

## **TITLE: GOD'S PERFECT TIMING**

**TEXT:** Galatians 4:4-5

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, [5] to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

It is Christmas **TIME** again

A **TIME** when we focus on the birth of Jesus,

But it is also a **TIME** when we focus on what the world should be.

With the war on terrorism and the war in Afghanistan

**We desire peace on earth**

With the moral decline of our nation

**We pray for revival**

IF WE ONLY LIVED IN A PERFECT WORLD

### **ILLUSTRATION**

There was an article a few years ago in which a man gave his idea of a perfect world. He said, "In a perfect world you would feel as good at 60 as you did at 17. And you would be as smart at 60 as you thought you were at 17."

"In a perfect world professional basketball and baseball and football players would be complaining because schoolteachers were signing multi-million dollar contracts. In a perfect world potato chips would have calories, but if eaten with dip, the calories would be neutralized."

"In a perfect world, mail would always be early, and the check in the mail would always be for more than you expected it to be. In a perfect world," he said, "every once in a while some kid who always closes the door softly would be told to go back and slam that door!" **THAT'S HIS IDEA OF A PERFECT WORLD.**

**APPLICATION:** What would make this a perfect world for you?

Ice cream that's good for the heart?  
 Pecan pies that you eat in order to prevent cancer?  
 Cheese cake that helps you lose weight?

I can think of all kinds of things for my perfect world.

## **NOW THAT WE'RE THINKING ABOUT PERFECT THINGS**

There are very few perfect things in this world,

but our text mentions **3 perfect things**:

Galatians 4:4-5 says

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, [5] to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

**Perfect timing** - when the time had fully come

**The perfect gift** - God sent his Son

**And the perfect purpose** - to redeem those under law

This Morning I want to consider **the perfect timing of God.**

Paul says, "**THE TIME HAD FULLY COME.**"

Now in the Greek language there were two words for time: "**Kairos**" which means "**OPPORTUNE TIME**" - you seize an opportunity that comes your way, maybe quite by accident.

And "**kronos**" from which comes our word "chronology" - the orderly progression of events, when everything follows the proper sequence, and is exactly right.

The word used in Galatians 4:4 is "**kronos**,"

**\*THIS INDICATES THAT GOD JUST DIDN'T DECIDE ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY**

God orchestrated the sequence of events,

That's the way God works in time

Eccles. 3:11

**He has made everything beautiful in its time.** He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Acts 17:26 says, "From one man God made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and **He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.**" That's a great scripture which simply tells us that God is in control. He even determines where we live.

**PROP. THE POINT IS OUR LIFES ARE IN GODS HAND.**

**He keeps the clock  
And he works out everything beautifully**

He demonstrated His perfect timing in the O.T.,  
He demonstrated His perfect timing in the life of Jesus Christ,  
and He demonstrates His perfect timing in your life, too.

**PRAYER**

**I. GOD'S PERFECT TIMING IN O.T. EVENTS**

**First of all,** I want you to see God's perfect timing in O.T. events.

**A. In Genesis 24 is the story of Abraham's servant**

The servant was sent to the homeland

His assignment was to find a wife for Isaac

And he didn't want to fail.

So he kneeled at the well of Nahor and prayed that God would help him

He prayed that God would send the right young woman to the well,

He prayed that when he asked her for water to drink, she would also offer to water his camels.

Now what do they think the odds are that some young woman would say, when you asked her for a drink of water, "I just love to give water to smelly camels..... May I water your camels, too?"

The odds probably aren't too good.

**But that was his prayer.**

And as he was praying,

the Bible says that a young maiden came to the well carrying her water pot on her shoulder.

The servant asked her,

"Would you give me something to drink?"

She said, "Yes, and by the way, may I water your camels, too?"

The servant knew instantly that this is the girl that God has picked out for Isaac.

At just the right time,  
and at just the right place  
God sent Rebecca to meet the servant,  
and she ends up becoming the wife of Isaac.

NOW THAT'S GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

## **B. Then there's Joseph.**

He was the favorite son of Jacob,

and grandson of Isaac.

He had a coat of many colors,  
 and his brother were all jealous of him.  
 So when he went out to see them,  
 they decided to strip off his coat,  
 throw him into a cistern **and let him die.**

**BUT AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME** a caravan making its way to Egypt came by **and they thought**, "Why not make some money off this deal?"

Let's not leave him here to die, but let's sell him as a slave, instead."  
 So they did.

**At just the right time** Joseph arrived in Egypt.

**And at just the right time** he interpreted Pharaoh's dream.

**And at just the right time**, Joseph rose to great power in Egypt.

**And at just the right time** the famine struck, and his brothers made their way to Egypt, and the family was reunited.

**Joseph said IT exactly right when he told them,**

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

**NOW THAT'S GOD'S PERFECT TIMING**

C. **At just the right time the baby Moses** was placed in a little basket and set afloat in the River Nile.

**And at just the right time** Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe.

**And at just the right time** the baby cried so that Moses could grow up in the household of Pharaoh.

D. **At just the right time Boaz** came back from Bethlehem to see a foreigner named Ruth gleaning in his fields.

**At just the right time David** came to the battlefield and saw Goliath flexing his muscles, boasting of his power.

E. **At just the right time Esther** was made queen when her people were about to be exterminated.

And Uncle Mordecai said, Esther 4:14 "**Who knows but that God has made you queen for just such a time as this?**"

## **SUMMARY**

God is in control.

In Daniel 2:21 we find these words; "God changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them."

## **WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE OF TIME.**

Nothing is happening in this world that is surprising to God.

God doesn't say, "Now, I didn't know that was going to happen."

**God is in charge.**

## **II. GOD'S TIMING IN THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST**

Secondly, **we see God's timing in the life of Jesus Christ.**

When you give a special gift to someone you want the timing to be just right.

You would not give your girlfriend an engagement ring during the half time of Monday Night Football

No, you try to orchestrate things so that they are just right –

When the moon is shining,

And the music is soft and gentle.

**THEN IT'S THE RIGHT TIME...**

**When God was ready to send His son into the world everything had to be just right.**

The Bible says, "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son."

The time was right.

## **1. IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME CULTURALLY.**

**Alexander the Great had conquered the world.**

With him came Greek culture,  
Greek philosophy,  
And the Greek language,

Which incidentally is the most precise, and the most descriptive of all ancient languages.

Greek was the language of the 1st Century,

the language of the common people,

the language that everyone could understand,

a universal language,

just right for the quick spread of the gospel.

## **2. IT WAS ALSO THE RIGHT TIME POLITICALLY.**

**Alexander the Great** died at age 33 of venereal disease.

As he lay on his death bed his generals gathered around waiting to find out who would inherit all of his vast domain.

History reports that Alexander said, "I bequeath all of my holdings to..." and everyone leaned forward and held their breath. "I bequeath all of my holdings to..." he said, "the strongest." So Civil war broke out and the empire began to crumble.

**Then a Roman** by the name of Octavius came into power.

So impressive was he that the Roman Senate decided to make him their ruler.

But they didn't like the word "king,"

so they chose the word "Augustus," the "August One," Caesar Augustus.

Luke picks up his pen and writes, LUKE 2:1

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all of the world should be taxed."

God used a pagan dictator

and a pagan government

and a pagan decree to make sure that Mary and Joseph made the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem so that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem as the prophets had foretold.

## **AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME**

### **B. YOU CAN ALSO SEE GOD'S TIMING IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.**

Have you ever noticed, as you read the Gospels, how often you read the words,

**"THE TIME HAS COME," OR  
"THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME"?**

For instance, Mark 1:15 says, "The time has come...The kingdom of God is near."

Whose time?

Who is watching the clock?

Who determined that this was the right time?

**In John 7:6**, Jesus brothers encouraged Jesus to go down to Jerusalem and perform His miracles there.

But Jesus says, "**The right time for me has not yet come.**"

**In John 7:30**, His enemies try to seize Him,

but they are unable to do so.

And the Bible says, it is "**because His time had not yet come.**"

Whose time?

**IT'S GOD'S TIME.**

**D. AFTER THE LAST SUPPER,**

This language begins to change in the gospels and you begin to read that

**THE TIME HAS COME.**

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prays,

**In John 17:1** "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you"

**To his disciples He says in Mark 14:41** "The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man has been betrayed into the hands of sinners"

Then He says to those who have come to arrest Him,

"This is your hour - when darkness reigns" [Luke 22:53].

Romans 5:6

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

**." AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.**

E. Now if you really want to read something that will boggle your mind,

Turn to Daniel 9:24

It says, Daniel 9:24

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

That is a prophecy about the coming Messiah.

Listen to ...

Daniel 9:25-26

**"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.'** It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. [26] **After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off** and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

These numbers represent years.

Multiply 7 times 7, and you get 49.

Multiply 62 times 7, and you get 434.

Add those two and you come up with 483 years.

**Daniel prophesies that it will be 483 years** from the command to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One is cut off.

**Go back in history**, and you'll find that from the time Cyrus issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the time that Jesus was crucified was exactly 483 years.

## APPLICATION

### **NOW, DOES THAT SAY ANYTHING TO YOU AT ALL?**

Here is what it ought to say.

If God was in charge of timing during the O.T. days,  
and if God was in charge of timing during the life of Jesus,  
Then God is still in charge of timing now.

### **III. GOD'S PERFECT TIMING IN YOUR LIFE**

**That brings up a very important question,**

**"What about your life AND mine**

A. In Psalm 31:15 the psalmist writes, "My times are in your hands."

And

Romans 8:28 says,

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Now that is a wonderful promise  
And I'm convinced it is absolutely true.

Things have happened in my life at just exactly the right time,

And yet it was not because of anything I had done.

- Doors were opened
- Opportunities offered

- Help received

## **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

AS A Christian, Consider your own conversion.

I would almost bet that you can think of **people**

And **events** or words

and **circumstances** in life that touched your heart,

That made your mind receptive to Jesus

So that when the seed was planted in your life

It took root and started to grow.

ILL.

Chuck Colson tells about going to Salem, OR, with his Prison Fellowship Ministry and preaching to prisoners there.

Kathy Tracolie, a singer who went with him, sang the song, "My Life is in His Hands."

After the service was over, one of the inmates came up to Kathy and said, "I really want to thank you for singing that song. It ministered to me so much." He said, "**My soul was dry.**"

She asked, "Why is that?" He answered, "Well, I'm here in prison, and I have a lot of time left to serve.

I received a letter this past week from my wife asking for a divorce. Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, they did, and I felt like there was nothing left for me.

But now I realize that my life is in the hands of God, and that somehow it will be okay. I really want to thank you for singing that song."

Five days later, Chuck Colson and Kathy Tracolie were in Chicago, IL, more than 1,000 miles from Salem, OR. They were preaching and singing in a prison there, and Kathy sang that same song, "My Life is in Your Hands."

Afterwards, a woman who had never been to a Prison Fellowship meeting before came up to Kathy and said, "I really want to thank you for singing that song. **My soul has been so dry.**"

Almost the same exact words. Again Kathy asked, "Why?" She said, "**Well, my husband is in prison**, too, and I felt like I couldn't put up with it anymore. So I wrote him last week and asked for a divorce. But I'm not at peace about it."

Her husband was the man they had met back in Salem, OR. Just a coincidence,

I guess.

Just a coincidence?

Kathy was able to minister to her, and now God is healing the marriage and bringing them back together again.

It doesn't always happen like that, does it?

You don't always get instant answers to your prayers.

It doesn't always work out the way we hope it will.

But here's the promise,

No matter how difficult it may be,  
no matter how tough life may be,  
no matter how disappointing things might be in your life,

**GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL.**

In Romans 13:11 Paul writes, "The hour has come for you to wake up from

your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

"Wake up!" he says.

If you're a Christian, rejoice.

But if you're not a Christian, be concerned, because the clock is ticking for you, and there is not a lot of time left.

One of these days

we'll hear the trumpets blow.

We'll hear the voice of the archangel,

and we'll see the glory of God coming in the sky.

Are you ready for that?

## **CONCLUSION**

In God's Perfect Timing

He has led you HERE FOR A REASON

For Such a time as this

You didn't plan it

Maybe you haven't even thought about it.

But just now He's brought you here

The His Holy Spirit is speaking to you,

**SAYING - NOW IS THE TIME.**

All things have been prepared for you so that this moment can be your moment of salvation, DELIVERENCE, REDEDICATION