

**MORE FULLY CONFIRMED**

In 2Peter 1, the apostle makes a strong case about the trustworthy nature of the Bible. 1) It is based on personal eyewitness accounts, not made up stories; 2) the Bible confirms what God had previously spoken, as it also records the fulfillment of His promises; and 3) the human authors of the Bible were superintended by the Holy Spirit, so that they wrote down what God wanted recorded for us.

**MORE SURE** - Hebrews 1:3 says Christ is "*the radiance of the glory of God.*" At Christ's transfiguration, Peter, James and John heard the voice of God in the cloud, declaring of Jesus, "*This is My beloved Son, listen to Him.*" This shows the divine supremacy of Christ and His fulfillment of God's promises. 2Peter 1:19 dramatically explains this as, "*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.*" The King James Version says it is the prophetic Word "*made more sure*" and the English Standard Version renders the Greek as "*more fully confirmed.*" This echoes Peter's admonition in 1:10 to "*confirm your calling and election,*" that is, making God's divine guarantee real to you by living it out.

What could be more confirming and compelling than a testimony of real history, corroborated by three eyewitnesses? Peter says that what the apostles experienced, saw and heard - and wrote down in the New Testament - confirms what God had spoken through His prophets. The transfiguration links Jesus with Moses, who represents the Law books of the Old Testament, and with Elijah, who represents the prophetic books of the Old Testament. Because Jesus is God come in the flesh, God says, "*Listen to Him*" - and we do so today because His apostles wrote it all down. The 66 books of the Bible, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New, provide all that God intends His people to know for now.

**THE PROPHETIC WORD** - This key term also points out what the eyewitnesses affirmed is what Jesus had spoken. At the end of Mark 8 Jesus notes the Son of Man coming in the glory of His Father with the holy angels, and says, "*Truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.*" The transfiguration was a brief glimpse of the glory of His coming again. Another demonstration was His resurrection, as Romans 1:4, "*declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead*" to which all the apostles were eyewitnesses. It also refers to Jesus' prophecy about the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, which occurred in AD70. All of these things are preliminary to His ultimate Second Coming.

The things promised by God long ago were written down. Much has been fulfilled, and all will be fulfilled. 1Corinthians 15:3 says, "*for I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*" The apostle's point is that what God had already said was of utmost importance. That's why Peter echoes, "*we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed.*" RC Sproul explains, "Peter declares that what they heard audibly on the mount of transfiguration is confirmed by the prophets, as the common motif in the New Testament is that it declares truth as represented in the Old Testament." As Augustine put it, "the New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed."

**FULFILLED & CONFIRMED** - All Jesus said and did was set out by God to be fulfilled. The fulfillment, experienced by eyewitnesses, is merely confirmation of what God has already said. As Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:4, "*I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work You gave Me to do.*" It all goes back to the Bible, the prophetic Word of God spoken, revealed and written down. The beginning and the basis and the foundation of our faith is what God has said. Peter shows how our own experiences do not supersede the written Word of God. Spectacular as hearing and seeing the glory of the transfiguration was, Peter says it doesn't hold a candle to the actual written-down revealed Word of God in the Bible.

That's why 2Peter 2 warns about so-called revelations spouted by false prophets. Peter insists, base everything on what God has already revealed and written down. That's the sure guide of God's truth. About the written Word of God, he says "*you do well to pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place.*" Psalm 119:105 says, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" Until Jesus comes, God's written word stands confirmed. John 1:4 says of the Word of God, "*in Him was life and the life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness which has not overcome it.*" John 1:12 says all who receive this Light are those born again from above by the Holy Spirit. Is this true of you?