

The Arrival of the Son

Galatians 4: 4-5

Today marks a day of celebration and joy that has been commemorated for almost two thousand years. What a privilege to be gathered in the Lord's house on Christmas morning. We have the opportunity to worship and praise our Lord and Savior, as we remember His coming to earth to provide for our redemption.

Many embrace the babe, found in a lowly manger in Bethlehem, but few grasp the enormity of this life. His life involved much more than a celebrated miraculous birth. It involves more than a great Man of compassion who performed miracles and gathered a following. His life involves more than the horrific moment, as He died on the cross. We are not gathered to celebrate the life of one who was; we are gathered to worship the risen, sovereign Lord. His life, death, and resurrection provided the means of salvation for all who look to Him by faith.

As the apostle Paul contemplated the coming of Christ, he declared – [Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, 2 Cor.9:15](#). Our text today deals with the enormity of the life of Christ, from His miraculous birth to His atoning death, and the great provision made for humanity. As we discuss the [details](#) within these verses, I want to consider: [The Arrival of the Son](#).

I. A Sovereign Purpose (4) – [But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law](#). As we consider the life of Christ, we must consider the sovereign purpose for His coming to earth in the form of a man. This was not just an average birth, with another son being born into a Jewish family. He was no ordinary child, and He did not live an ordinary life. Jesus came to earth in order to fulfill the sovereign plan of God to redeem mankind from their sin.

- Paul spoke of the “fulness of time,” revealing that at a moment, predetermined by God, Jesus came to this earth. God created Adam of the dust of the earth, and provided Eve to walk alongside him. They are the parents of the entire human race. In the beginning, all was as God planned it to be, but sin entered into the lives of Adam and Eve as they partook of the forbidden fruit, thus plunging all of humanity to follow into condemnation through sin. Early in the Garden, God prophesied the Redeemer would come. [Gen.3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel](#).
- Although this is the first mention we have of the coming of Christ as Savior, this was not the moment the sovereign plan was considered. Before God created Adam, He knew Adam would sin and stand in need of a Savior. The Bible teaches that Christ was a Lamb slain, before the foundation of the world. The coming of Christ as the sacrificial atonement for sin was planned of

God before He created the world in which we live. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son to provide for our redemption. We cannot celebrate Christmas apart from a genuine awareness of God's sovereign, eternal plan! Christ came to fulfill that plan.

II. A Scheduled Plan (4a) – *But when the fullness of the time was come...* As I have already said, there was a moment, predetermined of God in eternity past, that the Son would come. At the exact moment God had planned, Christ was born into the world. It was not a haphazard or accidental birth. The Sovereign of the Ages had predetermined this moment, and it was fulfilled according to His plan and purpose.

- So, what exactly does that mean? What does Paul speak of regarding the fullness of time? For centuries prophets had proclaimed Messiah would come. Although the Jews were unaware of it, God was working behind the scenes to bring about His sovereign plan. At this moment in time, the entire civilized world was under Roman control. The Greek language, known as Koine Greek was spoken throughout the world. The Roman Empire had established an environment that would enable the Gospel to be spread throughout the world. 1.) *Pax Romana* - The Roman peace provided social, economic and political stability. This allowed the early missionaries and preachers to travel freely throughout the Roman Empire. 2.) *Lex Romana* - The Roman Law gave the citizens living in the Empire many rights that also helped spread the Gospel. 3.) *Rio Romana* - The Roman roads. These highways, many of which are still in use today, served to aid in the spreading of the Gospel message.¹ The exact moment of Jesus' birth was fulfilled according to God's plan. God had orchestrated all of these events to prepare the world for the coming of His Son and the spread of the Gospel.

III. A Sinless Person (4b) – *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.* Following the fall of Adam in the garden, all who are born into this life are born in sin. We are condemned by our sin, and separated from God. Our only hope of redemption and reconciliation to God was for a sinless sacrifice to be made on our behalf. Such a demand is impossible with mankind. None are able to live a holy, sinless life before God. We cannot keep the law of God and become acceptable to Him. God knew this, and that is why He purposed to send His Son. Christ came to live the life we never could, and offer Himself the atoning sacrifice for our sin.

- He came to earth, robed in a body of flesh, *made of a woman*, born from a virgin womb. He was fully God and fully man. Many doubt and deny the virgin birth, but had Jesus not been born of virgin womb, conceived by the Holy Ghost, He would have been born in sin like all men. Again, this was no ordinary birth, and Jesus was no ordinary child!

- Also Paul declares that Jesus was [made under the law](#). Keep in mind that mankind stood condemned by the law of God. We could not keep the law; we could never measure up to God's righteous standard. Christ came as God in flesh, living a perfect, sinless life, fully keeping the law of God as He lived upon this earth as a Spirit filled Man. This too is a vital aspect in the life of Christ. He fulfilled the law of God, accomplishing what we never could, breaking the curse of sin and condemnation it brings through the law. As Christ lived, keeping the law, He allows us to come to Him by grace, having His righteousness imputed to our account. Although we are unable to keep the law, being in Christ, we are accepted by God, and viewed righteous like the Son!

IV. A Sacrificial Payment (5a) – [God sent forth His Son...to redeem them that were under the law](#).

Christ came to redeem us from the penalty and punishment of sin. The law declared we were guilty; it brought condemnation because of our sin, and separated us from God. In order for us to be freed from our guilt and condemnation, a ransom had to be paid. Christ redeeming us has the idea of *"purchasing one from the market place and removing them from the sale."*

- Each of us stood on the slave market of sin, condemned and without hope. We couldn't earn our freedom from the bondage of sin and had nothing to merit God's acceptance within ourselves. Jesus offered Himself the atoning sacrifice for our sin. He willingly bore our sin and endured the judgment and wrath of God that we deserved. God judged our sin in the body of His Son. Christ secured our redemption as He bled and died upon the cross. In Him there is forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to God. [1 Peter 1:18-21 – Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;](#) ^[19] [But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:](#) ^[20] [Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,](#) ^[21] [Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.](#) Eph.1:7 – [In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.](#)

V. A Supernatural Position (5b) – [To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons](#).

Our redemption through the atoning sacrifice of Christ affords the believer a new, supernatural position, acceptable to God. In Christ we receive the adoption of sons, literally placed within the family of God. We are no longer viewed as outcasts, but accepted as family.

- *In the ancient world the family was based on a Roman law called "patria potestas," the father's power. The law gave the father absolute authority over his children, so long as the father lived. He could work, enslave, sell, and if he wished, he could pronounce the death penalty. Regardless of the child's adult age, the father held all power over personal and property rights.*

- *Therefore, adoption was a serious matter. Yet, it was a common practice to ensure that a family would not become extinct by having no male children. And when a child was adopted, three legal steps were taken.*
- ***The adopted son was adopted permanently.** He could not be adopted today and disinherited tomorrow. He became a son of the father—forever. He was eternally secure as a son.*
- ***The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.***
- ***The adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family.** The adopted son was looked upon as a new person—so new that old debts and obligations connected with his former family were cancelled out and abolished as if they never existed.* ⁱⁱ
- In Christ we are adopted into the family, eternally secured as children of the Father! The sin and debt of our past is gone, and we have the promise of an eternal inheritance when we meet the Lord beyond the grave!

Conclusion: As we have discussed this wonderful passage, it may have sounded a bit more like an Easter message instead of one for Christmas. That is fine; we cannot properly celebrate Christmas apart from considering the finished work of Christ, providing for our redemption and securing eternal life for all who believe. Every year we celebrate the birth of Christ, and yet we are the ones who received the unspeakable gift. If you are saved by grace, and placed within the body of Christ, you have much to rejoice in today. If you have yet to receive Christ as your Savior, I urge you to come to Him by faith and receive the gracious gift of salvation.

ⁱ The Sermon Notebook - The Sermon Notebook – Galatians.

ⁱⁱ Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.