

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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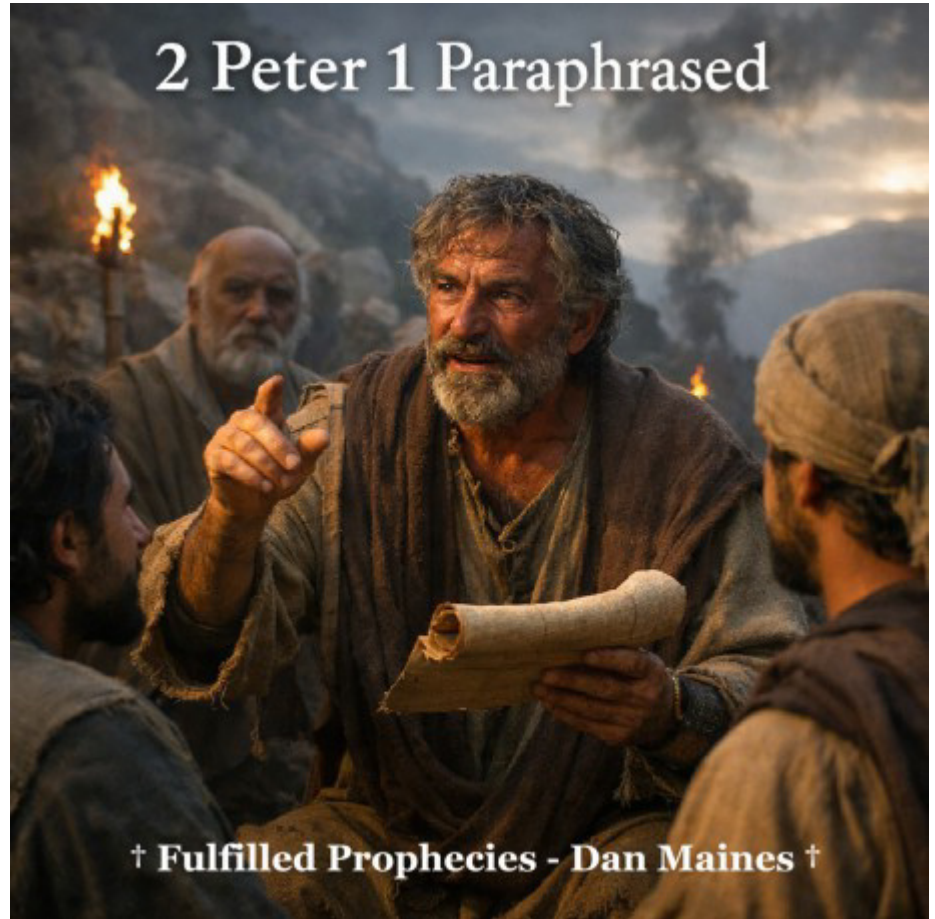
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## 2 Peter 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## 2 Peter 1 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Peter writes to believers who already received the same precious faith through Jesus Christ. He isn't introducing a new message, he's reminding them of what God already provided through Christ. The focus is on living faithfully in the knowledge of Christ as the old covenant age was reaching its end (Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 8:13).

† This chapter emphasizes spiritual growth, the certainty of apostolic testimony, and the reliability of prophecy. Peter anchors the believers in the truth they already received so they wouldn't be shaken by false teachers who were arising in that generation (2 Peter 2:1; Jude 3).

† The apostles consistently taught that believers already had everything necessary for life and godliness through Christ. The work of redemption was complete, and the new covenant promises were being realized among the first century church (Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 1:3).

## **2 Peter 1:1**

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, writing to those who have received the same precious faith as we have through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

† Peter identifies himself as both servant and apostle, showing humility and authority. The faith of the believers wasn't inferior to the apostles, it was the same faith given through Christ (Romans 10:12).

† The phrase our God and Savior Jesus Christ affirms the deity of Christ. Jesus wasn't merely a messenger, He was God revealed and the one through whom righteousness came (Titus 2:13).

† This shared faith united Jewish and Gentile believers together in the same covenant standing before God (Ephesians 2:14-16).

## **2 Peter 1:2**

May grace and peace increase among you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

† Grace and peace multiply through knowing Christ. The more believers understood the truth of the gospel, the more stability and confidence they had (John 17:3).

† Knowledge here isn't intellectual only, it's relational understanding of Christ's work and promises (Philippians 3:8).

† This knowledge strengthened believers as they approached the end of the old covenant age that Jesus had predicted (Luke 21:22).

## **2 Peter 1:3**

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through knowing Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

† Peter says everything needed was already given. Believers weren't waiting for future spiritual resources, they already had them through Christ (Colossians 2:10).

† Life and godliness describe the transformed life under the new covenant, empowered by Christ rather than the old law (Romans 8:2).

† The calling came from God's own glory and goodness, meaning salvation was rooted in God's character, not human effort (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## **2 Peter 1:4**

Through these He has given us very great and valuable promises so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that exists in the world because of sinful desire.

† The great promises refer to the new covenant blessings foretold by the prophets, fulfilled through Christ (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

† Sharing in the divine nature doesn't mean becoming God, it means participating in the new life and righteousness that comes through Christ (Romans 6:4).

† The corruption of the world refers to the sinful system that dominated the old covenant world which was passing away (1 John 2:17).

## **2 Peter 1:5**

For this reason make every effort to add to your faith moral excellence, to moral excellence knowledge.

† Faith wasn't meant to remain alone. Believers were called to grow in character and understanding (James 2:17).

† Moral excellence reflects Christ's character being formed in believers (Galatians 5:22-23).

† Knowledge refers to deeper understanding of God's truth, guarding believers from deception (Hosea 4:6).

## **2 Peter 1:6**

And to knowledge self control, to self control perseverance, and to perseverance godliness.

† Self control reflects mastery over sinful desires through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 9:25).

† Perseverance was essential for believers facing persecution in the first century (Hebrews 10:36).

† Godliness describes living in reverence toward God in daily life (1 Timothy 4:8).

## **2 Peter 1:7**

And to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

† Brotherly kindness reflects the unity of the early church as a spiritual family (Hebrews 13:1).

† Love is the highest expression of Christ's character in believers (John 13:34-35).

† These qualities demonstrated the reality of the new covenant community (1 John 3:14).

## **2 Peter 1:8**

If these qualities are yours and are growing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Spiritual growth leads to fruitfulness in Christ's kingdom (John 15:5).

† Being unfruitful would contradict the purpose of the gospel transformation (Matthew 7:20).

† The knowledge of Christ produces visible change in the believer's life (Colossians 1:10).

## **2 Peter 1:9**

But whoever lacks these qualities is blind and short sighted, forgetting that he was cleansed from his past sins.

† Spiritual blindness occurs when believers forget what Christ has already done (Hebrews 10:22).

† Forgetting cleansing means losing sight of the gospel foundation (1 Corinthians 6:11).

† Peter warns believers to remember their redemption continually.

## **2 Peter 1:10**

Therefore brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you'll never stumble.

† Confirming calling means living in a way that reflects the salvation already received (Philippians 2:12).

† Election refers to God's choice in Christ, demonstrated through faithful living (Ephesians 1:4).

† Spiritual stability comes from continuing in these virtues.

## **2 Peter 1:11**

In this way entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

† The eternal kingdom refers to the everlasting reign of Christ established through the new covenant (Hebrews 12:28).

† This kingdom was being revealed during the apostolic generation (Matthew 16:28).

† Faithful believers experienced full participation in that kingdom life.

## **2 Peter 1:12**

For this reason I will always remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

† Peter emphasizes repetition because truth must continually be reinforced (Philippians 3:1).

† The believers already knew these teachings, but reminders protected them from deception.

† Apostolic instruction anchored the church in the true gospel.

## **2 Peter 1:13**

I think it's right, as long as I'm in this body, to keep stirring you up by reminding you.

† Peter understood his responsibility to strengthen believers before his death.

† The phrase stirring you up means awakening spiritual alertness (2 Peter 3:1).

† Apostolic reminders helped believers remain grounded in truth.

## **2 Peter 1:14**

Because I know that the laying aside of my body will happen soon, just as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

† Peter refers to Jesus predicting his death (John 21:18-19).

† The laying aside of the body describes physical death.

† Peter expected his death soon, showing the urgency of his message.

## **2 Peter 1:15**

And I'll make every effort so that after my departure you'll always be able to remember these things.

† Peter wanted the teachings preserved after his death.

† This explains why apostolic writings were recorded and circulated.

† Scripture preserves the apostles' testimony for future generations.

## **2 Peter 1:16**

We didn't follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

† The apostles weren't repeating myths, they witnessed Christ firsthand (Luke 1:2).

† The coming refers to Christ's royal authority revealed in judgment and kingdom power (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Eyewitness testimony gave authority to the apostolic message.

## **2 Peter 1:17**

He received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory saying This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

† Peter refers to the transfiguration event (Matthew 17:5).

† The Father's voice confirmed Jesus as the Messiah.

† This moment revealed Christ's divine authority before witnesses.

## **2 Peter 1:18**

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

† Peter, James, and John witnessed the transfiguration directly.

† Their testimony confirmed the reality of Christ's glory.

† The apostles spoke from firsthand experience, not speculation.

## **2 Peter 1:19**

And we have the prophetic word made more certain, and you'd do well to pay attention to it like a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

† The prophetic scriptures pointed forward to Christ and were confirmed by His fulfillment (Luke 24:44).

† The lamp imagery shows scripture guiding believers through a dark world (Psalm 119:105).

† The rising morning star refers to Christ's revealed reign (Revelation 22:16).

## **2 Peter 1:20**

First of all understand this, no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

† Prophecy didn't originate from human imagination.

† God revealed His message through chosen prophets.

† Scripture carries divine authority because of its origin.

## **2 Peter 1:21**

Prophecy never came by human will, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

† The Holy Spirit guided the prophets in delivering God's message.

† Scripture therefore reflects God's truth, not human invention.

† This affirms the reliability of biblical prophecy.

## **Historical References**

† Clement of Rome (First Epistle to the Corinthians, 42) affirmed that the apostles preached with certainty because they were appointed witnesses of Christ.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.1.1) wrote that the apostles preserved the truth through their writings so the church would remain grounded in the faith.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.3) recorded that Peter's teachings were preserved in written form for the benefit of the churches.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Believers today grow spiritually the same way the early church did, by knowing Christ and living out the character He calls us to.

† The apostolic testimony remains our foundation because it preserves the eyewitness truth about Jesus.

† The fulfilled kingdom of Christ continues through His spiritual reign and the transformed lives of believers.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Did the apostles expect the kingdom in their lifetime?

**A:** Yes. Jesus said some standing with Him would see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom (Matthew 16:27-28).

**Q:** Why does Peter stress eyewitness testimony?

**A:** Because the gospel wasn't mythology but historical reality witnessed by the apostles (Luke 1:2).

**Q:** Why emphasize prophecy being from God?

**A:** To show that scripture carries divine authority and isn't based on human invention (2 Timothy 3:16).

**Q:** What does Peter mean by sharing in the divine nature?

**A:** It means believers participate in the new life and righteousness that comes through Christ, escaping the corruption of the sinful world. This transformation comes through the promises of God fulfilled in Christ (2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

**Q:** Why did Peter emphasize reminding believers of things they already knew?

**A:** Because spiritual truth must be continually reinforced so believers don't drift or forget the foundation of the gospel. Peter knew his death was near and wanted the church firmly grounded in the truth (2 Peter 1:12-15; Philippians 3:1; Hebrews

2:1).

**Q:** What is the prophetic word Peter says believers should pay attention to?

**A:** The prophetic scriptures that pointed to Christ and were being fulfilled in their generation. These prophecies acted like a lamp guiding believers until the full revelation of Christ's kingdom (2 Peter 1:19; Luke 24:44; Revelation 22:16).

**Q:** What does Peter mean by confirming your calling and election?

**A:** It means living faithfully in the qualities Peter listed, demonstrating the reality of the salvation believers already received. A transformed life confirms the work God has done (2 Peter 1:10; Ephesians 1:4; James 2:17).

**Q:** Why did Peter talk about the transfiguration in this chapter?

**A:** Because it proved the apostles personally witnessed Christ's glory and authority. Their message about Christ's coming kingdom wasn't speculation, it was based on direct experience (2 Peter 1:16-18; Matthew 17:1-5).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† 2 Peter 1; Matthew 16:27-28; Luke 24:44; Hebrews 12:28; John 21:18-19

† Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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