

Don't You Love It When a Plan Comes Together **1 Peter 1:20-21 (NKJV)**

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Some people are planners and others just take life as it comes.

Regardless of which one you are you know that even the best of plans can be spoiled.

When we open the pages of the Bible we find the beautiful story of creation with its concluding remark and behold it was very good.

But shortly after that everything seems to have fallen apart.

The creature rebels against the creator and is put under the curse of death.

And if all we had was that information we would think that God had failed.

But Peter wants us to know that God has never lost control of the creation or even of its creatures.

This is a very encouraging passage.

For we know how easily things fail or fall short of what was desired.

But God never fails.

Zephaniah 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ The LORD *is* righteous in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, But the unjust knows no shame.

He does all His pleasure.

Psalms 135:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

No one can stop Him or question what He does.

Daniel 4:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

So let us look at what Peter is sharing with us today in this passage.

I. FOREORDAINED

- A. Foreordained. The Greek means foreknown, as in ver. 2. Not merely as preexistent was Christ foreknown, but as the Redeemer to come, and that before the foundation, or creation, of the world. *Nathaniel Marshman Williams, D. D.*
- B. This is simply telling us that all that God did and does He planned, including sending His Son as a sacrifice into the world.
- C. 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)
 - 1. 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

II. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

- A. John 17:24 (NKJV)
 - 1. 24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
- B. Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)
 - 1. 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
- C. There was a time when all that there was was God.
 - 1. He existed alone.
 - 2. The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in a trinity of persons.
 - 3. And then comes Genesis 1:1

III. LAST TIMES

- A. Christians stand, as it were, on the brink: the last age of the world has already dawned and God’s chosen ones expect, as we have frequently observed in 1 Peter already, its close in the imminent future with the final manifestation of their King and Christ. Peter H. Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 74.
- B. God has as it were a series of episodes that unfolded down through the ages.
 - 1. As Peter looks back of the history as described in the Bible he understands that now we are in the last episode before the Lord will return and bring in everlasting righteousness.

IV. FOR YOU

- A. 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 concomitant trials. Peter H. Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 75.
- B. The Puritan Thomas Watson rightly observed that redemption was God’s greatest work: “Great was the work of creation, but greater the work of redemption; it cost more to redeem us than to make us; in the one there was but the speaking of a Word, in the other the shedding of blood. Luke 1:51. The creation was but the work of God’s fingers. Psalm 8:3. Redemption is the work of His arm” (Body of Divinity [reprint; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979], 146). John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 Peter*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 71.
- C. Luke 10:24 (NKJV)
 - 1. 24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”

V. THROUGH HIM

- A. Acts 3:16 (NKJV)
 - 1. 16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
- B. Hence all knowledge of God without Christ is a vast abyss which immediately swallows up all our thoughts. John Calvin and John Owen, *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2010), 53.
- C. Ephesians 3:12 (NKJV)
 - 1. 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

VI. WHO BELIEVE IN GOD

- A. 'In God.' They are represented as believing in God, not as Creator, but as the Raiser of Christ from the dead, and as the Crowner of Christ with glory, which is substantially the same as to say that they believe in Christ. *Nathaniel Marshman Williams, D. D.*

VII. WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD

- A. therefore he is able to raise these Christians should they be killed and to give them glory no matter how oppressed and shamed they may be now. Peter H. Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter*, The New International Commentary on the

New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990), 75.

- B. That your faith and hope might be in God. That is, by raising up the Lord Jesus, and exalting him to heaven, he has laid the foundation of confidence in his promises, and of the hope of eternal life. Albert Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament: James to Jude*, ed. Robert Frew (London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885), 129.

VIII. GAVE HIM GLORY

A. Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

- 1. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This morning in my daily reading I read the passage in Exodus where Aaron made the golden calf and how that brought God's judgement on the nation.

But then my next reading was in John and the account of the resurrection of Lazarus.

What a wonderful contrast.

As we look around us today we wonder how far wrong God will allow us to go.

But God is never surprised even by man's sin and rebellion against Him.

We must never doubt God love for His people and never forget His power and might to accomplish all that He desires.

That is the God that we worship here today.