

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **February 1, 2023**

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

### **Transition to Second Peter 1:16-21**

In 1:10b-11, Peter introduces *a major theme of great importance* in his letter; namely, the second coming of Christ and the “day of the Lord”. Why? False teachers scoffed at the idea of Christ’s return and a day of moral accountability (3:1-18). In the place of God’s “very great & precious promises”, these apostates offered “cleverly invented stories” that robbed believers of their blessed hope. How can we be sure Jesus is coming and that He will establish His kingdom on earth? Apostolic preaching about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ did not rest on “cleverly invented stories”, but on two solid foundations.

1. The voice from God at the \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 16-18).  
Peter was an eyewitness to an event that previewed the Second Coming. See Matt. 16:26-17:8. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:16-18, Peter wrote a summary of what he, James & John saw and heard on the Mount of Transfiguration. (1) They saw Jesus robed in “majesty”. (2) They heard God the Father’s voice.
2. The still more significant testimony of \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 19-21).  
Peter wrote, “And we have *the word of the prophets* made more certain.” The *word of the prophets* describes the entire scope of OT prophecies that point to the glorious future Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah. From the first good news in Gen. 3:15, to the Land of Israel Covenant (Deu. 30:1-10), to the promise of an eternal king in David’s line (2 Sam. 7:16), to the Servant that Isaiah predicted (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12), to the dating of Daniel’s 70 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27), to Zechariah’s pierced and reigning king (Zech. 12-14); all of these OT prophecies & many more point to Messiah’s coming, preceded by judgment on “the inhabitants of the earth”, followed by the repentance of national Israel, and then followed by worldwide blessing.

#### Peter makes three affirmations about this prophetic word:

- A. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ word (19a).  
“more certain” –  
Literal (Gk. word order): “And we have more (very) certain (sure) the word of the prophets.”  
“made more certain” –  
An alternative, but less probable, view is that the apostles’ testimony to the transfiguration fulfills and thus confirms the Scriptures that predicted such things.”
- B. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ word (19b).  
Human history began in a lovely garden, but that garden today is a murky swamp (Jn. 1:4-5; 3:16-19).  
*Until the day dawns* – the “day” is the Day of the LORD, centered in the coming of Jesus, the Christ. He is “the bright and morning star” (Rev. 22:16).
- C. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ word (20-21).
  - 1) 2 Peter 1:20-21  
This is one of two important Scriptures concerning the divine inspiration of the Bible. Peter affirmed that the Scriptures were not written by men who used their own ideas and words, but by men of God who were “carried along by the Holy Spirit.” The words “*were carried along*” translate one Greek verb. The same verb is used in Acts 27:15. Just as a ship is driven along by a strong wind, so God’s Spirit moved these prophets & apostles to record the very words God intended. Peter wanted Christians to understand the divine origin/source of the prophetic writings (OT/NT) to remind his readers that God’s predictions of Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, & events that precede & follow, are absolutely certain.
    - a) The \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration: “*Above all, you must understand.*”
    - b) The \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration  
How did God produce an infallible book through fallible men?

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration was \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) The \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration:  
The end result: “All Scripture (every writing) is God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16). The final product is a God-breathed (inspired), infallible/inerrant, authoritative book – the Word of God in the language of men. “Inspiration is the process by which *Spirit-moved writers* (2 Pt. 1:21) recorded *God-breathed writings* (2 Ti. 3:16).” The Bible is not just “the good book”, it is “God’s book”.
- d) The \_\_\_\_\_ to Inspiration: “*You will do well to pay attention to it.*”  
This brings up the subject of the **perspicuity** of Scripture. The Reformers believed the Scripture is **perspicuous**. This means the Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Ecclesiastical experts were not needed for one to know God and to read His Word. That did not mean they saw no place for the true scholar or the pastor-theologian. Quite the opposite. They valued the office of teacher and pastor even more highly, precisely because they valued the Word so highly.

## 2) 2 Timothy 3:16

- a) What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration?  
Our text says, “all Scripture (lit. *pasa graphe* or “every writing” ... the entire Bible) is inspired (God-breathed).” This is called plenary-verbal inspiration. How far does inspiration extend? Are all 66 books of the Bible inspired? Are the words inspired, or just the thoughts and the concepts?
- The sixty-six books of the Bible are \_\_\_\_\_ inspired. Inspiration extends to the \_\_\_\_\_ the prophets wrote (not just to the ideas & thoughts). **See Matthew 5:17-19.**
  - The sixty-six books of the Bible are \_\_\_\_\_ inspired – it extends to every part. The whole Bible, not just parts, are inspired. Don’t confuse relevancy with inspiration!
- b) What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of inspiration?  
2 Timothy 3:16 reads, “All Scripture is God-breathed and \_\_\_\_\_.” For what?
- \_\_\_\_\_ . See 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Rom. 10:17.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
  - \_\_\_\_\_. The “man of God” is the Christian preacher/teacher or Christian worker. Only used here (3:17) and in 1 Tim. 6:11.

## 3) How we got our Bible: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. They’re like \_\_\_\_\_ in a chain.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.  
In the first link, God gave the message to the prophets and apostles who received and recorded it. This is the most important link in the chain of communication “from God to us”.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.  
This second link, dealt with the recognition & collection of the prophetic writings. It’s one thing for God *to give* the Scriptures their authority, & quite another for men *to recognize* that authority.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.  
In effect, the objective disclosure was complete when the 66 books of the Bible were written, & then recognized by their original readers. However, for succeeding generations to share in this revelation the Scriptures had to be copied, translated, recopied, and retranslated. This process not only provided the Scriptures *for other* \_\_\_\_\_, but *for other* \_\_\_\_\_ as well. Because of the passage of time and the multitude of manuscripts, quotes by the church fathers, lectionaries, etc. the science / the discipline of \_\_\_\_\_ (textual) criticism and \_\_\_\_\_ (historical) criticism developed.