

Eyewitnesses to the Transfiguration (Feast, August 6th, Year A)

2 Peter 1:16-19—Eyewitnesses to the Transfiguration

1. Myths: Jesus’ “coming” not a “myth” (Greek *mythos*) (1:16)
2. Eyewitnesses: “eyewitnesses” of his “majesty” (1:16; cf. Mark 9:2-7)
3. Earwitnesses: “we heard the voice” of God (1:17-18)
4. Apostolic Authority: “We have the prophetic word (*prophētikos logos*)” (1:17)
5. Apostolic Preaching: comparable to “light” of Scripture (cf. Psa 119:105)
6. Scripture: “not a matter of one’s own interpretation (*idias epilyseōs*)” (1:20-21)

Living Tradition

Venerable Bede: “For we did not follow learned myths when we made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were made beholders of his greatness” (2 Pet 1:16). Here he strikes at pagans and heretics at the same time. The former have not been afraid to call gods whatever was pleasing to them, the latter, after having received the mysteries of the true God, from then on have been inclined not to pay attention to the divine scriptures but rather to alter these to their own erroneous meaning by interpreting them wrongly.” (Venerable Bede, *On 2 Peter*; trans. David Hurst)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Feast, August 6th, Year ABC)

1. Why does Peter draw a contrast between “myths” and their apostolic “witness” to the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain?

For Further Reading

1. Keating, Daniel. *First and Second Peter, Jude*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
2. Bede the Venerable. *Commentary on the Seven Catholic Epistles*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1985.
3. Bray, Gerald. *James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. New Testament XI. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000.