

The Fullness of Time

Galatians 4: 4 – 5 “But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”

1) The fullness of time

- The prophets had been prophesying the coming of the Messiah for 1400 years and now was time for his arrival
- The time that Jesus came wasn't a mere coincidence but was God's appointed time in history for him to come.
- How God had worked history into his plan:
 - A census was called at the time that Mary was pregnant and she had to go with Joseph to Bethlehem for that purpose. Thus Jesus was born in Bethlehem in fulfilment of Micah 5: 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you one will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”
 - It was at the time that the Romans ruled Palestine and their method of execution was crucifixion which was the fulfilment of Psalm 22: 14,16,17 “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierce my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me.”

2) God sent His Son

- JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son," that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
- ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."
- This was the time that God Himself came to earth, not to condemn the world, but to redeem the world to himself.

3) Born of a woman

- Jesus was born of a woman – a virgin – in fulfilment of Isaiah 7: 14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.”
- He came, not having an earthly father, to be the second Adam.
- He came to bring a new creation without the inherent sin of the first Adam.

4) Born under law

- Jesus restricted himself completely to human restrictions
- Being God he did not place Himself above the law but revealed that, as the one who gave the law, he submitted himself to the law allowing humanity to identify with him in every way.

5) We might receive the full rights of sons

- The purpose that he came is that we might receive the full rights of sons (children)
- John 1: 12 “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”