

# I Peter 1: 15-18

## The Trustworthiness of the Apostle's Witness





## II Peter 1: 15-18

**15** And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. **16** For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— **18** and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.



## II Peter 1:15-18

### A Brief look at the Overall Theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter:

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Theme of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter:

***God's righteous government of His children, founded on His grace, which He called unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus***

Theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter: **The Divine Retribution to Come.....**

The published plan God reveals in the epistle:

**The Righteous judgment about to fall on:**

- a) **False Teachers** and their doctrinal corruption- presenting old heresies as new again [Chap 2]
- b) **Skeptics (mockers)** who rest on the stability of the world to mock Christ's coming again and bringing judgment [Chap 3]

**With the Final Result:**

The doom of all the ungodly in the end, even leading to the literal dissolution [melting] of all things [the Heavens and the Earth] [Chap 4]



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### A Brief look at the Overall Theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter:

Peter is not the only Apostle sounding 'The Warning Bell' about what he sees as the germ of False Teaching and apostasy on the horizon:

- Paul sees it:

**'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths' II Tim 4:3,4**

- So does John:

**'Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.' 1 Jn 2:18,19. (and III John's Diotrephes "doxing": "I will call attention to the deeds which he does unjustly....")**

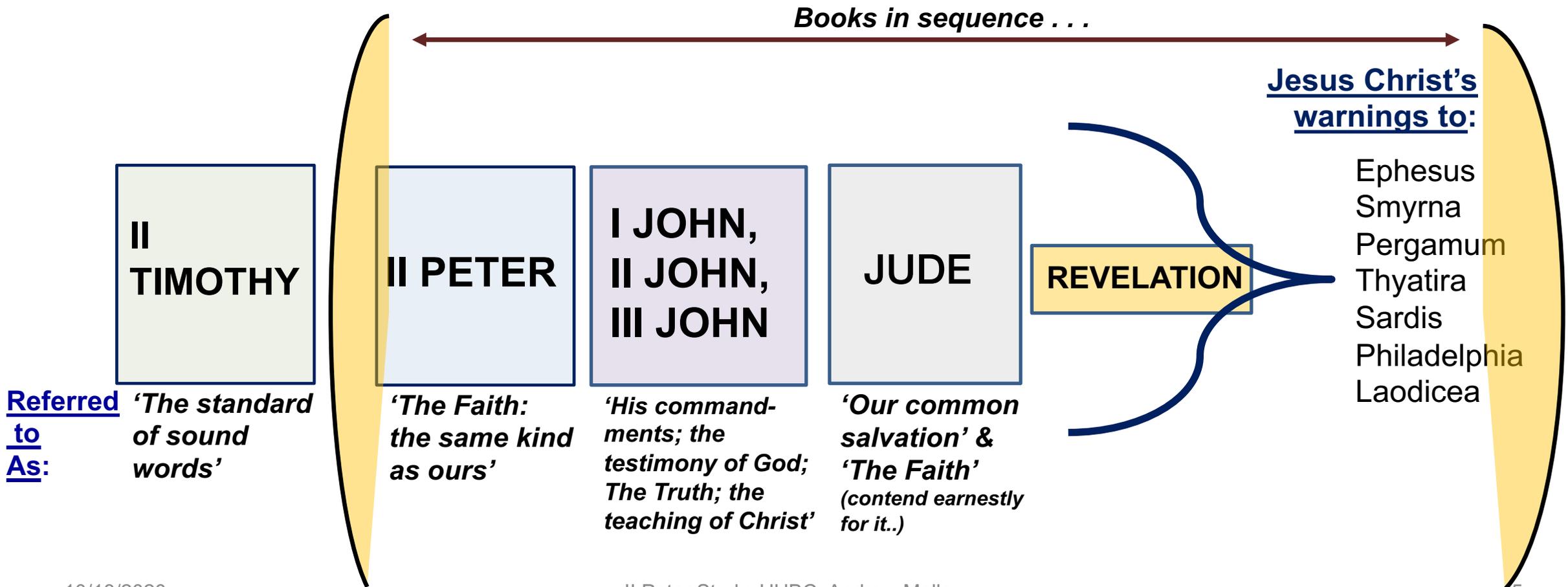
- So does Jude:

**'Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.' Jude v. 3,4**



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THE 'FINAL WARNING BELL' BOOKS ADDRESSING FALSE DOCTRINES- the FALLING AWAY FROM THE WRITTEN, INSPIRED SCRIPTURES:





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### Verse 15:

- Peter goes back to verse 3 and 4's '*granting to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence... & His precious and magnificent promises*'... Saying he's going to do his best to ensure they remember these things.
- His death is near- and he knows it by revelation from the Lord (John 21:18-19)
- Why do they forget? Bob talked about this last week . . .
- His 'departure': the Greek word: **exodos**
- His second epistle serves as his 'Last Will and Testament' to these believers.
- Note Paul's language in II Timothy very much resembles a Last Will and Testament:

***'For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith'- II TIM 4:6-7***



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### Verse 16:

#### PETER ARGUES HIS CASE:

- 'follow': the Greek is to 'follow out to a conclusion' or to 'pursue a line of thought to its termination'
- Cleverly devised: is *sophizō*; a term that can be used in a good sense, "to make wise, teach" or alternatively in a bad sense: "to invent, to play the sophist, to cunningly devise"
- In English: sophistry is to employ fallacious arguments
- In heathen mythology there was a narrative of gods descending to the earth and putting on a luminous display— . . . False teachers could accuse Peter of simply repeating this mythology with a "Christ spin" to this fable
- Peter is saying: the transfiguration event we witnessed is the basis for the certainty/hope of the **future personal presence of Jesus Christ in power and glory on planet Earth**. In Greek: '*Parousia*' = Christ 'being alongside'— The Transfiguration was the guarantee of it; the receipt of it.



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### Verse 17 and 18:

#### ***THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST: A TRULY MOMENTOUS EVENT IN CHRIST’S EARTHLY MINISTRY***

#### **MAT. 17: 1-8**

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; ***and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*** 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.” 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!”*** When the disciples heard *this*, they fell Face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.



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#### **REASONS THAT PETER INCLUDES THIS EVENT IN HIS 2<sup>ND</sup> EPISTLE:**

- Provides the readers proof positive that this is Simon Peter writing the letter (and proof to scholarly doubters in ages to come that this letter is his)
- Provides direct testimony from God Himself that Peter is has all apostolic authority, and that what he has written in I Peter and the previous verses in II Peter are words of inspired scripture. God chose him to witness Christ’s glorious transformation.
- Contrasts Peter’s inspired scripture with the writings of others to follow him, casting doubt on his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, the fact that Jesus Christ, as God in the flesh, was born a human birth and lived a human life and His literal death. This is what Peter will be combatting in Chapters 2 and 3 to follow.
- And that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son, begotten of the Father, and this event was to ratify that fact.



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#### **Why did Moses and Elias (Elijah) appear with Christ?:**

- **MOSES:** represents the Law, the pre-figurement of the sacrifice of Christ
- **ELIJAH:** represents the highest order of the Prophets and the prophetic word concerning Christ’s life and future sacrifice
- **TOGETHER:** sum them together and you have The Law + The Prophets = **scripture!** Again, Peter is establishing that he is presenting the Word of God and not some cleverly devised tales.
- **TOGETHER:** Moses and Elijah represent all of Israel:



The presence of Moses and Elijah show that the material for this display was all bound up with the nation of Israel that had refused Him and was about to crucify Him; their blindness and enmity would not rob Him of His glory. Here is an anticipation of the glory of the kingdom that will yet fill heaven and earth. It is a scene of holy splendour based upon redemption in which both heaven and earth unite in His praise. The two heavenly visitors had been pillars in the nation which had been the scene of God's operations. **JAMES MCBROOM**



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- Majestic Glory: is God Himself, only in this verse is He referred to this way, in greek: the ‘**greatest magnificence**’
- ‘***and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light***’ - best word I’ve found in studying this glorious display of Christ is:
- ***Effulgence***: a shining forth from a luminous body; ‘brightness taken to the extreme’ (you may be dazzled by it, or stunned by it, even overcome by it). Usually applied to the sun or a mega-star.
- Hebrews 1:3 employs the Greek equivalent of ‘effulgence’ as: ‘***And He is the radiance (apau-gasma) of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...***’
- Other manifestations of Christ’s effulgence:

*Christ appearing w/ the Father to Stephen, Acts 7*

*Christ appearing to Saul on road to Damascus, Acts 7*

*Christ to John, Rev. 1 ‘His face was like the sun shining in its strength..’*



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#### **THE LIGHT OF CHRIST & THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (A PRE-DISPLAY OF THE COMING MILLENNIAL KINGDOM):**

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. JN 1:4-10

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. I JN 1:5

The people who walk in darkness  
Will see a great light;  
Those who live in a dark land,  
The light will shine on them. Is 9:1



You shall multiply the nation,  
You shall increase their gladness;  
They will be glad in Your presence  
As with the gladness of harvest,  
As men rejoice when they divide  
the spoil. Is 9:2



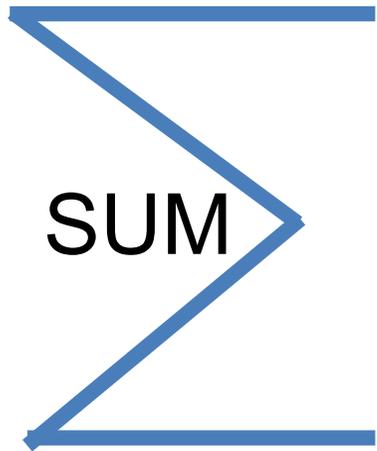
For a child will be born to us, a son will be  
given to us; And the government will rest on  
His shoulders; And His name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Is 9:6

# II Peter 1:15-18

HHBC



*Final Deep Thoughts:*



Christ's Essence; Eternal Attributes:

**Holiness; Righteousness;  
Sovereignty; Love (grace;  
mercy); Immutability;  
Spirit; Omnipotence;  
Omnipresent; Omniscient**



“I AM” the:

**Light**

*... of men; that shines in the  
darkness; True Light; ...shining in  
the darkness; ... of the world*