

You Can Trust God's Word

II Peter 1:16-21, Sunday AM, CBC, September 3, 2023

Intro: Simon Peter . . . vv. 1-2 God has blessed you! grace flowing/peace v. 3a life been given EVERYTHING needed for life (what is life)—wait, that interests me! I'm listening, **godliness**—to live in reverence/respect/honor—in a way pleasing to God; **okay, if Creator wants me to know Him, good to know He has given way to know and please Him**; right! The life source is **through the true knowledge . . .**; okay, I'm listening—I have to have more true knowledge of Him; sounds okay—little bit of investment/work—**v. 4 for by these . . .**; I want precious promises—**but what are they?** let me put effort into knowing them; **Right! This faith/true knowledge granted by power of God IS TO BE LIVED**—so put your energy in this direction; okay, I'm trying—well that is why need to keep THIS character in mind—specifically THESE **vv. 5-8**; **where will these be under attack?** as you prioritize your life under God—His priorities—TRUE knowledge of Him, live according to/in line w **precious & magnificent promises**; as do what He says to live and please Him; as seek to maintain fellowship with Him through ALL that arises in broken world; as you untangle what you think pleasing God and living looks like versus comparing all His words and actions, as you cross paths w others who say following God but play it out differently and called to live together w them in unity of Spirit, as cross/live w those NOT following God; **how do you make sense of it all?** LOOK to Me; learn of Me; **this character is NOT sought/obtained on own, but is a DIRECT RESULT of receiving a faith of the same kind as ours v. 9—this character results from looking to God and trusting His word**; okay, I'll try; **well, there is more involved here than just day to day battles, even more than just where life goes in 5 years, 20 years, vv. 10-11** um, ending right is hope—but far away—haven't even seen God; **what will this eternal kingdom be like? can I have a peek beyond your words, your testimony about Jesus, something to inspire me so I can just see that this is worth my investment?** There is a LOT of trust to follow this WHOLE package; pieces of it make sense—but the more you talk like this—harder to keep all the pieces as life bombards—I got it, says Peter to this group of believers he has just excitedly rehashed worldview of life/hope in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ with fellow believers—he may not have even started church—but comradery in gospel; THAT's why ¹²*Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them,* **The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there.** and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **The gospel given has been lived. Live it now!** the BASIS for faithfully continuing in the gospel is laid out in the gospel given you (five pieces of gospel) THIS is I Cor. 15 what I received, passed on, THIS is II Pet. 1:1-4; **THIS is what you need to deal with pressures and fears, and any other voices/options**; must continue to work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life **I.** Can you articulate the gospel? **Christ at center** *Jn. 14:6, Eph. 4:21 truth is in Jesus* **2.** Are you conscious of how that gospel lives/effects each moment of each day in your life? **Tripp Quest for More**—big kingdom lived in same place as little kingdom lives **3.** Can you identify other gospels that daily threaten the gospel calling for you to defend and proclaim the gospel to yourself and others? (**different priorities than the gospel**); remember, **false teaching only dangerous b/c you WANT it.** It feeds some need/desire causing you to drift away from living the words you SAY you believe to follow similar teaching that **gives you what you value more than God's provision through Christ to bring glory to Himself through your building His kingdom instead of yours** (**check your loves/fears**—security, affirmation, fulfillment, peace, ME time, family—**if don't love God more, will drift**; **II. Time is short.** *vv. 13-14* ¹³*I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,* ¹⁴*knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.* **III. Maintain gospel-driven life for the rest of your life.** *v. 15* ¹⁵*And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.* **I hear you, but what ARE these other options so concerned about?** I told you—stumbling/not get up, NOT entering eternal kingdom; Yes, I know, but what if not quite stark as you say—I mean, **3:4, Where is**—at best, it hasn't happened—**why not?** maybe we've interpreted it wrongly; NO, look back father **3:5-9**; **can't we agree to disagree**—Jesus DID come, has come—brought peace, but that kingdom is in our hearts; judgment HAS taken place, that picture of Him coming as future judge is scary/NOT who He is; we have Him in mind/heart—example, hope, freedom; **you seem SO focused on people looking like what YOU call holy—weren't we freed from the law to follow Christ?** where is the peace of God when always trying to attain standard that is impossible; **you seem so wound up about specifics that adds to gospel, misrepresents God—there IS no life inside your words—no joy; relax! YES freed from law to follow Christ, but those telling you this and you yourself are NOT enjoying/living the way God wants you to—only done through His power, w eyes on Him; you are rewriting freedom, life—you/those telling you this are not what they seem—2:9-14, 17-19** **Woah! Where did THIS all**

come from; I'm just saying . . . don't make this personal—you are attacking me, them—I just wanted to say that maybe not like you are saying—MIGHT be, but not sure; just want truth—who IS God, what does it mean to follow Him—maybe wider berth of fellowship with others than you unkindly call false teachers, you accuse them/perhaps us of motives that are pretty harsh—judgmental; I'm open—perhaps something missing from picture you/other apostles gave us; THIS is setting for our words today at the end of II Peter 1; it all comes back to a final word—hard to lean into words when not sure if solid underfoot; right/wrong then up in air (conscience uncertain); didn't "work" when trusted, why work now; you've heard about wave of deconstruction/deconversion—GOOD to examine foundations, tear down things that keep from healthy growth; Bible says test yourselves to see whether in faith, examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good; all talk of humility God opposes proud/Phil. 2 humility of Christ front/center b/c tendency will be to think you ARE when not, so be sober, alert, make righteous judgments, as suspicious of yourself as you are of others; recognize that Eve perfect women didn't have right tests to keep her faithful to God; but unhealthy wave of examining today; cynical, not discerning--testing seems to lead to throwing out; like going through hoarders/packrat/saver's house—start picking through, then decide not worth it, ALL needs to go/thrown away to start again; suspicion grows that whoever thinks solid is NOT solid; say hungry/seeking, but seen too much passion based on what seems to be shaky foundations, and often shred everything and everyone; at heart of dangers here is the basis/standard by which taking place—no longer carefully/rightly dividing the truth with and under the people of God, but instead, we use a syncretistic standard we've adopted from reaction, actions, culture, impulses to strip down and build up—shaky ground leaving us alone, exposed, calloused, sometimes hurting, lonely, sure of one thing—IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SAY! so many voices, noise—just need quiet; ie. Like noise cancelling ear buds/phones to block noise—just can't listen anymore to what you are saying, YOU DON'T KNOW! Peter, THEY are offering quiet/livable/space; what's the way forward from this scenario? Need path not just for those struggling, discontent, filled w cynicism, unbelief asking these questions, but God-fearing churches must have path through this, God-fearing pastors, Christians, parents, children, spouses—NONE of ways forward is silver bullet; ALL finding/living VERY messy and unsafe and VERY slow; there is NOT a common playbook even among supposed Christians, and people responding from fears, hurts, goals—individually, rather than as a team as God intended (spouses helping one another, parents helping children, children helping one another—as get older, helping parents—people of God living out Eph. 4:15-16, patiently, intentionally, Col. 1, Rom. 12, Eph. 4, Col. 3 style—walk and work under one Lord, one faith, one baptism being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; If this path would be real—hard but right, not just idealistic fantasy, then need foundation of final word; here, in last part of II Peter 1, Peter says, there IS a final word, and it is not me; WE have right authority, you don't; call it arrogant, but unloving if I don't show you why not; b/r zeroing in on dangerous character/lifestyle resulting from false teacher's teaching, Peter finishes chapter with certainty of God's Word; YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD--what we've given you IS good news because it and it alone IS God's Word and interpretation of that word

I. There are trustworthy witnesses testifying God's actions in history. vv. 16-18

A. God has given trustworthy witness of what is to come.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ what mean by tales? MUST have said believed in deity of Jesus, salvation through Christ or wouldn't be considered among "believers" writing to; power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ first or second advent? Parousia can mean presence (usually arrival or coming), Greeks used to speak of coming of deity ^{Moo} but in NT, word becomes technical term for future coming of Jesus; one source said 17x in NT this way ie. II Pet. 3:4, 12 ^{Moo}; we made known to you WE 1st person pl switch from singular in vv. 12-15--not merely Peter at end of life presenting case, but one standing shoulder to shoulder w others we made known to you declared, main verb of sentence, NOT new message Matt. 24:29-31 power and coming tied w advent, life, death, resurrection, ascension—Peter to Cornelius Acts 10:34-43; Felix & wife Drusilla Acts 24:24-25; NOT cleverly devised tales, sophistry, fabricated myths; word came from idea of story or narrative, Green notes, they weren't focused on veracity, but came to mean fiction that did not reflect "the logos or truth of history" ^{BDAG 660}, could be an entertaining tale to help understand something, but came to be highly pejorative—often "synonymous with dupery, illusion, the

unreal, as opposed to veracious account (logos)—credible p. 218, Philo condemned sophistry as form of magic since its goal was to deceive Green, p. 217 Paul sees it this way in Pastoral epistles ie. I Tim. 1:4, II Tim. 4:4; THIS how false teachers looked at Peter/apostle's teaching about second coming—at best, fable to convey truth, kernel of truth, like Greek myths to help understand their gods Schreiner helpful, but fantasy, no base in reality; Peter/others smooth talkers leading believers astray by follow[ing] after submit to some authority w regard to thoughts or actions Green; why believers fall for this—Peter and apostles themselves gave message? same reason we struggle, need something that makes sense NOW, enough trouble picking through Judaism, through Greek, Roman gods/processes of thought/values; hard to stand for something when immediate people/situations so far removed from gospel given; want something to inspire, hold to, give stability (easy to want to live in good book, movie theater—for moment, transported to another world, story has goal/end—“once upon a time”); (Negro spirituals—let them have church, view of heaven—not rebel) hard to live in abstract--Jesus coming back to make right? Can't be literal b/c hasn't come--He has, given us inspiration; —OT, NT uses stories/parables my beloved had a vineyard), but power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ NOT opiate for the people; must not just teach truth, must take apart accusation or people duped by it—remember, only listen to false b/c offers something NEED/WANT; Christ WILL return in power/glorious to destroy world at moment's notice, judge those who don't believe, AND judge those who believe according to what expected from His own (deeds that only could come from Spirit of God and in line w what He asked us to do—Matt. 25 virgins, talents, sheep and goats) Matt. 25:31-32

B. God has given credible witnesses to His redemptive activity.

But how do you know Peter/apostles? been so long, hasn't come; if hasn't come, can't live so tied up—must live here, now; I understand, that's why writing you; when Jesus gave us same message, we didn't see how it could fit together; in fact, I STOOD AGAINST Matt. 16:21-27, but then Jesus gave cryptic message Matt. 16:28, Mk. 9:1, God merciful to us, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. Here's what happened—shortly after I said it will NEVER happen, He took us on field trip Matt. 17:1-4 ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, glory (splendor, exalted status) face and clothing (purity, victory—often pointed to coming of Messiah) Moses face shown, honor came from words God spoke such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, this is glory upon glory—can't get higher! “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” Matt. 17:5, Response? Terrified, how not? this reminiscent of Ex. 40:34-35, I Ki. 8:10-11; glory, the white, the voice—same voice/words after baptism Matt. 3:16-17, Jn. 10:30; senses overwhelmed Matt. 17:6-9 Don't talk about? Couldn't get out of head—¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. heard Moses, Elijah (THEY are real) ALL talking about Lk. 9:30-31 God mercifully gave Jesus & us encouragement b/c so much told us failure/defeat, even after this, still hard Matt. 17:22-23—had to go through it including grief; I get it, Peter saying to believers; Trouble believing what promised? let me encourage w eyewitness to His majesty, earwitness to voice of God; ask more for credible witness? (OT 2-3 witnesses, our courts—look for things in character that stand against) uneducated men on day of Pentecost preaching w power; Matt. 16:15-18 whatever you think of yourself Peter, flesh/blood did not reveal this to you—your gifts, your perception NOT source of this insight, on Christ Jesus, fully God, fully man, I will build my church/people, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone; Peter and apostles preach NOTHING except Christ; the Peter who cuts off ear, denies, runs away--then one of uneducated men preaching on day of Pentecost w power—then gives one of largest looks at suffering for gospel in I Peter; I SAW, do what want, but this is credible—I'm NOT risking all, giving life for fable; James lost head, John endured persecution; real experiences FROM God, credible witnesses saw/heard Lk. 2:20, Lk. 7:22; Acts 4:19-20, 22:13-15; I Jn. 1:1-3, 5; Jesus WILL return as reigning King—God the Son, Jesus said, confirmed by God the Father, both in Majestic Glory—we repeat to you! You can trust God's Word, Nisbet God might have employed men to “write the Gospel who had never seen Christ in the flesh, and commanded us to believe, yet has He condescended for our further satisfaction to make use of such men to write the most part of the New Testament as saw with their bodily eyes Christ glorious in flesh, and so were eye-witnesses of His Majesty.” glory of Son of God so hidden for our sake (Me: He became flesh Jn. 1, took on flesh, Phil. 2 emptied Himself) “that He needed a declaration from heaven to show the Father's esteem of Him and to beget a high esteem of Him in the hearts of His own.” Nisbet p. 237 did not ADD to His glory, but manifested glory He already had—think Christmas carol, veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate deity, Hark the Herald Angels; look at what this little bit of glory did to bolster confidence of Peter, James, John to proclaim, suffer for gospel

II. There are trustworthy messengers testifying to the veracity, perspicuity, and sufficiency of God's word.

vv. 19-21 Accuracy, clarity, brightness, certainty—can't do this point justice for time's sake, but start

A. Scripture IS God's word.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made more sure*, words of prophets, when combined w vv. 20-21, refers to “the writings”—words written down in Scripture concerning Jesus; while little uncertainty of wording here as to which adds weight to other, **Green** often comparative adjective “more” w verb parexomai or here w exo “sure” focuses on superlative—appears together again and again in legal contexts—guaranteed security and therefore valid; Peter in no way saying that vv. 16-18 inconclusive in discrediting false teachers, saying this credible experience witnessed by others—saw, heard honor and glory—voice of God about person and work of Christ **stamps/validates prophetic word** referring to coming of Messiah, His work including a future coming of Christ for judgment and salvation establishing universal and glorious reign; as contemplated what they saw heard on mountain, **Ps. 3:4, 15:1, Zech. 8:3**, echoes **Deut. 18:15**—allusions to God establishing His King who will Judge—**ps. 2:6-9, Is. 42:1**—Servant of Lord as Redeemer suffers for sins of people **Is. 53:6**—focus on Jesus' honor and glory before crucifixion pointing to rest of Father's plan--Jesus fulfills promises to David and prophecies about Servant of the Lord; ²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation*, ESV, NKJV take it OWN interpretation—meaning each person interpreting; NIV takes it prophet's—meaning both revelation AND interpretation came from God; **Schreiner** notes that this is NOT focus on origin of prophecy but proper interpretation **transfiguration verifies apostle's interpretation of OT prophecies**—THEY II Pet. 3:16 THEY misuse and distort Scripture, but true source of writing/interpretation comes from God; ²¹ *for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*. **BB Warfield** called concurrence—both human beings and God fully involved in process of inspiration; NOT dictation theory; their personalities, literary styles, but NOT focused on their mind, gifts, abilities; **Nisbet** notes that Scriptures NOT to give mind of writers, but public mind of God; under authority/guidance of God--**carried along used in participle form in vv. 17-18 (2x—voice came from God—came;** writers spoke from God, carried by Holy Spirit; b/c sourced in God, Scriptures are authoritative, infallible, and inerrant; 3:1-2 remember the words of the holy prophets AND commandment of Lord spoken by apostles; Paul had own experience, but made him lean into what given by prophets **Rom. 1:1-5**; word true, clear, sufficient

B. Live God's Word.

vv. 16-19a function as ground for 19b *you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place*, this been Peter's whole burden (precious, magnificent promises, BY THEM you may escape corruption) God's word, NOT man's **Ps. 119:105** (writers, cultures, YOURs to interpret or to focus on your uncanny knack for figuring it out; **The authority of Scripture is greater than the comprehension of the whole of man's reason.** **Martin Luther**; **Nisbet** notes that there are knots (implied by word interpretation) that can't be entangled apart from work of Spirit; — Should be holy fear of saying honor Scriptures, but then don't wrestle w it to live it; **We** must not in practice deny our allegiance to the authority of the Word of God by saying we believe it while continuing to live according to what is right in our own eyes. **Burk Parsons** Questionable Authority, Tabletalk, March, 2009, p. 2 **SO** subtle to Master who bought you 2:1, turn from true knowledge of Lord 2:20-22 if don't have right balance of human, divine—if NOT guided by Spirit, using ALL resources He has given us; **John Stott** **BBC** basic, balanced Christianity—it can become an excuse for not thinking hard enough about issues—come down middle b/c easier than working through alternatives to discover truth—balance as product of careful thinking and not of superficiality, is a valuable commodity in Christian faith. Heresies usually begin w imbalance; in **Moo Nisbet**, World so dark that own reason, counsel or example of others will often leave us comfortless—resulting in wandering and falling in snares except look to light shining in dark place **Rom. 8:13**, **I Cor. 1**, psalmist cry—open my eyes to behold wonderful things from Thy law; which leads to last part, pay attention—till when? *until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts*. Day of Lord—3:10 all over OT when final judgment 2:9, 3:7, and Lord's own delivered/full realization of entrance to eternal kingdom, 3:12—eternal day 3:18; to heed God's Word lifts our gaze from merely what we can see, know and forces our eyes beyond death, beyond natural to supernatural—to place outside of time where God preparing next step in redemptive plan, *until morning star arises in hearts*—name for Venus in ancient world--most certainly refers to coming of Jesus—perhaps allusion to **Num. 24:17** as speaks of day when God's enemies crushed; **Rev. 22:16**; pointing to time when those ready for

His return b/c have heeded God's trustworthy witnesses and messengers won't need prophetic Word and ordinances of church b/c He is light of heaven; **Jesus IS coming in power and glory**, Acts 1:6-8 warns we won't know when; Peter says like a thief; **Are you ready for His return?** Are you responding now to His gracious salvation/reconciliation and being fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ, therefore ready for judgment? Don't follow the false teachers and turn from the way of righteousness and the holy commandment

Exodus 40:34-35 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I beheld him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

1 Kings 8:10-11 It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Psalm 2:6-9 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." ⁷ "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹ 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' "

Psalm 3:4 I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah.

Psalm 15:1 O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

Isaiah 42:1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts *will be called* the Holy Mountain.'

Matthew 3:16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Matthew 16:15-18 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Matthew 16:21-28 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. ²⁸ "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Matthew 17:1-9 Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. ² And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard *this*, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. ⁷ And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." ⁸ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

Matthew 17:22-23 And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; ²³ and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 24:29-31 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. ³¹ "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 25:31-32 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

Mark 9:1 And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

Luke 2:20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Luke 7:22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

Luke 9:30-31 And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; ²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 22:13-15 came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. ¹⁴ "And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. ¹⁵ 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

Acts 24:24-25 But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him *speak* about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

Romans 1:1-5 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

1 Timothy 1:4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.

2 Timothy 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

1 John 1:1-3, 5 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— ² and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."