

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME

Text: Galatians 4:4-5 (the _____ story in Galatians):

- God “sent forth” His Son because it was the only way to accomplish His rescue plan for His creation, centered on 2 concepts:
 - _____. To redeem = to buy something back, purchase all you can find from the market place; or to rescue someone from slavery by paying the price of their freedom in the form of a ransom.
 - _____. To reconcile = to bring all things back into a right relationship of friendship with Himself and harmony with His plan and purposes, starting now with saved people but ultimately including the entire universe (Col 1:20-22).
 - Before _____ began, God determined to send forth His Son to die in our place (Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:20, Revelation 13:8, Gen. 3:15).
 - **Why did it take so _____ for Christ to come?**
- ### I. THE _____ OF HIS COMING (vs. 4)
- Fullness = “fulfillment, filling up, completion”; also an “appointed” time (vs. 2).
 - Three possible considerations:
 - To deal effectively with the unwavering inclination of humanity to _____ over time.
 - To show the absolute necessity of a _____.
 - To _____ a maximum harvest of souls off this planet.
 - This was:
 - A time when human civilization was sufficiently developed to allow for the gospel of Christ to spread across the known world in a single _____.
 - A time of world _____ and a common world language.
 - A time near “the _____ of the world” (Heb. 9:26), so the greatest expansions of global evangelism could take place when world population was exploding exponentially.

II. THE _____ OF HIS COMING (vs. 4)

- “Made of a woman” emphasizes Christ’s _____ birth, that He is the woman’s seed of Gen. 3, conceived in womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Ghost; also emphasizes His _____.
- “Made under the Law” = Christ was a full-fledged member of the human race, subject to same _____ and regulations.

III. THE _____ OF HIS COMING (vs. 5)

- Redemption; the price being His precious _____ shed on the cross.

- “Them” = not just Jewish believers but all redeemed _____ justified by faith in Christ.
- “Under the law” explained (vs. 1-7):
 - Vs. 1—heir, child = the _____, before he has believed
 - Vs. 3—whose bondage = the elements of the world = the basic building blocks of worldly _____
 - Vs. 2—whose authority = tutors and governors = the _____ = our schoolmaster (child leader, teacher, 3:24)

IV. THE _____ OF HIS COMING (vs. 5)

- _____ in ancient times = not placement into a family but coming of age and coming into your inheritance.
 - In Bible times, adoption didn’t happen until a son was grown; but in God’s family, you are adopted at the time of your _____.
- Vs. 7—As God’s adopted child, you are a joint _____ with Christ. His inheritance is yours.
 - The first part of your inheritance = the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Vs. 6—just as He sent forth His Son, has sent forth His Spirit into our hearts, as the down payment on our full and future inheritance in Christ.
 - The Spirit brings us into an intimate _____ relationship with the Heavenly Father.
 - “Abba” = “_____” = a name that communicates closeness, love, and trust.

CONCLUSION

- When you’re wondering what God is up to in your life, or what His timetable might be, or what His plan is for you, remember that God always has a _____ that works, and when the time is right, He will _____ His plan.
- He has nothing but _____ in store for you, and it will come “in the fullness of time.”