

## **2 Peter 1 (16-21) – The Bible is Believable**

Experience can lie to you and can deceive you. People think they are special to God because they avoided danger in some fantastic way, or they think that they are on the right path, that everything is going to work out fine, and that they are “going to heaven” or something like that because some supposed supernatural occurrence happened to them, but they take that as above and beyond the Bible in authority. They may even say they believe in Jesus or perhaps speak of some vague notion of God, but when discussing their faith what they talk about is in contradiction to the scriptures. They are placing their faith in that experience and not in God’s Word. Paul tells us plainly that no matter what supernatural things have been revealed to you, no matter how fantastic an experience you have had, if it is not in accordance with the gospel and biblical truth, they are not of God, not to be trusted and can be damning if your faith is in them not the true Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:8).

**Scripture is stronger than experience** — Think about all that Peter had experienced and what he is saying about the Word of God.

- He lived with Jesus for 3 years
- He saw Jesus perform miracles
- He saw Jesus transfigured into a glorious state, and Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-9)
- He heard God the Father’s audible voice
- Peter had performed miracles himself
- He had preached the Pentecost sermon, relating it all to scripture
- The Word is as sure as any of that, it is a confirmation of Christ (cf. Luke 16:22-31)
- We would be wise to get it down in us until Jesus rises up out of us

Now look at vs.20-21 – You can’t just say, “Well, men wrote it, therefore it must be flawed”, because if the claim of the Bible itself is true, God can get men to write what He wants them to. It is not self-refuting to claim that men wrote the very words of God and that it is inerrant. If that is your problem with the Bible, get rid of every book that you have because every single one you have was written by men. You can never trust anything else that you ever read in life.

Historical events aren’t observable, measurable and repeatable. You can’t use the scientific method to prove that Isaac Newton discovered gravity. So if you actually had a problem with the Bible because you can’t apply the scientific method, you have got a problem with history itself. If something is written, the only way you can question it is if you don’t have corroboration or there is internal inconsistency. We can’t find any internal inconsistency and we have got multiple corroboration. We have got three languages, Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. We have got three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe. We have over 40 authors most of whom never met one another because they wrote over a period of some 1600 hundred years.

So unless you have anything that would negate what we find in the Bible, you have to accept the fact, based on the evidentiary method, not the scientific method, that the Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eye witnesses during the lifetime of other eye witnesses. They report to us supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecy and claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin.

**Jesus and the OT** – Jesus said the OT was about Him (Luke 24:27 / John 5:39). He quotes from every section: the Pentateuch, the Wisdom Literature, the Poetry, the Prophets (both major and minor), and the Historical material. When dealing with the people of His day, whether it was with the disciples or religious rulers, Jesus constantly referred to the OT: (Matthew 12:3, 21:16 (citing Psalm 8:2), and 22:31). He confirmed many of the accounts in the OT, such as the

destruction of Sodom and the death of Lot's wife (Luke 17:29, 32), the murder of Abel by his brother Cain (Luke 11:51), the calling of Moses (Mark 12:26), the manna given in the wilderness (John 6:31-51), the judgment upon Tyre and Sidon (Matthew 11:21), and many others. Not only did Jesus confirm the historicity of these accounts, He also authenticated some of the passages that are most disputed today. Many modern scholars do not believe that Moses wrote the first five books of the OT, but Jesus did (see Matthew 19:8, 9; John 7:19; Mark 12:29-31). Some modern scholars also assume the existence of more than one writer of Isaiah, but Jesus believed in only one. In Luke 4:17-21, He cites Isaiah 61:1, 2 (the so-called second Isaiah) while in Matthew 15:7-9 He refers to the first part of Isaiah's work (Isaiah 6:9). The account of Daniel is rejected today by many, but the Lord Jesus believed him to be a prophet (Matthew 24:15). The account of Adam and Eve often is ridiculed today as legend, but Jesus believed the story to be true (Matthew 19:1-6). Likewise, the narrative of Noah and the great flood not only is authenticated by Jesus (Matthew 24:37), it also is used as an example of His second coming. The account of Jonah and the "whale" is used by Jesus as a sign of His resurrection (Matthew 12:39ff). Matthew 4:1-10 – The devil actually uses Scripture to tempt Jesus (Psalm 91:11-12), but Jesus quotes right back to him: (Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16, 6:13). Jesus believed in the OT.

Jesus and the New Testament – John 16:12-13 – Some talk as if only the words of Jesus are needed and the words of the Apostles are not necessary, as if the words of Jesus are somehow against the words given by the Holy Spirit to the other biblical writers. Jesus himself dismisses with this idea, Christ said that the Spirit would not only bring all the teachings of Jesus to their remembrance, but that He would also bring new truth and revelation to the Apostles upon His death. The epistles do not confuse the teachings of Christ, they magnify them. Paul declared that "we have the mind of Christ" in accordance with Jesus' own words (1 Corinthians 2:16). If we want to truly be "red letter Christians" then we ought to pay attention to what those red letters of Jesus have to say about the authority of the apostolic writings. Jesus believed in the NT.

It starts with Jesus. Those that don't know God place people first and believe that individual insight into our own selves is more important than God. They weigh their own wisdom in competition to what Jesus said. This leads to pluralism, in other words, choose your own path and it is okay, because the frame of reference is people centered instead of God centered. This is against the Biblical Christian faith, as revealed by Jesus Christ, who said that there was only one way to be justified before God, and that was through Him (John 14:6). Peter said that Jesus was the only way men might be saved (Acts 4:12). Paul told Timothy that there was only one mediator between God and man, that being Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

We either believe what Jesus said about Himself and the kingdom of God, and its exclusivity, or we have to invent some other way, which inevitably leads to pluralism (many paths), universalism (all people are saved), pantheism (all is God), or panentheism (everything has God in it). All these things are invalidated by the testimony of the Bible, which Jesus validated as the words of God. So, it is either Jesus or something else, you cannot have both, although many claim a Jesus that is not the Jesus of the Bible.

Jesus said He was God. This is why the Jewish leaders were trying to kill Him in the first place, because He was asserting that He was the Son of God. To the Jewish mind of the day it was clear that Jesus was saying He was equal with God (John 10:24-33). Jesus said to them that if they did not believe He was who He said He was that they would die in their sins, i.e., they were not going to heaven, but would be damned (John 8:24).

Jesus is real, and he really means what he says. Jesus believed the Bible, and so should you, if you want to believe in Jesus. Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).