

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”

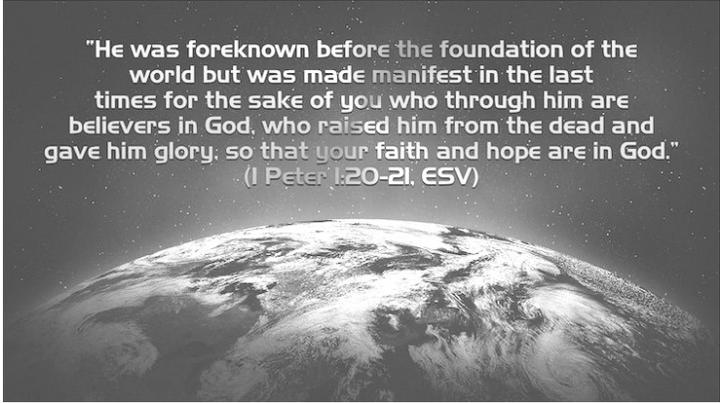
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Lesson: 9

Chapter 1:20-21

Date: 9-27-20



“He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”
(1 Peter 1:20-21, ESV)

BIBLE TEXT:

(20) He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, (21) who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

STUDY NOTES:

(Mt 25:34; Jn 7:39;12:44; Ac 2:17,24; 3:13-15;
Rom 4:24; 16:25,26; Eph 1:4; Php 2:7-9;
1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1;
Heb 1:1,2; 2:9; 3:6; 9:26;
1 Jn 2:18; Rev 13:8)

Luther’s Works – Volume 30

“He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times.

That is, we did not merit this and never asked God that the precious blood of Christ be shed for us. Therefore we have nothing to boast of. **The glory belongs to no one but God alone.** God promised us this without any merit on our part; and He also revealed or made known what He ordained and decreed from eternity, before the creation of the world. To be sure, this was also promised in the prophets, but in a veiled manner and not openly. Now, however, after the resurrection of Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit, it has been preached publicly and has resounded throughout the world.

St. Peter calls the era in which we are now living, **the period from Christ’s ascension to the Last Day, “the end of the times.”** Thus the apostles, the prophets, and Christ Himself also call it the last hour. This does not mean that the Last Day was to come immediately after Christ’s ascent into heaven, but the reason is that after this proclamation of the Gospel concerning Christ there will be no other proclamation and that it will not be revealed and set forth better than it has been set forth and revealed. For of this there has always been one revelation after the other.

Therefore God says in Ex. 6:3 “By My name the Lord I did not make Myself known to them.” For although the patriarchs knew God, yet at the same time they did not yet have as clear a proclamation from God as was made later through Moses and the prophets. But now no more glorious and no clearer proclamation has come into the world than the Gospel. Therefore this is the last one. **All the times have come and gone, but now the Gospel has been revealed to us for the last time.**

In the second place, the end of the world is not far away so far as time is concerned. St. Peter explains this in 2 Peter 3:8 when he says: “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” He wants to give us this guidance concerning the reckoning of time in order that we may judge according to God’s way of looking at it, namely, that “the end of the times” is already at hand. But the fact that there is still some time left means nothing before God. **Salvation has already been revealed and completed; but God permits the world to continue to stand in order that His name may be honored and praised more widely, even though in His own eyes it has already been revealed most perfectly.**

For your sake. Through Him you have confidence in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

He says that the Gospel has been revealed for our sakes. For God and the Lord Christ did not need this; they did it for our benefit, in order that we might believe in Him, not through ourselves but through Christ, who intercedes for us before the Father. Him the Father raised from the dead in order that He might rule over all things. Thus he who believes in Him has all His blessings and ascends to the Father through Him. Thus we have faith in God and through that faith also a hope. Faith alone has to save us. But there must be a faith in God. For if God does not help, you have no help at all.

Therefore even if you had the friendship of all men, this is not enough. **No, you must have the friendship of God,** in order that you may be able to speak proudly of Him as your Father and of yourself as His child, and also have greater confidence that He will help you in all your troubles than you have that your physical father and mother will do so. **All this solely through the one Mediator and Savior, the Lord Christ.** Such faith, he says, does not come from the power of man. No, God creates it in us because Christ has merited this with His blood—Christ, to whom He has given the glory and whom He has placed at His right hand to create faith in us through the power of God.

So far we have heard St. Peter **exhort us to gird our minds, in order that we may remain pure and live in faith;** then, since it has cost so much, to “conduct ourselves with fear” and not to rely on the fact that we are called Christians, since God is a Judge who does not care about anybody but judges one as He judges the other, without respect of persons.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

If Christ has been made manifest in the last times for your sake,
and if through him we are believers in God,
(who raised him from the dead and gave him glory)
then how can you exhibit faith and hope in God each day?

