

The Threefold Witness to Jesus Transfigured

2 Peter 1:12-21

October 27th, 2024

I. Introduction

The Gospel has gone forth. Christ has come. And the promise of His _____ is what we confess together with the Church down through the ages, as in the Nicene Creed: “He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.” Peter’s audience believed this. We believe this. But some cast doubt upon it. How does Peter equip us to stand against such false men who deny the promises? The main issue in view in our passage and in this letter as a whole concerns the return of Christ and the final judgment. And Peter gives us ample grounds for our confidence. Peter binds up our confidence with a threefold cord. As the biblical principle stands: “a matter shall be established by two or three witnesses,” and so Peter furnishes us with _____ witnesses that establish the matter of Christ’s coming in power. These three witnesses are connected to the event of the _____.

II. The Text — 2 Peter 1:12-21

... 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

III. Transfiguration (cf. Matt. 17:1-9)

According to Peter, the Transfiguration was an _____. On the Holy Mountain, when the Lord took the three disciples up with Him, when His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light—this was the Father bearing witness to Jesus, that He is the eschatological Ruler of all things. He is the King of kings. As the Father’s voice thundered: “This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased—listen to Him!” This was the Father’s heavenly revelation of the coming eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It was an early preview of Rev. 11:15, the blowing of the seventh trumpet: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

IV. The Apostolic Witness

The Father bore witness to Jesus, and the _____ themselves were witnesses. They saw this in-breaking of the end of the age. They saw Jesus clothed in majesty. They were witnesses to the eschatological Majesty of Jesus—the same Majesty that He shall appear clothed in when He returns again. But the apostles not only saw this, they also heard the Father’s testimony. They heard the Father’s voice booming from heaven.

These men were _____. They were not priests. They were not rulers. They were not trying to retain power or gain power. They were not literary folks. They were not writers. They

were fishermen. But Jesus chose them and commissioned them to be His witnesses. And that's exactly what the Apostles did. They bore witness to Jesus as the anointed one of God—and they sealed their testimony with their _____.

V. The Prophetic Word (vv. 19-21; cf. Psalms 2)

The Transfiguration confirms the prophetic word which was spoken by holy men of God as they were moved by _____. In other words, it is the Father's testimony about Christ in fulfillment with the word spoken by the Holy Spirit by the prophets. The Transfiguration fulfilled several prophecies of Scripture, but the main text that would have come to mind is Psalm 2.

1. This setting of the nations raging, the peoples plotting in vain was understood to be the clamor of Gentiles and Jews at Jesus' crucifixion. That's in Acts 4.
2. The language of sonship is at the very heart of this psalm. The Father did not speak new words at Jesus' transfiguration. But he spoke the words of Psalm 2, spoken however many years earlier by the Holy Spirit: "I will tell of the decree: the Lord has said to Me, You are my Son." Who is this Son? On the Mount of Transfiguration, the Father answers, "This Man, *Jesus*, is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The Father pronounced that Jesus is His Son, the apostles heard this, they saw it with their own eyes.
3. This Son holds office of King—King over all. This Son is to, "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

What, then, did Peter and the other apostles see and hear? Why was this Transfiguration so significant? This event communicated to them, loudly, clearly, and gloriously, that this Jesus is the Ruler, the Judge, the King whom God has set over all.

VI. Listen to Him

The word of God is like a lamp in the _____. The darkness has not overcome us, for we have the light of God's Word, and the Church as a lamp is the city set on a _____ that sheds the light of God's Word upon the rest of the world. And so the charge is twofold:

1. Walk by the _____ of God's Word. It is the authorized witness of Jesus Christ and all the promises of God. It is reliable. It illuminates our own dark hearts and minds. It renews us. It teaches us about our Lord and His ways. It tells us about what is to come, and how we ought to live in the meantime. So we must first and foremost walk by the light of God's word, heeding it and turning away from those who dismiss it.
2. Shine the light of God's Word. You do not light a candle and put it under a basket. You put it somewhere high so that the whole room is illuminated by it. That's what God has done with the Church. We have been given His Word, and now we proclaim His Word to a world of darkness. We are called to speak the truth to one another in love. We are called to encourage and exhort so long as it is called today. We are commanded to speak to our children about the Word of God. We are to call out to a world covered in darkness, that Jesus is Lord—Jesus is enthroned as God's King and He owns all things, rules over all things, and will return again to claim the entire domain of creation. Why? Because Jesus is the Son of God and He has been set as King over Mount Zion—_____ to Him.

VII. And as we come to the Table . . .