

## 0 **The Firm (Prophetic) Word (iii)**

2 Peter 1:19-21

### 1 **General Considerations**

- What do we have before us this morning to which we refer when I say “turn with me in your Bibles to...”
  - In addressing this question we are
    - Addressing world view issues
    - Addressing ultimacy / authority issues
    - Addressing how what we have is not “cleverly devised myths”
    - Addressing how the word we hold in our hands is ultimately authored by the one true and living God

### 2 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- What are we to conclude about what Peter is saying?
  - Given the emphasis throughout his letter we examined last week, I believe it is important to note that Peter is using the phrase “the prophetic word” in a more broadly defined way
    - When he says, “we have the more sure (firm) prophetic word” we hold that he has in mind both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety
  - But now we still have to come to terms with that which he is making the comparison
    - More sure or firm than what?

### 3 **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**

- To what is the comparison being made?
  - First of all, some say the comparison has to do with the Old Testament
    - That is, the New Testament revelation is more firm or made more firm than the Old Testament revelation
      - How? Because it gives a “fuller” or “more explanatory” discourse of the Old Testament

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

- To what is the comparison being made?
  - Second, this can also involve the encounter of the apostles with God on the mount of Transfiguration
    - That is to say, it is this encounter or this revelatory encounter that firms up the New Covenant revelation
      - The transfiguration “verifies” as it were the revelation given concerning the “power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ”

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

- To what is the comparison being made?
  - Thirdly, It could also have reference to verification
    - That is, the revelation given to the apostles and seen in the Scripture is “more sure

or firm” than the encounter of the apostles with the majestic glory on the top of the mount of Transfiguration

- The written word is more sure than an experience

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

- Now, we must consider revelation and the nature of it
  - We get at it by asking a simple question, “is there a need for revelation to be made more firm?”
  - Which is to say is not revelation, revelation, and is it not always firm and sure in whatever form it takes?

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

- So if you are thinking strictly in terms of the Scriptures of the Old Testament may we say that they are firm and sure?
  - And the answer to that question is of course they are
  - God spoke from the mountain to the children of Israel in Exodus chapter 20 and it was unmistakable
    - it was just as sure as when God wrote his 10 words on the tablets
    - It was just as sure as when Moses wrote down the words that God had given to him

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

- How about when a prophet of old spoke to the people?
  - Is that word spoken verbally by the prophets just as firm and sure as a written out word from God?
    - The answer, beloved, is that of course it is
    - Sometimes the Lord would tell the prophet of old exactly what to say and sometimes the prophets spoke on behalf of God regarding the condition of Israel and future blessing or curse based upon what was previously taught by Moses in the Pentateuch
    - Whatever form it took it was just as sure revelation as that when God spoke directly to the children of Israel from the mountain

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

- Now we may ask, is it any different for the New Testament?
  - That is to say, is the phrase “the prophetic word made more sure” to tell us that the New Testament is more sure than the Old Testament word?
    - Now although New Testament revelation might broaden the scope of redemptive history it is nevertheless revelation just as the word spoken under the old covenant was revelation
    - Every part of it, from that which was spoken directly to God’s people to that written down by a prophet or spoken by a prophet or recorded by the new covenant authors in each and every case it carries the full weight of God’s revelation to his people

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

- This carries a great implication for us today beloved
    - If we may say, as we have been saying all along, that the ontological Trinity is self-attesting and therefore carries ultimate authority,
      - A member of that ontological Trinity that comes to earth also carries self-authentication and carries the authority of the Godhead
      - And if we can say that about the living word then we may say that about the written word, which is God's self-attesting witness and authority left with us now
- 11  **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**
- At this point, it brings us face-to-face with the nature of ultimacy and self-attesting authority
    - For the believer in Jesus Christ, there is one ultimate authority and one who is self-attesting and that is the God of the Scriptures
    - It is the Scriptures, beloved, that are used to form our world view
      - The Scriptures form the basis for how we interpret life
      - How we understand what is going on around us
      - And what is possible and what is not possible and
      - The nature of reality and knowledge and ethics and science (induction)
- 12  **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**
- The unbeliever lives contrary to this
  - From the very beginning, when God put the enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman he established an antithesis or an abiding opposition between the two seed lines –
    - God and all that he is and his people over against those who reject him and seek to live an autonomous lives
- 13  **The More Sure (Firm) Prophetic Word**
- So when Peter says (literally), "and we have the more firm prophetic word," to what is the comparison being made?
  - That is to say, the more firm word is more firm than what?
    - The comparison, I believe, must be between the revelation of God given to us in its fullness through our Lord Jesus Christ and the "cleverly devised tales" of verse 16
    - In other words, the revelational knowledge of God is pitted against the non-revelational knowledge, or myth, or cleverly devised tales of the world, which communicates by story, supposedly conveying truth but with non-factual story
    - The mind of men and the mind of God is the point of comparison
- 14  **Final Considerations**
- Does the Christian faith have a solid foundation upon which to stand?
    - Yes, every form of revelation is equal in authority and power
    - It is that which is of ultimacy to us
      - Revealing God and his ways
      - Revealing his will to us

- Revealing the condition of humanity
- Revealing the way of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord
- It is that which conveys the truth and is more firm than 'human imagination' or "cleverly devised myths"