

2 Peter 1:16-21

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

¹⁹We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt. And you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation. ²¹For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Berean Study Bible

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths
when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the contrary, we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

¹⁷He received honour and glory from God the Father
when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying,
“This is My Son, loved by Me, in whom I delight.”

¹⁸And we heard this voice that came from Heaven,
when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt.
You will do well to pay attention to it, like a lamp shining in a dark place,
until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts.

²⁰The first fact to know is: no prophecy of Scripture
comes from one’s own interpretation.

²¹No prophecy ever came forth by human will,
but God spoke through humans as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

My own translation

1

Get more from your Bible. 2 Peter 1:16-21

The record of Scripture. 1:16-18

The authority of Scripture. 16 “we were eyewitnesses”

The Divinity of Scripture. 17 "This is My beloved Son"
The reliability of Scripture. 18 "we ourselves heard this"

My response to Scripture. 1:19-21

I need to attend to Scripture. 19 "pay attention to it"
I need to understand Scripture. 20 "you must understand"
I need to obey Scripture. 21 "men spoke from God"

2

What's in the Bible? 2 Peter 1:16-21

In the Bible I see God's deeds. 16 "we were eyewitnesses"
In the Bible I hear God's voice. 17 "the voice from the Majestic Glory"
In the Bible I experience God's presence. 18 "we were with Him"
In the Bible I find God's promises fulfilled. 19 "word of the prophets as confirmed"
In the Bible I learn God's truth is maintained. 20 "not by one's own interpretation"
In the Bible I grow from God's facts into faith. 21 "carried along by the Holy Spirit"

3

The Bible answers its critics. 2 Peter 1:16-21

Critic: The Bible is just a book of moral stories.
Correct: Not fables but facts. 16 "we were eyewitnesses"

Critic: You get out of it what you read into it.
Correct: Focus is Jesus. 17 "He received honour and glory"

Critic: Its application is whatever it says to you.
Correct: Means what it says. Says what it means. 18 "this voice from heaven"

Critic: It is just a book of ancient unreliable history.
Correct: 19 "the word of the prophets confirmed beyond doubt"

Critic: What it says to you is different from what it says to me.
Correct: 20 "not from one's own interpretation"

Critic: I just can't understand it. (The only sensible thing they say!)
Correct: 21 "not by human will, but... by the Holy Spirit"

Why I need God's Word. 2 Peter 1:16-21

I need the Bible to feed my soul
 I need the Bible to keep my life on track
 I need the Bible to release me from my past
 I need the Bible to remind me of the Gospel
 I need the Bible to relate rightly to God
 I need the Bible to relate rightly to people

Get more bang from your Bible. 2 Peter 1:16-21

Ask for God's help to know His Word
 Understand the words and phrases.
 Understand the contexts, large and small.
 Understand the connections to other parts of the Bible.
 Ask how to apply it
 Allow it to change your mind and heart.

This is why the Bible is true. 2 Peter 1:16-21

I know the Bible is true because the people who wrote it are truthful. 1:16
 The authors were not fiction writers. 16a not follow cleverly devised fables"
 The authors were fact recorders. 16a "we made known to you"

I know the Bible is true because the facts recorded are reliable. 1:16-18
 The Bible is by reliable eye-witnesses. 16b "we were eyewitnesses"
 The Bible is by reliable ear-witnesses. 18a "we ourselves heard this voice"

I know the Bible is true because the future predicted is accurate. 1:19
 Ancient prophecies have come true. 19 "confirmed beyond doubt"
 Ancient prophecies will come true. 19 "pay attention to it"

I know the Bible is true because the wisdom is beyond human. 1:20-21
 The Bible is beyond human wisdom. 21a "brought forth by the will of man"
 The Bible is from Divine wisdom. 21 "carried along by the Holy Spirit"

Other possible titles

How reliable are ancient writings?
What makes these words, 'God's Word'?
The Bible: stepping stones to Heaven.
You're reading the Bible wrongly!
Get more jewels from your mine.
Fake, or fact.
The logical reasons why we believe the Bible.
Learn to love your 'love letter'

Cross references

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8
But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4
Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 1 Timothy 4:13
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12
Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

Quotes and illustrations

Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years. Charles Spurgeon
A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't. Charles H Spurgeon

The Bible is not the light of the world, it is the light of the Church. But the world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians! "You are the light of the world." Charles Spurgeon

The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself. Anonymous

Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them. E. Paul Hovey

It's no longer enough to teach our children Bible stories; they need doctrine and apologetics. William Lane Craig

He does have surprising, secret purposes. I open a Bible, and His plans, startling, lie there barefaced. It's hard to believe it, when I read it, and I have to come back to it many times, feel long across those words, make sure they are real. His love letter forever silences any doubts: "His secret purpose framed from the very beginning [is] to bring us to our full glory" (1 Corinthians 2:7 NEB). Ann Voskamp

When the world beats you down, open up your Bible. Lysa TerKeurst

The Word of God I think of as a straight edge, which shows up our own crookedness. We can't really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture. Elisabeth Elliot

Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness. Helen Keller

The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid. Martin Luther

The Bible is the book of my life. It's the book I live with, the book I live by, the book I want to die by. N T Wright

I've read the last page of the Bible, it's all going to turn out alright. Billy Graham

Put your nose into the Bible every day. It is your spiritual food. And then share it. Make a vow not to be a lukewarm Christian. Kirk Cameron

The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favourite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian. A.W. Tozer

The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly. Søren Kierkegaard

When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me." – Søren Kierkegaard

The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home. Augustine of Hippo

Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says. Francis Chan

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book that you can by reason and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man. It is the best Book which God has given to man. Abraham Lincoln

I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from The Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this Book. Abraham Lincoln

So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country and respectable members of society. John Quincy Adams, 6th US President

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education. Theodore Roosevelt

No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible. Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President

Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face. Ronald Reagan

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand. Mark Twain

The more I have read the Bible and studied the life of Jesus, the more I have become convinced that Christianity spreads best not through force but through fascination. Shane Claiborne

Apply yourself wholly to the Scriptures, and apply the Scriptures wholly to yourself. Johann A. Bengel

I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He has written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be: "A man of one book. John Wesley

If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will. Billy Graham

The Bible is not man's word about God, but God's word about man. John Barth

The Bible contains all the extant revelations of God, which He designed to be the rule of faith and practice for his Church; so that nothing can rightfully be imposed on the consciences of men as truth or duty which is not taught directly or by necessary implication in the Holy Scriptures. Charles Hodge

The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation. Dwight Lyman Moody

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. Dwight L. Moody

I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. D. L. Moody

I've experienced His presence in the deepest darkest hell that men can create. I have tested the promises of the Bible, and believe me, you can count on them. I know that Jesus Christ can live in you, in me, through His Holy Spirit. You can talk with Him; you can talk with Him out loud or in your heart when you are alone, as I was alone in solitary confinement. The joy is that He hears each word. Corrie Ten Boom

To meditate on Scripture is to allow the truth of God's Word to move from head to heart. It is to so dwell upon a truth that it becomes part of our being. Greg Oden

The primary purpose of reading the Bible is not to know the Bible but to know God. James Merritt

The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying. Flavel

There is a circularity here I do not doubt. I am defending the Bible by the Bible. Circularity of a kind is unavoidable when one seeks to defend an ultimate standard of truth, for one's defense must itself be accountable to that standard. John M. Frame

The Bible is meant to be bread for daily use, not cake for special occasions.

Fill your mind with God's Word and you will have no room for Satan's lies.

As we fill our minds with the truth of God's Word, we will be better able to recognize the lies in our own thinking, as well as the lies that the world presses upon us.

Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like trying to eat without swallowing.

First open your heart, then open your Bible.

As you read, pause frequently to meditate on the meaning of what you are reading. Absorb the Word into your system by dwelling on it, pondering it, going over it again and again in your mind, considering it from many different angles, until it becomes part of you.

If you don't get in your Bible your enemy will get in your business.

The more you read the Bible the more you'll love the author.

The Bible is the only book, where the Author is in love with the reader.

The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when one reads it."

When in doubt, pull your Bible out.

Complaining about a silent God with a closed Bible, is like complaining about no text messages with a turned off phone.

Out of 100 people, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.

Mount of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1–9	Mark 9:1–10	Luke 9:28–36
<p>¹After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.</p> <p>²There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.</p> <p>³Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus.</p> <p>⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”</p>	<p>¹Then Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God arrive with power.”</p> <p>²After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.</p> <p>There He was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became radiantly white, brighter than any launderer on earth could bleach them.</p> <p>⁴And Elijah and Moses appeared before them, talking with Jesus.</p> <p>⁵Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶For they were all so terrified that Peter did not know what else to say.</p>	<p>²⁸About eight days after Jesus had said these things, He took with Him Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray.</p> <p>²⁹And as He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became radiantly white.</p> <p>³⁰Suddenly two men, Moses and Elijah, began talking with Jesus. ³¹They appeared in glory and spoke about His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.</p> <p>³²Meanwhile Peter and his companions were overcome by sleep, but when they awoke, they saw Jesus’ glory and the two men standing with Him.</p> <p>³³As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)</p>

<p>⁵While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown in terror.</p> <p>⁷Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," He said. "Do not be afraid."</p> <p>⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.</p> <p>⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."</p>	<p>⁷Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!"</p> <p>⁸Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them except Jesus.</p> <p>⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus admonished them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.</p> <p>¹⁰So they kept this matter to themselves, discussing what it meant to rise from the dead.</p>	<p>³⁴While Peter was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him!"</p> <p>³⁶After the voice had spoken, only Jesus was present with them.</p> <p>The disciples kept this to themselves, and in those days they did not tell anyone what they had seen.</p>
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Music and songs

Songs about the Bible, v20

How lovely on the mountains... our God reigns
 So many books
 The B-I-B-L-E (Go Fish)
 The Lord has yet more light and truth
 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

Songs about honour and glory, v17

All hail King Jesus... bright Morning Star

Blessing and honour. Power and glory... Ancient of Days
Majesty. Worship His Majesty.
The power and the glory of Your name (Bullock)
There's a light upon the mountains
This little light of mine

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Why do you think the Bible has so many critics?
 2. Do you have a favourite Bible verse, or Bible story?
 3. What is your method of reading the Bible?
 4. Why do you think many believers find Bible reading a chore?
 5. What advice would you give someone just starting to read the Bible?
 6. What advice would you give someone wanting to get more out of their Bible reading?
 7. What advice would you give some who gets nothing from their Bible?
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