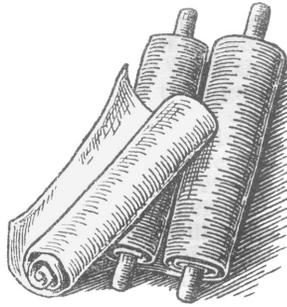


Perfect Timing!

Galatians 4:1-7



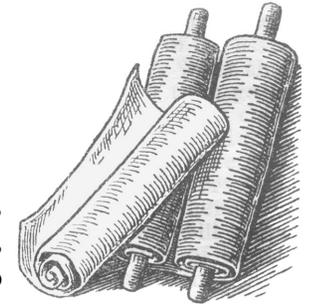
“When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (*Gal. 4:4*). According to His eternal counsels, God had marked on His calendar a date for the Messiah to come into this world. Christ’s birth did not come a day early nor a day late. Christ was destined to appear at the time appointed by the Father (compare *Gal. 4:2*). While God alone understands all the reasons for choosing this date, we can make several observations:

- 1) God’s amazing 70 weeks prophecy (*Daniel 9:24-27*) indicated exactly when Messiah the Prince would be presented to the Jewish nation (probably at the Triumphal Entry). Obviously, Christ’s birth must predate this event.
- 2) For fifteen hundred years the Jewish people demonstrated that they were totally incapable of keeping the Mosaic law. It was time for a new economy, that is, time for the grace of God which brings salvation to appear to all men (*Titus 2:11; John 1:17*).
- 3) Following Christ’s birth, death and resurrection, it was the ideal time for the disseminating of the Gospel because...
 - a) there was one common language (*lingua franca*) spoken in the Roman Empire, namely Greek. The early missionaries did not need to learn a new language every time they entered a different country;
 - b) the Romans had built a network of roads which greatly facilitated travel from city to city; people could travel from country to country without troublesome border checks;
 - c) the Romans had established *Pax Romana* (Roman peace) which provided political stability for Gospel outreach (*1 Tim. 2:1-6*);
 - d) there were about 150 synagogues throughout the Empire serving as Old Testament Scripture depositories and enabling Christian missionaries to reach both Jews and Gentile proselytes. All these factors led to great multitudes throughout the known world coming to know God’s so-great salvation.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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