

2 Peter 1:16-21^v

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

^v About the Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

The author writes in response to anxieties about different teachings in the community and about the delay of the second coming. He appeals to the tradition of apostolic testimony, particularly to his experience as a witness to the transfiguration. The transfiguration manifests Christ in his power, confirming the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and pointing toward his return in glory.

Christian teaching is based upon real historical events, not mythic and timeless explanations of God's activity. Thus, the Church founds its beliefs upon the apostles' testimony and upon the Old Testament as interpreted, not individually, but within the community tradition. These beliefs will be confirmed when "the day" (v. 19) of the Lord dawns in the believer's own heart—the personal dimension of the cosmic last times—and in the climactic event of history.