

# **In The Fullness Of Time**

Part 2: Social and Political Conditions

# In The Fullness Of Time

- Galatians 4:1-7
- It was the right time for the Son of God to come in the form of a man and become the sacrifice for all mankind.
- John 12:20-32 – Jesus could recognize that His time was finally at hand. It was the right moment for “the Son of Man to be glorified.” Political, social, cultural, and religious conditions were perfect for the coming of the Gospel Age.



## **At The Right Time**

Romans 5:6 notes that Christ died at “the right time.” So what was it about that time period that made it ideally suited to bear the Gospel?

# At The Right Time

- The Romans – Unequaled up to that time in commerce, communication, and relative safety. Most earlier empires lasted only a few generations, with periods of upheaval.
- Language – Koine (common) Greek was familiar and uniform, well-suited to be written, and exact beyond our own language.
- Social situation – There were almost as many slaves in Rome as there were free citizens (Rom. 6:16-18). They were, however, often more talented, educated, and skilled than their Roman masters. They represented a literate, unpretentious population, eager to hear the gospel.

# At The Right Time

- Morality was not connected to religion, so Christianity was all the more intriguing and revolutionary
- Contempt for life – Abortion, suicide, and divorce were quite common. The bloodlust in the arena was also an indication of Rome's low estimation of human worth. Consider just how much such people had to change (1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- Acceptance – For political reasons, Rome allowed religious freedom throughout the provinces. This made it possible for Christians to present the Gospel while being somewhat protected by the “law and order” that the Romans craved.

# At The Right Time

- First Century Jews – The people longed for substance in their religious experience (Matt. 7:28-29). They flocked to John's message of repentance (Matt. 3:1-6). There was also a heightened sense of messianic expectation (Luke 3:15ff).
- The Diaspora – There was a built-in “starting point” for evangelism in every community around the known world.
- The Gentiles – There was no doubt that the Gentiles were a willing and ready audience for the Gospel (Mark 7:26, Matt. 12:15-21, Acts 10).