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# Sermon Notes

November 28, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## **GOD WITH US** **The Fullness of Time** Hebrews 1:1-2, Galatians 4:4

### **Looking Back**

- ❖ *A long time ago...*
- ❖ God's eternal purposes and the long-term promise first made to Adam and Eve
  - a future descendent of the woman will come as a deliverer to crush the head of Satan and destroy the power of sin and death
  - God funnels the fulfillment of His promise through
    - a nation: Israel
    - a tribe: Judah
    - a family: David's
    - a single descendent in that family: Mary
  - Hebrews 1:1-2 points to Jesus as the final stage of the promise's fulfillment
    - in the past, God spoke by the prophets
    - in the "last days" God has spoken to us by His Son

### **Communication**

- ❖ God is a communicating God who wants to be known... He is invisible but not unknowable
- ❖ In the past, God speaks to many different people in many different ways
  - OT is delivered over the course of some 1500 years by more than 40 different writers
    - each author is unique, but all are controlled by the Holy Spirit
    - God speaks to them by vision, parable, type or symbol using narrative, poetry, prophecy, doctrinal teaching, ethical/moral teaching, warning, exhortation, encouragement
  - each author has a piece(s) of the puzzle, but no one has the "box top"
    - over time, the various pieces begin to come into focus, show how they fit together and make the outline of the picture
    - as essential as it is, the OT is a fragmentary and incomplete revelation of God's message to lost people
- ❖ Additional communication is needed... communication that takes place in "these last days"
  - the time of Messiah
  - Jesus brings "the box top" for the puzzle and shows how all the pieces fit together in Him

## At Just the Right Time

- ❖ Jesus comes in *the fullness of time*
  - only when the time is right and everything is perfectly in place does Jesus become incarnate in Mary's womb
  - the infinite Lord appoints the date of every event in history and every event in your life
- ❖ When Jesus arrives, the time is right
  - religiously
  - culturally
  - politically
- ❖ The arrival of Jesus breaks a 400-year silence
- ❖ In God's perfect timing, Jesus willingly submits to being born under the Law so that He can redeem people under the Law
  - Jesus puts Himself under obligation to obey and be judged by His conformity to God's written Law
  - Jesus is able to satisfy the requirements of the law by living in perfect obedience to all that it commands
    - Romans 8:3-4
    - Jesus makes it possible for us to be adopted into God's family as His children
    - since none of us are children of God by birth, we can only become God's child through adoption

- ❖ As adopted children we are loved with a perfect love
  - as the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit within us, He confirms our adoption for us (Romans 8:16-17)
  - the Spirit gives us everything we need to strengthen, enable, and embolden us to stay faithfully committed to Christ and obedient to His will and His way
- ❖ When the fullness of time runs its course once more, these last days will end and Jesus will come again
  - Christ has come, Christ is coming... that is the theme of Advent
  - don't miss Jesus as so many did when He came before
  - cry out and ask Jesus to redeem you and for the Father to adopt you

## Personal Application

1. God appoints the date of every event in history and every event in your life. Looking back at your life thus far, where can you see God's hand at work in causing certain events to take place "at just the right time"? What confidence does that give you about His future plans for you?
2. In what ways is the Holy Spirit confirming your adoption by producing spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc...) in you? What confidence does this give you about the love God pours out on you in Christ?
3. Many people missed the message of Jesus' first coming because of their preconceptions about what Messiah would be/do. Are there any obstacles in your life or thinking that may prevent you from seeing how Christ is coming to you at this time?