

# 2 Peter

## Lesson 2 Chapter 1:12-21

### Participant Guide

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## Lesson 2

### 2 Peter 1:12-21

### Remembering Christ's Transfiguration

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 2 Peter 1:16

#### Prayers

#### Introduction

As we read 2 Peter, it is easy to picture Peter being sentenced and imprisoned for the testimony of his faith, awaiting his death from a dark cell in Rome. Of all the miracles he witnessed by Christ and through the Holy Spirit, healing, walking on water, feeding the 5000, raising the dead, Peter recounted Jesus' glory on the Mount of Transfiguration in his last days, a glory he would soon be sharing.

Peters telling the account of the transfiguration is more than nostalgic sentimentality in facing his death. Think about the reasons Jesus took James, John, and Peter up the mountain as we read about the transfiguration and compare them to the purpose of Peter's letter.

#### Read Matthew 17:1-9, The Transfiguration

Mt 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves [to pray <sup>Lk 9:28</sup>].

Mt 17:2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Mt 17:3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus [in glorious splendor. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>Lk 9:31</sup>].

Lk 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

Mt 17:4 Peter 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."

Mk 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Mt 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Mt 17:6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

Mt 17:7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

Mt 17:8 When [the voice had spoken <sup>Lk 9:36</sup>] they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Mt 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

1. Jesus took James, John, and Peter up the mountain after telling the disciples he would go to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be raised to life on the third day. What were the purposes of the transfiguration?

- a. Verse 1

- b. Verse 2
- c. Verse 3
- d. Verse 5
- e. Verse 9

2. Besides encouraging Jesus as his suffering and death approached, what other purpose did Moses and Elijah serve on the mountain? See also the following verses:

Jn 8:17 **In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.**

Jn 8:18 **I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."**

Mt 5:17 **"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

Mal 4:4 **"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.**

Mal 4:5 **"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.**

### **Read Christ's Transfiguration, Prophecy of Scripture**

2Pe 1:12 **So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.**

2Pe 1:13 **I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,**

2Pe 1:14 **because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.**

2Pe 1:15 **And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.**

2Pe 1:16 **We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

2Pe 1:17 **For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."**

2Pe 1:18 **We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.**

2Pe 1:19 **And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.**

2Pe 1:20 **Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.**

2Pe 1:21 **For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

### **Discuss**

3. In these verses, how is Peter faithful to his calling as an Apostle (one who is sent)?
  
4. How is Peter's purpose for writing the same as Jesus' purpose for taking John, James, and Peter up the mountain?
  
5. Interestingly, Peter describes his body as a tent in verse 13. How does he view his life?
  
6. Quiz time! God's voice at the transfiguration is one of three times God speaks. Do you remember the other two?
  - a. Mt 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.  
Mt 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
  
  - b. Jn 12:28 **Father, glorify your name!** Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."  
Jn 12:29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.  
Jn 12:30 Jesus said, **"This voice was for your benefit, not mine.**  
Jn 12:31 **Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.**  
Jn 12:32 **But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."**
  
7. What is Peter's view of the scriptures?
  
8. How are the views of Peter, Paul, John, and Jesus at odds with how many Christians view the Bible?
 

Isa 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

Lk 16:16 **"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.**

Lk 16:17 **It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.**

<sup>Jn 21:24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

<sup>Jn 21:25</sup> Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

<sup>2Ti 3:16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>2Ti 3:17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

<sup>1Th 2:13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

9. Remembering, like Peter did in retelling the transfiguration, refreshes the soul. Peter encouraged the faith of others who had never met Jesus or witnessed his miracles. Remembering can also deepen healthy relationships and restore broken relationships. Jesus would later tell the churches in Asia Minor to remember the heights from which they had fallen. What are some of your remembrances of God's faithfulness to you?

## Closing Prayer