

# IS CHRISTIANITY JUST ANOTHER FAIRYTALE?

2 PETER 1:16-21

Whether we enjoy getting lost in a miraculous story or watching the reaction of our kids as the impossible occurs, we all enjoy a well-crafted fairytale. The possibility of the fantastical captures the imagination and paves a way of escape from the “real world.” In fact, immersing ourselves in the fantastical is often preferred to dealing with the harsh reality of life. So, we dive into Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, or Game of Thrones.

The flip side of this cultural coin is the requirement for everything “real” to have a natural explanation. If fairytales contain the unbelievable, then reality ought to have natural, provable, repeatable evidence as its backbone. So, we build our house on the bedrock of science to create stability and predictability.

This two-tiered story brings into question the stories so often heard in the Bible. Are they simply another fairytale to help us deal with the harsh reality of life? How do we understand the miraculous events we encounter in the biblical text?

Peter’s answer is centred on the person of Christ and his historical ministry. Peter does not appeal to a spiritual reality but a physical one, which should inform our interaction with the stories of scripture.

## MEMORY VERSE

### **2 Peter 1:16**

*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.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL READING

- |                          |           |                               |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MONDAY    | <b>Acts 1:14-41</b>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TUESDAY   | <b>Luke 1:1-4</b>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WEDNESDAY | <b>Galatians 1:11-24</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | THURSDAY  | <b>2 Peter 1:16-21</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FRIDAY    | <b>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SATURDAY  | <b>1 Corinthians 15:12-19</b> |

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

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[illegible]

## POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

### **Understanding the Text**

1. What does Peter emphasize about the story of Jesus in verse 16?
2. Peter declares that they were eyewitnesses to his majesty, but doubles down on their certainty by being eye witnesses to what?
3. What is Peter's conviction from this experience? (vs. 20)
4. How does Peter expand the reality of revelation from God? (vs. 21)

### **Applying the Text**

1. Why is the historical person of Jesus so important to the message of Christianity?
2. Why is it important that there were eyewitnesses to all that Jesus taught and accomplished?
3. How does the historical reality of Christ affirm the rest of the biblical text?
4. If Jesus is true, and he actually walked this earth and did what the Bible says, how will we need to change our understanding of reality?
5. Where does the evidence for a historical Jesus fall short of proving Christ? How does this challenge our faith?
6. How should the reality of Christ as a historical figure ground our evangelism?