

## 1 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>20</sup> He was known before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him; and so your faith and hope are in God.

Berean Study Bible

<sup>20</sup> Indeed, He was foreknown before the foundation of the universe,  
but was brought to light in the last times for your sake.

<sup>21</sup> Through Him, you are faithful to God,  
who raised Him out from the dead and gave Him glory;  
and so, your faith and expectation are in God.

My own translation

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1

### Time's up. 1 Peter 1:20-21

Before time. 20a "before the foundation"

Into time. 20b "was revealed"

At this time. 21a "glorified Him"

Beyond time. 21b "faith and hope are in God"

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2

### I love it when a plan comes together. 1 Peter 1:20-21

Colonel Hannibal Smith, the A Team (TV series and movie)

God had a plan before He made space. 20a "before the foundation of the world"

God had a plan revealed in time. 20b "revealed in the last times"

God had a plan bigger than space and time. 21a "raised Him from the dead & glorified Him"

God had a plan beyond space and time. 21b "faith and hope are in God"

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3

### The clock is ticking. 1 Peter 1:20-21

Before time and space. 1:20

Prior to time. 20a "before the foundation of the cosmos"

This is the end of time. 20b "in the last times"

You are running out of time. 20b “for your sake”

Beyond time and space. 1:21

Time only exists in space. 21a “out from the dead”

Eternity exists for Jesus. 21b “gave Him glory”

Eternity waits for you. 20b, 21c “for your sake... and so your... are in God”

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4

### **You need a bigger God. 1 Peter 1:20-21**

God has very big plans for the universe. 1:20a “foreknown before the foundation”

The universe has been intelligently designed.

The universe has been deliberately created.

God has very big plans for you. 1:20b “for your sake”

God planned the universe with you in mind.

God revealed Jesus with you in mind.

God has very big plans for Jesus. 1:21b “raised Him... and gave Him glory”

Jesus is saviour. “raised Him out from the dead”

Jesus is Lord. “gave Him glory”

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## 5 – [women’s devotion](#)

### **It’s time to stop being a doormat. 1 Peter 1:20-21**

Key words “for your sake”

Jesus is here to dust you off. 1:20

Jesus created the universe with you in mind. “foreknown before the foundation...”

Jesus became the Saviour with you in mind. “brought to light in the last times”

Jesus is here to lift you up. 1:21

In Jesus, you are lifted up from negatives. “raised Him out from the dead”

In Jesus, you are lifted up to all positives. “gave Him glory”

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6

### **What on earth is God doing? 1 Peter 1:20-21**

God knew what He was doing before He did anything. 1:20a “foreknown”

God is all-sufficient within Himself.

God foreknew everything that would happen.

God knew what He was doing when He something. 1:20b-21a “brought to light”

God’s plan goes through death and resurrection.

God's plan includes glory now, and forever.

God knew what He was doing when He called you. 1:21b

God's plan is for you to trust Him today. "faith"

God's plan is for you to trust Him tomorrow. "expectation"

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### **You are more special than you realise. 1 Peter 1:20-21**

What God did for me. 1:20

In eternity, God planned for me to be saved. 18-19 "redeemed... before..."

In eternity, God planned for me to be sanctified. 20b "revealed... for you"

What I can do for God. 1:21

I trust in what God did. 21 "raised... glorified Him"

I trust in what God does. 21 "faith and hope are in God"

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8

### **The BIG picture. 1 Peter 1:20-21**

I have an important place in the universe. 1:18-20

My salvation was the first thing in the universe. 18-20a "redeemed... before..."

My salvation is the focal point of history. 20b "revealed in the last times"

I have an important task in the universe. 1:21

The saved give honour and glory to Jesus.

The saved have faith and hope in God.

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9

### **Everything exists for you! 1 Peter 1:20-21**

He is the Eternal, for you. 20a "foreknown before..."

He is the Creator, for you. 20a "foundation of the universe"

He is the Saviour, for you. 20b "brought to light"

He is the Mediator, for you. 21a "Through Him"

He is the Lord, for you. 21b "raised... glory"

He is the motivation of you. 21c "faith and expectation"

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### **Full circle. 1 Peter 1:20-21**

From the Eternal, for us. 1:20

Jesus is God's heart for you. 20a "He was foreknown... for your sake"

Jesus is the Creator for you. 20a "the foundation of the universe... for your sake"

Jesus is the Redeemer for you. 20b "brought to light... for your sake"

Jesus is the Lord for you. 20b "the last times for your sake"

From us, to the Eternal. 1:21

Jesus is the way to God. 21a "Through Him, you believe in God"

Jesus is the life beyond death. 21b "raised Him out from the dead"

Jesus is the Lord of Glory. 21b "and gave Him glory"

Jesus is the abundant life. 21c "your faith and expectation are in God"

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### **Other possible titles**

Before the beginning began.

Back, before the beginning.

History – His story, beginning, middle, and end.

Key events in the history of the universe.

What could be bigger than the Big Bang?

You can build on this foundation.

Yes, we are living in the end times. What will you do about it?

This crazy world history has a purpose.

Beyond space and time.

A brief history of the world (without the boring bits).

Why does anything exist?

Walking the time-line tight-rope.

Am I important to God?

See everything from a better perspective.

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### **Music and songs**

Songs about Creation

All creatures of our God and King.

All things bright and beautiful.

Creation sings the Father's song (Getty)

For the beauty of the earth.

O Lord my God... How great Thou art. H

You are worthy, 213

You're the Word of God the Father... Across the lands. Ot 29

Why should I feel discouraged... His eye is on the sparrow.

Songs about the foundation of the world

Lord of all creation... God of wonders. Ot 7

The earth is the Lord's.

Songs about the Incarnation initiating the last times

End of the beginning

Songs about 'for your sake'

Greatly blessed, highly favoured

Songs about Jesus' resurrection

Because He lives. MP 52

Christ is risen.

Songs about the glory of Jesus

Above all. TS 611

All hail King Jesus. 237 / SiS 219

Before the throne, TS 6

Jesus Christ, in very nature God... God exalted Him to the highest place. Ot 20

Our God is an awesome God, Ot 50

Songs about faith

Believer indeed.

By faith we see the hand of God. (Getty)

I walk by faith. Ot 32

My faith has found a resting place. H 669

O Lord You lead me... Have faith in God. (Bullock)

Passin' the faith along. (Gaither)

There's an ember... Set my faith on fire. (Brueske)

We who shunned... Now by faith. (Chiswell)

We're pilgrims on the journey... may all who come behind us find us faithful. (Mohr)

Songs about hope

My hope is built on nothing less. H 717, Ot 26

Soft as the voice of an angel... Whispering hope. CWH 21

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## Greek word studies

Foreknown, 20a

προγινώσκω [Strong's 4267] a combination of πρό [Strong's 4253] meaning "before, in front of, earlier than"; and γινώσκω [Strong's 1097] meaning "to know, recognize, experience".

Therefore, προγινώσκω is "know beforehand, foreknow". This Greek word occurs 5 times in the New Testament. Acts 26:5, Romans 8:29, Romans 11:2, 1 Peter 1:20, 2 Peter 3:17.

#### Foundation, 20a

καταβολή [Strong's 2602] another combination word from κατά [Strong's 2596] usually "according to", properly, "down from, from a higher to a lower plane, with special reference to the terminus or end-point" (J. Thayer); and βάλλω [Strong's 906] "cast, throw, place, put, drop." Therefore, Καταβολή is "a foundation, deliberately laid according to a blueprint; a designer's plan, upon which the entire super-structure is purposefully built."

#### World, 20a

κόσμος [Strong's 2889] literally, "something ordered" or an "ordered system" such as the universe, all of creation. It can also mean worldly affairs, or the inhabitants of the world. It can also mean "adornment, fashion".

A common noun occurring 186 times in the New Testament, most frequently in John's writings. In Peter's writings, 1 Peter 1:20, 3:3, 5:9, 2 Peter 1:4, 2:5, 2:5, 2:20, 3:6. This word is transliterated as cosmos, but is usually translated as world.

#### Revealed, 20b

φανερώ [Strong's 5319] meaning "to make visible, make clear, manifest, make known, make apparent, make plain". A verb occurring 49 times in the New Testament, but only twice by Peter. 1 Peter 1:20 and 1 Peter 5:4.

From φῶς [Strong's 5457] meaning "light, a source of light, illumination, radiance".

Hence φανερώ means "to bring into the light in order to be clearly displayed".

The active voice would be "to manifest", but the passive voice (as here in 1 Peter 1:20) is, "to be manifested". To be manifested is more than to "appear." A person may "appear" in a false guise or without a disclosure of what he truly is. To be manifested is to be revealed in one's true character. (Vine)

This life [of Christ] which is invisible was made visible to the human race through the humanity of our Lord. We put light which is invisible through a prism, break it up into its component parts, and it becomes visible. The beauty of the life that God is, broken up into its various parts such as love, grace, humility, kindness, etc., is seen through the prism of the human life of our Lord. (Wuest)

Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

#### Last 20b

ἔσχατος [Strong's 2078] "last, extreme, end, final." This word is the root of "eschatology" which is the study of last things, or end times. ἔσχατος is usually translated as last.

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. Hebrews 1:2

Hebrews 9:26

1 Corinthians 10:11

1 Peter 4:7

#### Times, 20b

χρόνος [Strong's 5550] meaning "time, a particular time, time in sequence".

χρόνος [Strong's 5550] is distinct from καιρός [Strong's 2540] meaning "season, opportunity, occasion". For example, "It is not for you to know times [χρόνος] or seasons [καιρός] that the Father has fixed by His own authority." (Acts 1:7)

for your sake. 20b

δι' ὑμᾶς [Strong's 1223] διά a preposition meaning "through, on account of, because of, by reason of, for the sake of, because of." Properly, across to the other side. Plus the second person plural pronoun.

Stupendous words! This sense of their place in God's plan, their privileged status, along with their sense of the impending end, should strengthen these believers in the face of their trials. (Davids)

Through Him, 21a

The words "through Him" appear in: Jn 1:3, Jn 1:7, Jn 1:10, Jn 3:17, Jn 14:6, Acts 2:22, Acts 3:16, Acts 7:25, Acts 10:43, Acts 13:38, 39, Ro 5:9, Ro 8:37, Ro 11:36; 1Co 8:6, Ep 2:18, Php 4:13, Col 1:20, Col 2:15, Col 3:17, Heb 7:25, Heb 13:15, 1Pe 1:2, 1John 4:9

The similar phrases, "through Whom", "through our Lord", etc, appear in: John 1:17, Acts 10:36, Ro 1:4, 5; Ro 1:8, Ro 2:16, Ro 5:1; Ro 5:2, Ro 5:11, Ro 5:21, Ro 7:25, Ro 16:27, 1Cor 15:57, 2Cor 1:5, 3:4, 5:18, Gal 1:1, Eph 1:5, Php 1:11, 1Th 5:9; Titus 3:6, He 1:2; He 2:10, Heb 13:21, 1Pe 2:5, 1Pe 4:11, Jude 1:25

Believe, 21a; faith, 21b

πιστός [Strong's 4103] an adjective in 21a; πίστις [Strong's 4102] a noun in 21b.

Faith is not a blind leap but is a confident commitment to One about Whom abundant evidence bears ample testimony.

In 1 Peter 1:21a "believe" is πιστοῦς, an accusative masculine plural adjective. An adjective without a noun for it to describe! Most translations treat it as a verb, "you believe". But a better translation would be you (plural pronoun) are faithful (descriptor of the pronoun).

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## The foundation of the world

He was known before the **foundation of the world**, but was revealed in the last times for your sake. 1 Peter 1:20

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the **foundation of the world**. Matthew 25:34

According as he hath chosen us in him before the **foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Ephesians 1:4

And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written from the **foundation of the world** in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain. Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the **foundation of the world**. Revelation 13:8 KJV

The beast that you saw--it was, and now is no more, but is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. And those who dwell on the earth whose names were not written in the book of life from the **foundation of the world** will marvel when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet will be. Revelation 17:8

Wording with similar thought to "foundation"

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised **before the world began**;  
Titus 1:2

He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus **before time began**. 2  
Timothy 1:9

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## A model of the solar system

Let's try and put some perspective into what the Scripture tells us about the universe. We will start close to home. Here is a scale model of our solar system, based on the standard 30 cm (12 inch) globe found in many school classrooms.

- We start with planet earth floating in the vastness of space.
- Our nearest neighbour is the moon. Using our 30 cm globe as the standard, the moon will be only 8 cm in diameter and we will place it just over 9 metres away from the globe.
- Now we will place the sun. On the same scale as the earth and the moon, the sun will be 33 metres tall (that is as high as a ten-story building), and will position it 3.5 kilometres away from our globe.
- Let's add the rest of the planets in the solar system. We will start with Mercury which is only 11.4 cm in diameter and is only 1.36 km from the sun.
- Venus is next. At 28.5 cm it is almost the same size as earth, and we will place it 2.5 km from our sun.
- We already have earth in place, so we turn to Mars which is a ball of only 16 cm. We will position it 5.3 km from the sun.
- Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. Using our scale, it is 3.35 metres across, and we need to locate it more than 18 km from our scale sun.
- Saturn is next. At 282.6 cm it is nearly 10 times bigger than earth. It's rings extend to 640 cm. Saturn sits 33.4 km from our model sun.
- Uranus is 123 cm across and circles our sun at a distance of 67 km.
- Neptune we will make 116.4 cm and place 105 km from our sun



- At only 5.4 cm, Pluto is our smallest 'planet'. It was only discovered in 1930. It swings out to a distance of 172 km from the sun.
- Just to complete the picture the nearest star, other than our own sun is Proxima Centauri and even to scale it is 940,046 km - nearly a million kilometres away!

Then beyond all this there is the rest of our own galaxy. And then beyond even this, the Lord Jesus has sprinkled the universe with who knows how many other galaxies and constellations.

So, how vast is space and time?

Every person is a very small blip in time, on a very small rock in a very large universe.

But every single one of us is known, and is special.

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**Questions, with no wrong answers, to ask myself and others.**

1. If you could ask God one question, knowing He would fully answer, what would you ask Him?
  2. How do you feel, knowing the entire universe, God's work in history, and the whole plan of salvation, is "for your sake"?
  3. Suggest some appropriate responses to Question 2.
  4. Since God foreknew everything that was going to happen, why do you think He went ahead and make the world anyway?
  5. Read Hebrews 1:2. When will the last days / end times begin? Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What will be the signs of the last days? How do you think we should conduct ourselves when the last days come?
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