

Rom 5:8 *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

What made this the “right time?”

Eph 1:9 And he made known to
us the mystery of his will
according to his good pleasure,
which he purposed in Christ, 10
to be put into effect when the
times will have reached their
fulfillment — to bring all things
in heaven and on earth together
under one head, even Christ.

The prophecies had to be fulfilled.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed ...Dan 8:20 "The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. 21 "And the shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king

There are four world empires to be established before the kingdom never to be destroyed and the fourth is clearly the Roman Empire.

Why did Jesus come during the Roman Empire?

It was the “right time”!

It was a time when the prophecies concerning the spread of the gospel could be put in place and a time when the hearts of mankind were ready to receive God.

Mic 4:2 And many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

What was the mission Jesus set before his apostles?

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

We have found that a common
language existed for the
preachers and the hearers – koine
Greek

The Romans built roads throughout the known world so the apostles could “go into all the world” and preach “to the remotest part of the earth.”

Paul walked
on the
“Appian
Way” as he
went to
prison in
Rome. Acts
28.15



The “right time” demanded a literate group of people who could search the Scriptures for themselves.

The Jews read of the Messiah, and were looking for He who would fulfill the prophecies.

John 1:5 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

You can't have a good Bible study with someone who will not read or who does not care about the Scriptures.

They searched the Scriptures daily.

Acts 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

For it to be the right time, there had to be a method to establish that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and there was an established basis in Judaism. - the fullness of time.

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end (Lit. the goal) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

This method for establishing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, is found in the fulfillment of prophecy.

Luke 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things.

It was not one prophecy but over 300 prophecies found in the Old Testament - made 400 or more years before “the right time” which Jesus fulfilled.

From Ps 22	fulfilled
<u>despised by men</u>	<u>Mt 27.22</u>
the people sneer	Mt 27.29
“Let Him rescue you	Mk 15.32
his strength would be gone	Mt 27.32
<u>he would be thirsty</u>	<u>Jn 19.28</u>
evildoers would surround him	Lk 23.32
pierced hands and feet	Acts 2.23
divide my garments	Mt 22.35
cast lots for clothing	Mt 22.35

Of those 9 things, only 2 could be arranged by Jesus or his disciples – despised by men and saying he was thirsty.

I have been at a lot of funerals, but very few deaths and no one ever had any of those things occurring.

There was even a prophecy of the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Ps 22:31 They will come and will declare His righteousness To a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

At Isa 53

He was pierced

Jn 19.34

He was scourged

Mt 27.36

his death was assigned with wicked men

Mt 27.44

yet he was with a rich man in death

Mt 27.57

he had done no violence

Lk 23.41

no deceit in his mouth

Lk 23.41

Of those 6 things, only two were under his control –
he had to be a very good man morally.

And so it goes. If you assign a likelihood 1 in 100,000, of each thing occurring, you have a probability of all 15 things occurring of 1 in 10^{75} , - that's one in a 1 with 75 zeros after it - which is an impossibility.

If you lower the likelihood to 1 in 1,000, the probability is 1 in 10^{45} . That is equivalent to hitting the power ball millionaire drawing (1 in 71 million), 7 times in a row without missing once, which we recognize is an impossible thing.

Portions of many of the Psalms and Isaiah were found in the Qumran Scrolls between 1946 and 1951 in the Judean Desert. They differ from the oldest copy of the OT, the Leningrad Codex, the oldest copy of which dates at AD 900 only in spelling of terms, added/omitted words, or even sentences.

Book Copies found

Psalms	39	Ezekiel	6
Deuteronomy	33	Job	6
Genesis	24	1 & 2 Kings	4
Isaiah	22	1 & 2 Samuel	4
Exodus	18	Judges	4
Leviticus	17	Song of Songs	4
Numbers	11	Ruth	4
Minor Prophets	10	Lamentations	4
Daniel	8	Ecclesiastes	2
Jeremiah	6	Joshua	2

Radiocarbon dating shows an age of 385 BC to AD 82 with a 68% accuracy rate .

Bronze coins found at the same sites form a series beginning with John Hyrcanus (in office 135–104 BC) and continuing until the period of the First Jewish–Roman War (66–AD 73), supporting the radiocarbon and paleographic dating of the scrolls.

I point this out so that you will know that the prophecies were not made by people after the time of the writing of the NT!

Now let us look at the lifestyles of those
to whom the apostles would preach. —
first the Jews

Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the
seed is the word of God. ... 15 "And the
seed in the good soil, these are the ones
who have heard the word in an honest
and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear
fruit with perseverance.

Where were these good and honest hearts?

The good and honest hearts weren't in the
religious leaders.

Matt 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and
Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the
kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not
enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those
who are entering to go in.

John 12:42 Nevertheless many even
of the rulers believed in Him, but
because of the Pharisees they were
not confessing Him, lest they should
be put out of the synagogue; 43 for
they loved the approval of men
rather than the approval of God.

We sometimes forget that we are going to those who are lost in sin and we worry too much about those who are like the Pharisees – thinking they know God and not hearing the word of the Lord.

How is your heart? How open is your heart to the word of God ?

Will you hear the words of Peter if you want to know what to do, believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.