

THE FULLNESS OF TIME:

The Sovereignty Of God
In Christmas

All Roads Lead
To Rome



Galatians 4:1-5

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,

...that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions,

...and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were

pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

-Romans 15:19-29

The Roman Empire



So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

– Acts 15:3

I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

– 2 Corinthians 1:16

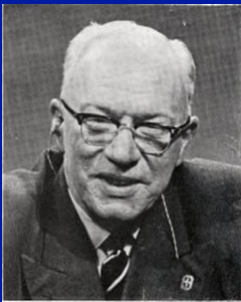
I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.

– 1 Corinthians 16:5-6



In the Roman Empire a new unity had come to the world. The *pax Romana*, the Roman peace, was a very real thing. Kingdoms and states and countries, which had struggled and warred with each other, were gathered into a new unity in the Empire which was Rome.

– William Barclay



The Roman Road



Sovereign Over... Kings And Nations

He makes nations great, and he destroys them;
he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

– Job 12:23

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings
and sets up kings;

- Daniel 12:21

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand
of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

– Proverbs 21:1

Sovereign Over...

All Events Of History

Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?

- Lamentations 3:37

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- Genesis 50:20

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

- Psalm 33:10

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of **King Herod**, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born **king of the Jews**? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." – Matthew 2:1-2

When King Herod heard this **he was disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him.

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. – Matthew 2:3-4

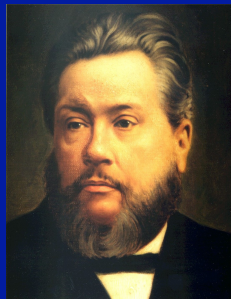
When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt. – Matthew 2:13-14

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

– Matthew 2:16-18

What mattered to him if a few babes were needlessly slain? He must make sure that the little king is made an end of, and he imagines that a speedy and indiscriminate slaughter of all who have reached their second year will put him beyond all fear of this reputed rival. Men will do anything to be rid of Jesus. Yet vain is their rage, the holy child is beyond their jurisdiction and their sword.

– Charles Spurgeon



But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because **he will save his people from their sins.**" –
Matthew 1:20-21



George Friedrich Handel

Born 1685- Died 1759

“Messiah” written in 1741

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet,
and there were loud voices in heaven,
saying, “The kingdom of the world has
become the kingdom of our Lord and of his
Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

– Revelation 11:15

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,
King of kings, and Lord of lords,
 And Lord of lords,
 And He shall reign,
And He shall reign forever and ever,
 King of kings, forever and ever,
 And Lord of lords,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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