

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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THE PROPHETIC WORD MADE MORE SURE

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And {so} we have the prophetic word {made} more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is {a matter} of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1.16-21 NASB)

Why did Peter write that they had the prophetic word made more sure? What did he mean by the prophetic word? To answer these questions, we need to consider the account of Jesus’ transfiguration on the holy mountain.

“Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.” (Matthew 16.28 NASB)

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. ... While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” ... As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.” (Matthew 17.1-9 NASB)

Jesus told his disciples that some of them would see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Six days later, presumably on the seventh day, He took three of His disciples, one of whom was Peter, up on a high mountain and He was transfigured in their sight. Peter, James, and John were still alive and they were given a vision of Jesus as the glorified Son of Man coming in the glory of His kingdom. This occurred on the seventh day, which speaks of the coming millennial kingdom of Christ that follows the six days of man, that is, the 6,000 years given to man to reign over the earth. They heard the voice of the Father out of heaven declaring that Jesus is the beloved Son of God. They were given a vision of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ that would follow some time after He was crucified and raised from among the dead.

Peter recounted this vision in his second epistle, which is about entering into the kingdom of Christ and the coming of the day of the Lord (2 Peter 1.11, 16; 3.3-9, 10). He and the other two were eyewitnesses of His majesty and heard the utterance given to their Master by the Majestic Glory. It was as if Peter wanted to stress the point that they were with Him on the holy mountain when they heard the utterance from heaven. This was no small thing to Peter; it was a tremendous vision.

Now, with this background, Peter declared that they had the prophetic word made more sure. In other words, the vision confirmed and sealed in their hearts the truth of the prophetic word that their Master

is the Son of Man who will come in the glory of His kingdom to rule over this earth, just as the prophets had seen. Their witness was no myth or half-truth or, even, a lie. It was true. The vision was of the coming of the Lord, and it was confirmed by the voice of the Majestic Glory booming out of heaven. The promise of His coming was made more sure through this vision, and because of this, it behooves us to pay attention to the prophetic word. It is a sure thing that what was spoken of through the prophets is true and will come about at God's appointed time.

Peter's witness has great import, for it confirms the fact that the Son of God, God's King, returning to this earth to take the scepter of the kingdom of glory has been made more sure! He is coming in the glory of His kingdom. Never doubt this fact!

The lamp shining in a dark place is the prophetic word that shines light on the dawn of a new day, the coming day of Christ. It is a light that is to shine brighter and brighter until our beloved Lord appears to His people. Peter declared; **Until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.** Jesus concluded the Revelation by declaring: **"I, Jesus. I am the Bright and Morning Star"** (Revelation 22.16). Just like the morning star is the brightest star in the heavens as the sun begins to announce its presence for the day, so is Christ to His people. When He comes, He will arise in the heart of all of us who have longed to see Him and to be like Him. When He arises in our hearts, we will be transformed into conformity with the body of His glory (Philippians 3.21).

But Peter's word is more than a future encouragement; it is a word for today as well. We need the coming day of our Lord to dawn in our hearts today, which means that we see Christ and His day as we receive vision through the prophetic word. Then, once we have vision, Christ is to arise in our hearts. He is to become our all-consuming passion. Like the natural morning star catches our attention, so must Christ. We are beckoned to walk in His light, and the very light of Christ shining within us will guide us and lead us through the world of darkness until the new day dawns and all is enveloped in the Light of the world. In this day of darkness, no one can find his way without the One who is the Light of the world, as revealed in the prophetic word.

The prophetic word has made Christ and His coming kingdom surer. **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you** (Colossians 3.16 NASB). We have no reason for any doubt. This word gives vision of the coming day of the Lord, and, as we see more clearly, the morning star arises in our heart and gives us great hope and encouragement that the new day is coming because the love of our life, the Bright and Morning Star, is coming.

Today, there are many claiming to be prophets speaking for God, but they are leading the many astray. If any come in the name of Christ to lead you away from this hope, then reject them, for they are false prophets and teachers. They are not men moved by the Holy Spirit. They are interpreting Scripture and speaking by an act of their human will. The vision given to Peter and the others was not of one's own revealing or interpretation; it came by power from on high and it confirms the word of the prophets and of God the Father. **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**

We are living in days of evil; days of darkness in which the forces of wickedness among the celestials (Ephesians 6.12) are influencing (directing) the kingdoms of this world. **The whole world lies in evil** (1John 5.19 ALT). But those of us who believe have the prophetic word like a lamp shining in a dark place. We must pay attention to this word, for it is to be our light to lead us through these dark days so that we can endure and make it to the end, so that we might reign with Christ in His kingdom (2 Timothy 2.12).

Do not listen to the many voices of deception going throughout the earth today. Listen to the voice of the spirit of God as revealed through the prophetic word. Listen to the Beloved Son!