

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: The Fullness of The Time Pt 2

Topic: God will Act In His Time

Scripture Text: Galatians 4:4-7

12/10/2017

“He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree”-

Charlotte Carpenter

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. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

I wanted to point out that although there may be no record of God working, He is never sitting idly by. It is when God feels the fullness of time has come He will act.

This period of seemingly silence during the Intertestamental period does not mean that God was not working.

Down through recorded Biblical history there were times of great awesome involvement by God often after a period of recorded silence. For example, From the time of Adam to Noah covered over 1,600 years and there are a lot of blank recorded periods mentioned. If we read Genesis 5th Chapter you will see the genealogy of Adam down to Noah when he was 500 years old. That recorded period consists of 1 chapter, 32 verses and just 505 words yet it covered over 1,500 years. If we count Adams birth at year zero and calculate, according to scripture in Gen 5, we calculate around 1,556 years of time.

When God felt the fullness of time had come, He acted by bringing the Flood.

Genesis 6:5-8 (NKJV) 5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Perhaps the next major event that God acted upon in the fullness of time was when He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and gave His laws to Moses for man to live by. Israel was in Canaan and Egypt for 400 years before God acted. The fullness of time had come.

Exodus 12:40-41 (NKJV) 40 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt [and Canaan] was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

(There is much dispute about the length of time but we are not here today to solve that problem)

For a long period of time while Israel was looking for a deliver there was not a lot heard from God but we know God will begin to work in bringing a deliver for His people through Moses (1526)

From Babylon to Jesus (400) years (the Intertestamental period)

We talked a little about the last record of God's words being in Malachi and the theme of His prophecy was for the people who have just come out of exile to repent. The NT picks up in the Gospel of John speaking of the Prophet John the Baptist preaching the same message, REPENT.

Between the Testaments God was not inactive.

Israel was under the control of the [Persian Empire](#) about 532–332 BC. The Persians allowed the Jews to practice their religion with little interference.

They were even allowed to rebuild and worship at the temple ([2 Chronicles 36:22–23](#); [Ezra 1:1–4](#)). This span of time included the last 100 years of the Old Testament period and about the first 100 years of the Intertestamental period. This time of relative peace and contentment was just the calm before the storm.

Around 336BC Alexander the Great defeated Darius of Persia, bringing [Greek rule](#) to the world. As a result, the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek, becoming the translation known as the [Septuagint](#).

After Alexander died, Judea was ruled by the Seleucid king [Antiochus Epiphanes](#). Antiochus did far more than refuse religious freedom to the Jews. Around 167 BC, he overthrew the rightful line of the priesthood and desecrated the temple, defiling it with unclean animals and a pagan altar.

Many people objected to the persecution and rebelled, and this rebellion is known as the Maccabean revolt. (*See the Apocrypha Books first and second Maccabees*) God raised up a warrior named Judas Maccabeus, his brothers and the Hasmoneans. Through this revolt, Jews gained independence, which lasted until 63BC, when the Romans took control—but the charged atmosphere between Jewish culture and secular Greek culture remained well into the time of the New Testament.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/intertestamental-period.html>

We are now within 100 years of the birth of Christ. Although there are no books in our Bible that cover this Intertestamental period there are extra biblical literature available.

The Apocrypha is a group of 14 books, not considered canonical, that were included in the Septuagint and the Vulgate as part of the Old Testament, but usually omitted from Protestant editions of the Bible. Although it was originally part of the first English printed Bible.

These books although are not in our “Protestant “Bible they are a source of extra biblical history. Your bible has the Book of Ester included which nowhere mentions God, but we can see in the historical story that God's had is in the works.

So, because there is no Biblical Scriptures recorded or canonized covering between the testaments, we can see that God is not on the sidelines. We will see more of His involvement next week.

The lesson for us to learn is that because we may not see God acting in our vision or in our expected time let us be sure that God has not forgotten us and He is working out His plans for us for our good.

When God thinks the fullness of time has come, He will act for our good and for His glory and or for the peril of the transgressors.

END

Message Scriptures: Galatians 4:4–7, Genesis 6:5–8, Exodus 12:40–41