

The Meaning of The More Sure Word of Prophecy

In the same discourse wherein the Apostle Peter told his brethren that they should make their calling and election sure, he also said:

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed . . . (2 Peter 1:19)

The Prophet Joseph Smith modified this scripture to read:

We have therefore a more sure knowledge of the word of prophecy, to which word of prophecy ye do well that ye take heed . . . (JSF 2 Peter 1:19)

Concerning this scripture, the Prophet Joseph explained:

Now, there is some grand secret here, and keys to unlock the subject. Notwithstanding the apostle exhorts them to add to their faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, etc., yet he exhorts them to make their calling and elections sure. And though they had heard an audible voice from heaven bearing testimony that Jesus was the Son of God, yet he says we have a more sure word of prophecy, where unto ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light shining in a dark place. Now, where in could they have a more sure word of prophecy than to hear the voice of God saying, This is my beloved Son.

Now for the secret and grand key [I though they might hear the voice of God and know that Jesus was the Son of God, this would be no evidence that their calling and election was made sure, that they had part with Christ, and were joint heirs with him. They then would want that more sure word of prophecy, that they were sealed in the heaven and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Then, having this promise sealed unto them, it was an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast. Though the thunders might roll and lightnings flash, and earthquakes bellow, and war gather thick round, yet this hope and knowledge would support the soul in every hour of trial, trouble and tribulation. Then knowledge through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the grand key that unlocks the glories and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven . . . (The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 298-299; History of the Church [H.C.] Vol. 5:387-390, May 14, 1843)

Although it was a most wonderful experience to see the Savior transfigured and to hear the voice of God, yet this "more sure word of prophecy" was something in addition that was of supreme significance. Concerning this same scriptural passage, Elder McConkie said:

We have also [now this is something in addition to standing on the mount and hearing the voice of God and seeing the Lord Jesus transfigured before them] -- we have also a more sure word of prophecy; [and it is this more sure word that is the great thing; it is greater than the great spiritual experience they had with Christ and God on the mount.] (2 Peter 1:19, BYU Speech, p. 3)

Joseph Smith explained that this was one of the important keys which we must have, to know that "it is one thing to be on the mount and hear the excellent voice, etc., and another to hear the voice declare to you, You have a part and lot in the kingdom" (Teachings, pp. 305-306)

By way of definition, the Prophet Joseph Smith clearly defined what the Apostle Peter meant concerning the more sure word of prophecy:

The more sure word of prophecy [mentioned by Peter] means a man's knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood (History, 5:392, May 16-17, 1843; Doctrine and Covenants 131:5. See the 1914 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants wherein the comment in brackets is found)

According to the Prophet Joseph, a person would be able to make his calling and election sure BY OBTAINING this more sure word of prophecy

Then I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election sure for yourselves, by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy, and wait patiently for the promise until you obtain it. (*Teachings*, p. 299)

This concept was also explained by Elder Marion G. Romney as he spoke to the saints in the October, 1965 General Conference

I know it is possible for men to so live that they may hear his voice and know his words and that to receive the Holy Spirit of promise while here in mortality is possible. And so, in the words of the Prophet Joseph, "I exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until [by the more sure word of prophecy] you make your calling and election sure for yourselves." (*History*, 5:389; *The Improvement Era*, 68 [December 1965], p. 1116, comment in brackets inserted by Elder Romney)

Thus, the more sure word of prophecy means, that by personal revelation an individual has heard the voice of God declare to him that he is sealed up unto eternal life. Thus we learn that "any man who obeys the law entitling him to receive revelation shall see and hear and know for himself. Revelation for the guidance of the individual, revelation which says to a man and a woman, son, daughter, thou shalt be exalted, thou shalt have part and lot in my kingdom; this revelation comes to them as individuals, alone and apart from all others" (McConkie, October General Conference, *The Improvement Era*, 72 [December 1969], p. 85). *See D&C 132:19 The Spirit of Prophecy*

I should think that all faithful Latter-day Saints "would want that more sure word of prophecy, that they were sealed in the heavens and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God," said President Marion G. Romney to the priesthood brethren in April, 1977 General Conference of the Church. "And I bear further witness that such person who having come this far, will follow the Prophet's admonition to 'continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God'" (*Teachings*, p. 150), may obtain the more sure word of prophecy. That the Lord will bless all of us priesthood bearers that we will so understand these great truths, that in the end we shall, by making our calling and election sure, enjoy the full light of Christ, I humbly pray. (*The Ensign*, May, 1977, p. 15)

Scriptural & Historical Examples of The More Sure Word of Prophecy

There are several scriptural and church historical examples of individuals who were sealed up to eternal life through personal revelation. President Marion G. Romney shared these examples as follows:

Lehi's grandson Enos so hungered after righteousness that he cried unto the Lord until "there came a voice unto [him] saying, 'Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed'" (Enos 5). Years later Enos revealed the nature of this promised blessing when he wrote