

## THE PLAN

The glorious grace of our God, that He would see and know our need before it was even a reality for us. As we look at today's lesson we get a glimpse into who God is. It was mentioned in an earlier lesson how God loves to disclose Himself to us, He wants us to know Him and takes opportunity throughout history to make Himself available to us, His creation.

**Read 1 Peter 1:17-21 to keep the context of our study. Our text today will be verses 20-21.**

It was back in verse 2 that we learned of God's foreknowledge - the fact that He is omniscient and able to know all of history in a complete moment, past, present future.

**Look at verse 20 as we begin today's lesson.**

We're told that Christ is the means of our redemption. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, and we find that even before we were created, before sin would spread across the earth, that God knew our need of a redeemer and made a plan to save us.

The word, "foreknown" here is - "pro-eg-nohs-me-nou". This word identifies the fact of a plan having been established (known completely in eternity past - before the foundation of the world). This is the perfect tense used, which defines *action as complete in past time with results continuing through present time*. When we couple that with the passive voice, it refers to *this action having been planned out completely in the knowledge of God*. It was not a plan made with limited knowledge that would have to be reworked as time progressed, but His knowledge encompassed every step needed, and took every variable into consideration.

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The word, "mehn" in the Greek text, when used in conjunction with the word "deh," as it is here in our text, can be translated - on the one hand, this plan for our redemption by means of the precious blood of Christ, was known about in eternity past, but, on the other hand, He didn't appear until these last times.

**For whose sake did He appear (v. 20)?**

Verse 21 identifies the "you" as those who, "through Him are believers in God." What does it mean to believe? The word is "pis-tous" and means *to have total dependency upon*. As one would believe a chair to hold them and sit down on it, faith requires us to put action to the belief. When we are believers in God we are placing our dependency on His plan of redemption and accept that Christ was the means of that redemption. He purchased our freedom at the slave market of sin in such a way as to prevent us from ever being an involuntary slave again. However, volunteering for slavery is a different thing all together, for our habits and lusts will have to be changed. That's why I'm grateful you are in His word, for that's where the transformation continues. Renewing your mind (Romans 12:1-2), so that you don't think as you used to think, or do what you used to do while enslaved. It was for freedom's sake, He set you free! (Galatians 5:1)

Our belief, our "faith and hope" are "in God, who raised Him from the dead," but it's more than that. Here's what Dr. Welch says in his breakdown of the Koine` Greek here, "*The article (the) does not precede the word 'theon' - God. Therefore, the emphasis is not simply upon who God is - but what His qualities and character are. This is not a reference*

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*to God the Father - it refers to the Godhead. All three members of the Godhead were instrumental in the resurrection of Christ. Jesus said, "They do not take My life but I lay it down, and if I lay it down I will take it up again," Yet, both the Father and the Holy Spirit are said to have raised Him up. This word without the article (the) indicates the reality of that.*

So, our total dependency (faith) and confident expectation (hope) are in God to save us. Let those words sink in. God never expected us to meet that need for ourselves. As our Creator, He knew we never could. He saw our need, providing Himself as the remedy to our sin problem. The purchase price that was paid was His blood - it always remains sufficient for our sins. It does not depreciate or fluctuate in value, like silver or gold. That's His grace. Undeserved, unmerited, but very much needed.

Through the plan of Christ, the Sent One, we now have faith and hope in God.

**Read John 1:1-14, what do we learn about the One who was sent?**

This great plan of redemption, formed by the omniscient Godhead, elected to send "The Word." The Word that spoke creation into being. The Word that holds all things together. The Word that will end these days as we know them. He became flesh and dwelt among us. For our sake.

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**Philippians 2:5-8 gives insight into this phenomenon as well. Read and make note of what we learn about "the Sent One" from this text.**

He humbled Himself, becoming obedient, even to death on a cross, because it was the plan of God. This plan was in the mind of God in eternity past. but in order to make it work Christ had to come and manifest God to us, and then, be glorified in order that we might place our dependency and confidence on God.

**Read the following verses, taking note of what more you can glean about this plan:**

**Acts 2:22-24**

Did you recognize the fact that God used the evil of man to fulfill the plan? The very thing He came to save us from, He was able to take and use for His glory. I think that's an amazing attribute of our God. We see that in the story of Joseph as well, when his brothers sold him into slavery, but God used it to put Joseph in charge so the people would be saved during a famine. Look at Joseph's exchange with his brothers, years later, "Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, 'Behold, we are your servants.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.'" (Genesis 50:18-20)

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It's a good reminder that regardless of those who would mean us harm, or those who cause us to suffer, that when we are in God's place, His plan will use it for good. The victory has been won, all because of the Sent One.

**I love the truths of these verses, read Colossians 2:13-15 What do you find regarding the plan?**

We can certainly rejoice a little over that fact, can't we?

**Hebrews 1:1-3 gives a few details of the plan, also. Write down some key points.**

All that the prophets foretold, happened. Aren't you thankful to be a fellow heir?

**And last, what do you find about the plan in Hebrews 10:8-10, 14?**

"The body of Jesus Christ, once for all." Note that both names are used here, Jesus, referring to His humanity, as well as Christ, His being the Anointed, Sent One.

**Look back at 1 Peter 1:2 Who did the sanctifying?**

The plan that the Godhead knew would be needed, was foretold of by prophets, realized in Christ Jesus, all for our sake. In His foreknowledge and grace, God provided a Redeemer, One who gave His very life for ours, so that through Christ, our faith and hope are in God. There is no greater place to put our trust and dependence. Rejoice in that thought today.

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### Review

- Today's Text: 1 Peter 1:20-21
- A plan was designed in the foreknowledge of God (1 Peter 1:20)
- Christ appeared for the sake of you (1 Peter 1:20)
- Our faith and hope are in God
- The Sent One (John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-8)
- The Plan (Acts 2:22-24; Colossians 3:13-15; Hebrews 1:1-3, 10:8-10, 14)