

A WORD THAT IS SURE 2 Peter 1:19-21

Intro: The prophecies of the scriptures are sure, and that means that all of the Bible is sure. The Greek word for *sure* is *bebaios*, meaning “stable, firm, trusty.” The “*word of prophecy*” is part of the whole, the whole of the inspired, inerrant, infallible, preserved Word of God. As verse 20 says: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private in interpretation.” Yet, it is, I believe, safe to say, that there are few other passages that have produced so many different interpretations. This is something that we want to look into in our study of this passage.

Psalm 19:7 says: “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” The Psalmist says of the Word of God: “Thy testimonies are very sure...” (*Psa. 93:5*)

The importance of this “*sure*” Word to the believer is seen throughout the pages of Holy Writ. As we take a look at just a few verses in Psalm 119, we learn that:

- 1 When resorted to, it cleanses (Vs.9). “*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.*”
2. When retained, it preserves (Vs. 11). “*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*”
3. When relied on, it strengthens (Vs.28). “*My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according to thy word.*”
4. When received, it gives light (Vs. 130). “*The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*”
5. When read, it instructs (Vs. 148). “*My eyes stay open through the night watches, That I might meditate on your word.*”
6. When revered, it sanctifies (Vs. 161). “*Princes have persecuted me without cause; my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*”
7. When believed, it quickens (Vs. 25). “*My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.*”
8. When taken hold of, they produce rejoicing (Vs. 111). “*Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart.*”
9. When rejoiced in, it enriches (Vs. 162). “*I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.*”

I Vs. 19, GOD’S WORD IS A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

- A. “We”– This tells us that the believer has a sure Word. We do not have to doubt what God says.
1. “We” can trust the firm foundation that we have. We can, “Stand alone on the Word of God, the BIBLE, the BIBLE.” All of the Words of God are true and profitable to every believer. As we saw in *Psalm 119: “The entrance of thy WORDS giveth light.”* We, believers, need to take heed to every word of scripture. We have no right to take a pin knife to the Bible and cut out any of God’s words.
 2. One of the favorite hymns of the saints of God is “How Firm A Foundation.” The first verse says- “How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord, is laid is laid for your faith in His excellent Word. What more can we say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.”
- B. “A more sure word.” Surer than what? Even surer than the fact of the testimony of the eyewitnesses of the Transfiguration. Our experiences will fade, but the Word of God never fades.
1. Some base their salvation upon their experiences. I base my salvation of the settled *Word: “Faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:17).*
 2. God has greatly magnified His Word. *Psalm 138:2: “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above thy name.”* God’s puts a high premium on the Bible, far above experiences.
 3. It is true that the underlying prophecy that is being dealt with here is the Second Coming of Christ. Yet, it is to be pointed out that many of the folks in the early churches came to faith due to seeing the prophecies of the Old Testament fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It is what they read in the Old Testament that led them to faith.
- C. “Whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the say star arise in your hearts.”
- 1 We are to pay attention to the Word of God. It is not a fairy tale; it is not a cunningly devised fable (vs. 16). It is the breath of God (2 Tim. 3:16). It is a shining light: “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” (Psa. 119:105) The Word of God is to rule our lives as Christians. What it says is to be our rule of life whether that is popular or politically correct.

2. The world is as Peter says “*a dark place.*” The word “*dark*” means “squalid, dirty.” You must agree that this is exactly the kind of world that we live in, and this is the kind of world that Jesus came into. Christ brought light into the world, and “*the people which sat In darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*” (Matt. 4:16)
 - a. Believers are to bring the light of the Gospel to this dark world in which we live (Matt. 5:14-16). We must preach the gospel and not health and wealth. Remember our light is to shine in this dark place. Your purpose in life is to glorify God by pointing others to the light, Jesus Christ.
 - b. The phrase “*the day dawn*” means the *parousia*, the Second coming of Christ. That day will dissipate the darkness of the world. Christ Himself will rule and reign. There will be no distress of nations.
 - c. Believers see, through the scriptures, that the Second Coming is near. And by this the day star is rising in our hearts as we near our departure from this sinful land and await the time when we will come back to earth with Christ as He sets up His Millennial Kingdom.

II. Vs. 20, GOD’S WORD IS NOT TO BE INTERPRETED TO SUIT MAN

A. What is not meant by the words, “No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation”? This little phrase has rattled the brains of scholars for years, and has resulted in many different thoughts.

1. One interpretation of this verse kept the Bible out of the hands of the common man for centuries. This happened when the Catholic Church declared that only the Catholic Church could interpret scripture. To the Catholic hierarchy, the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer was dangerous. Only the Pope and the Cardinals in council could give the meaning of scripture; thus Bibles were banned from the commoners. They believed that the Word of God was not the final authority; it had and has to have the Roman Catholic church. Baptists believe that the scriptures are the final authority in all thing pertaining to

faith and practice.

2. Another interpretation set forth is that prophecy is not its own interpretation and does not have its own interpretation in itself. It can only be understood when the events prophesied come to pass. Daniel said that the prophecies of the Book he wrote by inspiration were to be closed up, sealed unto the end (Daniel 12:9).
3. There are those who believe that the prophets were not able themselves to understand what they wrote. Although this is certainly true at times, it is not the meaning of this scripture.

B. What is meant by the words *“no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”*

1. No man, not even the prophet himself, can by his own power or wisdom, interpret prophetic scripture. Why is it that we have had so many cults and isms misinterpreting the Bible? It is because they do have in use the one most important element in scripture interpretation.
2. The truth of prophetic scripture cannot not be “unloosed” as the Greek word for *“interpret”*, *epilysis* indicates, without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. I grew up in the RLDS, but I did not see the truth until the Holy Spirit revealed it to me. The Bible became a new book to me after I was regenerated and the Holy Spirit began to teach me the truths found in the Bible. As a natural man, I could not receive the teachings of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14). The saved man is taught by the Holy Ghost of God (*John 14:26*). I have found through the years that all scripture hangs together, and we do not have to, nor should we, divorce one scripture from others to form a doctrine. The scripture is not of one’s own private interpretation.

III. Vs. 21, GOD’S WORD GIVEN BY INSPIRATION

- A. The Bible was written by God, not man. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* (2 Tim. 3:16).
- B. *“Holy men of old spake as they were moved by the moved by the Holy Ghost.”* The Greek word for moved is *phero* meaning “to carry along.” The writers of Holy scripture were carried by the Holy Spirit; what they wrote were not their words, but God’s Words.

1. Who were these men who were carried along? They were "*holy men*". These men did not utter their own thoughts as though they were those of God. They wrote the very words of God. This is why we reject dynamic equivalence.
2. The idea of being carried along is that of a ship raising its sails into the wind and going in the direction the wind carried them. This is illustrated in Acts 27:15 where the ship of Paul and the sailors was out of the control and was driven by the wind. As we know, the wind is a type of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, and the Holy Spirit may have brought to the mind of Peter the words of Christ to Nicodemus in *John 3:8*: "*The wind bloweth where it listeth..*"
3. D. Matin Lloyd-Jones says of this verse: "It does not merely tell us that the man was inspired, it does not merely say that the Truth was inspired; it goes further than that and announces that the very recording itself was inspired..." (99)

Conclusion: It is the Bible that tells us of a loving Father who sent His Son to die for our sins, be buried, and rise again the third day. Through nature, we believe in a Creator. Through the Bible, we learn that the Creator is Jehovah God.

Dr. Cecil A Fayard, Jr.
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