

## Reflection Questions for December 27, 2020

**Opener:** What are you hoping for in 2021?

1. How / when have you seen God be on time in your life story? Reflect on the sequence of events that have brought you to today.
2. If God's ultimate purpose for your life is to know and experience the Messiah Jesus personally, in what way is that purpose working in your present circumstances?
3. Which actions of God expressed in Galatians 4:4-7 do you appreciate most and why? A) He sets us free. B) He adopts us. C) He gives us his Holy Spirit. D) He makes us his heirs.
4. From what burdens, harmful thoughts or action (including doubts or unbelief) do you need God to set you free?
5. How does thinking of God's fatherhood in terms of being an "abba" – "daddy" – inform your view of God? How would you describe your relationship to Him?
6. Have you ever felt a vacuum in your soul that no earthly thing could satisfy? What was that like?
7. Have you experienced the Spirit of God living in you? In what ways does He fill that empty space?
8. Can you describe which aspects of your inheritance in Christ you are enjoying now / or would like to enjoy now?
9. Which verses/verse from this lesson give(s) you hope for 2021? How might that hope change your day-to-day life?
10. What action step can you take this week to increase your confidence in or response to God's sovereign control over the circumstances of your life?

**Prayer: Complete this sentence, acknowledging what God has done, is doing, and will do in your life. Make it a prayer of gratitude and hope as you prepare for the new year.**

**"In the fullness of time, God \_\_\_\_\_."**

**In the fullness of time, God sent His Son....**

**December 27, 2020**

Linda Carlson

When Jesus, the promised Messiah, arrived on the scene in Bethlehem just prior to the beginning of the first century AD/CE, there had been 400 years of silence since the last prophet, Malachi, had spoken. The Jewish people had been waiting and hoping for a long time – in fact for millennia - for a savior-king. The earliest mention of the good news of salvation in the Bible goes back to Genesis 3:15. This is called the protoevangelium, from the Greek words "protos" meaning "first" and "evangelion" meaning good news.

Finally, the time had arrived. In the fullness of time, historical, chronological time, there was good news.

In his letter to the Galatians, chapter 4:4-7 the apostle Paul writes, "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. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

In the fullness of time, God revealed that He is triune God: God, Abba Father; God-man, born of a woman; God the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, God revealed His purpose in sending Jesus:

- To redeem us – Colossians 1:13-14
- To adopt us – John 1:12
- To give the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:15
- To make us His heirs – Titus 3:7

In the fullness of time, God came to individuals, like Simeon, Anna, and Paul: Luke 2:22-38, Acts 9:1-19.

In the fullness of time, God also comes to each one of us. John 3:16

### **Main Idea:**

God was on time in history when Jesus came into the world. He is always on time in our lives. God's plan was always to reconcile humanity to Himself through Christ the Messiah. We have hope for today and tomorrow because God still keeps His promises.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our hope is not in the new year but in the one who makes all things new, in the fullness of time.

