

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

2 Peter 1:16-21

Introduction

- False teachers were telling the people that Jesus wasn't really coming back.
- Peter assures his readers that they can trust in the hope of the Second Coming because the disciples witnessed His majesty and glory in the Transfiguration and because the prophets of the Old Testament foretold it.
- God spoke at the Transfiguration, calling Jesus His Son, and God spoke through the prophets.
- Scripture is not just man's interpretation, but God's Word spoken through human beings by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to be able to recognize false
teaching when we hear it

2 Peter 1:16-21

False teachers

- Peter responded to false teachers who denied that Christ would come back again in glory – His Second Coming (2:1; 3:4).
- These false teachers said Jesus wasn't coming back, and the disciples had made it all up to control the believers.
- He didn't come in glory as the Old Testament promised. He came and died, and everything is going on as it always has.
- Nothing has changed. He isn't coming; they just made it all up to control you, to keep you in line (3:4).

False teachers

- Peter's argument is simple. We didn't make this up; God said it:
 - First, in the prophecies of the Old Testament (1:19–21)
 - Second, at the Transfiguration, where He revealed His glory (1:16–18)
- These aren't made-up stories. They aren't myths. They are the Word of God.
- You can trust in the promise of the Second Coming because God Himself has promised it.

Messiah

- God had been promising the coming of the Messiah and the day of judgment, called “that day” or “the day of the Lord,” for centuries in the Old Testament.
- Messiah would come, defeat evil, and the kingdom of God would begin – that glorious, perfect kingdom where God sits on the throne and reigns in peace and harmony and there is no more pain, suffering, death or evil.
- The people expected it to all happen at once, but what actually happened was a two-part coming of the Messiah.

Messiah

- In Jesus' First Coming, He came to earth, both declaring with His words that the kingdom of God had arrived and proclaiming it with His miracles.
- In His Resurrection, He defeated evil, sin and death. But the Day of Judgment and full consummation of the kingdom of God is still to come.
- Scholars call this the “already / not yet” – the kingdom of God is “already” here, but “not yet” in its fullness.
- Jesus Himself taught that the kingdom of God was already here (Luke 17:21), but not yet in its fullness (Matthew 24:14).

Church Age

- The church age is this “in-between time” of God’s kingdom – the time between Christ’s First and Second comings. Evil, sin and death have been defeated on the Cross, but they have not yet been destroyed.
- When Peter says, “the end of all things is at hand” (4:7), he isn’t necessarily saying that Jesus is coming back in the next few years.
- Peter is referring to the entire church age as “the end of all things.” We are living in “the end times.”
- We are living in the final act (1 Corinthians 10:11) of history.

We can trust that Christ is coming again

2 Peter 1:16-18

Eyewitnesses

- Peter starts with his eyewitness testimony of Jesus at the Transfiguration.
- He emphasizes several times that “we” both saw the glory and heard the voice of God. It was not a vision or a dream; it really happened.
- In ancient cultures, eyewitness testimony from a reliable witness was one of the most valuable forms of evidence, but testimony had to be given by two or three witnesses, not just one (Deuteronomy 19:15).
- Even today, eyewitness testimony is valuable, but hearsay testimony is considered not admissible in court.

Eyewitnesses

- The differences in the eyewitness testimonies between the four Gospels makes their testimony more reliable. If eyewitness testimonies sound too alike, a court would think they made it all up.
- The disciples wouldn't have died for something they knew was a lie. If they had made it all up, why would they give their lives for it?
- When faced with persecution, wouldn't they have given in and said, "We made it all up" to avoid death?

Eyewitnesses

- Peter claims that the Transfiguration was not only a foretaste of Jesus's Resurrection, it was also a foretaste of His Second Coming, when he will "see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory" (Mark 13:26).
- In all three Gospels, the story of the Transfiguration happened immediately after Jesus's prophecy that there were some standing there who would not pass from the world until they had seen the Son of Man coming in his kingdom (Mark 9:1).
- These three disciples were getting a glimpse of King Jesus in all His glory.

Eyewitnesses

- Peter had not only seen the Resurrection – Jesus alive again after His death – he had also seen Jesus in His glorified state.
- He had every confidence that Jesus would do as He promised, that He would return in glory. The fact that it may not have been happening as quickly as they would have liked or expected didn't matter.
- Later, Peter would remind his readers that time is different for God (3:8).
- We may think God is being slow about sending Jesus back, but it is because He is allowing enough time to save as many people as possible (3:9).

Time Period

- When God promised Adam and Eve a “seed” who would crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15), it was 4,000 years before it happened.
- When God promised Abraham a nation full of his children living in their own land (Genesis 12:1–3), it was 600 years before it came true.
- When He promised a Messiah to David (1 Samuel 7:14), 1,000 years passed before He came.
- From the Old Testament to Jesus, there was over 400 years of silence, with no prophets, just waiting for the Messiah.

False Teachers

- The false teachers were questioning the Word of God and the promises of His Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- The One to whom every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10–11).
- Christ has already been given all power, authority, and honor (1:17).
- These false teachers will have to give an account to “Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1 Peter 4:5).

We can trust the prophecies
and promises of God's Word

2 Peter 1:19-21

God's Word

- The Transfiguration only confirmed what God had already said through His prophets (1:19).
- In Jesus' promises about His Second Coming, He refers to Himself as "the Son of Man" coming in glory (Mark 13:26).
- If we heard the phrase "Son of Man" without studying its usage in the Bible, it would be logical to think that "Son of Man" refers to Jesus' humanity while "Son of God" refers to His divinity.
- Actually, both phrases refer to Jesus's divinity.

God's Word

- “Son of Man” comes from a vision in Daniel 7 of the heavenly throne.
- In Daniel’s vision, he saw four great beasts, which represented four kingdoms of the world.
- The beasts were boasting before the throne of God, described by Daniel as “the Ancient of Days.”
- Then, “one like a son of man” came before the throne and the Ancient of Days gave Him all authority, glory and sovereign power and all the people of every nation, tribe and tongue worshipped Him (Daniel 7:1–14).

God's Word

- The Jews expected the Messiah to be a human king sent from God, while the Son of Man was assumed to be a divine being.
- Jesus combined these two images to say that He is both the human Messianic king and the divine Son of Man from Daniel 7.
- The Messiah is the Son of Man. Messiah was more than they had expected. The Messiah was both human and God.
- He would not rule on just the throne of Israel; He would reign forever on the throne of heaven.

God's Word

- In the Old Testament, there are hundreds of prophecies of “the day of the Lord,” a day when the Messiah will come and judge the nations, ushering in a glorious future for God’s people and their King (e.g., Zechariah 7–12).
- This is what the Second Coming of Jesus is.
- The Day of Judgment will be a double-edged sword. It will be both a judgment for the wicked, as well as a vindication for the righteous.
- In the new covenant, the “righteous” are those who have faith in Jesus.

God's Word

- Peter agrees with the psalmist in describing God's Word as a "lamp shining in a dark place" (1:19; Psalm 119:105).
- God's sure promises bring light and hope to a dark world. Peter's readers, who were struggling and wondering why Jesus had not come, didn't have to doubt that He would.
- They simply had to trust that His timing would be perfect. That He would return at just the right time, just as He promised He would.

God's Word

- One day, the “day” of the Lord will dawn (1:19) and the “morning star” – Jesus (Revelation 2:28), will “rise in our hearts” (1:19)
- It will be a day of joy and celebration as we could never imagine. In that day, God Himself will be our light (Revelation 22:5).
- Until then, His Word is the light shining in the darkness, lighting our path and guiding the way (1:19).

Application:

Tony Evan's teaching on anxiety,
worry, and fear in this pandemic

Tony Evans on COVID-19 panic: 'Fear is outpacing the problem of the virus'

By Leah MarieAnn Klett, Christian Post Reporter



MOST POPULAR



Church loses 11 members to coronavirus in 30 days; 'I have no words for the pain I'm feeling,' says pastor



Pastor Jamal Bryant calls reopening of Georgia's economy 'assault' on minorities, 'contrary to God's will'



AME Church had a pandemic plan ready years before new

Tony Evans

- He says “our anxiety, worry, and fear is outpacing the problem of the virus.”
- He explains that, “Worry and fear have a way of transferring very quickly from us to other people.”
- The virus is not the only thing that transfers quickly, so does worry and fear.
- Tony Evans offer two words: “Don’t worry.”
- That comes from Matthew 6:25-34 - Jesus says “don’t worry” three times.

Tony Evans

- Christians have a “legitimate right for legitimate concern,” Evans added, “what we don’t have the right to do is worry.”
- He explains that “worry is concern gone haywire.” If you are sick, you are sick. But concern is not worry. “Concern you own; worry owns you.”
- “Many people believe in God and still worry because they have little faith.” In Matthew 8:26, Jesus rebukes those of “little faith.”
- “The size of your faith is tied to the size of your God. When you shrink God, you automatically shrink faith.”

Tony Evans

- He believes that the best way you can work through this crisis “is to grow God in your understanding, in your experience, and in your focus.”
- We need to understand that God is our father. It is important to view “God as a father when it comes to not worrying.”
- “The father cares for you. When you come to look at Him this way, understand Him this way, relate to Him that way, you begin to experience God the daddy and not just God the creator.”
- “God will keep you calm in a drought, even in a virus.”

Tony Evans

- Health officials instruct us to wash our hands many times each day.
- Tony Evans advised using our hand washing time as “prayer time.”
- “If you are going to wash your hands all day long, talk to your daddy all day long, and get your growing focus on God who is able to calm your fears.”
- “If you want to calm down and stay calm . . . then here’s what you do: Seek yet first the Kingdom of God.”
- Choose faith over fear.

Tony Evans

