



**The Times Are Right**  
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***Galatians 4:4 – "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law..."***

- When the time had come for birth to occur
- Scripture tells us that God had been working in history to perfectly prepare the times so that time would come together perfectly would be the coming of Christ
- Such a time, prepared for the coming of Christ, was in the midst of a brutal time
  - Herod was the "king of the Jews" and was a murderer
  - Roman rule was brutal
- The time was harsh & cruel and came to a crescendo and that was the moment for the coming of Christ, the Messiah
- Hebrews 5:8 – "Son though He was, He learned obedience by what He suffered..."

- Though He came as God, needed to be perfected, or made complete for the purpose for which He came
- The times were full and ready for Him, yet He had to become “completed” for the task
- **The time was very dark, yet we don’t want to look at the background, the context of his birth.**
  - We often feel that the world we live in doesn’t seem to “fit” – we often don’t want to deal with much of what we face
  - Yet the times we are in are fully “fit” for us and for our lives; and we are being “fit” to live in this world and do the purpose God has set out for us
  - We are met to be pilgrims and strangers; the world was not equipped for our comfort but that we can messengers of life & light
  - We are to live in this world with hope, knowing who we belong to, know who we are in Christ – until the fullness of God, we will not fit and are not supposed to fit
  - There will always be a tension, as sense of “not fitting”
- **Everyone involved in the Xmas story had to pay a price, had to face a challenge to take their part in the birth of Christ.**
  - Anna lived for decades praying & fasting for Israel and saw the deterioration of her country and her people; she saw much & suffered much yet one day saw the Christ child...she was right where she was supposed to be, doing what she was designed to do
  - Simeon – was to pray for years for the coming of the consolation of the people of Israel; to stand & wait for the consolation – and he saw the coming of Christ.
  - Mary – the virgin preparing for marriage at 16 years of age; God put her into a place where she could have been executed. That was part of the deal for her.
  - Joseph – had to live with the ridicule
  - Elizabeth and Zechariah – had lived for decades with shame of being barren; when God does move he is left humiliated for not giving the proper answer and he was a righteous priest among many who weren’t.
  - Jesus – his own family staged an intervention; his own brothers didn’t believe who he was; his home town tried to kill him; there was a death threat on his life from the time he was 2 years of age.
- **Like these folks, we are “fit” to live in these difficult times with courage & purpose that “fits” with God’s purpose.**
- **How do we “fit” into these times “fit” for us**
  - Let God be in control of the time we’re in
  - We are made to run into our times – to impact them with our lives; we are intended to go forward, to make the changes, but to

understand that life is not about comfort, pleasure, or ease. It is about making a difference in difficult times.

- **We are called to be who & what we are no matter what happens in the times. The Xmas story is to re-ignite our sense of purpose & in conformity to the plan God has set out.**
  - We must believe the story of Xmas and like the people who live in that time, we must hold to the promise and understand that as Christ came forth in truth, He will do so in our time.