

2 Peter 1:16-21 – January 8, 2023

Links

- Peter Stoner Quote:

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2 Peter 1
Jesus Will Make Himself Real To You
J.D. Farag

KAPONO: Dear Lord, another year that You have blessed us with. It was not easy the past few years, Lord, of course, but we are thankful that we're here, Lord. And so thank You that we have this opportunity to worship together, to praise Your name, the only name.

Would You be with us as we sit down and receive the teaching that You have prepared for us this morning? May we put anything that may be tugging at our heart, Lord, we want to give that to You this morning so that we can be clear minded and focused, Lord. So thank You for this time. Thank You for this place. We love You. And we ask this in the mighty name of Jesus, we say amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen, amen. Good morning and welcome. You can be seated. I want to welcome those of you that are joining us online as well. We're so glad that you are. Before we get started, though, I want to take just a moment and personally thank all of you for your generous thoughtfulness towards my family and I.

I know I say this often. I hope you don't tire of me saying it, but I truly see myself as the most spoiled pastor in the world. I'm not complaining. I just – you guys are just over the top, and I just want to say thank you so much. And you make the pastorate such a joy.

You are so thoughtful and generous towards my family and I. And I just wanted to say that and also wish you a happy new year. Happy New Year. [AUDIENCE: Happy New Year!]

So first service, I asked rhetorically the question of what date in January do you stop saying Happy New Year, or is it February? Because I know that you've got some – anyway, that's enough of my problem. So happy New Year. It's only the 8th. So happy New Year.

All right. Well, we're going to resume our verse-by-verse study through 2 Peter. Lord willing, we'll finish Chapter 1 today. Really looking forward to what the Lord has for us in this passage. So I'm going to ask those of you that are here, if you're able to stand, if not, where you're seated is fine, but you can follow along as I read.

Beginning in verse 16, where the Apostle Peter, by the Holy Spirit, very interesting, says, **“We did not follow cleverly invented stories [Cunningly devised fables] when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For 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 [Verse 18] heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, [The more sure word of prophecy] 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. Above all [Verse 20], you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”**

Let's pray if you would please join with me. Thank You, Lord, for Your Word. Thank You for this portion that we have here before us this morning here in Your Word. Lord, we're

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looking with great anticipation, even expectation for You as only You can and always do, to speak clearly into our lives in the still small voice of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, when You speak in and through Your Word, we know it's You, because You know things about us that nobody else knows. And that's why Your Word is like a double-edged sword. It's so sharp when it cuts surgically. Dividing between soul and spirit, bone and marrow.

Lord, we want for the sword of Your Word to cut to where it needs to cut. And if need be, remove what needs to be removed from our hearts. Because, Lord, You know our heart. And You know what we brought to this Your church today that's in our hearts. And Lord, thank You that You're so gentle, and You're so patient and long suffering with us in the way that You deal with us.

So, Lord, thank You. Thank You for this passage. Now we need for You to not just get our attention, but hold our attention because we don't want our minds to wander in any way. Of course, the enemy wants that so that we'll miss what You have for us. So please, Lord, speak clearly. We're going to give You our undivided attention and we ask You for this in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today about how it is, the way it is and really, more importantly, why it is that Jesus will make Himself real to us. Doubtless you've prayed a similar prayer, 'Lord reveal Yourself to me.' 'Lord, make Yourself real to me.' That's a prayer that God is going to answer, without question. The only question is how is He going to do it? What is the way He's going to do it? And I know this is shocking, but He doesn't do it the way we think or how we think, or certainly when we think.

No, He'll reveal Himself to us in His way and in His time. And the Apostle Peter, here – and this is arguably one of the most powerful and profound passages in the entirety of the Apostle Peter's second epistle. I realize that's kind of a big and bold way to start. I'll back it up. I'll back it up by just saying that Peter, here, provides us with absolute assurance, unquestionable certainty and irrefutable truth and proof concerning Jesus. You have to know that Jesus was very real to Peter.

I mean, he spent time with Jesus. He knew personally, intimately, Jesus. He walked with Jesus. He cried with Jesus. I would venture to say He even laughed with Jesus, That might be a little bit too much. But it's true. Listen, laughter is serious. I know that's a – I know that's an oxymoron when I say it like that.

And maybe this is another topic for another time. But laughter is medicinal. I think it's Proverbs 17, I want to say about verse 14, something like that. In fact, it is so healthy for your mental health, your physical health, your emotional health. God gave us laughter, and it releases these chemicals in our bodies that are healing, that heal us. Laughter's the best medicine, I'm sure you've heard it said.

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By the way, this is my story and I'm sticking with it. I get a lot of heat for my humor. But I'm not going to stop. I love to laugh. I love to laugh, man. So it's very serious. (Chuckle)
Laughter is very serious.

But back to our sermon already in progress. Peter knew Jesus personally, literally. Jesus was very real. And so I guess in all fairness to Peter, you would expect that he's going to write what he writes inspired by the Holy Spirit here in his second epistle, which we're going to see here in a moment. What we're going to see is not only how Jesus made Himself real to Peter, but why.

This is so important. I would even say all important. It's not just that Jesus is real. It's why. Why does he make Himself real? We as believers in and followers of Jesus can have an unshakable faith, [Person in audience sneezed] despite the hardship and the diff - Bless you, by the way, Linda. I have to start over now. [Laughter] I lost my place. I'm just kidding. We love you so much, Linda.

All right. Where was I here? Oh, we're answering the why question. Why? Okay. Yes, Jesus will make Himself real to me. Why? So glad you asked. You asked, right? Okay. Answer: It's because we can have this unshakable faith despite the hardship and difficulty that lies ahead in the days ahead. And this is why [Why] Peter is writing what he's writing to them then and us now.

What follows are two ways, and woven into the 'ways' are the 'whys.' The second of which seals the deal, if you will, that Jesus will absolutely reveal Himself, and in so doing, he'll remove any and all doubt. And that is of paramount importance.

We're given the more sure word of prophecy. We have a rock solid proof, not just beyond any reasonable doubt, beyond any doubt. And that steadies me and it settles me. I'm immovable, unshakable. What's the first one? Well, in verses 16-18, it's that of experiencing the miraculous. This is one way that Jesus will make Himself real.

I would venture to say that I could go throughout and ask every single one of you to share, not the miracle, but the miracles, plural, that God has done in your life. In fact, let's do that right now. We'll start over here. [Laughter] We could go on and on and on, right? So yeah, the Lord makes Himself real in this way. Here, Peter references what we affectionately refer to as the Mount of Transfiguration.

This is when he, James and John were eyewitnesses of Jesus with Elijah and Moses being transformed and glorified. And Peter, James and John were there to witness it for real. They saw it. Now, in order to better understand just how powerful this would have been, I think we would do well to revisit the account of this miracle. It's in the Gospels, but I chose Mark's Gospel Chapter 9.

I'll begin reading in verse 2. **“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. [Verse 3] His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer**

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on earth can whiten them.” This would have been, just – You couldn't even look directly. It was so bright, so white. **“And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter [Verse 5] [Oh, I love Peter so much] Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ ”**

And we're told why in verse 6 that Peter said that. Leave it to Peter, right? Do you want to know why? Verse 6, **“because he didn't know what to say, for they were greatly afraid.”** Ya think? I mean, a lot of us are like, Man, Lord, make Yourself real to me. Reveal Yourself to me.

Are you so sure about that? Because I read Scripture and every time the Lord made Himself real, whoever He made Himself real to was on their face. God, I'm a wicked man. Isaiah would say, Lord, I'm a man of unclean lips. Take the coal, cleanse my lips. Here I am. Just be careful what you pray for, as they say. Lord, reveal Yourself.

I can just hear the angels given charge concerning me going, Don't pray that. You really don't want Him to do that. Because if He did that, then don't be too hard on Peter because you'd have probably done the same thing, if not something more stupid. Well, that's kind of harsh, isn't it? What do you mean by stupid? Well, think about it. Let's make tabernacles?

This is good; I don't want this to end. Nothing wrong with that. But let's make Tabernacles. Lord, You can have this one. Elijah (Pointing to a spot) By the way, how'd they know it was Elijah and Moses? Oh, they knew. You know what that means, right? When we get to heaven. There's not going to be a name tags. 'Hi, my name is' [Laughter] This is the laughter. This is what I talked to you about. This is very healthy.

Okay, so, Lord, you can have this one. Elijah, you can take that one. And then Moses, you can have that one. It's good for us to be here. This is, you know how it is when you're in a situation and dead silence and nobody's talking. You're like, this is very uncomfortable.

And so you decide, hey, somebody's got to say something. So I'll just – I'll just – Because I'm Peter. I'll just say something. Because I don't know what to say so I'll just say something. Listen, when you don't know what to say, say nothing. That is deeply profound. Now there's a point here, and I'll get to it, believe it or not.

Now verse 7, **“And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.”**

I have a question that I'd like to pose. Why would Peter refer to this of all of the miracles that he was an eyewitness of? If I'm Peter, I'm not bringing this up again because of what I said. I was on the receiving end of a correction, basically.

Build tabernacles. Have you ever when you said something, you wish you could unsay it? How about an email that you sent? Don't you wish you could unsend the email? Well, Peter

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would have certainly felt that way. But lo and behold, all these years later, he's bringing it up again by the Holy Spirit.

Why, Peter? What are you thinking, man? I mean, there are many other miracles. How about all the times when miraculously the Lord said, Hey, take that net. I know you've been fishing all night. I know you're the professional fisherman.

Who am I? Just the Savior of the world that created the fish. But, you know, put the net on the other side. And they get so many fish. And you got to wonder how wide that boat was if one side there's nothing and then on the other side— And then Peter goes, It's the Lord!

A firm grasp of the obvious. Well, if I'm Peter, I'm going to probably bring that one up. Jesus made Himself real to me, you guys. There was this one day we were out on the boat. We've been fishing all night, caught nothing. I'm not bringing up the whole mount thing. Why does Peter bring it up?

Because now stay with me. He brought Jesus down to the level of the prophets represented by Elijah and down to the level of the law represented by Moses. Jesus fulfilled, hang on to this, fulfilled the law and fulfilled the prophet's. He's not brought down to the level of the law or the prophets. He's the fulfillment of it.

So here's Peter now, he's wanting to communicate, inspired by the Holy Spirit, how that Jesus makes Himself real. Because you're going to need to know He's real because the enemy has an appointment with doubt scheduled for you, and that appointment will be kept. And doubt always shows up on time, if not early.

And I want to ready you and steady you for that which is appointed for you. So when, not if the doubt comes, on time, you're unmoved. How are you so sure? Not because of this miracle. I mean, miracles have their place. But I know without any doubt, because He fulfilled the prophecies. I have the more sure word.

Can you imagine if the only thing we could hang our hat on was something that was equivalent to what Peter experienced in the form of the Mount of Transfiguration? Well, thanks a lot, Peter. I mean, that's great for you, but I wasn't there. I mean, yeah, Jesus is real to you and for you, and you were an eyewitness of this and you saw that. What about me? I mean, what am I going to say? Well, ask Peter.

Jesus was real for Peter. No, let me tell you why. It's not the miracle. It's what's in verses 19-21. It's the more sure word of prophecy, the fulfilling of the prophetic Word of God. Now what Peter is saying here is that while Jesus makes Himself real in the supernatural experiences of a miracle, it's the prophetic word that's more certain.

In other words, signs and wonders, as it were, are in effect, inadequate in and of themselves, absent the fulfilling of God's prophetic word. Example: Think Israelites. Think parting of the Red Sea. Think walking on dry ground. That's a miracle, right? And that was real, right?

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It wasn't virtual. That's another topic for another time. They didn't have virtual headsets at that time. That really happened. I think God made Himself very real in that situation, right? You got the Egyptians behind you; certain death. You got the Red Sea in front of you; certain death.

The only thing you have to decide is, do you want to die – you're going to die. Do you want to die by drowning or by burning? That's your choice. And you're praying, God, this will be a very good time for You to reveal Yourself to me. And He does. He says to Moses, 'Moses, take your rod and behold the salvation of the Lord.' And all he does is he holds – I mean, you got – this is – I know God has a sense of humor. Okay.

Think about this and see the humor in this, please. It's very healthy, remember? And laughter is very serious, right? See the humor in this. Here they are, and they're freaking out. And they're already turning on Moses. You know what they said, right? "Were there not enough graves in Egypt? God had to bring us out here to kill us." Really? Excuse me.

If I'm not mistaken, you just witnessed ten prior miracles. Ten. The plagues. You were there, right? Yeah. That was real, right? Yeah. That was God, right? Yeah. So now you're here, you're going, We're going to die! Well, if you were going to die, God would have killed you in Egypt. He didn't have to bring you out here to kill you. That was – (Chuckle) Is that humorous? It is to me. That's laughable. I mean, anyway...

So Moses takes the rod, parts the Red Sea. Dry ground. No, this is a miracle. And please give me a break. People who say, oh, well, there's a certain part of the Red Sea, actually it's the Reed Sea, and it's very shallow. And if there's enough winds, it can kind of create that effect. And by the way, this is the problem with miracles. Okay. That's why they can only go so far. So, you know, it can be – so they try to explain in the natural that which God did in the supernatural. And so yeah, the winds that the conditions were right. Yeah, It could part, they could cross the Red Sea.

Wow. I'll give you an 'A' for imagination. And that's very creative, by the way. But I have a question for you. It's actually a greater miracle, because that means that God performed a miracle and drowned the Egyptians in shallow water.

Okay. However you want to get there, that's fine, but it's still a miracle. Okay, so where are you going with this Pastor? I'm going somewhere. So you're the Israelites, and you just got done blasting Moses and actually blaspheming God. And then all of a sudden, He parts the Red Sea and you're going, Hmm.

I think this is the direction God would have us to go. You see the humor in that, right, at least? Okay, good. We're good so far. What's Your will God? Hello? Thank You, God! Just in time. And so they cross the Red Sea. And then God's not done yet. This is – watch how this ends. I got a great ending. So once you guys are crossed over, it would have taken a while.

The whole time God has a pillar of fire keeping the Egyptians from pursuing them. Oh, by the way, that miracle gets no press at all. For you pyromaniacs, you like that one better.

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Just saying. So He's got the Egyptians staved off. He's got the Red Sea parted. They cross on dry ground. Don't miss that. It's not wet, soggy. It's dry, desert dry. In fact, they got dust from the chariots crossing over and you're like, man, you know, it's dusty. And there's this huge wall of water. Can you imagine that?

Like, if I'm there, I'm like, this is so cool, God. Wow! That's what I'm talking about. [Laughter] So you get across – you know, you're going to be healthier when you leave here today because you're laughing.

So you get to the other side and God's like, okay, final act. Watch this. So He removes the fire. Egyptians are in hot pursuit. And God's like, waiting. Okay, they're in. Okay, you guys, drowns them all. Now you're the Israelites on the other side. Now, watch this. They're probably going, Wait a minute. They're still coming after us, God!

Were there not enough graves in Egypt? No, they didn't say that, at least at that point. That's coming in a couple of days, by the way. And that's my point. But then they witnessed yet another miracle within a miracle in the drowning of all of the Egyptians. And their response is our response.

In fact, Miriam, this is Moses's oldest sister, older sister, leads them in worship. They're praising God. Oh, it's a glorious song that's recorded. You can read the lyrics to the song. Glorious song praising the Lord. Oh, God! I like how one said it. It's the right song on the wrong side. And I think about Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles Chapter 20, when God says to him – I mean, they're toast. This is another Red Sea thing.

They're done either way. It's just a matter of when and how. And then God says, You know what? He prayed, they fasted. And He says, the battle – this is not your battle. This battle belongs to the Lord. Not all battles. Sometimes we have to fight the battles, but He gives us the power and the strength to fight in the spiritual realm.

But He said, You're not going to have to fight this one. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to get your worship team. I want you to send them out. And I want you to start praising Me for the victory that is already yours. And then you're going to praise Me, you're going to sing praise and thank Me in advance. And then you're going to see what I'm going to do.

It's going to be so cool. It's going to be so cool. And the victory was theirs. Right song, wrong side. So now they're – as one said, they're not singing and praising God in faith, but out of relief because God save them from the Egyptians in performing this miracle.

But here's the problem. It maybe lasted a couple, three days. And now they're thirsty and there's no water. And you would think – and don't be too hard on them, because again, we would probably do the same thing, if not worse.

But you would think after all of the miracles heretofore that God has performed in the realm of the supernatural, and they're unmistakably miracles that you've witnessed them, eye witnesses of them, like Peter at the Mount of Transfiguration. You would think that's good. I'm good. That settles it. Yeah, I'm thirsty, but if God did that, God can do anything.

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But that's not what happened. You know what happened, right? "Were there not enough graves?" I mean, talk about lyrics to a song. That's that song. They keep singing that same song, "Where there not enough graves in Egypt?" Kapon, don't put that to music.

But I mean, you know, that God could not kill us and you know, and He had to bring us out here and, to kill us, you know. So let me see if I got this straight. You mean God's going to deliver you, protect you from the ten plagues, and then He's going to deliver you in a very dramatic way and miraculous way.

And he's not going to— What? Now it's like, okay, that's it. That's all you get. You're going to die of thirst now. No! God's not going to give you water? I mean, He parted water. Why would He not give you water? Of course, the miracles of the water coming from the rock. All the typology.

So what's my point? My point is that miracles, while they have their place, are in and of themselves inadequate. You know what is adequate? The more sure word of Bible prophecy. Not the miracles. How do I know Jesus is real? Jesus is really real.

When I first got saved, that was my entire theology. That's all I knew. Hadn't read the Bible yet all the way through. Jesus is real. He's really, really real. Jesus is real. You need Jesus because He's really, really real. That's all I had. Because it's true. He is real.

Well, as I grew in grace and matured in Christ, I began to realize, wait a minute. He's really real! It was right – are you kidding me? Okay, we have a couple of problems that we need to work through. If we're to have any hope of the aforementioned assurance, certainty, truth and proof concerning Jesus being real and making Himself real.

Notice with me what Peter writes in verse 19 when he says, **"We do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and (the morning star) Jesus rises in our hearts."** That's an admonition, exhortation.

So let's take heed and pay attention to this as we roll up our biblical arms, sleeves, if you will, and work through these problems together. What's the first problem? This is a huge problem, and it's getting worse, by the way.

It's that in one's biblical illiteracy, there's a default to venerating the experience, which in turn results in denigrating Jesus. That's why Peter references this, because that's what he did. He brought Jesus down. He elevated the experience. This is – what an amazing experience! I don't want this to end! Let's build apartment complexes for you guys, and it's good for us to be here. But in doing that, you have just brought Jesus down. And that's the problem.

Churches today have elevated the experience, and it's come at the expense of Jesus. So the reference point is some experience. Oh, man, I – Oh, wow. Oh, the worship was, oh, I mean, wow! Okay. Sounds like a very emotional experience. Not a very spiritual one.

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You know, with music – this is what I so appreciate about our worship leader, Kaponu. Um, if you do some research on this, you'll find that music, because our brains are wired for it, God created us for worship, by the way, you can actually enter into an altered state of consciousness. Music can actually be as powerful of an effect on the brain as a drug.

Do you know that when you're singing, you're using both parts of your brain? You know how they say, women are left brain and men are right brain? That's our excuse, by the way, women. When we look at you like, you know, huh? We don't know. We just don't know.

That's a marriage teaching for another time because we're operating in a whole different sphere in our brains than you are. But when you're singing, you're using both parts of the brain. Did you know that?

That's why it is, by the way, when you're really tired, especially on Thursday nights. I know for me I've confessed this. Sometimes, you know, it's just I'm so tired. Thursday hits and Thursday it comes every week. I'm like, Oh Lord, I am just beat tired! I don't know if I really want to go to church tonight. And then I realize, wait a minute, I'm the pastor, I'm teaching the Bible study. I got to go. So I drag myself to church.

And then the worship starts. By the way, there's a spiritual component to that. The enemy will bring a – that's why it is by the way, when you go to read your Bible or pray, a drowsiness like you've never experienced before in your life, hits suddenly. You can't even keep your eyes open. It's great for insomnia. Just read your Bible. [Laughter]

But here's the problem. You have to substitute. You have to overcompensate. You have to replace the Word of God, the more sure word of Bible prophecy [Bible prophecy]. So what are you going to do? Well, we've got to have some flash and splash, some fluff and puff. I better stop there. I've got a few more.

See, because what you're doing now is you're manufacturing a substitute. And so you've got to create this environment, this experience because you don't have the real deal, the Word of God. And would to God, that pastors, we talked about this in the Prophecy Update, would return to the Word and preach the Word. Somewhere along the line they lost confidence in the Word of God, and they opted to be more hip and relevant, and buy skinny jeans. [Laughter] Which I'll never – I can't. [Laughter] This is the problem. And it's a big problem.

And I realize the strength in which I say this, but it needs to be strong because here's the truth. Experience won't hold up when trials bring you down.

I feel so bad for people that are not being fed the Word of God because they're not growing. They're weak. They're famished. They're malnourished spiritually.

So all it takes is something in life to hit, and life hits, and you're going to go down because you don't have the solid foundation. It's the parable of the two builders that Jesus taught.

You've got two builders building a house, one on the rock, one on the sand. What was the difference between the two? Well, the one on the rock when [When] the storm hits it's

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there man. The one on the sand, (Clap) down it goes, and Jesus says, “with a great and mighty crash.” What was the difference? The one on the rock, not just heard the Word because the guy, the sand guy, he heard the same word.

The difference is the rock guy – I like that better. He put them into practice. He knew the Word, heard the Word, but he was a doer of the Word. So when life hit, when the storm hits, he's immovable, rock solid on the foundation. And here are people that are sitting in churches and all they're getting is fluff. I call them cotton candy Christians.

And I say that affectionately. And then they get the call. Their son, their daughter has been in a car accident. They get the diagnosis. Get your affairs in order. Where are they going to go? Some experience? I need Jesus to be real right now [Right now].

And shame on you for not getting me solid in the Word, the more sure word of prophecy, the fulfillment of the prophetic word. Jesus fulfills the Word. That's the foundation upon which I will stand and not fall with a mighty and great crash. That's just one problem.

We've got another one. We'll go through this one quicker. Don't lose heart. This problem is that of the human instruments that God chooses and uses to reveal Jesus through and to. This is why Peter hits this point head on when he says that no prophecy came vis-à-vis the prophets own interpretation.

You know what he's saying, right? He's saying that the human authors were inspired by God. And this again is a huge problem in the sense that one can be given over to doubt and uncertainty about the Word because they dismiss it under the banner of the vessel through which it comes. So I'm not so sure. No, it's the sure word of prophecy. I'm not so sure.

Because I mean, human authors? And by the way, some of these authors, they don't have a very impressive resume. And some of them have a pretty checkered past, too, if you haven't noticed. Well, how are we going to solve this problem? We're going to solve it with what's known as the miracle of divine dual authorship.

As one aptly said it, “God draws straight and perfect lines with crooked and imperfect sticks.” It's the divine dual authorship. So we have in our hands – By the way, there was a very good documentary many years ago about Bible translations. Whatever translation you have, and there are some that are preferable to others, but this is the infallible [infallible] Word of God.

And please, please, please, I beg you, don't let anyone plant a seed of doubt. Well, that version, they removed things from it. They have? You know what that's all about, right? So now all of a sudden, you start doubting.

Oh, Satan's having a heyday with that one. Because his whole intent, is obviously, it should be obvious, is to get Christians and pastors, dare I say, to lose confidence in the infallible Word of God. Let me ask you a question. Do you think God is incapable of not preserving His Word? Yeah, but they made changes to it.

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Oh, sorry. It fell out of my bible. It's a note. Oh, it's from my wife. Please stop talking so long. Okay, well, I'll put that back. [Laughter] Sorry. We needed one more laughter on that one. That was for your pancreas, I think, maybe.

That's Satan's sole goal, right, is to get us to lose confidence in and start doubting about the Word of God. Please, I implore you. The Word of God is infallible. Yeah, but it was translated by man. I know, but God was there.

Yeah, but these guys were messed up. I know, but God took care of the mess, and He made it perfect. He took a crooked stick and He drew a perfect straight line. Problem solved. What's your problem? I don't have more problems now. Well, I hope not. Okay. Why is this so important? Because here's the why. Jesus makes Himself real first and foremost, by way of the Word.

The experience is over here. Cool! Wow, I would have loved to have been there. Well, you weren't invited. Just Peter, James and John were. Oh, that's really cool, but I tell you, I have this. I have this. Well, what's in this? Well, you might be surprised to know that one has counted some 332 prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus. Now, 332.

Okay. But the specificity of all that only Jesus could and would fulfill them. For those of you that are interested and there are some of you that are, you know, into the statistical mathematics of it, and I have a great deal of respect for you. I wish I had that.

I in some ways, in a sanctified way, covet that. But some of your brains are just capable of doing that. I can't, you know, two plus two equals four. I'm good with that. That's as far as it goes. But there are those who have done the statistical and mathematical calculations of the probabilities of fulfilling all 332 prophecies in the Old Testament with their specificity about Jesus. And you know what the statistical probabilities are?

Do you know what that number is? Nobody knows. It's incalculable. Incalculable. A professor by the name of Peter Stoner – Unfortunate last name. (Chuckle) Actually calculated that the probability of any one man fulfilling just '8' of the 332, '8'. Can I do this? I gotta be careful when I start showing my fingers. '8', '8'. He wanted to calculate just '8'. What would be the statistical probability mathematically of one man fulfilling just '8' of the 332 prophecies?

And he said it would be akin – first of all, the number is – you can't – you know how some account numbers have got all the zeros and you don't know how many. So you've got to take like something and block them and then count them. Why do they do that? It's deliberate. All these zeros just for '8'. But then he put it into perspective this way. "It would be like taking silver dollars and laying them on the face of Texas, covering the entire State with silver dollars two feet deep. That's a lot of silver dollars because Texas be one big state, right? Two feet deep? Silver dollars? The entire state?"

Okay. That's that's a big number. A lot of zeros. Now, we're not done yet. You would mark just one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mess thoroughly. Then take a guy and

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blindfold him and tell him you got to pick just one. Wait. What? One? You've covered the entire State of Texas in silver dollars two feet deep and I got to pick one? How many chances do I get? One. So what chance would he have of getting the right one? You ready for this? Wait for it. Just the same chance that the prophets would have of writing '8' prophecies and having them come true in any one man. '8'.

I'm good now. Is Jesus real? You better believe it. Did you hear about the State of Texas being covered two feet deep? He's real. He's real. I'm sure. I'm sure. I'm sure. Okay. Here's the bottom line. I appreciate your patience with me. And this is the way, by the way. I mean, you know, like we need another sermon.

Okay, so three points, go home, eat lunch, you know, go about your day, get ready for the week. You know, thank you so much, Pastor JD. It was a great sermon. Off you go. The end. No. There's a reason. There's a reason. And here's the reason.

As the world seemingly gets darker with each passing day, Peter by the Holy Spirit would say, the light of Jesus shines brighter with each passing day, and we would do well to pay attention to that. Dark days ahead. Would you agree? And I better not have – because it's going to be too late when you're in the midst of it.

It's going to be too late to go back and start connecting all those dots so you can have that assurance and certainty. Absolute certainty. The more sure word, you're so sure it is irrefutable. You're immovable. Why? Because just '8', man. Just '8'. I'm very sure. You better already have that at the ready. Because there is coming a time when – and this is what's going to happen, by the way.

And this is why Peter is writing to them. And Lord willing, next week we're going to see this because Peter knows what's coming and in fact is already there. What's there? What's coming? False teachers. False teachers are going to come in from within their midst.

Because see, Satan is not going to leave the church alone. If you can't beat them, join them. So he sends these false teachers to join the church. And they start spreading like cancer and they get their tentacles into the church. And what happens? All of a sudden you're like, Hmm, well, that's interesting.

Theistic evolution. Hmm. So in other words, God did create, but He used evolution. Oh, so you're saying that Jesus isn't enough? That I have to be water baptized to be saved. Hmm. Oh, New Apostolic Reformation, NAR. So the church, Christians are going to take dominion over the world. The Seven Mountain Mandate: education, government, all of the above. And then Jesus is going to come back? Hmm. Are you sure?

Oh, wait. So you're telling me that Jesus is just one of many ascended masters? Hmm. No, no. Get thee behind me, Satan. You're a false teacher and that's false doctrine. And that's doctrines of demons.

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Nice try. I'm sure. I'm sure. Oh, were you at the Mount of Transfiguration? No. Didn't need to be. here. It's right here. (Holding up Bible) I'm sure. Jesus is real. Your false. Jesus is real. "Let God be true but every man a liar." And I'm sure about that. Without question.

Okay, I'm done. [Laughter] Praise the Lord. Kaponu, come on up. I'm just, I'm real smooth with the closings, yeah? (Laughing) It's a gift. It's a gift. Please stand. Yeah, I practiced for two weeks when I was gone on that.

Oh, Lord, I hope, please, God, just take my – You used so many different personalities. I mean, Luke was a physician, and You inspired him to write not just the Gospel, but the Book of Acts. And he's very technical, like a medical doctor. But You still used him.

Matthew was a tax collector. Man, if You could use him, You can use me. And then Peter, our friend and brother, Peter. Oh, Lord, thank You. Thank You that you can use personalities and temperaments and take that crooked stick and draw a perfect straight line.

Lord, thank You for Your Word. Thank you for the sure Word that we can stand on. Lord, thank You for the certainty, the assurance. Lord, we love the experiences, of course, but moreover, we're so thankful to You for Your more sure Word and how You fulfilled the Word. Lord, thank You for Your Word and this word today. In Jesus' name. Amen.