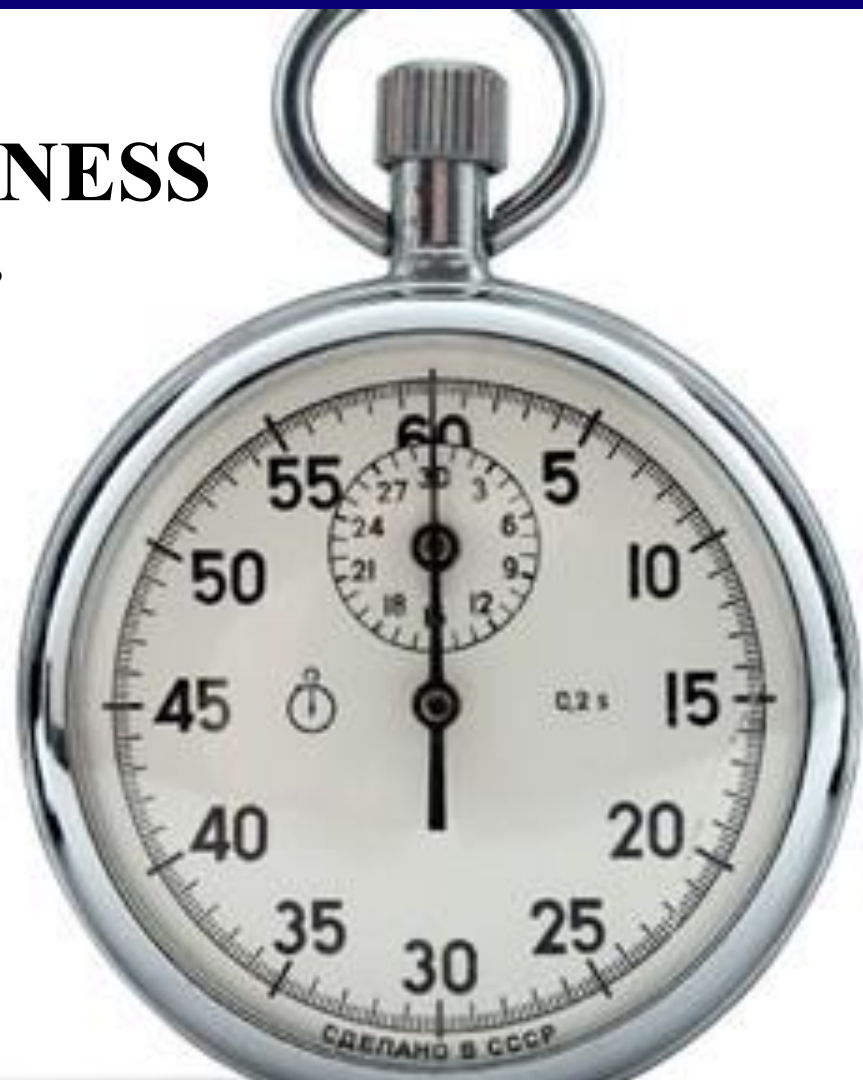


**“IN THE FULLNESS
OF TIME”**

**God's
Perfect
Timing**



Christmas—the Right Season - Galatians 4:4-6

Jesus came at just the right time—the fullness of time. What made that the perfect time spiritually, culturally, and politically for the Messiah's arrival? In our text, we discover that God always keeps His appointments and His time is always the right time.

TWO MAIN THOUGHTS BEHIND “IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

I. God always keeps His appointments; He's on a timetable. He announces it. He always keeps it.

II. God's time is always the right time

"To everything there is a season..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

"God is not slack or slow..." 2 Peter 3:9

TWO MAIN THOUGHTS BEHIND “IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

"There are no loose threads in the providence of God, no stitches are dropped, and no events are left to chance. The great clock of the universe keeps good time, and the whole machinery of providence moves with unerring punctuality."—Charles Spurgeon

TWO MAIN THOUGHTS BEHIND “IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

His first words: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand." (Mark 1:15)

There are references throughout Scripture about the time

At the miracle of the water into wine, He tells his mom, "My hour has not yet come." (John 2:4)

TWO MAIN THOUGHTS BEHIND “IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

They tried to take Jesus by force and make Him a king. (See John 7)

At the Last Supper, He got up to wash His disciples' feet because He "knew that His hour had come" (John 13:1)

In His prayer, "Father, the hour has come." (John 17:1)

TWO MAIN THOUGHTS BEHIND “IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

God makes appointments and He always keeps His appointments

God's time is always the right time

We look at B.C. and A.D. – Jesus split time forever

2. God's time is always the right time

A. The right time spiritually

They were open to an alternative belief system

A Roman poet, Virgil, wrote that Caesar Augustus was the ideal savior king, "This one will be the divine king of which the world has awaited."

2. God's time is always the right time

"Prior to the first century, the Messianic interest was not excessive. The first century however, especially the generation before the destruction of the second temple, witnessed a remarkable outburst of Messianic emotionalism

2. God's time is always the right time

When Jesus came into Galilee, spreading the gospel of the Kingdom of God and saying the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand, He was voicing the opinion universally held that the age of the Kingdom of God was at hand. The Messiah was expected around the second quarter of the first century of the Christian era."— Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

2. God's time is always the right time

Ancient prophecy in Genesis

Jacob gives his last words to his sons

Judah – "The scepter shall not depart...until Shiloh comes" (Genesis 49:10)

Rabbis down through the ages believed that Messiah would not come until the right to rule was taken from
Judah

2. God's time is always the right time

Josephus, the Jewish historian tells us that in the first quarter of the first century, when the Romans took over, they took the right of tribal rule from Judah

2. God's time is always the right time

When that happened, the Jewish Sanhedrin put sackcloth and ashes on their bodies and marched through the streets of Jerusalem bewailing, "The scepter has departed from Judah, but Shiloh has not come."

2. God's time is always the right time

B. It was the right time culturally

First time since the tower of Babel there was a
universal language – Greek

People could understand each other – free flow
thought in expression and ideas

2. God's time is always the right time

Greek is the most precise instrument to convey human
thought

Interesting that God waited for the most precise
language to be the language that the New Testament
would be written in

2. God's time is always the right time

C. It was the right time politically

Rome was in charge

Caesar Augustus established the *Pax Romana* –

Roman Peace

Peace

2. God's time is always the right time

Cultural growth

Road system – 250,000 miles, 50,000 miles paved

Travel safely and freely around Roman Empire

Some of the soldiers got saved

2. God's time is always the right time

It was the fullness of the time

It was the perfect time

The right time

By the end of 312 A.D., every one in ten people in the Roman world claimed to be Christian

Closing Thoughts

We don't always understand God's timing

This day could be the perfect time in your life

He might be bringing you to a personal confidence and trust in Him, in a relationship with Him

Closing Thoughts

This could be the fullness of the time for you
Today is the day of salvation (see 2 Corinthians 6:2)
If you would like to commit your life to Christ, do it
right now