

The Word Became Flesh

In the Fullness of Time

Galatians 4:4-5

1. **In the Fullness of Time** (v.4a)

The timing of the incarnation of Jesus Christ was set before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4; 1 Pet 1:20; cf. Matt 25:34). This plan was carried out with providential precision according to the meticulous plan of God (cf. Acts 2:22-27).

2. **God Sent Forth His Son** (v.4b)

A. **The Father Who Sends**

The Father's action in the sending of the Son is one of the greatest expressions of the love which God has for men (Eph 2:4-5). God is love (1 John 4:8), and each of the divine Persons perfectly display this attribute (Gal 5:22; Eph 5:2, 25; 1 John 3:1; 4:10, 14).

B. **The Son Who is Sent**

The magnitude of man's alienation from God is so great that it required God Himself to intervene on behalf of sinful man (Phil 2:5-8; Col 1:15-17).

3. **Born Of a Woman** (v.4c)

The Son truly became a man (cf. Job 14:1; Matt 11:11). His miraculous conception in the womb of Mary and His perfectly sinless life were utterly unique, but He became truly human in order that He might represent men before God (Heb 2:16-17; cf. Isa 7:14; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:14).

4. **Born Under the Law** (v.4d)

Like every other person, Jesus was accountable to obey God's Law (Matt 3:15). He was able to fulfill God's Law and meet its requirements whereas all other men are utterly unable to do so (Rom 3:20; 8:3-4).

5. **To Redeem Men** (v.5a)

It is impossible for sinful men to be justified before God on the basis of good works or obedience to the Law (Rom 3:20). God's gracious plan first involved His own Son dealing with the problem and penalty of our sin (Gal 3:10-14).

6. **To Grant Men Adoption as Sons** (v.5b)

The glory of God in His grace to man is shown by adopting as sons those who were slaves to sin (Eph 1:5). The work of Christ removes the guilt and punishment of sin while at the same time adopting the repentant sinner to be a son of God who is then treated according to the righteousness of Christ Himself (2 Cor 5:21).