

A Moment in Time—The Hope of Humanity

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Galatians 4.
- B. We are often frustrated with God's timing.
- C. God engineered things for the completion of redemption in His timing.
- D. God planned redemption from before time. (Ephesians 3, Genesis 3:15)

II. Although the Jews were in captivity, God was still at work.

- A. The people stopped turning to idolatry.
- B. The Scriptures began to come together as a canon.
- C. The Jews began to meet for community.
- D. God kept the Jews alive.
- E. The hope of Messiah persisted under Roman rule despite opposition.

III. God prepared the secular world through the conquering of Alexander the Great.

- A. God prepared the world for the coming of the Messiah.
- B. He spread the Greek language and culture that prepared for the translation of the Old Testament into Greek—the Old Testament was in a language that could be understood by the world.
- C. God prepared the Roman system as the appropriate context into which Messiah would be born.

IV. God put everything together for Israel and for every believer today.

- A. God uses even those who are evil to accomplish His purpose in our lives.
- B. Jesus was born under the law in order to bear the penalty of the violation of the law that we are guilty of—deity was clothed in humanity to die on our behalf.

V. God's motivation for sending Christ to die for us.

- A. God wanted man to have a relationship with Him.
- B. God's objective was to redeem us of our sins in order to show us that we are the forgiven children of God.

C. God's second objective was to adopt us into the family of God.

1. A person received a new name. Believers have a brand new image.
2. A person received a new legal standing. Believers have a brand new position.
3. A believer becomes a joint heir in Jesus Christ.

D. God loves us enough that He planned to redeem us from eternity past.

E. The blessing of redemption is that God has provided for us.

VI. Why Jesus Christ is coming again.

- A. The Bible says it.
- B. God has been faithful in all of His promises.

Application questions:

1. How has history demonstrated that God revealed Christ in the "fullness of time?"

2. What does it mean that God has "adopted" believers?

3. How can one gain hope in knowing that God's timing is perfect? Explain.
