

"AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME"

Galatians 4:4-5

INTRODUCTION

1. Vs 4-5

2. Christmas isn't about reveling in fairy tales.

- a) It's about celebrating events that are rooted and grounded in historical fact.
- b) The Child of Bethlehem is fulfillment of both the law and the prophets.

3. One of the reasons why so many Christians today believe in the miracle of Christmas; (the virgin birth) is because we believe the Bible to be true! A supernatural book.

a) **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1) "**All scripture is breathed out by God**"

- a. That's what we call the inspiration of scripture.

b) **2 Peter 1:21**

4. "**Bible Facts**" - Manuscript evidence

a) **FACT!!!!** There is more manuscript evidence for the Bible than any other work of history:

1) **Homer** - he was the author of the classical writings of the Illiad, and the Odyssey which are 2 central works of ancient literature.

- a) 643 copies of manuscripts
- b) The span between original and 1st copy is 500 years

2) **Plato** - Greek philosopher during the Classical Period in ancient Greece.

- a) 7 copies of manuscripts
- b) The span between originals and 1st copy is 1200 years

3) **Aristotle** - Greek philosopher and scientist (384-322). Considered to be one of the greatest thinkers in politics and psychology and ethics.

- a) 49 copies of manuscripts
- b) The span between originals and 1st copy is 1400 years

4) **Julius Caesar** - Roman dictator, politician and military general.

- a) 10 copies of manuscripts
- b) The span between originals and 1st copy is 1000 years

5) **Tacitus** (Publius Cornelius Tacitus) - considered to be one of the greatest Roman historians and Senators.

- a) 20 copies of manuscripts
- b) The span between originals and 1st copy is 1000 years

b) There is more manuscript evidence for the Bible (**5,800 manuscripts**) less than **100 years** (70 years) between the originals and the earliest manuscripts.

I. JESUS CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME IN HISTORY

1. Vs 4

a) "*When the fullness of time had come*".

1) Refers to the completion of the period of showing man his utter sinfulness and inability to meet God's perfect standard of righteousness.

2. When God sent forth His Son, He provided the guarantee that those believers would become just heirs with the Son of God.

3. Hebrews 9:13-14

A. IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME RELIGIOUSLY

1. During the Babylonian captivity, Israel once and for all forsook idolatry, to which Israel had so often followed.

2. It was during this Babylonian exile that the Jews developed synagogues, which were used as places of worship, as schools and courts.

3. Historical Timeline:

a) **Babylon**

b) **Medo-Persia**

c) **Greece**

d) **Rome**

B. THE TIME WAS RIGHT CULTURALLY

1. Alexander the Great established Greek culture and language throughout the known world and it continued to influence through Roman world rule.

C. THE TIME WAS RIGHT POLITICALLY

1. Rome had provided economic and political stability.

2. The Rome provided peace and the apostles and early Christians could travel freely and safely throughout the empire and could do so by the magnificent road system built by Rome.

3. Vs 4

- a) "*When the fullness of time came*"
- b) "*God sent forth His Son*"

II. GOD BECAME A MAN

1. Vs 4

- a) "*But when the fullness of time had come.*"
- b) "*God sent forth His Son*"
- c) "*Born of a woman*"
 - 1) Jesus was 100% human.

2. Some 900 years before the birth of Christ, God prophesied about His coming.

- a) **2 Samuel 7:12-17**
 - 1) The lineage of Messiah would run through King David
- b) **Luke 1:32-35**

3. Vs 4

- a) "*Born of a woman*" - Jesus was fully man
- b) Conceived by the Holy Spirit - Jesus was fully God

4. Jesus had to be fully God in order for His sacrifice to be able to pay for the sins of the whole world.

5. At the same time He had to be fully man in order to represent mankind and take the penalty of sin upon Himself on man's behalf.

III. BORN SUBJECT TO THE LAW

1. Galatians 4:4b

- a) "*born under the law*"

2. Romans 8:3-4

3. Like any other human, Jesus was born under the law.

- a) Which means like all of us we were under obligation to obey the Law.

IV. WE ARE BOUGHT OUT OF THE SLAVE MARKET

1. Galatians 4:5a

a) "*redeem*" - means to buy or purchase.

b) When someone bought a slave they did one of two things with them.

1) Owned them

2) Or set them free

2. In the fullness of time Christ paid the price to redeem sinful man, and set them free.

a) Removing all penalty or debt.

3. To be under the law is to be obligated to keep it.

4. Romans 3:19-20

a) "*born under the law*" - is everybody who is not under **GRACE**

5. Here's God's Moral Law - The Ten Commandments

#1 Thou shalt have no other god's before me.

#2 Thou shalt make no graven image.

#3 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.

#4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

#5 Honor thy Father and Mother

#6 Thou shalt not murder

#7 Thou shalt not commit adultery

#8 Thou shalt not steal

#9 Thou shalt not bear false witness

#10 Thou shalt not covet your neighbors wife.

6. The slave master is the law.

a) Jesus pays our full price to the law.

b) Completely fulfills all the law's demands on us.

c) And sets us free from it.

V. WE RECEIVE FULL RIGHTS AS SONS

1. Vs 5

a) "*so that we might receive adoption as sons.*"

2. **Literally:** Through Christ we receive "**sonship**".

a) This is a legal term.

b) In the Greco-Roman world, a childless, wealthy man could take one of his servants and adopt him.

c) At the moment of adoption, the slave ceased to be a slave and received all the financial and legal privileges within the estate, and outside in the world as the son and heir.

3. In the gospel, we discover that Jesus has taken us off death row and then hung around our necks the **Congressional Medal of Honor**.

4. *Romans 8:15, 23*

CONCLUSION:

1. Vs 6-7