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# Sermon Notes

November 30, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## WHEN JESUS CAME

### The Right Time

Galatians 4:4-5

#### Timing

- ❖ “Timing is everything”
- ❖ There is much in life that takes time, planning and patience to accomplish
- ❖ The coming of Christ into the world to save lost sinners is the most long-range plan that has ever been enacted

#### The Fullness of Time

- ❖ In eternity past, our triune God determined the plan and the precise moment in history at which God the Son would come to earth
- ❖ Jesus comes at exactly the right moment in
  - redemptive history
  - world history
    - BC and AD
    - traditionally, the record of history is organized around the moment in time when Jesus came to earth

#### Salvation History

- ❖ From the earliest records of human history, God’s people long and look forward to God sending the Deliverer He promises to rescue them from sin (Genesis 3:15)
- ❖ Through the time and faith of people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and others, God’s people keep looking and longing for the arrival of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- ❖ Even in the depths and darkness of exile in Babylon, God’s people are encouraged by Jeremiah to wait in hope for the time when God’s Messiah will inaugurate a new covenant
- ❖ When God’s law has fully accomplished its purpose of showing people their utter sinfulness and inability to live up to God’s perfect standard of righteousness
  - God ushers in a new era of redemption
  - God sends His Son, Jesus into the world to purchase and provide the righteousness for people that people cannot provide for themselves
    - not a moment too soon, not a moment too late, but in one perfect moment
    - at just the right time Jesus arrives to fulfill the requirements of the law on behalf of those who cannot do so for themselves

#### World History

- ❖ Jesus also comes when the conditions in society and civilization are just right to do all that He is sent to do

- ❖ Greek culture and language are established throughout the known world providing a common language in which to share the gospel
- ❖ The *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace)
  - a general sense of economic and political stability
  - development of the infrastructure for a highly sophisticated transportation system comprised of roads and ports for shipping
- ❖ Gentiles grow weary and wary of their made-up, pagan, Greek and Roman gods
- ❖ Jews grow weary of being held prisoner by the law which they have tried and failed to keep for over a thousand years
  - during her 70 year exile, Israel
    - is largely purged of her idolatry
    - develops synagogues which become not only places of worship, but serve as schools and courts
  - following her return from Babylon, God uses Ezra to compile and provide Israel with the completed OT

### Our History

- ❖ *In the fullness of time* God sends His Son to meet with each of us in a real, personal way
  - at just the right time, when everything has been put in place and set in motion in our lives, God comes to us to reveal the wonders of His love and the truth of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done
  - Jesus announces to each of us that He is the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him

- ❖ Jesus comes to
  - buy us back from the slave market of sin
  - make us dearly loved, adopted children of His Father
  - to offer us rights and privileges that belong uniquely to Him as the Son of God
  - give us the power we need to identify with Him and become more like Him as the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit changes us from one degree of glory to another
- ❖ *In the fullness of time* Christ will come again!
  - not as a baby, but as a reigning king
  - for those who know Christ, this will be a moment of unparalleled joy and ecstasy
  - for those who do not know Christ, this will be a moment of unparalleled terror and horror

### Personal Application

1. What confidence or comfort do you find in knowing that Jesus came to earth at the precise, pre-planned moment that God determined it would occur before He created the world?
2. Traditionally, history has been divided into two eras (BC and AD) that are separated by the arrival of Christ in the world. Is there a “before and after” or an “Act I and Act II” in your life that is centered around the moment God moved you from death to life and darkness to light? If you are not sure, ask a church leader or trusted friend to explain to you how you can experience the freedom and fullness Jesus came to give.