

“The Fulness Of The Time”
Galatians 4:4-5

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Only 9 More Shopping Days Until Christmas - Are You Ready? - Just About Everyone Looks Forward To Christmas Day With Great Anticipation - Aren't You? - We Know When It Will Come (December 25, Wednesday) - We Know That It Will Come (The Shopping Countdown Gets Smaller And Smaller) - Everything This Time Of Year Is Leading Up To Christmas! Christmas Is Special!
 - It's A Special Fulfillment After All That Preparation
 - It's A Special Time Of Year
 - It's A Special Event, Filled With Tradition And Memories
 - It's For A Special Purpose, Spending Time With Family And Friends
 - When Christmas Comes, We Are Excited, And Respond To It In Many Different Ways, Doing Many Different Things!
 - Children Get Up Early
 - Largest Breakfast Of The Year
 - Opening Presents
 - Reading The Christmas Story Together As A Family
2. The Bible Tells Of The First Christmas In Galatians 4:4-5
 - It Too Was Highly Anticipated, As Is Every Christmas We Have!
 - Christmas Should Be, More Than Anything Else, A Celebration Of The Coming Of Jesus Christ, The Son Of God!
 - Just As This Christmas Will Be A Special Fulfillment Of All Your Preparation, The Coming Of Christ Was A Special & Specific Fulfillment Of God's Plan!
 - Just As This Christmas Will Be A Special Time Of Your Year, The Coming Of Christ Was A Special & Specific Time In God's Plan!
 - Just As This Christmas Will Be A Special Event, Filled With Traditions And Memories, The Coming Of Christ Was A Special And Specific Event In God's Plan!
 - Just As This Christmas Will Be For A Special Purpose, Getting Together With Your Family, The Coming Of Christ Was For A Special And Specific Purpose In God's Plan!
3. Let's Look At How We Can Celebrate “The Fulness Of Time” This Christmas!

* Read Galatians 4:4-5:

1. ***The Coming Of Christ Is A Special Fulfillment Of God's Plan!***
 - “Fulness” - Usually Means To Fill Something Up Completely, To The Point Of Overflowing; Nothing More Can Be Added To It!
 - **IE:** Word Was Used For A Ship That Was Filled To Capacity Of Cargo And Sailors - Most Merchant Ships Have Marks On The Hull, To See How Full It Is, And When The Water Reaches The Highest Mark, It Is Filled To Capacity, And Nothing More Can Be Added Without It Being In Danger Of Sinking
 - The Birth Of Jesus Christ Was A Special And Specific Fulfillment Of God's Plan!
 - ***It Was The Accomplishment Of God's Prophecies!***
 - According To A Jewish-Christian Scholar, Alfred Edersheim, There Are 456 Old Testament Passages Applied To Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The One God Promised To Send To Save His People From Their Sins! These Predictions Occurred Anywhere From 400 To 3000 Years Before Jesus Was Born!
 - Over 300 Of These Have Already Been Specifically Fulfilled By Jesus!
 - 700 Years Before:
 - Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

- Matthew 1:20-23 - "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us'."

- 700 Years Before:

- Micah 5:2 - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

- Matthew 2:1 - "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem."

- 675 Years Before:

- Hosea 11:1 - "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

- Matthew 2:14-15 - "So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

- It Was The Completion Of God's Plan!

- "Fulness" - Means To Be Complete!

- **IE:** Building Our House - After 3-4 Months Of Building - Came A Point Of Completion

- The Work Is Done - Now The House Can Be Used As It Was Intended - Provide Shelter

- John 19:30 - "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

- "The sufferings and agonies in redeeming man are over. The work long contemplated, long promised, long expected by prophets and saints, is done." (Albert Barnes)

- The Difficult Work Is Done - Now A Believer's Life Can Be As God Intended!

- It Was The Repair Of God's People!

- "Fulness" - Also Can Mean A Patch That Fixes A Tear

- **IE:** Like Sewing/Mending A Tear Or Rip In Clothes

- Ephesians 2:4-7 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

- "I Am Coming To The Cross" (William McDonald)

I am trusting, Lord, in Thee.

Blessed Lamb of Calvary;

Humbly at Thy cross I bow.

Save me, Jesus, save me now.

Jesus comes! He fills my soul!

Perfected in Him I am;

I am every whit made whole:

Glory, glory to the Lamb!

- Christmas Is A Celebration Of The Completion / Fulness In Christ!

- He Has Completed God's Prophecies, Plan & People!

- His Completion Is Available To Those Who Place Their Trust In Him!

- This Christmas, Celebrate The Completeness In Christ!

- How?

- By Being Complete In Christ!

- Colossians 2:10 - "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

- Are You?

- By Being Filled With Christ!

- Ephesians 3:19 - "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,

that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

- Are You?

- What Is Taking Up The Space Of Christ In Your Life?

* Read Galatians 4:4-5:

2. ***The Coming Of Christ Is A Special Time In God's Plan!***

- “The Time” - Time As A Whole / Time As A Specific Moment

- **IE:** As A Whole, Christmas Day Is Set Aside, An Entire 24 Hour Period - Yet There Are Certain Moments During That Day That Make That Day Special!

- The Birth Of Jesus Christ Was A Special And Specific Time In God's Plan!

- **All Time Belongs To Christ!**

- Colossians 1:16-17 - “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

- He Created Time

- He Works In And Through Time

- He Sustains Time

- Story Of Christmas - He Entered Into Time!

- **All Time Points To Christ!**

- His Coming Was The Climax Of Time!

- 1 Peter 1:20 - “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”

- All Time Before Jesus Leads To His Coming

- All Time After Jesus Leads From His Coming

- His Coming Is The Summit Of The Mountain Of Time!

- His Coming Was At A Specific Time

- Daniel 9:25 - “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

- The Specific Time Of Jesus' Birth Was Given To Daniel!

- 1 Week = 7 Years / 69 Weeks = 483 Years

- In 445 B.C. Nehemiah Was Given Permission To Rebuild Jerusalem, & 483 Years Later Was 33 AD, When Christ's Purpose Of Coming To The World Was Completed!

- His Coming Was At The Perfect Time!

- Christmas Is A Celebration Of The Time Of Christ!

- All Time Belongs To Christ / All Time Points To Christ!

- This Christmas, Celebrate The Time Of Christ!

- How?

- By Giving The Time God Has Given You Back To Christ!

- Galatians 2:20 - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but

Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- Is Your Time Christ's?

- Revealed Through Your Priorities

- Revealed Through Your Ministry

Conclusion:

1. Read Galatians 4:4-5

- The Coming Of Christ Truly Is “The Fulness Of The Time!”

- Let This Christmas Remind You Of:

- The Completeness In Christ

- And Be Filled By Him!

- The Time Of Christ

- And Live For Him!

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