

Born at the Right Time

The VISION Newsletter / December 2019

Pastor E. Keith Hassell

Galatians 4:4–5 (NKJV) “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.”

God always fulfills His promises. He always fulfills His promises when, where, how, and through whom He chooses. He may not fulfill His promise in the way we expect, but He always fulfills His promises in a way that is for our good and for His glory. He may not fulfill His promises according to our timetable, but He always fulfills His promises according to His redemptive calendar and timeclock: *“But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ till another king arose who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹ This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. ²⁰ At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months.”¹*

God fulfills His promises through people who are born at the right time. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Not only was Jesus born, but He was born at the right time in God’s redemptive history. He was born at “the fullness of the times”. In the same way, others were born at the right time in God’s redemptive plan. Noah was born at the right time to prepare the ark before The Flood. Abraham was born at the right time to become God’s covenant friend and avenue through which the blessing of salvation would enter the earth. Isaac was born at the right time when Sarah was ninety and Abraham was one hundred. Moses was born at the right time to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. Gideon was born at the right time to deliver Israel from the Midianites. Samson was born at the right time to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Hannah was born at the right time to bring forth the prophet Samuel. David was born at the right time to become the King of Israel, to usher the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, and to prepare for the building of the Temple. He was also born at the right time to make the Davidic covenant through which God would bring Jesus Christ.

Daniel was born at the right time to influence the pagan nation of Babylon and Persia. Queen Esther was born at the right time to deliver the Jews from the evil plot of Haman: *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”²* Jeremiah was born at the right time to become God’s prophet to Israel. Each of the prophets were raised up at the right time to speak God’s words to God’s people. Zerubbabel was born at the right time rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Nehemiah was born at the right time to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Elizabeth was born at the right time to bring forth John the Baptist who would usher in the Messiah: *“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.”³* Mary was born at the right time to become the mother of Jesus. Twelve men were born at the right time to become the apostles of Jesus Christ. Paul was born at the right time to become God’s apostle to the Gentiles. Even non-believers and the wicked are born at the right time to fulfill God’s plan:

Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV) *“The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.”*

Romans 9:17 (NKJV) *“For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.’”*

Isaiah 44:28 (NKJV) *“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ and to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”*

¹ Acts 7:17–20 (NKJV)

² Esther 4:14 (NKJV)

³ Matthew 11:13 (NKJV)

Have you taken time to consider that you also were born at the right time? First, God determines the time of your birth:

Ecclesiastes 3:1–2 (NKJV) “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: ² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;”

Psalms 139:16 (NKJV) “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

Second, God determined the purpose of your birth. He made you for a purpose:

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Galatians 1:15–16 (NKJV) “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,”

Third, God is calling you to do His will in your generation. You are not born to pursue your own plan for your life. God is calling you to serve Him and the generation in which you live.

Acts 13:36 (NKJV) “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;”

Fourth, God is calling you to run the race for which you were born:

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV) “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

God is accomplishing His work in the earth. He is fulfilling His promises through people just like you. You were born for such a time as this. You were born at the right time in redemptive history to fulfill His promises. God’s plan for your life began when you were born and will end when you die.

God has set the race before you. It is up to you to hear His call, get up, and enter your race. Regardless of where you are in your race, you cannot change the past. Don’t live in regret. Embrace the opportunities yet before you! Put the past under the blood of Jesus and forget it. Seize the present and embrace the future. Set your eyes on Jesus and run toward the finish line set before you so that you might obtain the prize. Remember: You were born at the right time—for such a time as this—to fulfill God’s promises in this generation!