

2. God's Word

The clear and unmistakable teaching of the New Testament is that God has spoken through His son in Heb 1:1:

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

God Has Spoken to Us by His Son

God himself has declared that he speaks through His son in Matt 3:13-17:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

God repeated His endorsement of the inherent glory and power of the very Son of God and added that we are to hear him. In Matt 17:1-5, Matthew reported this second incident of God's approving His son:

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Peter revisited this scene in 2 Peter 1:16-18

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Inspiration guided Peter to follow the passage with a statement of the source and certainty of the scriptures in verses 19-21:

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along

by the Holy Spirit.

God's Word and Interpretation belong to God

This passage and others make certain that God's word *and* its interpretation belong to God. In the Old Testament, Joseph and Daniel teach that God reveals and God interprets. Gen 40:8 records:

8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

Dan 2:45 teaches that God knows and interprets:

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

The point of these scriptures is that all scriptures come from God and the interpretations come from God. Men are not free to say apart from scripture what scripture means. Men may not presume to know the mind of God.

How does this work with the modern age dominionists? Their doctrine begins in Gen 1:28:

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. KJV

Man had dominion, which he lost in the fall. They contend that dominion was returned in Matt 28:18-20:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Their mission now is to attain that physical dominion over the entire world, at which time the Lord will return to establish his earthly kingdom and to reign from Zion. They turn to Isa 2:2 and give *the mountains* an arbitrary and unfounded interpretation:

2 In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

The meaning of *mountains* to dominionists is their seven mountains of (1) Business; (2) Government; (3) Media; (4) Arts and Entertainment; (5) Education; (6) Family; and (7) Religion.

All millennialists – pre, post, and transmillennial – also look to Joel 2:1-2 as the beginning of the earthly kingdom:

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,

for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is close at hand –
 2 a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was of old
nor ever will be in ages to come.

Yet Joel 2:28-32 ends the prophecy

28 'And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
29 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
30 I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
31 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
32 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the Lord has said,
among the survivors
whom the Lord calls.

In Acts 2 Peter quotes Joel; and the day of Pentecost is day about which Peter was talking in Acts 2:14-16:

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen
carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in
the morning! 16 No, **this is what** was spoken by the prophet Joel:

In reality God has interpreted Zion very differently from the millenials in 1 Peter 2:6 where Peter quotes from Isa 28:16

6 For in Scripture it says:
 "See, I lay a stone in Zion,
 a chosen and precious cornerstone,
 and the one who trusts in him

will never be put to shame."

It is clear that the resurrected Christ was the stone God lay in Zion. Mount Zion is a figure for the church. We have already come to Mount Zion, as Heb 12:22-24 declares:

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

According to God's interpretation, he accomplished all this with the resurrection of Christ. Eph 1:19-23 teaches:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

We must understand that God authors scripture, and God gives the interpretation of that scripture. We are not free to author or interpret scripture.

The Word of the Lord Remains Unchanging

Since God's word is unchanging, coming from him, and interpreted by him any words or interpretation coming from men that contradict that word of God is false. The tests are easy to apply. Does what men say agree with what God said? Does that interpretation by men agree with the interpretation that God gave?

These tests will always be true, for the word of the Lord stands forever. 1 Peter 1:24-25 teaches:

24 For,
"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
25 but the word of the Lord stands forever."

God's word will never pass away. Jesus taught in Luke 21:33: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

If God does not give a scripture, it is not for us to know! If God does not give an interpretation, it is not for us to know! Daniel faced the problem of not having an interpretation in Dan 12:8-10:

8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"

9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because **the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.** 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.