

THE MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." II Corinthians 3:14-16

With the words above, Peter gave his statement of faith in response to the questioning of Jesus. Jesus told Peter this was a revelation from the Father, because *"flesh and blood hath not revealed this to thee"* Matthew 16:17. He quickly established that this revelation is the *"rock"* upon which He would build His church, and the *"gates of hell"* would never prevail against anyone who had this revelation of who Jesus is.

Peter's revelation that "Jesus is the Christ" was not given to him by man. Neither was it taught in the synagogues of that day. In fact, anyone who openly professed to believe such a thing would have been immediately expelled from the synagogue, and taken before the council to be tried as a heretic. For this reason, Jesus *"charged his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ"* Matthew 16:20. So, how did Peter receive his revelation of Jesus?

Peter's revelation was not received supernaturally, even though it was not received through flesh and blood. Peter, along with every Jew in Israel at that time, knew the prophecies of the scriptures. The entire nation was expecting the imminent coming of one called *"The Messiah the Prince"* Daniel 9:25, who would come to *"make an end of sins"* and *"bring in everlasting righteousness"* Daniel 9:24. Luke described the atmosphere in Israel the same year in which Jesus was baptized by John; *"...the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not"* Luke 3:15.

Peter's revelation came by simply studying the scriptures pertaining to the coming redeemer and observing the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. He reached the undeniable conclusion that Jesus of Nazareth and *"the Christ"* of eternity were one and the same, hence, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."* This is the basis for *"saving faith."* It does not require a supernatural manifestation through dreams or visions to be saved. It does take more, however, than simply repeating a prayer with a preacher and professing to believe Jesus is the Son of God. What Peter understood could never be taken from him, not even in his worst failure. Six days later, Peter, along with James and John, had the most amazing supernatural experience of their three and a half years with Jesus.

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light" Matthew 17:2.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus in the transfiguration. They had come to speak with Jesus concerning His death on the cross Luke 9:30-31. Peter was so overwhelmed by the glory of it all that he proposed building three tabernacles on the mountain; *"one for thee, and one for*

Moses, and one for Elijah" Matthew 17:4. Suddenly a bright cloud covered the mountain, and God spoke out of the cloud saying, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"* Matthew 17:5. Peter, James, and John fell on their faces in fear of the things they were seeing and hearing. When Jesus raised them up, however, *"they saw no man, save Jesus only"* Matthew 17:8. The meek and lowly Jesus of Nazareth was shown to be exalted so much higher than Moses and Elijah, and so much greater than the Law and prophets.

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." II Peter 1:16

Those who seek greatness very often invent stories about themselves which are nothing more than *"cunningly devised fables."* There are famous healing ministries who have never seen a true miracle wrought at their hands. There are those who are famous for their prophecies, who have never heard a word from God. In either case, their followers overlook their failures because of the façade they have built around themselves. In the 1940's and 50's God sent numerous men with true gifts of healing and miracles. Sadly, some of these descended into quarrels about who had the greatest miracles or who owned the largest tent. The presence of God was taken from these, and we entered into a time of gimmickry and fakery which continues to this very day. When Peter, James, and John told about *"the power and coming of our Lord Jesus,"* they did not need to fabricate. His glory shone forth as *"a city set on a hill that cannot be hid"* Matthew 5:14. His fame reached into all the land because of his words and miracles. *"Never spake a man as this man"* John 7:47; *"What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out"* Luke 4:36; *"What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"* Mark 4:41.

"For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." II Peter 1:17-18

Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses of the events on the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw with their own eyes as His face shone as the sun, and his clothing became *"as white as the light."* They saw Moses and Elijah, and heard them speak with our Lord. They heard the voice of His Father giving Him honor and glory, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"* II Peter 1:17. Having seen and heard all these wonderful things, Peter makes an astounding statement in the next verse: *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy."*

"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:" II Peter 1:19

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What could possibly be more certain than the appearing of Moses and Elijah? Or a voice from heaven confirming that Jesus is the Son of God? At first it may seem ridiculous to consider such a thing. Many unbelievers think they would believe if only an angel from heaven would come to them, or an audible voice would speak to them. Peter, the *"eyewitness of His majesty,"* who along with James and John saw and heard things no other human has ever seen or heard, spoke clearly of *"the prophecy of the scripture"* as *"the more sure word of prophecy."* It should be noticed that Peter had believed the prophecy of the scriptures when he said to Jesus, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"* Matthew 16:16. This was six days before his faith was confirmed on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Many spirits; many voices; One Word of God

I received a vision from the Lord over fifty years ago in July, 1969. I give it exactly as I published it years ago.

A woman was standing in a large clearing in a wooded area. I knew that she represented the church as the bride of Christ. A bird came out of the sky and circled above her for a time. Finally it lit on her head and I heard a voice speak saying *"Thou art a son of God."* I was amazed. I thought to myself, *"It happened to her just like it happened to Jesus at the Jordan River."* After this, the woman brought a pedestal into the midst of the clearing and stood upon it. It was a pedestal of the kind the ancient Greeks placed their idols on, and she stood upon it and began calling a multitude of people to come to her. She said, *"Look to me, I'm the one the spirit came upon. Look to me, I'm the one the voice spoke to."* It soon became evident that she was manifesting a wrong spirit as she continued to exalt herself and point the people to herself. I asked the question, *"How can she have a wrong spirit when it happened to her just as it did to Jesus."* I heard the Spirit of the Lord give this answer. *"It didn't happen to her as it did to Jesus. The Holy Ghost came upon Jesus in the form of a dove. You didn't see a dove but only a bird. A voice from heaven spoke to Jesus. You didn't hear a voice from heaven, but only a voice. Always remember this, as there are many birds, but only one dove, so there are many spirits, but only one Holy Ghost, and there are many voices, but only one Word of God."* As I came out of the vision I heard these words from Revelation 18:2, saying, *"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."*

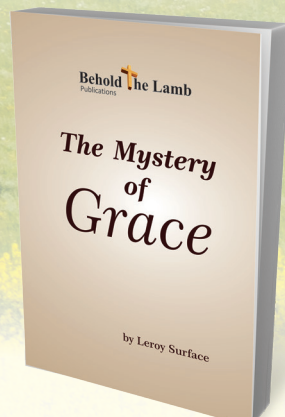
Almost immediately after this vision, I began to see those who were teaching the people how to speak in tongues, and how to prophesy. I knew by this that the *"unclean and hateful bird"* was even then seeking to replace the Holy Dove in the churches. We are the generation which Jesus spoke of when He said, *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

Matthew 24:24

No Private Interpretation

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Peter 1:19-21

One day I quoted from I John, *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not..."* I John 3:5-6. Someone said to me "that is just your interpretation." I had given no interpretation; I had only quoted what John said. Anything different would be a "private interpretation." Peter said, *"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* These were the Old Testament prophets who prophesied of Jesus. Daniel said Christ would come to *"make an end of sins"* Daniel 9:24-25. The Apostle John said, *"Whosoever abideth in Him (Christ) sinneth not"* I John 3:6. John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the Jews as *"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* John 1:29. The Apostle Paul told us, *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."* II Corinthians 5:17-18. How do you "interpret" these verses? The scriptures are not to be "interpreted;" they are to be believed. You can trust the original King James Version of the scriptures. If there are things you don't understand, don't seek a "user-friendly" version. Instead, get an original Strong's Concordance and study the meaning of words you may not understand. If you refuse "private interpretations," and believe exactly what the prophets and Apostles said about Jesus, and what He accomplished for us through His death on the cross, you will discover for yourself the truth, which Jesus said, *"Shall make you free"* John 8:32.



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