

At Just the Right Time

Galatians 4:4-5

Galatians 4:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Introduction

There are 60 seconds in a minute, and 60 minutes in an hour, and 24 hours in a day, and 7 days in a week, and 52 weeks in a year. Or if you are keeping track of time precisely, there are in

One Gregorian calendar year, has 365.2425 days:
 $1 \text{ year} = 365.2425 \text{ days} = (365.2425 \text{ days}) \times (24 \text{ hours/day}) \times (3600 \text{ seconds/hour}) = 31,556,952 \text{ seconds}$

One Julian astronomical year, has 365.25 days:

1 year = 365.25 days = (365.25 days) × (24 hours/day) × (3600 seconds/hour) = 31557600 seconds

One calendar common year has 365 days:

1 common year = 365 days = (365 days) × (24 hours/day) × (3600 seconds/hour) = 31536000 seconds

One calendar leap year has 366 days (occures every 4 years):

1 leap year = 366 days = (366 days) × (24 hours/day) × (3600 seconds/hour) = 31622400 seconds

<https://www.rapidtables.com/calc/time/seconds-in-year.html>

But, who is keeping track of time that specifically?
Or who has the time or desire to keep track of time that precisely?

Well, God does. He not only keeps precise track of time, He created time and ordains time.

Albert Einstein said

“Time is an illusion.”

Well that might be what he thought was true, but for the those who are caught in traffic trying to get to work on time, it’s not an illusion or if you are cooking that favorite dish in the oven and you

forget to set the timer, time is not an illusion. Or if you are still counting your birthdays and seeing time slip away, it is not an illusion.

Now, for some of you who come to this church, I often wonder if you think time is an illusion based on what time you arrive.

Time is what all of us have, some more than others and we govern most of what we do by time. We have a time to work, time to play, time to sleep, and a certain time we can stay. We live, work, and worship all according to time.

We can save time,

We can waste time

We can make the most of our time

or we can forget what time it is.

No matter what we do or don't do, we are affected by time.

But what is sure, and what is absolute, is that time is real. It is precise, it is continual, it is unstoppable.

But most importantly, is ordained and controlled by God. He created it, and set the universe with its planets and stars in motion according to precise timing. We have the days, months and years based on the solar orbits and

rotation of the planet around one of many suns in the universe.

And the Bible is explicit in its affirmation that God is the one who controls time.

Acts 17:24–26 (NKJV)

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Acts 17:28–31 (NKJV)

²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked,

but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Job 14:1–5 (NKJV)

14 “Man *who is* born of woman
 Is of few days and full of trouble.
² He comes forth like a flower and fades away;
 He flees like a shadow and does not continue.....
⁵ Since his days *are* determined,
 The number of his months *is* with You;
 You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

Psalms 39:4 (NKJV)

⁴ “Lord, make me to know my end,
 And what *is* the measure of my days,
 That I may know how frail I *am*.

Psalms 31:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ My times *are* in Your hand;....

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (NKJV)

3 To everything *there is* a season,

- A time for every purpose under heaven:
- 2 A time to be born,
 And a time to die;
A time to plant,
 And a time to pluck *what is* planted;
 - 3 A time to kill,
 And a time to heal;
A time to break down,
 And a time to build up;
 - 4 A time to weep,
 And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn,
 And a time to dance;
 - 5 A time to cast away stones,
 And a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace,
 And a time to refrain from embracing;
 - 6 A time to gain,
 And a time to lose;
A time to keep,
 And a time to throw away;
 - 7 A time to tear,
 And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence,
 And a time to speak;
 - 8 A time to love,

And a time to hate;
A time of war,
And a time of peace.

Of all the events and persons that the Bible teaches God is in control of regarding timing, nothing is so clear as the timing of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. Nations are moved into place, Kings are raised up. Positions are established. Religions are set in motion. Shepherds are born, stars are moved into position.

From Genesis to Revelation there is the clear sense that everything is moving in a very controlled manner to a determined consummation.

Nothing is happening according to chance, nothing is out of control. Everything has a time and each time has everything that it is suppose to have, and the time is linked to the eternal purposes of God in redemption of the sinner and the Glorification of the Savior.

This is what our passage is about. The marvelous and wondrous Sovereign and providential timing of our Savior.

I know that many debate the timing of the actual birth of Christ and some determine even not to

participate in the event of Christmas because the time is wrong in their opinion. But whatever the day actually is, I grant you God knew. Not only did He know, He determined it. It was in perfect fulfillment of prophecy on the correct day of God's calendar, not a day early and not a day late. Not a minute too soon, and not a minute too late. We may be early, God is not. We may be late, but God is not. God doesn't miss by one second.

Galatians 4:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

I. The Precise Timing

II. The Precious Savior

III. The Person Saved

I. The Precise Timing

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come,

67.69 πλήρωμα^c, τος *n*; ἐκπλήρωσις, εως *f*: the totality of a period of time, with the implication of proper completion—‘end, completion.’

πλήρωμα^c: ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου ‘when the complete time finally came’ Ga 4:4.

ἐκπλήρωσις: τὴν ἐκπλήρωσιν τῶν ἡμερῶν τοῦ ἀγνισμοῦ ‘the completion of the period of purification’ Ac 21:26.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 637). United Bible Societies.

tn *Grk* “the fullness of time” (an idiom for the totality of a period of time, with the implication of proper completion; see L&N 67.69).

Biblical Studies Press. (2005). [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible](#). Biblical Studies Press.

if you examine the period of our Lord’s appearance on earth, you will not think it too much to say, that the season was made on purpose (so to speak) for the circumstances.

Exell, J. S. (n.d.). [The Biblical Illustrator: Galatians](#) (p. 235). Fleming H. Revell Company.

The imagery suggests that the pre-Christian era was like “an unfilled measure which each year filled, as it

were drop by drop, until the fulness of it came” (Williams, p. 88)

Vaughan, C. (2005). [Galatians](#) (p. 76). Founders Press.

The birth of Jesus is the grandest light of history, the sun in the heavens of all time. It is the polestar of human destiny, the hinge of chronology, the meeting place of the waters of the past and the future

Spurgeon, C. (2013). [Galatians](#) (E. Ritzema, Ed.; Ga 4:4). Lexham Press.

Isaiah 46:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
 And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet*
 done,
 Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
 And I will do all My pleasure,’
¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east,
 The man who executes My counsel, from a far
 country.
 Indeed I have spoken *it*;
 I will also bring it to pass.
 I have purposed *it*;
 I will also do it.

Daniel 9:24–26 (NKJV)

24 “Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 “Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

26 “And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are
determined.

1 Peter 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Acts 13:27–30 (NKJV)

²⁷ For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *Him*. ²⁸ And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. ²⁹ Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they

took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb.
³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead.

Matthew 26:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

Acts 1:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Jesus was always fully aware of the time table of God. He knew exactly when things should and would take place.

At the first miracle in the life of Christ,

John 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

John 7:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

John 8:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

John 12:23 (NKJV)

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

John 12:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 13:1 (NKJV)

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 17:1 (NKJV)

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “**Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,**

The infinite Lord appoints the date of every event; all times are in His hand. There are no loose threads in the providence of God. No stitches are dropped; no events are left to chance. The great clock of the universe keeps good time, and the whole machinery of providence moves with unerring punctuality.

Spurgeon, C. (2013). [*Galatians*](#) (E. Ritzema, Ed.; Ga 4:4). Lexham Press.

The fulness of time refers to the completion of the period of preparation in God’s sovereign timetable of redemption. When the law had fully accomplished its purpose of showing man his utter sinfulness and inability to live up to God’s perfect standard of righteousness, God ushered in a new era of redemption. When He **sent forth His Son**, He provided the righteousness for man that man could not provide for himself.

When Jesus was born, everything was right for the coming of the Messiah. First of all, the time was right religiously. During the Babylonian captivity, Israel once and for all forsook the idolatry into which she had so often fallen. Despite their many other sins and failures, including the national rejection of their own Messiah, no significant number of Jews has ever again turned to idolatry.

Also during the Exile, Jews developed synagogues, which they used as places of worship, as schools, and as courts. In addition to that, they at last had the completed Old Testament, assembled by Ezra and others after the return from Babylon. Those features facilitated the proclaiming of the Messiah's gospel among the people of Israel.

Wiersbe - Historians tell us that the Roman world was in great expectation, waiting for a Deliverer, at the time when Jesus was born. The old religions were dying; the old philosophies were empty and powerless to change men's lives. Strange new mystery religions were invading the empire. Religious bankruptcy and spiritual hunger were everywhere. God was preparing the world for the arrival of His Son. (See context in [Be Free Galatians: Exchange Legalism for True Spirituality](#) or borrow

[Be Free: An Expository Study of Galatians](#))

Second, the time was right culturally. Christians who propagated the gospel during the first several centuries had a common language with those to whom they witnessed and with whom they worshiped. Alexander the Great had thoroughly established Greek culture and language throughout the known world, and these continued their dominating influence long after Rome succeeded Greece as world ruler.

Third, the time was right politically. Rome had instituted the *pax Romana* (Roman peace), which provided economic and political stability. The apostles and other early preachers and teachers could travel freely and safely throughout the empire and could do so on the magnificent system of roads built by the Romans.

Each of those factors was in some unique way a key to the spread of the gospel. God's timing was perfect.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Galatians](#) (p. 107). Moody Press.

Jesus came, wrote John Calvin, “when the time which had been ordained by the providence of God was seasonable and fit.”

Ryken, P. G. (2005). [Galatians](#) (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; p. 160). P&R Publishing.

I. The Precise Timing

II. The Precious Savior

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

We see here the Deity and Humanity of Christ and substitutionary submission.

God sent forth His Son

A lot is in this simple statement. We immediately think of verses like

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 6:38–39 (NKJV)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has

given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

John 8:42 (NKJV)

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

1 John 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.

God sent forth His Son

This is a reference to the Deity of Christ and the Submission of Christ.

The equality of essence

John 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 10:30–33 (NKJV)

³⁰ **I and My Father are one.”**

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, **“Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”**

³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

But also Submission

John 6:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ **For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

John 5:30 (NKJV)

³⁰..... **I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**

Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman**, born under the law,

His Humanity

Born of a woman is not intended to be an exclusive statement emphasizing the absence of a man, and thus does not so much refer to Jesus' virgin birth, important as that great truth is, as to His complete humanity. He was fully man, **born of a woman** like all other men, yet He was fully God. Otherwise He could not have been Savior of the world. He had to be fully God in order for His sacrifice to have the infinite worth necessary to atone for the sin of

mankind. He also had to be fully man in order to represent mankind and take the penalty of sin upon Himself in man's behalf. It was man who sinned, who was under the curse, and who was condemned to render his life forfeit to God. Jesus therefore could not have substituted for sinful man on the cross had He not taken upon Himself "the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:7). He had to be God to have the power of Savior, and He had to be man to have the position of Substitute.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Galatians](#) (p. 108). Moody Press.

His Substitution

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the law,**

Jesus not only came to earth as a man but was **born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law.** As Paul explains in Romans, "For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the

requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us” (Rom. 8:3–4).

Like every other man, Jesus was **born under the Law**. Like every other Jew, He was **under** obligation to obey and be judged by conformity to God’s written **Law** in the Old Testament; but unlike any other Jew, He satisfied the requirements of that law by living in perfect obedience to it. And because He lived in perfect obedience, He was able to **redeem** all other men **who were under the Law** but *not* obedient to it, provided they had saving faith in Him

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Galatians](#) (p. 108). Moody Press.

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⁵ to redeem those who were under the law,
that we might receive the adoption as sons.

redeem is from *exagorazō*, which literally means to buy out or buy back and was used of slaves whose freedom was purchased. Through payment of

the required price, slaves were redeemed and became free men,
Titus 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

and, more than that, they received **adoption as sons** (cf. Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Eph. 1:5; 3:14–15). That completed their liberation.

Huiiothesia (**adoption**) is a compound of *huios* (son) and *thesis* (a placing) and refers to a man's giving the status of sonship to someone who is not his natural child. Because men are not naturally the children of God, they can become His **sons** only by divine **adoption**. In the Roman world **adoption** was an honored custom that gave special dignity and family membership to those who were not born into a family. Often a wealthy, childless man would adopt a young slave, who would trade his slavery for sonship, with all its concomitant privileges.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Galatians](#) (pp. 108–109). Moody Press.

Ephesians 1:4–7 (NKJV)

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, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

The world says that Christmas is about a Bearded fat man who flies around by reindeer from the frigid north pole to give children whatever they want if they are good.

The Bible says that Jesus was born to give bad people what they need.

The Bible says that there is a time to live and a time to die and on that appointed time will be Judgment. Don't be confused about Christmas by what the World says. Learn from the lips of Christ who says.

He came to seek and the save that which was lost.

Don't end up standing before him without what he came to accomplish.