

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**2 Peter 1: 15-21****Lesson 3**

return pages 6 & 7 only

You are hiking in the desert with your two best friends and your mentor. As you listen, you watch your feet, careful not to stumble on the rocky ground, when all of a sudden the ground becomes light. You jerk your head up to see what is going on, and there it is-something that had never ever crossed your mind as possibly happening. No, not an alien abduction!

I've just described what Peter might have been doing when Jesus was suddenly transformed before his very eyes. Can you imagine what it was like to be in the sandals of Peter, James, or John as the three men witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus Christ? How would you have responded to what you saw and heard?

The three apostles were not caught up in the fact that they were having an experience with God. They were, however, riveted on the truth about God's Son that was being revealed to them. That experience had an impact on those men's lives and, in turn, on their ministry to our lives. In this lesson we will consider Peter's assurance of the trustworthiness of God's Word. Part of his assurance was based on what he experienced at the Transfiguration.

**Peter's Endeavor**

Peter knew that his death was near, so he was all the more determined that believers should remember the truths they had been taught. In verses 3-11, he had written about godly living, character development, and making salvation certain. It is one thing to know and be fixed firmly in these truths. It is another thing to have these truths always in the forefront of your mind. Therefore, Peter endeavored to provide Christians with a record of these things, a record that would cause them to remember long after he had gone (2 Peter 1:15). This was the reason he wrote. And he succeeded, for his letters are a reminder to us today, long since he left this earthly scene.

We saw in verse 14 that Peter anticipated his departure, as the time when his earthly tent, his body, would be taken down. He faced death with the confidence that all believers have in God's salvation. We have the promise of ultimate victory over our last enemy, death (1 Corinthians 15:55-58).

**Christ's Transfiguration**

Peter wanted his readers to know trustworthiness of the Scriptures on which the "these things" of verse 15 are based (v. 16). Peter, James, and John were present with Jesus when He was transfigured (Matthew 17:1-8). A metamorphosis took place before them. The inner glory of Christ's deity shown through the outer garment of His flesh. This is exactly how He will

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reveal Himself at His glorious return (16:28). These three apostles were giving a miniature preview of the glory of Christ's return by Christ Himself.

What Peter and the others saw is not to be placed among the popular myths of that day about gods descending to the earth. The prophets predicted Christ's return (2 Peter 1:19), and Christ affirmed it (Matthew 16:28), and the apostles witnessed a revelation of it. The witness of the apostles joins both Testaments in a united testimony.

### Critics' Choice

The apostles were accused of perpetrating cleverly devised stories about Christ (2 Peter 1:16). The false teachers of the day mocked the idea of Christ's return (3:4). While believing in the historical Jesus, critics found the teaching of His return to human history absolutely incredible. Today's critics follow the same line of thinking. According to them, the doctrine of Christ's second advent and His resurrection should be purged from the text of Scripture.



### Scripture memorization

*2 Pet 1:19*

*19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; 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:*

*(KJV)*

We know that we are doing well when we follow GOD's Word in faith and obedience. HIS Word is reliable for faith and practice

Critics choose not to accept the things taught in the Bible that cannot be explained by natural processes. Peter argued that the historic revelation of Jesus Christ at His transfiguration is a clear testimony to His return. His transfiguration affirmed the apostles' teaching and expectation that He will come again.

### God's Voice

Peter, James, and John witnessed a spectacular revelation of Jesus' glory. They also needed to hear an explanation of what they saw. This they heard when God spoke to them from the bright cloud that over shadowed Jesus at the Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17). The cloud was the Shekinah cloud, which visibly represented the presence of the invisible God with His people (Exodus 16:10; Ezekiel 1:1. 4). God the Father identified Jesus Christ

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as His Son in Whom He is well pleased (2 Peter 1:17). In Christ, the Father's good pleasure is accomplished in His plan for our redemption (Isaiah 53:10).

Peter was certain that James, John, and he had heard God's voice at the Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17). It was real to them. The voice was clear. GOD spoke. Special revelation was given (2 Timothy 3:16). The three apostles left the mountain scene without any doubt that they had seen and heard God or that they had been in His presence.

### The Holy Mount

We do not know upon which mountain in Israel the transfiguration scene occurred. The traditional site is Mount Tabor. Peter called it "the holy mount" (2 Peter 1:18). It was holy because it was the place where God revealed Himself in glory and by His spoken Word.

The apostles had the right to give the only true interpretation of Christ's transfiguration, because they had heard the interpretation from God's mouth. Peter focused, in verse 18, on what God had said about what the three apostles had seen. The Transfiguration and God's voice were objective to them. They later testified to that objective revelation and not to a subjective religious experience.

### Prophecy Made More Sure

Peter was convinced more than ever before about the certainty of God's promises (2 Peter 1:19). The phrase "we have also a more sure word of prophecy;" the prophetic word was more certain in the minds and hearts of the apostles. God's Word can never be more trustworthy and dependable than it has been since He first spoke it. This confirming experience took place for our benefit as well as for the apostles' benefit. Peter wrote about his experience to strengthen the faith of all of his readers (vv. 12, 13).

### Follow the Light

Peter exhorted his readers to pay careful attention to the prophetic word, like a light shining in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19), because the Scriptures are reliable. We need the light of God's Word due to the condition of the world. It is a "dark place," meaning we live in a dirty, filthy world. Peter was speaking figuratively of our morally degenerate world, which is engulfed in spiritual darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

David testified to the sufficiency of Scripture to guide him when he wrote that God's Word "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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### The Day Star

We must follow the light of Scripture until the dawn of the new day (2 Peter 1:19). Christ's return will be like the dawning of a new day with the appearance of the morning star. The "day star" is Venus, which catches the sun's rays just before the dawn, thus promising the beginning of a new day. Peter's use of the term is a reference to Christ's return. He drew his imagery from the messianic star referred to in Numbers 24:17 and taken up in Revelation 22:16.

The day star will arise in our hearts (2 Peter 1:19). With Christ's return, the hope that we have in our hearts will be fulfilled. The expectation that we cherish in our minds and hearts of the "blessed hope" of Christ's return will then be realized (Titus 2:13).

### Private Interpretation

All along, as we have seen, Peter had been asking his readers to remember-remember what Christ had done for them, remember the gospel, remember the hope they had in Christ. In verse 20 of 2 Peter 1, Peter in effect asked his readers to pause again and to reflect on a matter of primary importance, the origin of Scripture. The trustworthiness of Scripture rests on its origin. Peter asserted that none of the texts of Scripture "is of any private interpretation" (v. 20). Several explanations have been provided for the meaning of that phrase:

(1) The meaning of a text is not a matter of any person's own interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is not left to us as individuals with every person's interpretation as valid as the next. Instead, there is only one interpretation to a text.

(2) The meaning of a text must be interpreted in the context of other Scriptures. It is often said that a text taken out of context results in a pretext.

(3) Peter was addressing the origination of Scriptures and not its interpretation. This view provides the best understanding of Peter's statement in verse 20. The meaning of the phrase "any private interpretation" can be paraphrased as "no individual released" the Scriptures. The apostle explained that the prophets did not originate Scripture as an act of their own wills (2 Peter 1:21). The text of Scripture originated in God's will, not in the will of any of its human writers.

### Dual Authorship

Dual authorship was involved in the production of the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:21). Peter indicated this fact with his statement that "holy men of God spake," as they were moved along by the Holy Spirit. Men wrote, but God superintended the process so that what they wrote was His Word.

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Did God provide the writers of Scripture with the basic ideas that He wanted communicated and then leave them to phrase His thoughts, as they deemed best? No! The Spirit of God directed the writers regarding the very words to write (2 Peter 1:21). He did not violate their individual personalities and styles; He used their personal backgrounds, life situations, and education. They actively cooperated with the Holy Spirit while writing God's Word.

Peter presented the balance between divine and human authorship, it was not a matter of equals (v. 21). The prophets spoke only because God spoke. The Scriptures did not originate with human imagination or speculation, but with God Himself. The prophets did not "release" the Scriptures. God spoke to and through them.

In the process of the writing of the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit carried the writers along under His control. This "carrying along" resulted in a text that is God's Word without even the slightest taint of human error. The Scriptures are inerrant. God's Word is trust- worthy.

### Time for Action

- Do you know some people, either family or friends, who are established in the truths of God's Word but who need to be reminded of these truths by you? Maybe you belong to an accountability group who need you to stir up their minds without preaching to them.
- Make a list of how you can take heed to God's Word. Ask God to help you follow the light of His truth as you come to understand it.
- Remember to live each day expecting the believer's hope (i.e., Christ's return) to occur that day.

If you have never believed on Jesus and received Him as your Savior through faith (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:31), the trustworthy Bible teaches that you are lost in your sin and on your way to Hell (John 3:18; Romans 3:23; 6:23). Will you believe on Jesus today?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to 2 Peter 1:16, what was Peter not following?
2. When Peter and the other apostles made "known ... the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," what was there basis?
3. According to 2 Peter 1:19, what did Christ's transfiguration further confirm?
4. What can keep us from losing our way doctrinally or morally during our pilgrimage in this dark world? (only give an answer referred in this lesson)
5. What do 2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 1:7, 9; 2 Timothy 3:16, and Hebrews 1:1 teach about the way the Bible was written?
6. How would you explain to another person why you believe the Bible is trustworthy?
7. State in your own words how Scripture-writing took place.
8. How was CHRIST revealed before HIS three apostles?

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9. Why did GOD the FATHER speak at CHRIST's transfiguration?
  
10. How are believers to follow GOD's Word
  
11. What does the phrase "any private interpretation mean?"
  
12. What was the balance between the divine and human authorship of scripture?



**Scripture memorization verses** (write these on the back of this sheet)

- 2 Peter 1:19                      2 Samuel 23: 2                      Psalm 119: 105
- Jeremiah 1: 7, 9                      Matthew 17: 1-8                      Hebrews 1: 1

Any questions or comments ?