

# 1 Peter 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

## Analysis

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Peter reveals Christ's eternal role in redemption. "Who verily was foreordained" (proegenōsmenou men) uses perfect passive participle indicating completed action with lasting results—Christ was foreknown/foreordained by God and remains so. "Before the foundation of the world" (pro katabolēs kosmou) places divine decree before creation—redemption wasn't divine afterthought but eternal plan. God predetermined Christ's sacrificial role in eternity past. Yet "was manifest in these last times for you" (phanderōthentos de ep' eschatou tōn chronōn di' hymas)—though eternally planned, manifestation occurred in history at appointed time. "Last times" refers to messianic age inaugurated by Christ's first advent. "For you" emphasizes believers' privilege—Christ's appearance benefits them specifically.

## Historical Context

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This verse counters notions that Christ's mission emerged unexpectedly due to human sin. Reformed theology emphasizes God's eternal decree (decretum)—before creation, God planned redemption through Christ. This demonstrates God's sovereignty, wisdom, and grace. The phrase echoes Paul (Ephesians 1:4, "chosen before foundation of world") and Revelation 13:8 ("Lamb slain from foundation"). Early church fathers used this verse defending Christ's deity against Arian heresy—Christ's pre-existence as part of eternal Godhead, not created being.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing Christ was foreordained as Redeemer before creation deepen your understanding of God's sovereignty and grace?
2. What does it mean that Christ appeared 'for you' specifically, and how should this personalization affect your gratitude?

## Interlinear Text

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προεγνωσμένου μὲν πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου  
was foreordained Who verily before the foundation of the world  
G4267 G3303 G4253 G2602 G2889

φανερωθέντος δὲ ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν χρόνων δι' ὑμᾶς  
was manifest but in these last times for you  
G5319 G1161 G1909 G2078 G3588 G5550 G1223 G5209

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 1:4** (Parallel theme): 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:

**Hebrews 9:26** (Parallel theme): For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Revelation 13:8** (Parallel theme): And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Hebrews 1:2** (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**Colossians 1:26** (Parallel theme): Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

**Ephesians 3:9** (Parallel theme): And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

**Ephesians 3:11** (Parallel theme): According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

**Galatians 4:4** (Parallel theme): But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

**Micah 5:2** (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

**Proverbs 8:23** (Parallel theme): I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.