

2 Peter

3) Two Bright Lights In A World Of Gross Darkness

'For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease'

(2 Pet.1:12-15)

✓ **The purpose of this epistle was to remind believers of certain known truths, which will establish them in the faith**

✓ **3 times in these verses Peter says he wants to remind them. Also, 'For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins' (2 Pet.1:9)**

'Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior' (2 Pet.3:1-2)

✓ **A good teacher will constantly repeat truth, because of the danger of forgetting**

✓ **Some people have 'itching ears' and want to hear some new thing. 'If it's new it's not true. If it's true, it's not new.'**

✓ **Paul, also, knew the importance of reminding his disciples, '*For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe*' (Phil.3:1)**

✓ **Paul said to both Timothy and Titus, '*Remind them...*'**

✓ **We break bread, '*in remembrance*'**

✓ **What was he reminding them? That, 1) we are partakers of the divine nature; 2) that there is a practical outworking of the Christian life; 3) an abundant life will lead to an abundant entrance into the kingdom of God**

✓ **The result of being reminded of this is that they will be established in the 'present truth' of the apostles doctrine**

✓ ***'Established' is the same word translated 'strengthen' in Luke 22:32, 'When you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren'***

✓ Peter knew that soon he would die a martyr's death, just as Jesus showed him (John 21:18-19). The persecution under Nero was gaining momentum

✓ He was aware of the significance of the passing of the apostles and the need to preserve their authoritative teaching. The epistles are the foundation of the Church (Eph.2:20), preserved by God for all generations

✓ Peter put these truths in a letter, so God's people through the ages would have a reminder, even after his departure, and be established in the present truth of the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3)

- ✓ **Peter regarded his body as a tent. Paul too, 'For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life' (2 Cor.5:4)**
- ✓ **A tent is a temporary place to live. Tents should be taken care of, but we wouldn't invest large resources into fixing up a tent. We save our real resources for a more permanent place to live. Jesus taught us to lay up our treasure in heaven**
- ✓ **Today, there is an over-emphasis on body image. People identify themselves with their bodies. One day we will leave this tent. What will leave this tent? The real you**

'For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 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 we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain'

(2 Pet.1:16-18)

- ✓ **In addition to the danger of Christians becoming forgetful, there were false teachers entering the Church. These rejected and scoffed at the apostles teaching of the Second Coming (chap.3)**
- ✓ **They said it is just a fable (Gk. *mythos*)**
- ✓ **Even today, some say the Bible record is full of myths**
- ✓ **How can we know the Second Coming is real?**
- ✓ **Because of apostolic witness and the testimony of prophecy**

1) Apostolic witness

- ✓ **Some apostles had a foretaste of the 2nd Coming on the Mount of Transfiguration**
- ✓ **Before the transfiguration, Jesus told His disciples that some would not see death until they saw Him in His kingdom glory**
- ✓ **Peter said, on the Mount, Jesus received from the Father honour and glory. This was in the form of the brilliant light shining from Him, like the Shekinah Glory of God over the tabernacle, and an audible voice of God**
- ✓ **This was a preview of His glory in the Millennial kingdom**

- ✓ **Jesus became so bright in appearance that it was hard to look at Him. He shone like the sun (Matthew 17:2)**
- ✓ **This was not a new miracle, but a pause in an ongoing miracle. The real miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, could keep from displaying His glory**
- ✓ **Also, the Father spoke from heaven to declare His approval of and joy in the Son. The words from heaven clearly put Jesus above the Law and the Prophets. He was not merely another, or even a better, lawgiver or prophet. Jesus was and is God's only begotten beloved Son**

- ✓ **Peter says that in a similar way, His 2nd Coming will be with power and glory, i.e. destruction of the Antichrist, resurrection of the dead, the establishment of His kingdom, etc.**
- ✓ **This experience enabled them to stand firm against persecution and false teaching. It enabled them to endure torture and even give their lives for Christ and the gospel**
- ✓ **The testimony of the apostles and writers of the New Testament have been examined for centuries and have been proven to be credible witnesses**

***'And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit'
(2 Pet.1:19-21)***

□2) The testimony of prophecy

- ✓ **The same God who spoke to the apostles in the Mount, spoke through the OT prophets who gave hundreds of prophecies about Christ and His kingdom**
- ✓ **The NT, as we have it, was not in existence at the time Peter wrote this epistle**
- ✓ **We are to fix our minds on these Scriptures, and place our trust in them, as a light shining in a dark world**
- ✓ **We are to do this until Christ's return. He is the Morning Star who will usher in the new day**



- ✓ **Divine prophecy did not come *from* man, but from God. It is not of private origin. Their fulfillment is proof of this**
- ✓ **It did come *through* holy men of God, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ **They were carried along by the Spirit, like a ship's sail is carried by the wind. Not in a mechanical way, bypassing their personalities**
- ✓ **They each had their own style but the Holy Spirit preserved the accuracy of the Word of God, safeguarding them from error**

Sometimes, the prophets did not even know the meaning of what they themselves wrote:

'Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into'

(1 Pet.1:10-12)

We know the Bible is the Word of God because of its:

- ✓ **Inherent claim**
- ✓ **Harmony**
- ✓ **Prophecy**
- ✓ **Archaeology**
- ✓ **The Dead Sea Scrolls**
- ✓ **It's relevance**
- ✓ **It's power**
- ✓ **It's indestructability**

Because of the apostolic witness and the prophetic Scriptures we can have complete confidence in the coming glory of Christ and His kingdom on earth

In a world of increasing darkness these two lights will get brighter and brighter