Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #35: Prophecy Stands Strong

2 Peter 1:16-21 NKJV

***16****For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.****17****For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”****18****And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

***19****And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;****20knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation (origin), 21for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

There is so much in our passage this morning.

***"****And so we have the prophetic word confirmed"* Isaiah 53 It is incredible when you consider that most rabbis refuse to read this chapter to their people. They refused Yeshua as Messiah and Isaiah 53 is too descriptive as prophecy. It is apparent that Peter is referring to Jesus in verse 19.

"the morning star rises in your hearts" is another reference to our Lord and Savior.

Listen to Revelation 22:16 NKJV

*“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”*

I encourage you to dive deeper into these verses on your own and discover the power of the Word of God. See for yourself that prophecy stands strong.

As Peter said in 1 Peter 1:25 (Berean Standard Bible)

*"but the word of the Lord stands forever"*

Let's do an overview of the concept of prophecy or prophetic word in the Bible.

Prophecy: what is clarified beforehand; prophecy which involves divinely-empowered

forthtelling (asserting the mind of God) or foretelling (prediction).

The Hebrew word "prophecy" in the Old Testament referred to a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; especially by foretelling future events.

The Greek word "prophecy" in the New Testament specific to our passage this morning;

— of the utterances of the O. T. prophets: Matthew 13:14; 2 Peter 1:20, 21 -of the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining thereto:

J. Barton Payne’s “Encyclopedia of the Bible” counts 1239 prophecies in the Old Testament, and 578 in the New Testament.

Jesus fulfilled at least 324 messianic prophecies during his earthly ministry.

Prophecies have many purposes

Many prophecies, especially those in books by the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.) **tell**

**the future** of major empires like Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. as either a

consolation for Israel during times of distress, or as a warning to those empires to get their act

together.

Prophecies about Jesus **(Messianic prophecies)** are scattered throughout the entire Old

Testament in the Torah, the historical anals, the wisdom literature, and in the prophets. Jesus

fulfilled many of these prophecies during his earthly ministry.

**End time prophecies** are primarily found in Daniel and Revelation. They are intended to be a

warning to the unrighteous, and a hope to the righteous.

Sometimes a revelation comes to an individual for the sole purpose of guiding that specific

purpose.

There is much to be considered when it comes to prophecy. I have several copies of a three page overview that will be available after the service. I can email it to you if you text me your email address as well.

I also want to address listening to the Holy Spirit or discerning the voice of the Lord this morning.

1. General word: that which is revealed in the Bible…

 a. Read your Bible every day and you will have better discernment

 b. Use a concordance… make sure you know what the words mean, not

just what you think they mean

 c. Understand what the entirety of Scripture says on the subject, not

just your favorite verse that supports your opinion

2. Specific, individual word…

 a. The word from God that addresses a particular situation in which you

find yourself

 b. The specific word can come through…

 i. Scripture (the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the word)

 ii. pastor, friend, family, someone you don’t know

 iii. A thought or feeling in your mind or heart

3. How do you know and have confidence?

 a. A word from God will NEVER contradict the Bible as reflected by all

the verses or passages on the subject

 b. A word from God should leave you at peace, not confused

Hebrews 4:12-13 NLT

***12****For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.****13****Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.*

Personal testimony from conversations with someone at MVC:

Get to know Your Father. Spend time with Him, make time for Him, we all make time for what we want to make time for. I have been there, I struggled with it for a long time. I thought my parents faith would fall on me like rain.. and when it didn’t I got frustrated. I would have one foot in the world and one foot in “church.” But I was miserable inside. When I started pursing Christ on my own, making it my own personal relationship is when I started living in freedom. I can’t explain it but He did something inside of me.. He gave me the peace, contentment, joy.. that I was seeking.

When I started to study the Bible on my own as a means to know God, incredible things began to happen inside of me. The scriptures started working on me and I started to change.

When you spend time with our Father in heaven, daily seeking Him.. through prayer, reading the Bible, and worship music.. you get to know Him deeper… you understand His character, His voice.. then all of a sudden you feel convicted when you wonder from the path, you feel a tug inside.. “hey I shouldn’t be doing this.” This is the Holy Spirit living inside of you.. drawing you closer to Him.

D.L. Moody said it this way;

“When I pray, I talk to God, but when I read the Bible, God is talking to me…I believe we should know better how to pray if we knew our Bibles better”

Psalm 119 contains 176 verses. This is the longest of the psalms as it celebrates the Law of God. It is an acrostic psalm, with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet used as a heading for each of the eight-verse sections. No other portion of Scripture examines in such detail the benefits of having and heeding God's Word.

Psalm 119:1-8 NLT

***1****Joyful are people of integrity,
    who follow the instructions of the Lord.****2****Joyful are those who obey his laws
    and search for him with all their hearts.****3****They do not compromise with evil,
    and they walk only in his paths.****4****You have charged us
    to keep your commandments carefully.****5****Oh, that my actions would consistently
    reflect your decrees!****6****Then I will not be ashamed
    when I compare my life with your commands.****7****As I learn your righteous regulations,
    I will thank you by living as I should!****8****I will obey your decrees.
    Please don’t give up on me!*

The Bible is no ordinary book.

The Word of God is supernaturally inspired and it has no errors.

It can be trusted and believed.

The Bible is a life giving source.

You cannot grow as Peter is instructing us to go to the next level without embracing the Word of God.

What if we served a meal today after the service. You thought to yourself, this is a pretty good meal so it should last me until next Sunday.

Would you be able to maintain your strength on just one meal in to last you another six days?

If this is your only nourishment from the Word of God each week then no wonder you don't have the spiritual strength you need to face the pressures of this world.

Changes need to be made for your spiritual health and survival.

What will these changes look like?