

Element #5 -- The truths of Scripture are more certain than the observations of empirical experience; or empirical experiences that confirm the prophetic truths of Scripture give them greater subjective certitude.

This element is found in II Peter 1:16-19, where we read: For we are not depending upon pseudo-intellectual myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but became eyewitnesses of that one's majesty. For (He) was receiving from God the Father honor and glory, such a voice being borne to Him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." And we heard this voice borne from heaven when we were with Him in the holy mountain. And we have more certain the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay close attention, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

The phrase, "the power and coming of our lord Jesus Christ" is this reference appears to refer to Christ's first coming; and to that specific event in our Lord's earthly ministry when He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. Peter says that they did not build their accounts of Jesus on sophisticated myths, but saw His majesty and heard the voice of God giving Jesus honor and glory. And yet the prophetic word is more certain, more firm, better established, more sure than even these observations based on empirical experience. Sense experience may deceive, but the prophetic word will not; sense experience is of a private nature, but the prophetic word is open, publicly available to Peter's readers; sense experience is in this case unique and irrepeatable, but the prophetic word records for all time this wonderful self-revelation of deity. To this prophetic word, Peter says, they should pay close attention.

Or it is possible that Peter is saying that empirical experiences that confirm the prophetic truths of Scripture give those truths greater subjective certitude (assurance). Under this interpretation Peter was saying that the experience that he and James and John had on the Mount of Transfiguration gave them greater subjective assurance that Jesus was indeed the predicted Messiah of Old Testament prophecy.

Putting together those elements included in the act of Inspiration and those elements resulting from the act of Inspiration, we are strongly pushed in the direction of the organic mode of Inspiration. The organic mode holds that Inspiration is infallible supernatural guidance of the human faculties of chosen human beings; and is the only one of the five basic modes that accounts for all of the data.