

Sunday School: 5 December 2021 (Galatians 4:4)

Time is a bit weird!

Think about it: If you have travelled overseas or if you have family overseas, you will know that there are different time zones in this world and that your relatives getting up in Canada, just as you are thinking about going to bed!

Think about it: Sometimes time seems to go fast and sometimes it is so slow. Compare how slowly time goes when we are getting a filling or studying and how quickly it goes when we are eating a special meal. Or doing something we like!

Time works differently for God too. He wants us to one foot in world time and one foot in his time.

The stories we have heard from the OT this year took place over 1000s of years. God was working slowly if we think of our calendar – and there were times when the people wondered if he had forgotten about them altogether. But everything was happening in God's time. God's timing is always perfect. He knows the best time for everything.

So that is why the Bible (Gal 4:4) says that "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son..."

Jesus was born centuries after God's promise to bless the world through Abraham, but it was just the right time. Why? We don't know! We can make some guesses:

- Perhaps because the Roman world was peaceful so the news about Jesus could go everywhere.
- Perhaps because most of the known world spoke and understood just two languages – Greek and Latin and so many people would hear and understand the stories about Jesus.
- Perhaps because the Romans had built good roads so the news could be taken more easily.
- Perhaps it was because by then people were desperate for God's good news then as they saw what a mess the world was in.

We don't know and all we can say is that God knows best why things happen when they do!

When Jesus was born, God also thought about how to ensure that as many different kinds of people as possible would feel that he understood them. This wasn't what the Jewish people had expected. They were waiting for a warrior who would lead them to victory, defeating their enemies.

But that wouldn't have blessed the world, would it?

Instead he sent a weak baby into an ordinary family which had to run away from home like a refugee. And he wouldn't live to get old or have human children.

You and I would have done it differently perhaps. But God knew he was blessing a whole world for ever – where you and I would probably have seen our plans fold up useless after a couple of years.

What a wonderful, amazing, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious God we have!