International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Where Is Your Faith and Hope?
1 Peter 1:13–21

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).

Jesus Christ is God and the Word of God. All things were created by and through Him before He came into the world in human flesh (see John 1:1–18). Peter states that Jesus was known or foreknown before the foundation of the world, because He was involved in the creation of the world. Before Jesus came into the world fully God and fully human, He knew when and why He would be coming before He created the world. Before He came in human flesh, His Spirit in the prophets foretold His coming (see 1 Peter 1:1–12, and last week's Bible Lesson).

The last times began when Jesus Christ came into the world to save the world and take away our sins and the sin of the world by His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. The last times will end when He returns and makes all things new. He lived and taught the truth with grace and power. Through Him we become believers in the true God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As believers in the true God, we have received Jesus into our lives, and we ask God to increase our capacity to receive more of the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, into our lives. The written Word of God that we study teaches us more about God and Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit in us helps us believe more in Jesus and the Bible and God's plans for us as believers and the world. The glorified Word of God, Jesus, helps us see His continuing work and the work of our heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit in us and in the world today.

The Light of God shines brightly in the darkness and in the world today. And we know from the Bible and our experience as followers of Jesus that the darkness cannot comprehend or overcome the Light; therefore, we know why unbelievers often do things contrary to the Bible: they cannot comprehend the truth in the Bible. So, as we continue to pray and share the Good News of Jesus, we "shine as lights in the world" and our faith and hope remain in God (see Philippians 2:15).

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