

2 Peter 1:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We have also a more 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:

Analysis

We have also a more 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. After citing eyewitness experience (vv. 16-18), Peter surprisingly declares "we have also a more sure word of prophecy" (kai echomen bebaioteron ton prophētikon logon, καὶ ἔχομεν βεβαιότερον τὸν προφητικὸν λόγον). This doesn't mean prophecy is more certain than apostolic eyewitness but that apostolic experience confirms and establishes prophetic Scripture's reliability. The Transfiguration validated Old Testament prophecies about Messiah's glory.

"Whereunto ye do well that ye take heed" (hō kalōs poieite prosechontes) urges careful attention to Scripture. Peter compares it to "a light that shineth in a dark place" (lychnō phainonti en auchmērō topō, λύχνῳ φαίνονται ἐν αὐχμηρῷ τόπῳ)—a lamp illuminating murky darkness. The present age is morally and spiritually dark; Scripture provides light for navigation until "the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (heōs hou hēmera diaugasē kai phōsphoros anatelē en tais kardiais hymōn).

"Day star" (phōsphoros, φωσφόρος, literally "light-bearer") is the morning star (Venus), heralding dawn. This likely refers to Christ's return (Rev 22:16) or the full illumination believers will receive at glorification. "In your hearts" indicates

internal enlightenment accompanying external revelation. Until Christ returns fully manifesting truth, believers must attend carefully to Scripture's prophetic light, which guides through present darkness toward future glory.

Historical Context

Judaism highly valued prophetic Scripture as God's revealed word, meticulously preserving and studying it. Jesus affirmed Scripture's authority (Matt 5:17-18; John 10:35) and showed how it testified to Him (Luke 24:27, 44-47). The early church inherited this reverence for Old Testament Scripture while recognizing apostolic writings as equally authoritative (2 Pet 3:15-16).

The metaphor of light in darkness pervades biblical theology (Ps 119:105; Prov 6:23; Isa 9:2; John 1:4-9; 8:12). The present evil age, under Satan's dominion (2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 1 John 5:19), is morally dark, unable to know God apart from revelation. Scripture functions as God's self-disclosure, illuminating truth about Him, humanity, salvation, and living rightly. Until Christ returns bringing full knowledge (1 Cor 13:12), believers depend on Scripture's light for guidance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance valuing personal spiritual experiences with prioritizing Scripture's objective authority?
2. In what areas of life do you most need Scripture's light to guide decisions, expose error, or reveal truth?

3. How can churches cultivate deeper reverence for and engagement with Scripture as God's sure prophetic word?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔχομεν	βεβαιότερον	τὸν	προφητικὸν	λόγον	οὗ
also	We have	a more sure	G3588	of prophecy	word	whereunto
G2532	G2192	G949		G4397	G3056	G3739
καλῶς	ποιεῖτε	προσέχοντες	ὥς	λύχνῳ	φαίνοντι	ἐν
well	ye do	that ye take heed	as	unto a light	that shineth	in
G2573	G4160	G4337	G5613	G3088	G5316	G1722
ἀσχηρῶ	τόπῳ	ἕως	οὗ	ἡμέρα	διαυγάζῃ	καὶ
a dark	place	until	whereunto	the day	dawn	also
G850	G5117	G2193	G3739	G2250	G1306	G2532
φωσφόρος	ἀνατείλῃ	ἐν	ταῖς	καρδίαις	ὑμῶν	
the day star	arise	in	G3588	hearts	your	
G5459	G393	G1722		G2588	G5216	

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:16 (Parallel theme): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Psalms 119:105 (Word): Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Isaiah 9:2 (Light): The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

John 5:39 (Word): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Revelation 2:28 (Parallel theme): And I will give him the morning star.

Isaiah 8:20 (Word): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Proverbs 6:23 (Word): For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Matthew 4:16 (Light): The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 5:35 (Light): He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

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