

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

REV. JEFFERY D. BELL SR. - PASTOR/TEACHER

2 PETER 1 VS 19-21

“WAKE UP AND REMEMBER “

PART 3

(19) 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; (20) KNOWING THIS FIRST, THAT NO PROPHECY OF SCRIPTURE IS OF ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION, (21) FOR PROPHECY NEVER CAME BY THE WILL OF MAN, BUT HOLY MEN OF GOD SPOKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SO FAR PETER HAS PROVEN THE **DURABILITY** AND THE **DEPENDABILITY** OF THE SCRIPTURES BY INFORMING US THAT:

I. **MEN DIE, BUT THE WORD LIVES** (2 PETER 1 VS 12-15)

II. **EXPERIENCES FADE, BUT THE WORD REMAINS** (2 PETER VS 16-18)

AS WE LOOK AT VERSES 19-21 WE WILL FIND THE THIRD AND FINAL CONTRAST THAT PETER USES TO PROVE THE DURABILITY AND DEPENDABILITY OF THE SCRIPTURES:

III. **THE WORLD DARKENS BUT THE WORD SHINES** (2 PETER 1 VS 19-21) IN SOME RESPECTS THE WORLD IS GETTING BETTER.

A. **MEDICINE** - MEDICAL SCIENCE ALLOWS PEOPLE TO LIVE LONGER

B. **TRANSPORTATION** - JET PLANES ENABLE US TO GET PLACES FASTER

C. **COMMUNICATION** – RADIO PROGRAMS ALLOW NEWS TO TRAVEL FASTER AND FURTHER

SO IT IS TRUE THAT IN AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT, THE WORLD HAS MADE PROGRESS BUT THE HUMAN HEART IS STILL WICKED, AND ALL OF OUR IMPROVEMENT IN MEANS HAVE NOT IMPROVED OUR LIVES.

MEDICAL SCIENCE ENABLES PEOPLE TO LIVE **LONGER** BUT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL LIVE **BETTER**.

MODERN MEANS COMMUNICATION ONLY ENABLES LIES TO TRAVEL FASTER.

JET PLANES ENABLE US TO GET PLACES FASTER, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE BETTER PLACES TO GO

NOTE: WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED THAT OUR WORLD IS ENGULFED IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. WE HAVE BEEN WARNED IN THE WORD:

A. **JESUS** - WARNED THAT THERE WOULD BE COUNTERFEITS WHO WOULD INVADE THE CHURCH WITH FALSE DOCTRINES (MAT 7 VS 13 -29)

B. **PAUL** – WARNINGS TO THE ELDERS OF EPHEBUS (ACTS 20 VS 28-35) AND IN THE EPISTLES 9 ROM 16 VS 17-20; 2 COR 11 VS 1 -15; GAL 1 VS 1-9; PHIL 3 VS 17-21; COL 2; 1 TIM 4; 2 TIM 3-4)

C. **JOHN** – WARNED ABOUT ANTICHRISTIANS THAT WOULD SEEK TO DESTROY THE CHURCH (1 JOHN 2 VS 18-29; 4 VS 1-6)

IN OTHER WORDS THE APOSTLES DID NOT EXPECT THE WORLD TO GET BETTER MORALLY OR SPIRITUALLY. THEY ALL WARNED THE CHURCH THAT FALSE TEACHERS WOULD INVADE THE LOCAL CHURCHES, INTRODUCE FALSE DOCTRINES, AND LEAD MANY PEOPLE ASTRAY. THE WORLD WOULD BE DARKER AND DARKER, BUT AS IT DID THE WORD OF GOD WOULD SHINE BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER

IN THESE VERSES PETER MAKES THREE AFFIRMATIONS ABOUT THE WORD

1. **IT IS THE SURE WORD** (VS 19A) – PETER IS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE BIBLE IS MORE CERTAIN THAN THE EXPERIENCE HE HAD ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION. HIS EXPERIENCE WAS REAL AND TRUE, AND THE RECORD IN THE BIBLE IS DEPENDABLE. AS WE HAVE SEEN, THE TRANSFIGURATION WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PROMISE GIVEN IN THE PROPHETIC WORD; AND THIS PROMISE NOW HAS ADDED CERTAINTY BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIENCE CORROBORATED THE PROPHETIC PROMISES.

THE APOSTATES WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING (2 PETER 3 VS 3) – BUT THE SCRIPTURES WERE SURE, FOR AFTER ALL THE PROMISE OF THE KINGDOM WAS REAFFIRMED BY

A. **MOSES**

B. **ELIJAH**

C. **THE SON OF GOD**

D. **THE FATHER**

E. **HOLY SPIRIT** – WROTE THE RECORD FOR THE CHURCH TO READ

PSALM 119 VS 7 THE TESTIMONIES OF THE LORD ARE SURE

PSALM 93 VS 5 THY TESTIMONIES ARE VERY SURE

PSALM 11 VS 7 ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE SURE

PSALM 119 VS 128 THEREFORE I ESTEEM ALL THY PRECEPTS CONCERNING ALL THINGS TO BE RIGHT' AND I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY

LOOK HOW VERSES 16 AND 19 GO TOGETHER!

2. **IT IS A SHINNING WORD** (VS 19B) PETER CALLED THE WORLD “A ***DARKPLACE*** “AND THE WORD HE USED MEANS “MURKY “. IT IS THE PICTURE OF A DARK CELLAR OR DISMAL SWAMP. HUMAN HISTORY BEGAN IN A LOVELY GARDEN, BUT THE GARDEN TODAY IS LIKE A MURKY SWAMP. WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE WORLD SYSTEM IS AN INDICATION OF THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF YOUR HEART. WE STILL SE BEAUTY IN GODS CREATION, BUT WE SEE NO BEAUTY IN WHAT MAN KIND IS DOING WITH GODS CREATION. PETER DID NOT SEE THE WORLD AS A GARDEN OF EDEN, NOR SHOULD WE. GOD IS LIGHT AND HIS WORD IS LIGHT.

PSALMS 119 VS 105 - THE WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

MAT 4 VS 16 – THE PEOPLE WHICH SAT IN DARKNESS SAW GREAT LIGHT

LUKE 1VS 78 – HIS COMING INTO THE WORLD WAS A DAWNING OF A NEW DAY

MAT 5 VS 15-16 - YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD – AND IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO HOLD FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE – GODS LIGHT – SO THAT MEN MIGHT SEE THTHE WAY AND BE SAVED

AS BELEIVERS WE MUST DO TWO THINGS WITH THIS SHINNING WORD

A. **HEED**

B. **GOVERN OUR LIVES BY WHAT IT SAYS**

NOTE: FOR THE UNBELIEVERS, THINGS WILL GET DARKER AND DARKER, UNTIL THEY END UP IN ETERNAL DARKNESS, BUT GOD'S PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY OF GLORY.

THE FALSE TEACHERS SCOFFED AT THE IDEA OF CHRIST'S RETURN AND THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY, BUT PETER AFFIRMED THE TRUTH OF THE SURE WORD OF GOD. (2 **PETER 3 VS 10**) "BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT "

HOW THANKFUL WE OUGHT TO BE FOR GOD'S SURE AND SHINING WORD, AND HOW WE OUGHT TO HEED IT IN THESE DARK DAYS!

3. **IT IS THE SPIRIT GIVEN WORD** (VS 20-21) THIS IS ONE OF TWO IMPORTANT SCRIPTURES AFFIRMING THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD. THE OTHER IS 2 TIMOTHY 3 VS 14-17. PETER AFFIRMED THAT THE SCRIPTURES WERE NOT

PETER CONFIRMS THAT THE SCRIPTURES WERE NOT WRITTEN BY MEN WHO USED THEIR OWN IDEAS AND WORDS, BUT BY MEN OF GOD WHO WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT- THE SCRIPTURES ARE GOD BREATHED THEY ARE NOT THE INVENTIONS OF MEN. THE WORD **MOVED** – TRANSLATED MEANS:

"TO BE CARRIED ALONG, AS A SHIP IS CARRIED BY THE WIND "

AGAIN PETER WAS REFUTING THE DOCTRINES OF THE APOSTATES. THEY TAUGHT WITH " FEIGNED WORDS " (2 PETER 2 VS 3) AND TWISTED THE SCRIPTURES TO MAKE THEM MEAN SOMETHING ELSE (2 PETER 3 VS 16) THEY DENIED IMPORTANT FACTS :

1. **CHRIST'S COMING** (2 PETER 3 VS 3-4)
2. **PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES**

SINCE THE SPIRIT GAVE THE WORD THAN ONLY THE SPIRIT CAN:

1. **TEACH THE WORD**
2. **INTERPRET IT ACCURATELY** (1 COR 2 VS 14-15) OF COURSE EVERY FALSE TEACHER CLAIMS TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT, BUT HIS HANDLING OF THE WORD SOON EXPOSES HIM. SINCE THE BIBLE DID NOT COME BY THE WILL OF MAN, IT CAN NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE WILL OF MAN. WE FIND A GOOD EXAMPLE TO BACK THIS UP IN THE WORD OF GOD

NICODEMUS (JOHN 3 VS 10-12)

IN (1 PETER 1 VS 20) PETER WAS NOT PROHIBITING THE PRIVATE STUDY OF THE BIBLE. SOME RELIGIOUS GROUPS TEACH THAT ONLY SPIRITUAL LEADERS CAN “INTERPRET THE SCRIPTURE, AND THEY HAVE USED THIS VERSE AS THEIR DEFENSE. BUT PETER WAS NOT WRITING PRIMARILY ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE, BUT THE ORIGIN OF SCRIPTURE: IT CAME BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH HOLY MEN OF GOD. AND SINCE IT CAME BY THE SPIRIT IT MUST BE TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT.

THE WORD TRANSLATED “*PRIVATE*” SIMPLY MEANS “*ONES OWN*” SINCE ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – IT MUST ALL HANG TOGETHER AND NO ONE SCRIPTURE SHOULD BE DIVORCED FROM THE OTHERS. YOU CAN USE THE BIBLE TO PROVE ALMOST ANYTHING IF YOU ISOLATE VERSES FROM THEIR PROPER CONTEXT, WHICH IS EXACTLY THE APPROACH THE FALSE TEACHERS USE.

NOTE: PETER STATED THAT THE WITNESS OF THE APOSTLES CONFIRMED THE WITNESS OF THE PROPHETIC WORD; THERE IS ONE MESSAGE WITH NO CONTRADICTION. THEREFORE THE ONLY WAY THE FALSE TEACHERS CAN “PROVE” THEIR HERECTICAL DOCTRINES IS BY

1. **MISUSING THE WORD OF GOD**
2. **ISOLATING TEXT APART FROM CONTEXT**

CLOSE: THE WORD OF GOD WAS WRITTEN TO COMMON PEOPLE, NOT TO THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORS. THE WRITER ASSUMED THAT COMMON PEOPLE COULD READ IT, UNDERSTAND IT AND APPLY IT, LED BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT WHO INSPIRED IT. THE HUMBLE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER CAN LEARN ABOUT GOD AS HE READS AND MEDITATES ON THE WORD OF GOD; HE DOES NOT NEED THE EXPERTS TO SHOW HIM THE TRUTH. HOWEVER THIS DOES NOT DENY THE MINISTRY OF TEACHERS (EPH 4)