

1 **The Firm (Prophetic) Word (ii)**

2 Peter 1:19-21

2 **General Considerations**

- We are thinking about whether or not the Christian faith is like all other religions/philosophies
 - Arise out of the imagination of the heart/mind
 - Originated as a “cleverly devised myth”
- If it is not like all the others, what sets it apart?
 - Thinking ultimacy
 - Thinking whether or not the criteria is met to be the precondition of all else
- God is ultimate (implications for authority) and he reveals himself
 - Generally
 - In Scripture

3 **General Considerations**

- Peter began this section of Scripture, then, by saying “so we have the prophetic word made more sure.”
- And the first question arises, what is the “prophetic word” and to what is Peter comparing the prophetic word in which it is found to be “made more sure” or “more firm?”
 - This is a very important question for us to answer
 - In the end, what Peter is getting at is the very thing that grants us surety or certainty in what to believe and in living out the Christian faith

4 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- There is a subtle difference between the two positions that are presented to us today in answering that question
- On the one hand we have Peter saying that “the prophetic word is made more sure” and on the other hand Peter may be saying that “we have the more sure (or firm) prophetic word.”
- In either case, we have the prophetic word and the phrase ‘more sure’ which is a phrase of comparison.
- And I think that we can get at what Peter is referring to if we unpack this comparison

5 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- There are several ideas at this point that we can bring up that have been put forward concerning that to which Peter referred in terms of comparison.
- You see, whether it’s made more firm or just more firm,
 - the question is made more firm or simply more firm than what?

6 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- First, what is included in the prophetic word?
 - There are those who say that he is referring to a specific portion within the greater context of Scripture having to do with the Lord’s coming
 - It is easy to come to this conclusion by making note that the bulk of chapter 3 of this letter focuses on “the promise of his coming” in reference to those who mock this notion of Christ’s coming

7 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- And so, the prophetic word (which is limited to that which concerns the coming of the Lord)

- It is made more sure or is more sure because of what God did for the apostles who were with Jesus up on the holy mountain (the mount of Transfiguration)

8 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- However, is the prophetic word in this letter of Peter's really limited to the yet future coming of the Lord?
- There are three places in Peter's letter in which I believe Peter defines "the prophetic word" more broadly than just in reference to the coming of the Lord

9 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- The first reference is found in second Peter 1:12-15.
- 2 Peter 1:12-15 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*. ¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind

10 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- Here Peter is concerned with reminding the church of very important issues concerning character and Christian development and what that is founded upon
- And so in terms of how we said it, we say that Peter is helping us to be sure of our grounding and he is happy to remind us how to do so
- But this reminder is not just for the lifetime of Peter it also includes that which will take place after his departure

11 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- He does so in order that the church might call these things to mind.
- So how does that come about?
 - It comes about through leaving behind written discourse, which is entrusted to the church
- So I believe that he is speaking to the letters that he will eventually leave behind and possibly letters from other apostles

12 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- The second reference is found in second Peter 3:1-2.
- 2 Peter 3:1-2 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles

13 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- Here again Peter is concerned with reminding the church of very important issues concerning the Christian life and what we are to believe
- But, note well where he is directing our remembrances
- He is saying that we need to remember the word spoken beforehand by the holy prophets (which is what we have as our Old Testament) and the commandment of the Lord and Savior, who is Jesus Christ, spoken by your apostles (which is what we now have as our New Testament)
- And so the reminders seem to be geared toward something more than just the coming [or commandment?] of the Lord but rather that which is encompassed by what we call today the Old Testament and the New Testament

14 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- The third reference is found in second Peter 3:14-16.
- 2 Peter 3:14-16 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction

15 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- Here it is clear that Peter is concerned with life now as we await the yet future coming of the Lord.
- And he reinforces his earlier comment in verses 1-2 by elevating the writings of Paul to the status of Scripture when he says that they distort Paul's writings as they do also "the rest of the Scriptures."
- The focus is on how it is we live our lives before the Lord as we await the coming of the Lord

16 **Final Considerations**

- What is the "prophetic word?"
 - It is the word of the Lord in its given entirety
- What does this include?
 - It includes what we know today as both the Old and New Testaments
- For what reason is it given?
 - It is given that we may know God
 - It is given that we may know His ways
 - It is given that we may know how to live
 - It is given that we may know what "this" is all about