



Knowing This First

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sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: {20} Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. {21} For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Pet 1:19-21)

The first key to understanding what



verse 19 is talking about is in verse 20. In other words, if you want to know what “a light that shineth in a dark place...” means, you have to understand that “no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. Further, you have to understand how we got the Word of God. Let’s talk about verse 19 first.

It says that we have also a more sure word of prophecy and that you do well to take heed unto this more sure word of prophecy.

Then it tells us what our taking

heed should be like: “as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.”

Have you ever been in a dark place, where there

was nearly no light except for a small light? In this situation, your eyes would become fixed on that

light, never wanting to let go in hopes of seeing even more light.

I’ve been in situations like this on the ocean in the dark. There

was no light around – at all except for a small beacon of light off in

the distance. Sometimes that bobbing light would disappear and

reappear. *I found myself constantly scanning*

the horizon with an endless appetite of

“light” hunger. It was a funny thing because that light was

the only thing I wanted to see. I

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didn't care about the darkness; I cared about the light. I was taking heed to that light.

These are the same feelings that we are supposed to have for God's Word. We heed God's Word as if it were that tiny, bobbing light on the horizon. Just like I didn't care about the darkness all around, I did care about that tiny light. *We are to care only for the bobbing light of God's Word.*

In that darkness, the only thing that would relieve my fixation on the light off in the distance would be the rising of the morning sun. Sunlight was a good replacement for the tiny, bobbing light, and it was just what the doctor ordered for removing the seeming, ever-present gloom of darkness. I felt immeasurable relief as soon as the very first ray of sunlight peaked around the horizon.

Spiritually, you too can and will experience great and enduring relief from the darkness of this life, when your bobbing light - knowing that God's Word is the light of the world and of you - *turns into a full-blown sunrise within your heart and soul.* What will make this explosive sunrise take place? A progressive unfolding of the Word of God beginning with two powerful, yet often unknown, keys to Its interpretation.

The first key is listed in verse 20:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

The very first thing you MUST know if you are to experience God's glorious light within your heart and soul is that not one single part of God's Word is of any private interpretation. What does this mean?

"Private interpretation" means,

"one's own letting loose of the mouth." This is not talking about you as much as it is talking about how the Word of God came to be. When it came to be, it did not come about by loose lipped people who didn't have any allegiance to God. It came from God's men, people who allowed God to work His mighty wonders of communication through them so that we could all know and understand God! These men didn't sit down and guess at writing the Bible. They didn't put pen to paper and start scribbling out their own thoughts and reasonings. No, a thousand times no! These men knew NOT to let their mouths run off with vain imaginations and reasonings. What did they do?

Verse 21 tells us:

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Man didn't even will to write the Bible. That means, they didn't

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come up with a desire that a Bible should be written and they were the ones to write it. It didn't come by the will of man. How did the Bible come to be? These holy men of God SPAKE as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. When man first received God's Word, he spoke it. It wasn't written down until later. *The first Words of God were spoken.* What a marvel that was!

Do you want that tiny, bobbing light of hope on your life's horizon to turn into a brilliant, glorious sunrise within the very depths of your heart and soul? If you want this to come into, *INSIDE of you*, you must believe that God gave His precious Words to holy men, His men, and that they spoke Them into existence. You must believe that these holy men didn't add their two cents, their opinions to any single one of the Words of God!

I doubt that God could find men to do this today. It seems that every religion is pretty excited about coming up with their own version of the Bible. Small changes, slightly new colors of meaning, here enters bias and pre-conceived interpretations. The King James is one of the most accurate Bibles in existence today, yet today's Christians seem happier the further away they can be taken from it. And they are taken away by men who claim to be God's holy men skilled in the use of private interpretation. Humm?? I'll let you decide. But there's one thing for sure: man doesn't believe that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. They no longer believe that the Word of God came because holy men of God spake as they were moved by God, not from their own wills!

People no longer radiate God's light because that light is

not in their hearts and souls. Today's stock market cosmetic company marvels really try to bring a light and radiant look to the skin of man, but these man-made looks pale into oblivion compared to God's light on His people's skin.

(Ecl 8:1) Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

What makes a man's face to shine? What is put into his mind. This "what" must be the wisdom of God's Word.

(Psa 34:4-5) I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. {5} They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

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People who seek the Lord, God, are the ones who receive true deliverance in this life. Not only will God deliver you from all of your fears, he will cause your face to become lightened. That means, your face will radiate His light and love. It means that your face will have no shame in it, no pale at all!

(Isa 29:22) Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

A pale face was a sure sign of some kind of shame. ***God's Christians should have none of that, period!***

It's time for a makeover folks. How about it? Are you up for a complete makeover? For this one, you don't have to go to the mall, you don't have to have the cosmetic distributor come over to

your house, you don't even have to order those new fangled creations from the shopping channels. How about setting your face like a "flint" or "rock" towards the gleaming truth of how we received God's Word? When you do this, before you know it, you'll see one, then two, then millions of beautiful rays of God's light come into and flood your heart and soul. Then you can safely say that ***the day DID dawn*** and that ***the day star HAS arisen*** in your heart! No more night, only day, because stars only appear at night.

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown