

## The Fullness of Time

*Galatians 4:1-7*

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup> So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

<sup>6</sup> And Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

(Galatians 4:1-7)

## Context of Galatians

- the Galatian believers were being compelled by Jewish false teachers to keep the Mosaic Law as an additional means of salvation
- Paul argues that the Law functioned to shut people up under sin until Christ (3:22-24)

## Fullness of Time

### 1. Status Prior to Christ

- all were enslaved to the "elemental things of the world" – both Jews and Gentiles
- "elemental things" – covers all things in which man places his trust apart from God, most notably, the varied forms of legalism

## Fullness of Time

### 2. The Sending of the Son

- "*fullness of time*" – the divinely ordained era for God's people to enter their inheritance as sons
- "*born of a woman*" – the eternal Son came as fully human and lived authentically as a man

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### 2. The Sending of the Son

- *“born under the Law”* – He live obediently under the Law’s obligations and He died substitutionally under the Law’s curse

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### 3. The Purpose of His Coming

#### A. Redemption

- the release from slavery through the payment of a price
- freedom from the Law’s enslaving curse through the death of Christ (cf. 3:13)

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### 3. The Purpose of His Coming

#### B. Adoption

- the act by which God confers on us the status of sons (i.e. His children)
- results in a new, relational experience of God as “Father”