



TEXT SUMMARY

In this week’s text, [2 Peter 1:12-18](#), Peter explains why he has written his letters to his people, and he identifies the source of his message: not cleverly written stories but his own eye-witness experience of the glory of Christ Himself, a foretaste of the glory of the Son at His Return.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Our text opens with the word “Therefore.” What is the connection between v. 12-15 and the previous paragraph (v. 3-11)?
- 2. Because he knows his death is near, Peter wants to be sure his readers will remember what he’s told them even after he is gone. Find the three-fold repetition of the theme of reminding and remembering in v. 12-15.
- 3. What event does Peter refer to in v. 16-18? If church history is correct, Mark was Peter’s protégé and the writer of the Gospel of Mark. What observations can you see in Mark’s (Peter’s) account of that event in Mark 9:2-7?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. The word translated “departure” in v. 15 is literally “exodus.” What parallels can you see between a believer’s death and the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt?
- 2. Liberal Bible scholars sometimes argue that we should understand the Gospels as legends that grew up over the centuries following Jesus’ day: a simple Galilean rabbi came to be regarded as a miracle-worker whose death eventually came to be viewed as cosmically significant. Why does it matter whether the events recorded in the Gospels are history or myth? Couldn’t we derive the same moral lessons from the stories even if they didn’t take place in the same space-time continuum we inhabit?

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