

**“THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME”  
(Galatians 4:1-7)**

**Introduction:**

1. Many think of GOD’s plan to save man from his sins as “a spur of the moment” notion.
  - a. GOD looked down one day and saw that man had sinned.
  - b. To get man out of his dilemma, GOD decided to send His Son.
  - c. GOD could have saved man some other way, but chose this way.
2. Such thinking is wholly erroneous and contrary to Bible teaching!
  - a. It does grave injustice to the righteous character of GOD.
  - b. It does not take into account the enormity of sin.
  - c. It does not value the price that had to be paid for our sin.
3. Surely, a loving Heavenly Father would care enough for His children to have a plan of salvation in place.
4. We shall take a brief, overall view of GOD’s scheme of redemption.

**Discussion:**

- I. THE PLAN OF SALVATION WAS IN THE MIND OF GOD BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.
  - A. Paul was privileged “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in GOD who created all things through Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:9).
  - B. Paul wrote that we have the “hope of eternal life which GOD, who cannot lie, promised before time began” (Tit. 1:2).
  - C. John spoke of Christ as “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8).
- II. THE PLAN OF SALVATION WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF MAN’S SIN.
  - A. Man was created in GOD’s image (Gen. 1:26,27).
    1. He was created perfect and without the taint of sin.
    2. He enjoyed the privilege of personal communication with GOD.
  - B. GOD created man with free will.

1. He exercised his free will when he deliberately chose to disobey GOD (Gen. 3).
2. The punishment for sin is death (Gen. 2:16,17; Rom. 6:23).
3. All men will suffer death as a consequence of Adam's sin.

C. GOD gave the first glimpse of the Gospel in Eden when He spoke to the serpent (Satan):

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

### III. GOD DEVELOPED A NATION THROUGH WHICH TO BRING HIS SON INTO THE WORLD.

A. Centuries passed, wickedness increased; GOD sent a Flood to destroy all mankind except righteous Noah and his family.

B. In the Patriarchal Age men again began to move away from GOD.

1. Faithful Abraham was chosen to be the father of a nation (Gen. 12:1-3).
2. The promise was extended through Isaac and Jacob.
3. Jacob's twelve sons became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.
4. GOD providentially sent Joseph to Egypt so Israel would be saved in a time of great famine.
5. Jacob extended the promise of the Seed through his son, Judah:

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Gen. 49:10).

### IV. GOD GAVE THE LAW TO GOVERN HIS PEOPLE, ISRAEL.

A. Israel grew into a mighty people during four centuries in Egypt.

1. The Egyptians enslaved them after a time.
2. GOD sent Moses to deliver His people.

B. GOD gave Israel the Law when they encamped at Mt. Sinai (Exod. 20)

1. God wanted to keep His people pure so the Savior could come from them.

2. The Law was given for two purposes:
  - a. “What purpose then does the Law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made...” (Gal. 3:19).
  - b. “The Law was our tutor (Greek: pedagogos) to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24).

C. The prophets preached to Israel and prophesied of Christ’s coming.

1. Micah foretold the place where Christ would be born (Mic. 5:2)
2. Isaiah foretold His birth of the virgin (Isa. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-23).
3. Isaiah also foretold His death for our sins (Isa. 53).
4. There are so many prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament that His life could be written from them.

## V. JESUS OF NAZARETH IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION.

A. He bruised Satan’s head when He died on the cross (Gal. 4:4,5).

B. He was the promised Seed who came from Abraham, Judah, and David (Gen. 12:3; 22:18; 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12,13).

“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed’ who is Christ” (Gal. 3:16).

C. He fulfilled “all the things that were written in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Him” (Luke 24:44).

D. He took the Law out of the way “nailing it to His cross” (Col. 2:14; Matt. 5:17).

E. He is “the Christ, the Son of the living GOD” who built His church as He had promised (Matt. 16:16-18).

### Conclusion:

1. GOD planned our salvation before the foundation of the world.
2. He unfolded His plan through the ages until the time was right.

“But when the fulness of the time had come, GOD sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4,5).

3. GOD’s purpose, planning and preparation were all in vain for you if you do not receive His Gospel (John 3:16; Acts 2:38).