



14 Oct 2024

## 2 Peter 1:19-21 – Precious Promises... You Can Rely On

### Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see.

Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. There are lots of things we rely on in life (the car, central heating, health, job, family, friendships etc). What are the things you rely on?
2. How does it feel to have something really reliable and how does it feel to be let down by something you were relying on?
3. Do you think of God and his word to you (the Bible) as "something completely reliable"?
4. Consider the metaphor used in v19 of the prophetic message (Old Testament) being:
  - a light in a dark place,
  - until the day dawns and
  - something we would "do well to pay attention to".

Discuss why that metaphor is such a good one. How does it help us think about the Bible and the function it should have in the life of a Christian?

5. Verse 19 speaks of the scriptures rather like a 'night light' – used in the dark, but only "until the day dawns". In this metaphor, what is 'the day' and 'the morning star' (see Revelation 22:12-16 if you're unsure)? How does that help us think about the purpose of the Bible in the meantime?
6. We often like to be independent of sources of authority. How does the story of the Old Testament show the danger of that? How should we respond to and feel about the authority of the final king the Old Testament is pointing us towards the need of?
7. Many in our culture don't believe in the reliability of the Bible, either by questioning its truth directly or by saying, "That's just your interpretation." How can we, as Christians, respond both confidently and humbly? How do vv20-21 help?
8. How does v21 affect how you think about the Bible and the place it has in your life?
9. In a world where we are often let down by authorities – whether governments, leaders, or institutions – how does the reliability of Scripture offer us a secure foundation?

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*Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."  
(Taken from 'Lead' by Paul Tripp, p42)*



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**Respond to God's word in prayer**

**Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met**

**Take some time to pray for each other**

### **Note on why we can consider the implications of 2 Peter 1:19-21 for the whole Bible, not just the Old Testament**

While Peter is referring particularly to the Old Testament in v19 ("the prophetic message"), it's in the context of giving similar assurances about the *apostolic* message (aka the New Testament) in vv16-18. It's clear from the rest of the letter that Peter considers the apostolic message as equally authoritative as the prophetic message:

- (i) in 1:12-21 he refers to them alongside each other,
- (ii) in 3:2 he speaks of them in the same breath and
- (iii) in 3:16 he describes Paul's letters as 'scripture'.

Therefore, the description given in 1:20-21 of how the OT scriptures were *from* God and directed *by* the Holy Spirit can be applied to the NT scriptures as well. This is consistent with the rest of the teaching of the NT about itself, including famous verses like 2 Timothy 3:16.