

PROPHECY

2 Peter 1:18-21 ... “And we [the Apostles] heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with him [Christ] on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place...knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Prophecy is something that confuses many believers. Over the years, controversies have emerged due to confusion or misunderstanding about prophecy in the church. First of all, prophecy is not about fortune-telling or the predictions of men about the future. This probably constitutes the number one issue that confuses and frustrates believers and compels some to ignore the prophecies found in the Bible. So, the first point of today's lesson is found in verses 18 and 19, wherein Peter tells us that the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus coming to earth and dying for our sins, were proven to them when they heard the actual voice of God tell them from heaven, “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.” Peter is saying, we went with Jesus to the mountain and God himself told us these things, so you should listen carefully to us because we are eyewitnesses.

The second part of today's passage (verses 20 and 21) tells us that authentic prophecy given to us by God cannot be interpreted by man, because man did not issue it. We know that man has often misinterpreted God's messages, and that men have often claimed to have new prophecies from God to suit their own purposes. But when God speaks (or speaks through a prophet), we can know that it comes from God directly and is not subject to confusion or misunderstanding. The Holy Spirit will confirm that to us. Plus, the prophecies of God are not predictions, but a trusted road map of certain things to come. And when someone claims to have a new prophecy from God, it can quickly be proven false if it cannot be confirmed in the Bible.

In the days before Christ came to earth, men had only priests and prophets through whom they could learn about God and hear from him. When Christ came, the truth of God's kingdom was spoken to many men directly wherever Christ taught. After Christ returned to heaven, he sent his Holy Spirit to dwell in the soul of every believer to hear from God directly and personally. If someone in your church claims to have a prophecy from God, the Holy Spirit will confirm that to you, plus the prophecy will not violate God's own Word in scripture. If there is no confirmation, or what the person says conflicts with the Bible, the claim is false.

Copyright © 2019 Datu Wali Mission Foundation