

“PRIVATE INTERPRETATION”

(II Pet. 1:20)

This passage has been a “**refuge**” for men who do not want to accept the truth of God’s Word! When something is presented they are determined to say, “*That is just your interpretation!*” Through the years when I have presented certain material, concerning the Church Jesus built, and feel successful, only to hear someone say, “*That is just your interpretation*” – this passage is used. When speaking of the need of being baptized “**unto**” the remission of sins, again we hear, “*That is just your interpretation.*” So, this passage is used many times to show it is only an interpretation that you have. Is this what is being taught in II Pet. 1:20?

In the context, there is a discussion about Peter causing the brethren, to whom he is writing, to **remember** the things spoken to them, v. 12. Peter shows the urgency of doing this while he is still alive, v. 13. Then he is causing those of future generations to remember by his committing the material to written form – a letter. What was received is what he presented, v. 17. Then the idea of “***lamp in a dark place,***” v. 19; “***until the day dawn,***” v. 19; and “***the day star arise in your hearts,***” v. 19. In the middle of this he makes the following statement: “*20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation,*” II Pet. 1:20. Up to this point he is talking about the word of God, that was **delivered**, and that they need to remember the word **delivered**.

The verse **after** II Pet. 1:20 is an explanation of v..20, “*21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit,*” II Pet. 1:21. This passage is discussing the **REVELATION** of God’s word and not the **INTERPRETATION** of his word! All of this simply means: man did not have a part in **when** the word would be delivered; but, God **only** determined the **time** and **place** when the word would be delivered.

Instead of II pet. 1:20 talking about the “meaning of revelation,” it is discussing the “**revelation of God’s word.**” God was the one who determined **when** and **where** his revelation would be made known, when it would be delivered. So the passage: “*21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit,*” II Pet. 1:21; is an explanation of the **revelation** of the word of God.

Earlier Peter had spoken concerning “**darkness,**” “**day dawn,**” and the “**day star arising in your hearts.**” A little delivered here and a little delivered there, and soon the whole revelation was made known – this is what is being discussed in this passage. II Pet.1:20, is not an interpretation of the word of God.

It is amazing to me, how, so many can get confused on what the Bible is teaching in certain passages. With a little study and a little thinking concerning what is said, it is made quite clear. So, Jesus said, “*He that willeth to know my will shall know it,*” In our study of the Word of God we need to be patient and give ourselves time for meditation – **the Word of God is its own best interpreter**. Somewhere, in the text, the context, or in the extended text, one will find the answer to a problem he may have in learning the meaning of certain passages, don’t give up.

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