

**PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY:
THE CERTAINTY OF THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF JESUS**

Houses of Light Church • October 21-22, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

2 Pet. 1:16-18

“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, 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.”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Last time we saw how Peter emphasized in his letter that those of us who know the truth and are firm in it need constant reminders of what God is telling us because our tendency is to forget. God wants us to remember His truths, His commandments, His mercies, His miracles, His warnings and His plans for the end of the age among other important aspects.
- B. For the Holy Spirit this is so important that Peter considers it correct to dedicate the rest of the remaining months of his life to the ministry of reminding them of these truths so that they remain firm; He even decides to leave the two letters from him, so that these truths are not forgotten even after his departure from this world.

II. PETER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- A. Peter arrives at the message that had been his primary purpose for writing this letter, which was to bring to God's people the teaching regarding the ***“power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***
- B. Peter goes on to talk about his right to present this topic; He tells them that when he spoke to them about the second coming of Christ he did not do so following ***“cleverly devised myths”*** but that he himself was an eyewitness of the majesty of Jesus when the Father gave Him honor from the great glory and Peter heard the voice of the Lord. Father who spoke and Peter writes it because it is necessary for us all to remember the foundation of the **message of the second coming of Jesus.**
Mat. 17:5 “He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him”
- C. There are three important observations about 2 Pet. 1:16:
 - 1. The word ***“coming”*** in this text refers to the second coming of Christ, not the first. In the New Testament the Greek word that Peter uses here (*parousia*) appears 18 times and in all of them it refers to the second coming of Jesus, never to the first. Peter uses this same word in this letter two more times (2 Pet. 3:4 and 12) and both times he refers to the future return of Jesus.

2. The advent of Christ was part of Peter's first teachings to these people. He tells them that he had already *"made it known."* It is not a doctrine that was added by chance, on the contrary it is essential. Christ has all the power and authority, and he is coming back. Apostle Paul also taught it as a basic doctrine for those he had just evangelized.
- 1 Tes. 5;1-2a** *"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come..."*
- a) One of the signs of a living Christian faith is that we really, seriously, and joyfully consider the visible return of the God-man, Jesus Christ. The second coming of Christ is at the center of our faith.
3. This confidence in the coming of Christ with His power is not based on a myth, but on the experience of many witnesses of His majesty in the past. The difference between myths and the Christian faith is proven history. Our doctrines are not the result of human thought but of reliable historical and prophetic observation..
- a) This is why knowledge of God and these historical facts has a crucial role for us at this time:
- v.2: *"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God".*
 - v.3: *"His divine power has granted to us... through the knowledge of him who called us..."*
 - v.5: *"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, 5 and virtue with knowledge..."*
 - v.8: *"For if these qualities⁶ are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (also 2:20; 3:18).*
- b) True Christian faith does not grow in ignorance. It is the sects that do it. If our faith does not have its foundation in the reliable story of the historical reality of the Scriptures it would be an "ingeniously invented fable" that would not deserve acceptance.
- c) Peter later states vehemently that the Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are reliable; that's why we must know them:
- 2 Pet 1:20-21** *" 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 las they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

III. THE GLORY THAT SUPPORTS THE ASSURANCE OF THE SECOND COMING

v.17-18 *"For when he [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, 9 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."*

- A. Peter tells us what historical event has given him that confidence in the power and second coming of Christ, specifically, his experience as a witness, alongside James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration (**Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36**). Peter reminds them that they went to pray with Jesus and that he was transfigured before them in glory and great splendor and then, from a cloud that covered them, God spoke to them about his Son.
- B. **Peter states: We were there, we heard the voice, we saw the glory. And so, we now know with what power, glory and authority Jesus will return. The witness's experience of Jesus' transfiguration was a foretaste of the glory of Jesus' second advent.** Peter doesn't even mention Moses and Elijah, he focuses on the voice of the Father glorifying the Son.
- C. Peter could have told how he saw Christ after his resurrection or how he saw Him ascend to Heaven, but in neither of these two cases did he appear with the majesty that v.16 tells of. **And it is the majesty and greatness of his coming that Peter wants us to remember.** Thirty years later, the event of the revelation of the majesty of Christ fills Peter's mind with awe and he wants, more than anything in the world, to share with us the hope of that vision before leaving this world.

IV. THE PROPHETIC WORD MORE FULLY CONFIRMED

v.19 "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention has to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

- A. In this segment Peter emphasizes again that what he said about the second coming of Christ is certain and calls us to pay attention to it until the end. Peter calls the second prophecies of Christ "***the prophetic word more fully confirmed***" because his glorious return is predicted by the Old Testament prophets.:
Dan. 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the cAncient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."
- B. In the second half of v.19, he reiterates the warning of **v.12-15; In these first verses the sense was that all Christians need to be reminded repeatedly of the precious and valuable promises.** Here in v.19 the meaning is that all Christians have to pay attention to the prophetic word.
- C. **Peter uses an image to show us the urgency of his warning.** The world is covered with the darkness of sin, deception, fear, and the influence of the devil (**1 Jn. 5:19**). **All who inhabit this age of darkness are in danger of encountering some temptation, offense, or falsehood. Our only hope to survive the night is to have our lamp lit before us.** Peter says that the prophetic word, the promise of Christ's advent, is that lamp. He pleads with us: "pay attention to her; do not sleep; Do not go away following some whisper that bewitches you in the night." The hope of the

advent of Jesus Christ is the lamp to our feet and a light on our path in a very dark world.

- D. Just as we put carrots before horses to move forward, we must put God's promises before us and let them draw us to eternal life along the path of righteousness..

1 Jn. 3:3 "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure".

- E. v.19b *"until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"* Two things lead us to walk in the light: the dawn outside and the morning star within. His glory will appear and cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The light will rise over the world at the return of Jesus and in our hearts it already shines from now on. There will be glory outside and but it is already inside.

Rev. 2:26a and 28, "The one who conquers... 28 And I will give him the morning star."

Rev. 22:16 "I am... the bright morning star."

- F. In this hour the Holy Spirit is emphasizing our identity as a bride and is uniting us with Him to cry out for the return of Jesus. We all have the ministry of intercession in this hour.

Rev. 22:17a "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come..."

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to the teaching, it explains why we are so sure that Jesus is coming back.
2. Why do we know the Scriptures are reliable and why should we continue to know and understand them?
3. What happens inside of us when we heed the prophetic words of Scripture?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Women's Retreat November 3 to 4. Men's Retreat November 17 to 18.** You can register at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org
2. **Our Hallelujah Night family event!** is next Tuesday, October 31 from 4:00 p.m.
3. **We request volunteers to serve.** Please stop by the children's ministry office with Karla Alfaro
4. **We ask for your cooperation by donating bags of candy for our children.** Please return them to the children's office after each service or to the church office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.