

1 Peter 1:16-27. We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Think About the Glory Days

- 1. Peter Reflected about a Day of Glory on the Mountain**
- 2. We Enjoy the Glory of God's Word among us**
- 3. We Share the light in this dark world.**

Sometimes it is just fun to reflect on the glory days. It is enjoyable to think back on your athletic accomplishments, or highpoints in your career, or your personal life. Those moments which are cemented in time help put a smile on your face and joy in your heart as you reflect on those memories. Ah yes, the glory days.

As Peter starts his second letter, here he reflects on one of those unforgettable moments of his life. Peter saw the glory of the Lord. He saw his Lord, his friend, as Jesus was transfigured before him. This was God's Son. This was the Christ of God just as Peter had confessed. And Peter got to see this in real time and in vibrant light.

We remember from the gospel reading that Peter wanted to stay. He wanted to bask in this moment even more. He thought this was so cool, so awesome, that they should just hang around a good long time; maybe set up a few tents and stay for at least a few days. But time could not stand still. The moment of glory would have to end. This magnificent event would have to be left so that it could become a refreshing memory; for Jesus would soon descend from the Mountain of Glory and willingly head to the cross. Glory would be replaced by shame and suffering. Shining rays of light from his face would be traded for bloody stripes on his back and wounds in his hands and feet.

Peter, James, and John would have to leave that mountain because Jesus would have to go to Jerusalem to accomplish his saving work for us all. Peter would have to

leave that moment in time because time marches on, but the experience of that event would never be taken from him. The significance, the beauty, the wonder, the power, the brilliance of that glorious event would never leave him. Especially after the Lord Jesus rose from the dead. This event would become even more significant in hindsight as this was an event that prepared the Lord Jesus for his death and reminded Peter and James and John that Jesus would suffer and die; not as a helpless victim but as our powerful God who was our willing substitute.

It is interesting to hear how Peter looks back and describes the event. He spends more time on the significance of the event than detailing the specifics of the events. There is no recollection of brilliant light from Jesus' face or any other descriptions or the time or the place. Peter only focuses on the fact that Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father. This was clear in his glorious transfiguration and the booming voice from heaven that announced God the Father's pleasure with his Son and the work that he was doing, ***"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."***

Peter was an eyewitness of this event. He was an eyewitness of the power and the greatness of Jesus who is our glorious God. He was, for the lack of a better word, an ear witness as well. He heard the voice from heaven. Peter saw it. He heard it. He was there. He couldn't make this up if he tried. This happened. Jesus was truly God who came to save us.

In recent days Hollywood movie makers have suddenly figured out that there is excellent source material in the Bible to make epic blockbuster movies. Several movies will be coming out this year, which depict accounts from the Bible. And while undoubtedly movie makers will take some, at times many, liberties in bringing the Scriptures to the silver screen, the Bible records historical truth. Some detractors will quickly jump at the opportunity to link the Bible with fictitious myths and other ancient legends that have also been made into movies. But the truth is and the truth will always be that God acted in history to save us. This is really true. These are not cleverly invented stories that were collected and bound in a book of legends for centuries. This book, the Bible, is not a work of fiction or a collection of myths that have now been adapted for film. This is God's Word of truth.

Yes, the story is a riveting true real life story. It is full of astounding visual effects and a compelling storyline. God set aside his glory and came to save us. Concealed in a womb for nine months, born and raised like any normal child, God's glory was hidden and revealed in the person of Jesus. But those who recorded the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, do record for us glimpses of his glory. Miracles, divine works of power and might, signs of his glorious nature, healing the sick with a touch of his hand, calming the storm, walking on water, raising the dead just by saying the word, these all display the amazing truth that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is true God. He gave us glorious flashes of his divine power, but he didn't just come for the sake of a good story. He came to provide us with good news. He lived, died, and rose again to forgive us. He rose from the dead, that most glorious miracle of all, he rose from the dead to assure us that we will share in his glory.

His story is the history of salvation. Jesus' primary purpose was not to entertain, but to save. He came to redeem us, to buy us back, to set us free from the slavery of sin and death and hell. He came to the world with that purpose; and that is why Jesus and his disciples, Elijah and Moses, did not simply sit and talk and reminisce on that mountain. But after Jesus was glorified and strengthened and his disciples encouraged they would descend the mountain and Jesus would willingly go to his death for us.

Peter saw it with his own eyes. He saw the glory of Christ revealed. Peter also heard the voice announce his approval. What a day! What a sight! But as Peter reflected on the Day of glory on that holy mountain he also realized that we weren't there; and so he encouraged readers not only to take his word for it, but he told his readers to look at the Scriptures; for these were glorious and majestic words of promise that pointed them to Christ. Sure Peter saw this glorious sight, but he was only one man. But God's Holy Word, the precious words of the prophets, reminded centuries upon centuries of people about God's promises which were all fulfilled in Jesus. Prophet after prophet, line after line of Holy Scripture pointed the people to the coming Savior. These words are fulfilled in Christ and these words are precious. These words were like a light that shines in a dark and miserable place.

The word that Peter uses here for darkness is not a description of absolute darkness, but it is more of a dark and dirty film that leaves things unclear, a murky miserable haze that hovers and covers and smothers. But the glorious word of God is the light that cuts through this heavy dusk and brings brilliant light. It is the sunshine that burns up the morning fog and brings clarity and peace.

What a description of the everyday glory that the Gospel brings! Dear friends we live in the glory days for we have the word of God. Is it not true that life and the troubles of life, the mundane issues, the everyday hassles, the bumps and burdens of life, the threat of temptation, the mess that sin makes, the sorrow of death, all of this; can hover and cover and smother us? But dear friends we have the good news of Jesus that makes all the difference in this world! We have the glory of God in his glorious word. And this word has created faith in our hearts, that brilliant light of the gospel cuts through the smog and the fog, the murky haze, and the dirty film of a life lived in this sinful world and that glorious word rescues us from the miserable darkness that life can be. We can reflect on this Word of Truth. We can run to this word of promise fulfilled in Jesus. We can study it and find refuge in it and there we have this glorious message that has the power to lift us up and chase away the shadows of life. This Word of God holds for us and gives to us the needed rest and

refreshment and reprieve, which sends us on our way into this world reinvigorated by the Glory of our God.

Ah yes, you live in the glory days for you have the Word of God. Men who saw these blessed events recorded them for us. Moses and the prophets, apostles and Evangelists not only gave us their eye witness accounts, but God spoke through them. The Holy Spirit gave them the very words to write. This is more than a collection of stories. This is more than a few eyewitness accounts. This is God's Word. This is a brilliant light in a dark world. The wonderful light of his word is proclaimed on Sunday morning in worship, the welcome beams of light warm and illumine each day in a daily devotion or Meditation reading, the beams of light in Bible class that reveal new applications to your daily life, what a blessed gift from God's hand! This word puts a smile on our face and joy in our hearts. And his word points us to the eternal day: life everlasting in heaven. For a day will come when Jesus will come again in all his glory and he will put an end to all the corruption and troubles and sorrows of sin; and a new day will dawn and Jesus Christ will usher us into the eternal bliss of heaven.

The annual Minnesota District WELS Church Leader's Workshop was held in Belle Plaine yesterday. Together we rejoiced that we have this precious Word of God, we have this wonderful gift of the divinely inspired Scriptures. But then we were challenged to consider what we are to do with that Word. How are we reaching out and taking this brilliant light to others and sharing this saving message with the world.

Remember at the mountain of transfiguration Jesus told Peter, James, and John, not to tell anyone about this magnificent event until he rose from the dead; that way the crowds would not try to prevent Jesus from dying. But our Lord went to his death for us and then he rose in accordance with the Scriptures. Jesus has risen. Now in this post-resurrection era, like Peter does here in his letter, we are to rejoice in this glorious message of Jesus and share it. We live in the glory days! We have the Word of God and so we gather around and we consider what our God has done for us. But coming here is much more than simply reminiscing about days gone by, but we are encouraged by the blessed truths of Scripture so that we can go out and live and share our faith. Let us do all we can to share this word because it is not just good entertainment, but this is the Word of God, which tells us the glorious message that God himself willingly set aside his majesty and glory for a time and lived and died and rose again to give us peace right now and heaven for all eternity. What a glorious message! It is light shining in our dark world. It reminds us that the day of eternal light will someday dawn and the Lord Jesus will come again in all his glory to bring us out of the dingy darkness of this world to the bright and beaming majesty of heaven. Let us be encouraged by the light that God's Word brings to our life, and let us share this light with others. Amen.