

# A Lamp Shining In the Darkness

*Promise: the Prophetic and Apostolic Word realizably leads us to salvation*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2:6-13; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9  
(The Transfiguration of Our Lord, 2/23/20)

*And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place... – v. 19*

**Lead In** – Belief in the supernatural and miraculous is essential and indispensable to Christianity. But that having been said, we can overrate the spectacular and easily miss the miracles that seem common and are thereby dismissed or taken for granted...

## I. Three Disciples Are Treated to the Spectacular

- A. Just three and for relative short duration...
- B. A glimpse of future glory as suffering lies ahead
- C. An audible voice speaks from the cloud...

## II. What Peter Later Said About the Experience

- A. No following of cleverly devised myths... tale, fiction
- B. Apostolic authorization is foundational...
- C. Something more sure than seemingly spectacular

## III. We Have All Been Given Word and Sacrament!

- A. Looking in all the wrong places for His voice...
- B. His voice is not to be sought in our hearts!
- C. On parchment, tongues, in water, in bread & wine

**Parting Shot** – A lamp is not as spectacular as the bright sunshine. But in the darkness of night which is our age, a lamp is far more helpful than occasional flashes of lightning! You might say it is **more sure!** And the lamp is not the flash of lightning on the Mount of Transfiguration. But it is the Word of God that comes to us in Scripture, in preaching, in Baptism, in Confession and Absolution, and in Holy Communion...

**Mat 17:1** And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

**Mat 17:5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

## 2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV

*Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup>we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Eph 2:20** [The church is] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

To Moses: Exodus 20:1; **Ex 33:11a** Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

To Elijah: **1 Ki 19:13** And when Elijah heard [the still small voice], he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him ...

**Lk 24:44-47** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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