

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 2 PETER

BIBLE TEXT | 2 PETER 1:16-21

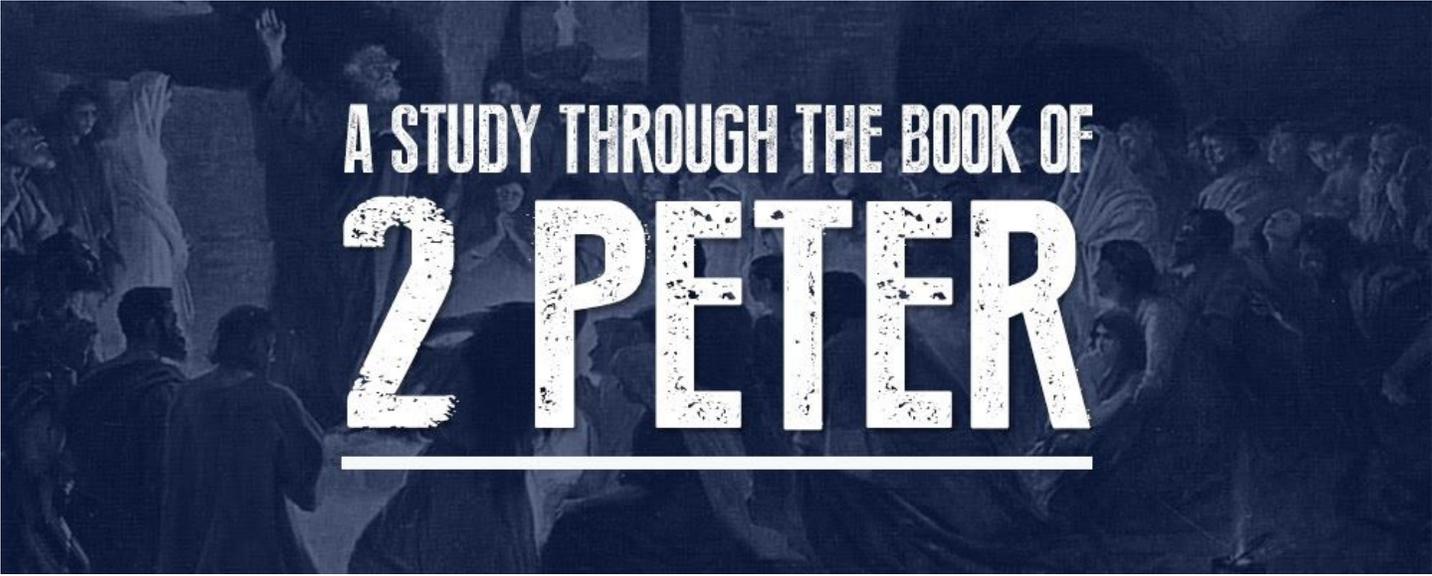
16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,[a] with whom I am well pleased," **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

DEVOTIONAL FOR 2 PETER 1:16-21

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A good reference point to these "clearly devised myths" that Peter talks about can be found in 1 Timothy 1:4: "...myths and endless genealogies which promote speculation rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith." See 1 Timothy 6:4 for more of a description on these false teachings Paul is talking about, or you can read the story of Jannes and Jambres in Exodus 7:11-13 to get a good idea of some men that oppose truth (2 Timothy 3:8). Peter just wants to clarify what these false teachings are, which we'll touch back on in a bit.

"...but we were eyewitnesses to his majesty" (verse 16). Peter recalls hearing a voice on the holy mountain. This points back to Luke 9:28-36 which describes the account of Peter, James, and John going to pray with Jesus when they have the wonderful privilege to see the transfiguration. "[Jesus'] face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with [Jesus], Moses and Elijah." (Luke 9:29b-30) What these three blessed apostles saw was Jesus' transformation from his earthly appearance to his appearance as the Son of God. They



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heard a voice come out of a cloud that formed over them that roared out "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35) This mirrors what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:17.

He writes in verse 19 "we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention." They had the benefit of seeing and hearing the glory of God, but we get the privilege of reading about it through the word of God! Through the prophetic word! We would do well to pay attention and listen to him! We have until the day of Christ's return (which Peter will talk about more later in chapter 3, and John goes deep into in Revelation) and the Morning Star (being Jesus, as seen in Revelations 22:16) rises in our hearts (verse 19).

He wraps this amazing account up by going back to talk about false prophets. Yeah, that's how big of an issue they are.

"No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. And no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man." (verses 20-21) Scripture, by definition, is writing inspired by God; spoken from God through man carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). The prophetic word! Peter has an amazing account to speak of, so we know his word is true because they are words from God. This isn't someone's own interpretation; this is written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We will learn more about false prophets and teachers in the coming passages, but for now let's reflect on what Peter taught us here. He gave us a lot to think about.

Questions:

1. What distractions in your life do you need to replace with focus on God and His Word?
2. What amazing events has God shown you to further your faith in him?