

J.J.

GOD WHO BECAME MAN

Galatians 4:4-6

Galatians 4: 4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Pray

INTRODUCTION :

Grace Davidson took her four-year-old granddaughter to "big church" for the first time. She sat quietly taking in every aspect of the service and her attentive curiosity stayed in check until the pastoral prayer. The pastor said, "We thank You, Lord, for Your presence." The little girl's eyes flew open and she whispered to her grandmother, "Granny, we're gonna get presents!"

Today, we'll talk about the greatest gift that God has given.

And this is the reason we are celebrating Christmas. GOD BECAME MAN!!!

JESUS IS GOD WHO BECAME MAN

The theological term for this is incarnation.

Incarnation : (Latin) "in" which means in and "caro" which means flesh. It literally means, "in the flesh"

So we can say, that Jesus is GOD IN THE FLESH.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh (Greek word "sarx" which literally means meat)

GOD BECAME MAN : Pre-Arranged, Process, Purpose

I. PRE-ARRANGED

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son

Right from the very beginning, when man sinned, God has promised the coming of the Messiah (mashiah), Christos (Anointed one)

*Genesis 1:15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."*

But remember, the Bible tells us, *But when the set time had fully come*

KJV : fullness of time was come; same in Greek, pleroma ho chronos “fullness of the time”

Illustration: Peak season for apple picking is August to October. The peak season is September. Why can't people go apple picking in June? The fruit is not yet ripe. Why can't people go apple picking in December? It's already too late.

So why was Jesus born 2000 years ago? Why not 2000 years earlier?

Two reasons : one is for practical purposes and the other is because of prophecy.

But when the set time had fully come For practical purposes :

a.) **From a historical perspective**

- “Jewish anticipation of a Messiah” The Jews were suffering much from the Roman rule and **God hasn't used any prophets to reveal His will for 400 years** already and **that's why people were hungry for the coming of the promised Messiah (Deliverer)**
- “All roads lead to Rome” **Pax Romana (Roman peace)** – Rome has conquered much of the known world at that time, so there were few wars and in order for them to maintain peace, they have to build a road network. All these “roads lead to Rome”.
- **They build these roads to mobilize immediately their troops if a country they conquered is birthing a revolt.**

Application : This means now the gospel can easily be spread to the farthest nations during that time because it's much easier to travel now

- **“One common language” Hellenization** – one of the things that Alexander the Great imposed that there should only be one common language and that is Greek. He did that so he did not only conquer the people physically but their entire being.

ILLUSTRATION : One time, I was travelling, I met two Mormons. Of course, they were trying to befriend me but one of the Mormons, I saw his face, it was like in awe or wonder. And then he said, “Wow, you speak good English.” (Felt slighted) But I replied to him, “All Filipinos speak good English. You go everywhere in the Philippines, they will understand you and answer you back.”) That's what the Americans did to the Philippines. Why do you think Filipinos identify more with the Americans rather than Spain when we were under Spain for 400 years and Americans only for a few decades?)

The implication to the gospel is that so people then would be speaking their own native language but at the same time would understand and know how to speak “koina” Greek. Just like what we do with English today. The New Testament was written in “koina” Greek and the Old Testament was translated during that time from Jewish to Greek “Septuagint”

Application : It was easier for the Gospel to be known because most of the people would easily understand what they are saying because of lingua franca “once common language”

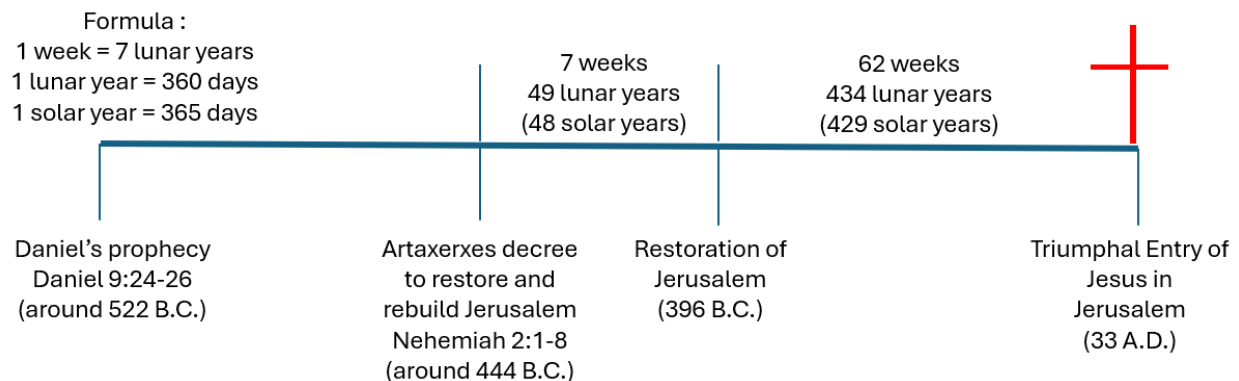
b.) From a prophetic perspective

- To fulfill the exact time of the introduction of the Messiah

*Daniel 9: 24 **"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.***

*25 "Know and understand this: **From the time the word goes out/ to restore and rebuild Jerusalem/until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,'/ and sixty-two 'sevens.'** It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 **After the sixty-two 'sevens,'/ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.***

Without belaboring this part because we don't have the time, let me show you a quick graph.
Remember : 1 "week" heptad seven is equal to 1 year... so seven x 7 years = 49



Implication : Jesus had to be born at a certain exact time to fulfill this prophecy... not 10 years earlier or 10 years later...

Application : In short, God is in control of everything.

And this one will blow your mind. Who said this to Daniel?

*Daniel 9: 20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. 23 **As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:***

In short, God immediately hears and answers our prayers. Even in Daniel chapter 10, it shows that at the start of Daniel's prayer, God has already sent the answer but there were just forces that prevented the answer from coming.

Why am I saying this? God is in control of everything, even the timing. The answer to your prayer if according to God's will is already there, it's just the timing we're talking about.

One of my favourite Christian songs of all time is from Maranatha : In His Time

In his time, in his time

He makes all things beautiful

In his time

That's why one of my favorite verses in the Bible is :

Isaiah 60:22 At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen." (NLT)

II. PROCESS

God sent his Son, born of a woman

God became man.

What is the first requirement for you to be called a human being?

You need to be born of a woman! It's because men cannot give birth.

Trend today : We're pregnant. I know what that means figuratively but in reality, only women get pregnant...

So in order for you to be considered as a human being, you need to be born of a woman.

If you were born by a hen, then you are a chicken.

If you were born by a dog, then you are a dog.

If you weren't born at all, and you just came into this world, then you must be something else.

But the fact that our Lord is born of a woman shows that Jesus is fully human.

Remember the statement again,

God sent his Son Jesus Christ is fully God., *born of a woman* He is also fully human.

So Jesus is fully God and fully human.

That's why the birth of Jesus Christ is unique. It's the only one and there was no other one and there will be **no other one who will be born the way He was born.**

How can He be God and Man at the same time (hypostatic union)

Through **THE VIRGIN BIRTH.** (Isaiah 7:14)

Luke 1: 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

I have a full sermon on why our Lord had to be born of a virgin. But for this study, it just shows that Jesus, yes, He is fully God but since He was born, He is also fully human -not half God, not half human. Fully God, fully human (Theological term : hypostatic union)

Why Satan attacks this doctrine? If Jesus wasn't born of a virgin, then he is just a man. Which means, his death on the cross didn't pay for our sins but only paid for his own sins. That's why this is one of those doctrines that is being attacked by the enemy.

Now let's look at what this means :

God sent his Son,born under the law,

To answer this, what does it mean to be born under the law?

Simply put, if we are under the law, it means, we have to follow the law. And if we don't follow the law, there's punishment behind it, right?

Let me explain by God's grace.

Illustration : Remember the speed cameras in Ontario? So in a street near us, there was a speed camera OVER HEAD and the speed limit was 40kph. I got 3 tickets because I broke the speed limit 3x. The law in our street says only 40kph and if you break that, there are consequences. In this case, you get a ticket. Now everyone who passes that street is under that speed limit which is the law.

Now, if you are a human being who was born in this earth, you are passing through and we are under THE LAW OF GOD! And if we break the law of God, there are consequences. **And what is the consequence? Eternal damnation in hell. (In the interest of time, I explained this before on why eternal damnation in hell is the punishment for breaking God's law)**

Again, to be born under the law, means, we have to follow the law.

If we don't follow the law of God, it means we have sinned... and we are called sinners.

Listen carefully, that's why when the Bible says, Jesus was born "under the law". It shows He is fully human. It means, SINCE HE IS FULLY HUMAN, HE NEEDS TO FOLLOW THE LAW TOO.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Now if He breaks one of the law, (James 2:10) He becomes like us, a sinner. But did He break any of the laws while He was here?

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

THAT'S WHY HE IS CALLED THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD! Again, why is this important?

Which brings us now to the

III. PURPOSE

to redeem those under the law,

TO REDEEM IS to pay for our sins against God.

Etymology : redeem "exagorazo" to make payment , out of the market

Let me explain this to you by God's grace on why God has to become man in order to pay for our sins.

- **First, we have all broken God's law,** (breaking God's law, means, we have sinned against God.)

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

- **If we break God's law, then God has to punish us for our sin.** (We cannot call God a good God if He doesn't punish sin, just like a we cannot call an earthly judge a good judge if he just let's a crime unpunished)
- **And the punishment is eternal separation from Him in Hell...**

Romans 6:23 or the wages of sin is death

- **But God loves us and He doesn't want us to be separated from Him.** And if the punishment for sin is death, then somebody has to die on our behalf.
- **The great dilemma is, GOD CANNOT DIE.**
- So *God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,*

In short : God, the very God Himself has to become man, who fulfilled the law perfectly so that He can die on our behalf and PAY (REDEEM) US FOR OUR SINS! (That's THE CHRISTMAS STORY)

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, His last word is "It is finished"

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Etymology : It is finished "tetelestai"

It is said that they found this word in a scroll they found in Egypt. Upon examination of that scroll, they learned that it's a list of debts (listahan ng utang). But on that scroll, it was written, "tetelestai" which means "Paid"

This is the reason why Jesus is called the Redeemer. SO WHEN SOMEBODY ASKS YOU, WHAT DOES REDEEMER MEAN? The ONE who PAID FOR MY SIN

Now, this is where it gets more interesting which makes us fall in love more with Jesus.
to redeem those under the law,

Etymology : Redeem : Exagorazo...Out of (ex) the market, (agorazo)

Illustration : If I go into the grocery, if I buy a banana and pay for it, who owns the banana now, the grocery or me? It's me... because I paid for it.

God has already paid for us through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ which means.
God is now saying to us... "now you are mine." We now belong to God.

That's why?

that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Now, this is now what I call amazing grace!

First, we were the ones who offended a Holy, Holy, Holy God and because of God's great love for us, He sent His own Son to redeem us. Now, more than redeeming us... He had adopted us to become His children.

Historical context : To the Jews during Jesus' time, adoption wasn't practiced much because they were conscious about the line but to the Romans was very significant and very common. Adoptions during the Roman times weren't only when they were kids. They can adopt older boys, or adult men. Why? They have no sons or their current sons is not worthy of managing their estate so they adopt a person who will be able to manage their wealth. To be adopted during the Roman times, they are entitled to all the rights and benefits of a son. He is a son.

How does this happen?

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

IMAGINE THIS, WE WEREN'T ONLY SAVED FROM THE PUNISHMENT OF HELL BUT WE BECAME GOD'S CHILD WHEN WE BECAME BELIEVERS OF JESUS CHRIST! WE NOW BELONG TO GOD!

Now will you be able to lose this sonship?

Story: One of the most heartbreaking words I've heard said by a child is from an article in **Newsweek on May 15, 1995**. The article was titled "Ordered to surrender" Baby Richard was adopted ever since he was 4 days old. Imagine, the parents that Baby Richard knows is his adoptive parents. He was adopted from a girl who got pregnant by her boyfriend and when the baby was born she went back to Czechoslovakia. But a few years later, the biological father came back and wanted Baby Richard. The Illinois Supreme Court agreed and they ordered the adoptive parents to give back the child to the biological father. When the child was being removed from the home of his adoptive parents, Baby Richard who was 4 was looking at his parents and were saying these words, **"I'll be good. Don't make me leave. I'll be good."**

Now some of us think that when we're not "good" or when we misbehave or when we sin, we lose our sonship... no we do not. We belong to God our Father forever. How am I sure of that? (This is what you call THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION)

6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8: 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

LISTEN CAREFULLY: The reason why you are a son or daughter of God is not because of what you do it's because of who is inside of you. Jesus is inside us. (Colossians 1:27)

This was the message of Paul to the Galatians. YOU WEREN'T SAVED BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID. YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DO BUT BECAUSE OF WHO IS INSIDE OF YOU.

OH SUCH AMAZING GRACE!!! That's why look

6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

You are not only adopted legally but you were also adopted lovingly. "Abba, Father"

"Abba" – Aramaic, a term of endearment

Father – Greek "pater" a term of respect

VERY IMPORTANT : As God's children, we are very precious in the eyes of our "dad", "papa", "Itay" or "Tatay" in heaven.

Remember, God has already said, "You are mine."

Zechariah 2:8 For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you —for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye—

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love;

Isaiah 40: 11He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.

Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

What amazing grace! See how God keeps you and carries you close to His heart.

And now since we are God's child, look at this.

So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

In short : Whatever our Lord Jesus enjoys, we will enjoy it one of these days.

1 Peter 1: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

We have a term for this in Filipino : Tagapagmana

Illustration : Whenever I feel intimidated or down, one of the truths I remind myself are two things : I'm a child of the King! And I am his heir...(tagapagmana)

You see this? Our inheritance is waiting for us. That's why the Bible always tells us not to lay our treasures here on earth but lay your treasures in heaven.

Yes, the Bible says, in this world there will be suffering. BUT LOOK AT THIS!!!

Romans 8: 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Illustration : Right now it's winter and we feel the cold. Most of us don't like the cold but when summer comes, we do not even remember the cold anymore. We enjoy the sun. One of these days, we will be truly in front of the SON and winter days will be behind us forever.

CONCLUSION :

Let me end with this story :

There was this very wealthy man in the early 1900s who owned a huge estate and in this house, there were many paintings from very distinguished painters – painters like Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir and these paintings are worth millions. But this wealthy man also has a son whom he loves so much. But war came and his son was drafted to become a soldier. So the son went to war and unfortunately got killed. To ease his grief, he asked a local unknown artist to paint his son's portrait. He placed it in the middle of the great hall, together with the other famous paintings. The time came when this wealthy man died, and in his will, he said that all of the paintings he owned will be auctioned. The auction will be done in this man's house. So people from all over went to the auction because they knew this man owned famous paintings from Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and Renoir worth millions. Everyone was excited to bid for these paintings. So the auction started and the first one that was up for bid was the painting of the wealthy man's son done by the local unknown artist. Everyone was disappointed and when the auctioneer was asking for bids, no one raised their hand except for the gardener of the wealthy man who both knew the son and the father. He bid for it for a small sum of money and since no one else bid, he got the painting of the son. Everyone was relieved because they wanted all the Picassos, Monets, Van Goghs and etc. and they are now excited to bid for those. To their surprise, the auctioneer said that the auction is over. All of the people there were confused and angry and said that they came there to bid for the Picassos, Monets, Van Goghs and not for the painting of the son. Everyone was asking why the auction was over. The auctioneer said that in the will of the wealthy man it specifically says, "He who gets the Son, gets everything." The gardener who knew the wealthy man and his son, did not only get the painting of the son, he also got the other paintings by Picasso, Monet and Van Gogh worth millions... "He who gets the Son, gets everything."

And this is the reason we celebrate Christmas, God sent His Son to become man to die on the cross, to pay for our sins in order for us to become sons of God and we have become heirs of God. And if you believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you got the Son and you got everything.

S.G.D.