

THE FULLNESS OF TIME:

The Sovereignty Of God
In Christmas

Every Place A
Home-Base



Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Acts 17:1-4

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying,

“This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.





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Luke 24:44

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled.”

Law, Prophets, and Psalms (shorthand for the Old Testament)

Law

Genesis, Exodus,
Leviticus,
Numbers, and
Deuteronomy.

Prophets

Joshua, Judges, 1 &
2 Samuel, 1 & 2
Kings, Isaiah,
Jeremiah, Ezekiel,
Hosea, Joel, Amos,
Obadiah, Jonah,
Micah, Nahum,
Habakkuk,
Zephaniah, Haggai,
Zechariah, and
Malachi

Psalms

Psalms, Proverbs,
Job, Song of
Solomon, Ruth,
Lamentations,
Ecclesiastes,
Esther, Daniel,
Ezra, Nehemiah,
and 1 & 2
Chronicles

John 5:39-40

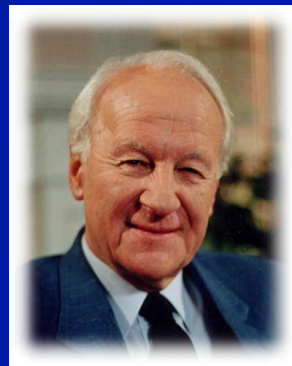
You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that **by them you possess eternal life**. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you **refuse to come to me to have life**.

The “very religious” thought that by just “mastering the Bible” they were shoe-ins for the kingdom of heaven.

But they never considered the irony of rejecting the one their cherished Bible pointed to!

The Pharisees' rejection of Jesus is somewhat like getting a prescription from the doctor and then swallowing the prescription instead of getting and taking the medicine!

– John Stott



Jews who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and who are "completed" and "fulfilled" thereby do not need to leave behind their Jewish identity or break with Jewish ways. As Judaizing was not a theological requirement for the first gentile Christians, so "gentilizing" is not a cultural requirement for today's Jewish believers. Though they belong in the Christian church, which has been mainly gentile -- non-Jewish, that is -- for most of its life, within the church they are free to be as Jewish as they like.

– J. I. Packer



722- B.C.

Assyrian Empire wiped out the Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) leaving only Judah (2 tribes) left. The few Jews not killed were sent throughout the Assyrian Empire.

586 B.C.

Babylonian Empire destroyed the southern kingdom of Judah, along with the temple, and exiled the remaining survivors.

586 B. C. to New Testament

A large number of Jews never returned to Israel. Spread throughout the world, with no access to a temple, the synagogue became the spiritual center of Jewish communities.

The inhabitants of Palestine were only a portion, and not the most important portion, of the Jews; the Jewish communities of Babylonia, Syria, Asia Minor and Egypt were far superior to those of Palestine.

– Theodor Mommsen, Roman Historian

In such a striking conjunction of favorable providences we cannot but behold and admire the controlling hand of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.

– A. W. Pink



Acts 9:20

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the **synagogues**, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Acts 13:5

When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the **synagogues** of the Jews.

Acts 17:17

So he reasoned in the **synagogue** with the Jews and the devout persons,

Acts 18:4

And he reasoned in the **synagogue** every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

God orchestrated the spreading of millions of Jews throughout the Roman Empire to serve as a key part in the rapid spread of the gospel. As Jewish Christians were forced to flee Jerusalem due to persecution, they were able to travel to almost any part of the world and find a Jewish population and a Jewish synagogue from which to share the gospel of Christ. Because the Jews already knew the Old Testament, the background was set and the timing was perfect for the gospel to spread throughout the nations.

– S. Michael Houdmann

