? What are you trusting in? The science? I better be careful; it's Second Service. No. Trust in the God of science. My faith, it comes from my hearing of the word of God.

Let's work it backwards real quick. Just bear with me. So trusting, faith, hearing, believing is seeing but then also heeding what I'm reading, so that I'm not just merely a hearer of the word of God, but I'm a doer, as James says of the word of God. I mean, Jesus, in I want to

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say Matthew – I probably got this one wrong, too – *Matthew 7*, teaches a parable about two builders that apparently went to the same church, and were listening to the same sermons from the same pastor.

And they just so happened to be – I mean, what are the odds – they happened to be building their house at the same time, except one built his house on the sand and the other built his house on the rock. And when, not if, when the storm hit and the storms hit, the one that had built his house on the sand came crashing down. And in the parable, there's an interesting detail. “And mighty was its crash.”

But this guy over here that built his house on the rock, I mean, he's like, what happened? Unfazed. Unmoved. Untouched. What's the difference between the two? You said they went to the same church, listened to the same pastor, heard the same sermons. They're both building at the same time. What was the difference?

Well, the sand versus the rock is the difference between the putting into practice the word of God. The sand is just: Yeah, I went to church Sunday. Yeah, I heard the sermon. That was a – Pastor, that was a great sermon. They have a word for that. It's called the glorification of the worm ceremony.

Well, okay. You heard the sermon. What are you going to do about it? Did that sound mean? Did that come off a little bit mean? You want me to be nicer? Well, so what are you gonna do about it, then? Was that better? You like that better?

No, see, if this is true, and it is; and we can trust it, and we can; and these are promises, and they are – and by the way, God can't. It's not that He won't break a promise. He can't. It's impossible for Him, you know. Is there anything impossible for God? Yeah. It's impossible for Him to break a promise. How about that?

Next time somebody asks you, “Can God build a rock so big He can't lift it, just don't answer the question. Answer with a question, like Jesus did in the Gospels, like we're seeing Zechariah with the angel interacting do. The answer to your question is a question.

Why am I starting out like this? Because we're going to look at three trusted and true promises and prophecies that – and this is what's sad – for the most part, most have let the

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enemy steal from Christians all these unbelievable blessings for Christians, and more importantly, how to reclaim them as Christians. That belongs to me. That's been taken from me. And we're going to take it back. It's going to go back to its rightful owner, the one to whom the promise is made.

So question: How do we take back these blessings that the enemy has been allowed to steal? Because he comes only, Jesus said, to steal, kill, and destroy. First, in *verses 6 and 7*, by taking heed to and trusting in the Lord. Second, in *verses 8 and 9*, by hearing and seeing in our worship to the Lord. Then third, in *verse 10*, by believing in Bible prophecy specific to the soon return of the Lord. When?

First, in the rapture before the seven-year Tribulation, then subsequently the Second Coming at the end of the seven-year Tribulation. Are you guys – are you guys with me on this? Are you following me? You understanding this? Are you picking up what I'm laying down? You ready to get into it? First one. Some of you are saying please, any time now would be great.

Verses 6 and 7, the first one. How do we take back the blessing rightfully belong to us – the promise? By taking heed and trusting in the Lord. John writes that the angel said – I mean, these are details. These are important details in the word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit to be included in the pages of Holy writ for a reason.

The angel said the promises and the prophecies of Jesus' coming soon [*Quickly*] are trustworthy and true. And get this. He takes it to a whole new level. And he says, and it must happen soon. In other words, this is a foregone conclusion. It must happen.

Okay. Come on, Pastor. Okay, so let's get real here. You talk to the average, even Christian, forget non-Christian, you talk to the average Christian about this, they're gonna go, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Been hearing that for, you know, my dad's, dad's, dad's, dad's dog thought, you know.

No. It says here that it must happen, and it's trustworthy and true that Jesus is coming quickly. So soon is the coming of Jesus and fulfilling of prophecy that John writes twice. You know, when Jesus would say something twice. "**Verily, verily...**" that's like when a parent

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says your full name. It's not good. When Jesus does it, it's good. "Truly, truly..." He says twice that Jesus is coming quickly.

Now why am I making such a big deal about it? Because as we've talked about in previous Prophecy Updates, the word that's used in the original language of the Greek New Testament for "soon" or "quickly," depending on how your translation renders it, is the Greek word "tachos," not tacos. I don't want to make anybody hungry. "Tachos" from where we get the English word for the tachometer in our cars. I know it's a guy thing. What's a tachometer? It's a measure, a gauge of revolutions per minute, RPMs. The time is set: One minute.

What is the gauge? This gauge is how many revolutions per that set time of one minute. And that's the word Jesus is using here and has John write here. That's kind of big. That's kind of important, wouldn't you agree? Because what Jesus is saying is, listen, take heed, man. Take this seriously because I'm coming when things are going to be revving up.

Have you taken a look at the world around you lately? Are you kidding me? Listen, I've been doing this for a while. In fact, our first Prophecy Update – this is going to mess you up, some of you. If it does, I'm so sorry in advance. Was 2006 before YouTube. Then YouTube in 2008. And you could only put ten-minute videos at a time. So we had like 100 ten-minute videos in 2008. And then Google bought the YouTube corporation. I don't remember the original name of it. And then you could upload as many videos as you want for as long as those videos, you know, need to be. And the rest is history, as they say.

That's 2008. Well, I've been a student of prophecy, Bible prophecy for 40-plus years. I've been a teacher of Bible prophecy for over 20-plus years. And I remember not so long ago when I could sit down and start preparing for a Prophecy Update, and it would take me a little while. Not now. You know, the Prophecy Updates, for those of you that were here, you have huge treasures in heaven. You stay for both services as well.

Anyway, praise the Lord. They've been getting longer, but as God as my witness, I've been trying to make them shorter. And the more I try to make them shorter, the longer they get. And the reason why is because this is it. What do you mean, this is it? This is the end. This is how it ends. I mean, the preponderance of evidence you can reach no other conclusion,

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not beyond any reasonable doubt, beyond any doubt, this is it. We are so out of here, man. Let's go. Was that better? Not yet. Still work on it? Maybe I should just give up.

But listen, though, to what John, by the Holy Spirit, tethers the blessing of His soon, quick, tachos coming to. The heeding of the words of the prophecy in this book, which he does, beautiful bookends the first chapter of the book and the last chapter of the book. Can we rewind to *Chapter 1?* *Verse 1*, right out of the chute to verse 3. I want to point out a couple things here. *Verse 1, Chapter 1. “The revelation of Jesus Christ...”*

That's the word “apokalypsis” in the Greek. Don't let that word – you've been already – we've all been preconditioned, pre-programmed, brainwashed by ‘Apocalypse Now.’ I'm not reading that book. It's about the apocalypse. You know what the word “apocalypse” means? Unveil, reveal. It's a revelation. A revelation of what? Not a revelation of what? A revelation of who. Jesus Christ. Tell me more.

“...which God gave him to show His servants what [Watch this.] must soon [Or quickly, tachos] take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw— that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. [And here it is, verse 3.] Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy...”

But it doesn't stop there. Oh, if that were the case, then hey, you want to be blessed? Just read *Revelation* and turn the TV back on. No, no, no, no, no, no.

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take [It] to heart [Heed it] [Heed] what is written in it, [Why?] because the time is...”
[Now]. I know it says, **“the time is near.”**

But that's the problem I'm afraid. Let me explain. Yeah, we know that Jesus is coming soon. (Snoring sound) Am I right? Yeah, Jesus is coming quickly. What's for lunch? We know it's near. Our redemption draweth nigh. *Luke 21:28*. But what if we truly understood the trustworthy and true word of God, that the time is not just near, but the time is now? Does that change the picture a little bit? How about a lot? That's the whole point.

Can I just – let me just – I'm going to – this is always dangerous territory where angels fear to tread when you go off your notes. But I just have a sense, again, maybe for somebody here

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today that needs to hear this or online that's watching. You see, this is a word for you. This Word is for you. Because I mean, for you, with what you're going through, Jesus can't come fast enough to take you to that place that He prepared for you, that where He is, there you may be also.

Well, I have some good news for you that I think will bless you. The time is now. Did I pose this question last week in the Update or the Sermon? I don't remember. It doesn't matter. It might – if it sounds like I'm having an argument with myself up here, it's because I'm having an argument with myself up here. What if. What if the rapture happened this year? What if? I know, hypothetical. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

What if, though? Would that change anything? Are you kidding me? Dude, that would change everything. Then what are you waiting for? What are you waiting for? Man, I better get on the phone to... I better send an email to... I better talk to... And the list goes on and on and on. Why haven't you already done it? I'm not yelling because I'm angry. I'm passionate because I really believe this stuff, man. I hang on to this for dear life by my fingernails, I tell you.

When the bottom falls out and you get the call and it's not good, it just makes this so much more real. I know it's not proper English structure of a sentence, but it just – and this is what I believe God is doing with His people in this last hour. He's allowing trials like you've never seen, the likes of which you've never experienced in your life before. You're in a situation that is absolutely impossible.

I wonder, could it be that God is saying, hey, I'm coming. And you're starting to tighten your grip a little bit too tight on this world and the things of this world, and you might want to hold on a little bit looser to that, or them, because I'm coming quickly. It endears our hearts to heaven, and it dislodges our hearts for this world.

Let's get to the second one in *verses 8 and 9* because, again, there's a link here: By hearing and seeing in our worship to the Lord. Again, I don't know if it's possible to overstate the importance of seeing is believing versus believe and you will see.

So you've got three at play here: Hearing, seeing, believing. Don't believe everything you hear. That's wisdom. I couldn't believe my eyes. That's wisdom right now with AI. You

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should not believe your eyes with AI. But God has deemed it necessary to have John, inspire John as an eyewitness who was there, who heard and saw all of these things. And when he writes this, he just is so overwhelmed, and he can't help himself. He just starts falling down and worshiping.

And the angel who spoke and showed him these things says, "**Don't do that.**" I'm just like you, man. In fact, actually, technically, did you know that we will be judging angels in heaven? You could check me on that. Be a Berean. Search the Scriptures. You know, we're like, wow, man! We're in awe of angels.

I feel sorry for the angels given charge concerning me that got my file, you know. I know they appealed it and lost their appeal. So when I get there, I'm just going to – I really need to apologize to them. I'm so sorry. But thank you so much. Because in the spiritual realm, we have an angelic host, these angels given charge concerning us to protect us. And man, I wonder if in heaven for all eternity, God's going to say, hey, you don't know this, but I did this for you. I protected you from a car accident that would have taken your life on this date at this time. I don't know. I'm just – you know, what God does for us that we don't even know. I just – it's too high for my understanding.

And I think this is John is in this place because he just, he is so overwhelmed that he's just falling down. This is a pattern with him. We'll see this in a moment. But here's what I think is happening here. Okay, so we know faith comes by hearing and the hearing of the word of God. So is it the heeding that's the leading to our worship of God? You better believe it.

Wait. You lost me. Okay. Okay. One week without hearing and heeding God's word makes one weak. Did you – that was a play on words. Did you catch that one? W-E-E-K W-E-A-K. Show me a Christian who's hearing and heeding the Word, I'll show you a Christian that has strong faith, big faith in their big God.

And conversely, you show me a Christian who doesn't have time, doesn't take it seriously – I don't mean – this always comes off wrong. I don't know why I try. But I have to say it is just heartbreaking, the percentage of Christians, born-again Christians now, who have actually read the entire Bible just even one time.

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Boy, that explains a lot, doesn't it? Hey, I'll take – I'll take – I won't look anybody when I say these things. How about let's just talk about pastors. I'll take one for the team, here. Okay, so born-again Christians don't read the Bible. Supposed born-again pastors aren't teaching the Bible. And oh, by the way, James, in God's word, according to God's trusted, proven, and true word, said, you guys are going to have a special line because you're going to be judged by a stricter standard.

You know how it is when you're at the store and they have, you know, cliches for this. But I swear that other line is moving faster than this line. So then we move over to the other line. You try to make it, you know, like you're playing it cool. You don't want to, you know, make a big deal about it. I'm just going to slip over. You know, if you got a cart, it's a little more complicated. But hey, you know, you just get back. Man, that line's moving so fast. This line's not moving. I got somebody wanting to cash a check from Zimbabwe. And she's got to get on the microphone, get a manager, get approval, call Zimbabwe. I don't know. And this lines just going... (Fast sounds).

People that came into the store after me are leaving the store before me and they're buying more than me. That ain't right. I don't care, that ain't right. So I'm going to go over to the other line. And apparently this cashier, I mean no disrespect, is having a better hair day than this one. I mean, what happened? You know, is she tired?

Okay, here's one item. (Going slow) Beep. Am I taking this too far? Let me have it. The other – because I'm going to make a point. I know it's shocking. I will. The other one's going, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. Bye. (Quick beeping sounds) Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. Bye. (Quick beeping sounds) So I'm getting in that lane.

And then as soon as I get in that lane, what happens? It starts moving slower than the lane that I just got out of. Is it just me? Come on. Listen, you're in church. You've got to be honest with yourself.

Well, okay, Pastor, what's your point? Here's my point. When we, by faith, which comes from hearing and heeding the word of God, it will be the heeding that's the leading to our worship of God. Stay with me.

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So I happen to be one who takes the word of God seriously, takes to heart, takes heed. It's my only lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. It's my shield. Everything has to go through the lens of God's word. I don't make a decision unless I have the word of God, I don't, I don't – we talked about this during the Update. My biblical worldview is such that I look at everything through the lens of Scripture. Boy, that'll save your bacon right there on a lot of stuff. So let's take it further, and we'll get there.

But John is so in awe of the goodness of God that he can't help but worship God. And we saw him do this in *Chapter 19:9-10*. **"Then the angel said to me, 'Write...'"** You know, there are seven blessings in the *Book of Revelation*? Seven, the number of perfection, completion. **"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"** [I already RSVP'd.] **And he added, 'These are the true words of God.'** [Listen. This is – when he hears and heeds, it leads to verse 10.]

At this [At this] I fell at his feet to worship him. [He knows better than that.] But he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you [This déjà vu all over again.] and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! [But then he says something else that he doesn't say in Chapter 22.] For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

What? Can you just hang on to that? We're going to come back to that. We're going to need that in a moment. All I wanted to point out was that, you know, we say we get – I got into the Word. Oh yeah? The Word got into you. I'm going to search the Scriptures. Oh yeah? The Scripture is going to search you.

I take heed to the Word. Oh yeah? Here's what's going to happen. If you take heed to the Word, you will not be able to resist the worshiping of the God of the word. And I hope this settles some unanswered questions about what we're going to be doing in heaven. Playing a harp? We addressed and resolved the 'Pearly Gates with Peter' issue. Right? Just say right, so I can move on.

Heaven is not anything like you could possibly imagine in the finite it's going to be. And here, John is getting a glimpse of it. He sees it. He's shown it, and it so just overwhelms him that he can't help but just worship. Never think for a second in heaven that it's going to be

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like, oh man, is it time again? Man, first of all, you won't even – there's no time in heaven. I mean, it's eternity. No need. I praise God for that alone.

No alarm clocks. I hate alarm clocks, but we all need alarm clocks because we'll sleep and lose our job without that alarm clock. We have a love/hate relationship with them, right? I may not like it or want it, but I need it. Well, listen, in heaven, it's going to be a get-to, not a got-to. You won't be able to resist.

In fact, it'll be the opposite. It'll be, hey, when do we get to worship Him again? For all eternity we're going to be learning of Him. We're also going to be serving Him. It's not going to be like, you mean, I gotta work? We talked about that last week, right? We solved that one. Work was blessed before the curse of sin. And I can't wait to be reassigned because I'm out of a job in heaven. You're a preacher? You're a pastor? No need for you anymore. We've got the Preacher of preachers. The Lord of lords, the King of kings. You're out of a job, buckaroo. You got to be reassigned. So I'm really excited to see what I'm going to be doing in my service to the Lord, working unto the Lord.

Well, let's move on to the third and final one and try to bring it in – try; notice, keyword, "try" to bring it in for a landing. *Verse 10*. This is the icing on the proverbial cake. How do I take back that promise? Reclaim it by believing in the soon return of the Lord. You know, that might seem like a firm grasp of the obvious to someone like you who's maybe been attending this church for any period of time, but I wish that were the case with everyone. Because I think Peter said it best, inspired by the Spirit. You talk about the Lord's return, and you get mocked and ridiculed, unfriended on social media.

This is the best for last, and I love it. Notice. Very interesting. John is told to open up what Daniel was told to seal up until the time of the end. Okay, now it's time. Open it up. 2600 years have passed since Daniel's prophecies, which is why we know. Listen, when I get up here and I say things like, "This is it." "Bye," "We're out of here," "This is how it ends," I'm not trying to be cute. I couldn't even if I tried. I'm trying to be honest and real. Because, again, I really believe this, and I have evidence for this.

What's your evidence, Pastor? My evidence, my proof of this is that John is told to open up that which Daniel was told to seal up. Why? Because now is the time. The end is now.

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Open it up. Seal it up 2600 years. Now open it up. Why? It's the end. Daniel was told to seal up the prophecies of this book until the time of the end.

Okay. So I'm not the smartest or sharpest knife in the kitchen drawer, but when this is opened up, that means it's the end, right? Duh. And now John's opening it up. And we're told very specifically. You know what's going on here? This is the more sure word of prophecy.

I'm going to close, but I have to draw your attention to *2 Peter Chapter 1*. I encourage you to join me in *2 Peter Chapter 1*, and you'll see why here. Now, let me give you the backstory so we have some context here. So this is the Apostle Peter we're talking about, right? He was there with James and John at the Mount, the transfiguration. They affectionately call it now the Mount of Transfiguration, where Moses and Elijah appeared in their glorified bodies with Jesus.

And talk about being so overwhelmed. Peter's just flabbergasted. He's like, (Stumbling over words) not to be one without something to say. Peter would always be the first to say something, right? So what does he say? He said, "It is good that we be here." I mean, he's just so overwhelmed, so impacted, so in awe of what he's an eyewitness of. It is good that we be here. I don't want this to end. In fact, you know what? Jesus, I'll build three tabernacles, one for You, one for Elijah, and one for Moses. What do you think?

Peter, I love you, man. Boy, he grew a lot. By the way, don't you find it interesting that God would choose and use Peter to preach on the day of Pentecost, where 3000 people would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and have the Holy Spirit come upon them? I wouldn't have chose Peter. I'd say, man, he's a loose cannon. No, no. I know what I'm doing. I choose the foolish to confound the wise, remember? The weak to shame the strong.

So this is that Peter. But now what he's going to do here, and don't miss it because it's huge, is he's going to explain why whatever he saw, was an eyewitness of is superseded by prophecy, the more sure word of prophecy. This is where the testimony of prophecy is Jesus the Christ. Take that back. We need that right now. This is where this is going to come in very handy. The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. It's the revelation of Jesus.

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Now listen to what he says beginning in *verse 16*. “**For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. [We were there, man, we saw it.] [You had to be there.] [You weren’t. I was.] [I saw with my own eyes.]**

For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.”

The Mount of Transfiguration. Wow! I'm sure. I mean, that's pretty convincing, wouldn't you agree? I mean, where do I sign? That's all I needed to see. I'm convinced. I'm sure. I'm fully persuaded, as the Apostle Paul said. But he doesn't do that. He's packaging together this Mount of Transfiguration experience with Bible prophecy and Bible prophecy supersedes it. There's a lesson here.

Experience. Man, I had a liver quiver when I went to that church. I just, I was moved and grooved. Was that too much? I was, you know, there was a whole lot of shaking and baking going on. And, you know, unlike that other church on the windward side of Oahu where that guy just keeps going and going and screaming and yelling. No, man, they got guys with skinny jeans and cool, younger guys that have hair. And I mean, it's just hip. It's cool. It's relevant.

Question: Did they teach and preach the Word or the Gospel? Well, you know, they had a Scripture verse up on the screen. And? Well, yeah, then they just talked about something else. Get out! I'm sorry if I woke somebody up. I didn't mean to. Run as far as you can as fast as you can. Get out!

No, but the experience, it was such a great – I was so moved. I was so moved. I felt touched. Well, listen, I don't know who or what touched you, but it wasn't Jesus. It wasn't the Word. It was the emotion. Big difference.

And that's what Peter is trying to drive home here. I mean, listen, you guys, you know, sitting around the, you know, potluck and talking story and everybody's, you know, telling their experiences, and it's Peter's turn. Oh, yeah. Well, that's nothing. I was there, man, when Moses and Elijah descended, and Jesus was glorified and transcended and

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transfigured. And I was there. I saw it with my own eyes. I experienced that. Wow, I can't top that. No. Okay, you win. But that's not the litmus test. Okay, that made you sure. What made you more sure? I'm glad you asked.

Verse 19 answered. **"We have also..."** *[Not to dismiss the Transfiguration,] [the Mount of Transfiguration experience,] [but in addition to it.]* **"...also a [Now watch this] more sure..."**

Peter, are you sure? Yeah, I'm sure. But this is what makes me more sure. What?

"...word of prophecy; whereunto *[Look at the wording inspired by the Holy Spirit]* **[We might as well be in Revelation.] whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**

That's what I'm more sure of. Man, I was sure. After that experience, I mean, whew! I'd be on my face. Whoa, whoa, whoa! Worthy is the, you know, Mount of Transfiguration. Which is why God probably, you know, wouldn't allow someone like me to be there and invite me. but I mean, that is – that seals the deal.

Okay, not so fast. What's more sure and seals the deal is prophecy. I mean, for sure: Mount of Transfiguration. More sure: Bible prophecy. How am I doing? Is this starting to connect?

What are you saying, Pastor? Well, I'm gonna say what I titled this sermon with. If I see, believe, heed, and trust, I'll be unbelievably blessed. You can reverse it. Switch it, switch it around, flip it around if you want. So if I see, believe, heed, and trust, I'll be unbelievably blessed. Well, then, could it be also that the reason I'm not blessed is because I haven't seen, believed, heeded, trusted, taken heed to the more sure word of prophecy?

You know, I've watched – this church will be – oh, we're 20 years old. How do we look after 20 years? Well, I started the first Sunday morning service in 2005. It's 2025. I'm right in my math, right? 20 years? We're 20 years old as a church. I've watched over the years, well, first, what Bible prophecy has done in my own life as a pastor and a teacher. And I've also

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had the profound privilege of seeing what Bible prophecy has done in your lives. It's changed your lives. It's made your walk of faith more sure.

And that's why you keep coming back and enduring hour-and-a-half Prophecy Updates every week. I mean, who does that? I do that every week. And I can't get enough. If you only knew how much I leave out. Again, I try to make them shorter. I say, well, I'll just archive that. I'll just, you know, kind of push it down here. Maybe next week we'll, you know, if it fits, you know, and if the Lord leads, you know, but man, if you – I – this is no exaggeration. I still use Word – pray for me – on a Mac. Pray for me more. More sure prayer.

But I have in my Microsoft Word doc on my Mac a file that I have to keep saving it, backing it up, and archiving it. But every time it gets over 3000 pages – I hope that didn't come off wrong. I just want to give you an idea, a perspective of the enormity, the scale. You know, I mean, what took me maybe a day to prepare a Prophecy Update in the past now takes five days from front to finish. And everything has to be vetted. And everything's flying at you a thousand miles an hour. It's revving up so fast.

So I hope you know when I get up here on a Sunday morning, which is my privilege to do, I mean, I believe this. I've taken heed to this, and it has changed the whole complexion of every aspect of my life, including the trials because I have a whole new perspective. And I'm unbelievably blessed.

Yeah, but look what you're going through. I know. But not for long. Because now's the time. And He's coming. So no worries, bruh. Everything now has a different texture to it. The things of this world no longer have the same appeal today. The luster is lost. The draw is weakened because I'm not a citizen of this world. I'm a citizen of heaven, and my treasures are in heaven. And that's where my heart is also. So let's go.

I have no love lost. There's nothing holding me back. There is nothing. I have no phone calls to make. I've already made them and been hung up on. I have no emails to send. I have no thing or no one. I've – let me put it like this. And I hate to use this medical phrase, but I got my affairs in order. You know, when you go to the doctor, and they tell you you've only got so much time. You better get your affairs in order. My affairs are in order.

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Are yours? If they're not, you need to get them in order. Because this is trustworthy and true. And you'll never drink from the cup of the blessing in this book unless and until you take heed to the promises and the prophecies of this book. I'm done.

Kapono, come on up. Stand up. Not too bad. I'm not talking about the sermon. I'm talking about the time.

Father, thank You. I again, as I prayed First Service, I've done my best. But now it's the Holy Spirit that does the rest. So please, Lord, it's on You. It's up to You to take this so that we don't leave it here but take it with us and begin that process by You putting Your finger on certain areas in our lives, certain affairs that need to be in order all because we have taken heed and believed. And seeing is believing. We see it. We believe it by faith. And we've taken heed to it. And we've been so blessed by it.

And it's really changed everything with our lives here on this earth. Because we long, we ache for heaven. And we await that crown that is set aside and for those who long for the rapture, Your appearing. Lord, I can't wait to see that crown. I'm going to cast it, as are everyone else before You and worship You. Thank You, Lord. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, we pray. Maranatha. In Jesus' name, Amen.