

You Are Here – Part 7

The Son of God Arrives to Redeem Mankind!



Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2012

Galatians 4:1-7 NAS

December 23 → 10:00

Christmas Eve at 6; Christmas Day at 10

Sunday, 12/30: 1 Service at 10; Monday, 12/31: New Year's Eve at 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, this sermon brings us to part 7 of the series: **You Are Here!** So where is HERE? Let's look at today's brochure insert to determine our location on the timeline of world history!

1. **God's OT Work of Keeping People On-Track for JESUS:**

- a. **An earthly example** – ¹ Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: **“The men named by the father had charge of the property, counseled the boy, defended and directed him.... It is plain...that [such] a father is not acting foolishly... but for the minor's benefit, lest he spend and squander his money foolishly.”** (245)
- b. **A spiritual application** – ³ So also we, while we were **children** [believing God's promise to save (Gen. 3:15), but lacking a mature understanding of what God

meant], were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. // In other words, the OT ceremonial law – which included the animal sacrifices – kept the people in bondage, or under a burden, but for a good purpose: To keep them focused on the coming Savior!

Parents to children – I urge you to keep working with your children to help them memorize the ABC Bible Verses and the Six Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Such memorizing does not save, *but it will keep them focused on the Savior who has come!*

2. **God's Sending of His Son:** ⁴ But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. //



- a. ⁴ **But when the fulness of the time came** – As I fill this glass, *imagine how time was slowly filling up during the OT era; as this glass has a limited capacity, so did time – between God's promise to send (Gen. 3:15) and the arrival of the Savior!*
- b. **God sent forth His Son** – The angel Gabriel said to Mary: ^{NAS} **Luke 1:35** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.” ... ³⁸ And Mary said, “...be it done to me according to your word.” *That is WHEN God sent forth His Son!*

- a. **born of a woman** – The LORD inspired Isaiah to write: ^{NAS} **Isaiah 7:14** “...Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” *He was born of a woman!*
 - b. **born under the Law** – Jesus said: ^{ESV} **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets [*the OT Scriptures*]; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Jesus, *on our behalf*, kept the Law perfectly!
 - c. **in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law** – *God worked through Jesus to buy us back!* The Bible says that ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 5:19** “...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...”
 - d. **that we might receive the adoption as sons** – Jesus is the *only begotten* Son of God, *but we are the adopted children of God thru faith in Jesus!*
3. **God’s Work of Eternal Transformation**: ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. // Dr. Kretzmann gave this explanation: “So God sends the Spirit that lives in His Son, in order to make us sure that we are His brothers and coheirs...” (246)

Conclusion: We have all done wrong, *but God has made us right in His sight through Jesus!* **That is Christmas!** And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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