

## **THE FULLNESS OF TIME (#1, Sunday Night Seminary) Galatians 4:4-6**

### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. Tonight we are going to have a preview of our Sunday Night Seminary ... by looking at these verses.
- b. In our Sunday night seminary... the plan is to study the Bible as you would if you were in a college or a seminary class.
- c. I loved my time in college and seminary... I loved the discipline of studying the Bible as being in school requires you to do.
- d. As I look back on my time in college and seminary... the hero of that time was Mrs. Aris.
- e. Being the wife of a seminarian is hard... seminary families do not have a lot of money.
- f. Seminary husbands and wives have to work... sometime multiple jobs ...and they have to scrimp and scrap to get by.
- g. While I was at school or studying... Aris worked... took care of the kids... took care of me... and did all that she did... to make our home a happy home.
- h. The hero of my time in school is Mrs. Aris... and I will be forever grateful to her for her love and support.
- i. I can tell you that I am what I am by the grace of God... and by the goodness of a godly and loving wife.
- j. From the first day I was saved... I have had a hunger to study the Bible ... and I find deep and great satisfaction in preaching and teaching the Bible... that is my calling and my passion.
- k. Every Christian is called to be a student of God's Word... and I hope you are looking forward to studying the Bible as you would... as if you were in a college or seminary class.

- l. There is not going to be a lot of dumbing down of what we study... you are a smart bunch of people... and you will be challenged in this study.
- m. One of the first classes you are required to take... in a Bible college or in a seminary... is a study of the life of Christ... and that is the first course of our Sunday Night Seminary.

## **II. THE INTER-BIBLICAL PERIOD-**

- a. Our study of the life of Christ... will begin 400 years before He was born.
- b. The period of time between Malachi and the closing of the Old Testament... and Matthew and the beginning of the New Testament is 400 years.
- c. Biblical scholars call that period of time... the inter-biblical period.
- d. To understand the life of Christ in its historical context... it is important to have an understanding of what happened in the inter-biblical period... as it pertains to the Jewish people and the land of Israel.
- e. In the Old Testament there are no synagogues... there are no Sadducees ... there are no Pharisees ... there are no Romans... there is no Decapolis (ten cities)... there is no council of the Jews.
- f. There are many groups, parties, institutions, locations, etc... that are not found in the Old Testament... that are found and are common place in the New Testament.
- g. Where did these things come from?... When did they develop?... they developed during the inter-biblical period.
- h. What happened in the land of Israel... and to the Jewish people during the inter-biblical period... had a profound effect on the world that Jesus was born in too.

- i. Four major world powers ruled the land of Israel and the Jewish people during the inter-biblical period... the Persians... the Greeks... the Seleucid Empire (Syria)... and the Romans.
- j. In between the rule of the Seleucid Empire and the Romans... there was a period of time when the Jews gained their independence.
- k. Lead by a brave and courageous man by the name of Judas the Maccabee ... a rag-tag army of Jews twice defeated the much larger and well-armed armies of a Seleucid king by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes... to gain the Jews their independence.
- l. That story is one of the most amazing stories...of ancient history.
- m. What happened during the inter-biblical period had a profound effect on the people, culture and land into which Jesus was born... and it is important that we understand it.
- n. Many people today have the idea that studying the Bible the way we are going to study the Bible... is irrelevant and boring.
- o. Many Bible studies today... are like cotton candy... light, fluffy, pretty and sweet ... giving those who participate in them a momentary spiritual sugary high... but there is no meat in those studies... there is no lasting substance from the Word of God to nourish and feed the soul and strengthen the Christian life.
- p. Our study... will be a serious, in-depth, exegetical study of the Bible and the life of Christ.
- q. Nothing is more relevant to life than studying the life of Christ... our Lord and Savior... and I could not make the Bible boring if I tried.
- r. In anticipation of our study of the life of Christ... I want us to take a careful look at Galatians 4:4-5.

### **III. THE PRECISE TIMING OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS-**

- a. *Galatians 4:4 (NKJV) "But when the fullness of the time had come..."*

- b. The phrase “fullness of time” means that Jesus was not born... until everything was ready.
- c. The place ... and the time of the birth of Jesus was not an accident.
- d. The birth of Jesus was a divine appointment... Jesus was born into this world at exactly the time that God had planned for Him to come.
- e. Jesus was born into this world... not too late... not too early... but right on time.
- f. #1, The time was right prophetically... this means that Jesus was not born... until all of the Old Testament prophecies leading up to His birth had been fulfilled.
- g. All through the centuries... Old Testament prophets and the writers of the Old Testament had predicted...had prophesied... and promised that God was going to send a Messiah...a Savior... into the world.
- h. When all of those prophecies... one by one... had been fulfilled... when the time was right... Jesus was born into this world.
- i. By the way... every prophecy that leads up to the Rapture of the church... which sets in motion the events that led up to the Second Coming of Jesus... have already been fulfilled.
- j. The time is right... for Jesus to come again.
- k. #2, The time was right nationally for the birth of Jesus... by the time Jesus was born the nation of Israel had been made ready for His birth.
- l. After their return from exile...Israel had finally forsaken idolatry.
- m. The nation had returned to the study and obedience to the scriptures ...the worship of Jehovah at the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of the religious life in Israel.
- n. Synagogues which served as places of worship... and schools... and

courts... and which would play a vital part in the ministry of Jesus... had been established throughout the land... and the Old Testament had been completed and assembled.

- o. #3, The time was right culturally for the birth of Jesus... during the inter-biblical period... Alexander the Great led the armies of the Greek Empire to conquer the Mediterranean world and push into Asia.
- p. Everywhere Alexander went... he established the Greek culture and the Greek language.
- q. By the time Jesus was born... Koine Greek... or common Greek... was spoken as the international language throughout the Mediterranean world.
- r. The first Christian missionaries who carried the gospel into the Roman world ... did not have to learn different languages to preach... everywhere they went those they preached to not only spoke their native tongue... they also spoke Greek.
- s. Even in Palestine... in the day of Jesus... the Septuagint... the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures was the Bible that was used in the synagogues.
- t. #4, The time was right politically... when Jesus was born the Rome Empire had achieved domination of the Mediterranean world.
- u. Jesus was born during a period of time known as the pax Romana... which means Roman peace.
- v. The pax Romana was a 400-year period of time during which Rome imposed peace in its realm... tolerating no revolts and no rebellions ...and fending off all attacks from the outside.
- w. The pax Romana was a time of economic and political stability...and it was time when Rome built a magnificent system of roads throughout its empire..many of them still exist and are still used today.

- x. This allowed the early Christian preachers, teachers and missionaries ...to travel freely and safely throughout the empire.
- y. #5, The time was right religiously for the birth of Jesus... by the time Jesus was born all the religions and all of the philosophies of the ancient world had burned themselves out.
- z. The world Jesus was born into... was a cold, cruel, desperate and hopeless place.
- aa. Even the religious life of Israel... was cold, lifeless, mechanical, ritualistic, legalistic and empty.
- bb. The world Jesus was born into was a world hungry for something to give life meaning and purpose... the world Jesus was born into was a world ready for a Savior.

Precise Timing

#### **IV. THE DIVINE SUBMISSION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS-**

- a. *Galatians 4:4 (NKJV) “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”*
- b. When you and I were born...we were not “sent forth” from anywhere ... we were conceived on earth.
- c. But Jesus existed before He was born... Jesus is God... He is eternal ... Jesus has always been... and He will always be.
- d. One day in eternity... God the Father came to God the Son... and He said... “It is time for You to go into the world...to make salvation possible for lost mankind.”... and God sent forth His Son... into this world.
- e. When Jesus came into this world... He did not come riding on a cloud ...or in a royal chariot... for all the world to see... He did not come accompanied by a multitude of angels in grand procession.
- f. When Jesus came into this world... He came into this world... as a baby... Jesus was born.

- g. He who is God... took on human flesh... and a human nature... and He came into this world as a human being.
- h. Galatians 4:4 says that when Jesus came into this world... He was born of a woman... not a rich woman... not a powerful woman ... not a known woman... but a peasant woman... just a girl.
- i. And when Jesus was born... He was not born in the palace of a King ... He was not born in the home of a wealthy and powerful figure... He was born in a stable...and His first bed was an animal food trough.
- j. Galatians 4:4 says that Jesus was born of a woman... you and I were born of a woman and a man... but Jesus was not.
- k. Jesus was a man who was born of a woman... but even though He was born of a woman... Jesus was also still God...who was supernaturally conceived in the womb of that woman ... His mother Mary ... a virgin... by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- l. Because Jesus was supernaturally conceived in the womb of His mother by the power of the Holy Spirit... He was born without an inherited sin nature.
- m. Unlike us... Jesus was not born with an inherited sin nature... and unlike us ... Jesus never chose to sin.
- n. Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life... which qualified Him to be a sacrifice... to give Himself for our sins.
- o. It is still the wonder of wonders... that when Jesus came into this world ... He came as a little baby!
- p. Galatians 4:4 also says that Jesus was born under the law...Jesus willingly lived His life submitted to the law that He Himself had given...He submitted Himself to the moral law... the ceremonial law of God.
- q. Jesus lived under the law... and He fulfilled the law... Jesus is the

only person to have ever keep every law of God perfectly ... in letter and in spirit... again qualifying Him to be a sacrifice for our sins.

Precise Timing... Divine Submission

## V. THE FULFILLED MISSION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS-

- a. Why would Jesus leave the joy and the perfection of eternity...take on humanity... come into a sin cursed world... to be mistreated, rejected and to die on a cross?
- b. He did it to provide a way... that lost sinners could be forever saved from the penalty and power of sin.
- c. *Galatians 4:5 (NKJV) "To redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*
- d. It is the perfect life... sacrificial death... and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ... that makes salvation from sin possible.
- e. Those who receive Christ as their Savior and Lord are saved... and adopted as God's child forever.
- f. The presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life... is the confirmation and the assurance that they have truly trusted in Christ.
- g. *Galatians 4:6 (NKJV) "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"*

## VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. It the first session of our Sunday Night Seminary... we will study the earthly life of our Lord and Savior... and no Bible study can be greater than that.