

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: The Fullness of The Time Pt 4

Topic: In Need of a Savior

Scripture Text: Galatians 4:4–7

12/24/2017

“A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.”

Galatians 4:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

“Jesus is the reason for the season but God is responsible for the reason.”

We now come to the event of the “Christmas Day”, the birth of Jesus. Jesus truly is the reason for this season but greater still it is knowing that God is responsible for the “reason”.

Lost in the hustle and bustle and celebration of the season, not always based on Jesus, the true reason for the birth of Christ is that the world was in need of a savior.

We spent the last few weeks looking at the history in the period between the testaments. That journey was to show that although there is no recorded scripture covering that period, except for the very scant mention in *Matt 1:12-17* God was still working out His plan waiting for the fullness of time to send His Son. Although there are other non biblical writings that reveal that God was still involved with the salvation of His people.

God has always had a way of salvation, a savior.

Moses - *Exodus 3:7–8, I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians*

Exodus 3:10 and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Ehud Judges 3:14–15 when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera,

Deborah, the prophetess and Barak *Judges 4:7*⁷ *and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"*

Gideon *Judges 6:14* *"Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"*

Samson *Judges 13:5* *and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."*

Esther - *Esther 4:14-16* *Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

The Maccabees – The Books of the Maccabees

If you were to read of these accounts you will see that God delayed their deliverance until the fullness of His time.

We all know the history of Israel's continued cycle of sinning. Very often God allowed time to pass for the people to see the errors of their ways and repent. For example, before God raised up Jephthah to deliver Israel from the Ammonites the people repented.

*Judges 10:15-16 (NKJV)*¹⁵ *And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray."*¹⁶ *So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. ...*

That was the fullness of time.

Often, when we get in trouble we want to pray to God and ask to be delivered without any real repentance or change. God may let us suffer longer as a form of chastisement to bring about true repentance.

Now the key difference we have here is that all the other Saviors/delivers before Jesus the Christ, were saviors and delivers for Israel, God's people.

When Jesus came as a savior and deliverer He did so for Israel and all people. The Jews were again looking for a military savior like in the past to deliver them from oppression. God saw a greater need for them and all people and that was to for them to be delivered from their sins. History has proved that deliverance from oppression was only temporary. God's greater deliverance from sin was everlasting.

Jesus the Christ

*Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)*²¹ *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

*Luke 2:10-11 (NKJV)*¹⁰ *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."*¹¹ *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

In the 400 years between the gospels it seemed like each ruling empire was worse than the proceeding one. Human life was of very little value. Ruler were visionaries yet cruel and sometimes demented.

God's people still robbed God of His tithes, sacrificed unworthy animals and purchased underserved positions from the Romans. The former Hosomanian kingdom was given to King Herod for a price, He was a vassal King, and very cruel.

Herod:

- Appointed vassal king by Mark Antony at 36 Later renewed by Augustus Caesar
- Had His wife killed because of insecurities and Jealousy
- He killed his own children as well.
- He was the Single greatest builder in antiquity including the Temple Mount.
- One last point Herod had all males with Hosomanian blood killed so they could not challenge his kingship
- Later Herod became known for the murder of the innocents. (*Matt 2:16*) for which there is no historical record but the Bible.

Into this world God sent His Son to save the world from its sin. Contrast that with Gods decision back in Genesis when He decided to destroy the world.

Jesus was the savior of the world. But the large part of the world rejected the savior and many still do today.

Here is a sobering thought; there is no other savior to come. When Jesus comes again, He is coming to rule. Today is the day of salvation.

The fullness of time comes when God says the time has come. Man, or world events cannot delay it nor rush it.

When Jesus came the first time although the Jews were looking for Him, He was already there and they knew Him not.

John 1:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.* ¹¹ *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

Jesus came in God's fullness of time when many were looking for him but His coming was unexpected.

God is waiting again on another fullness of time when Jesus will return again.

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*

Jesus is coming again and we like the five foolish virgins are expecting Him but if we are not prepared His coming will be at an unexpected time again. The next major event on God's calendar is the Rapture when the fullness of time has come.

Jesus is the reason for the season but God is responsible for the reason.

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Here is an insight into Gods determination of “the fullness of time.”

Revelation 6:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”* ¹¹ *Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

Message Scriptures: Galatians 4:4–7, *Exodus 3:7–8, Exodus 3:10, Judges 3:14–15, Judges 4:7, Judges 6:14, Judges 13:5, Esther 4:14–16, Judges 10:15–16, Matthew 1:21, Luke 2:10–11, John 1:10–11, Matthew 24:36, Revelation 6:10–11.*

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