

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.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

The prophecies had to be fulfilled.

In 606 BC, Daniel tells us the names of the first two empires to “rule the world”, Babylon and Medo-Persia, and then provides evidence to determine that the third is Greece, under Alexander the great.

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.

Babylon was conquered by the Medo-Persians under Cyrus the Great. In turn, Alexander the Great defeated the Persians.

Finally there arises a fourth world power— Rome — but it crumbles.

Why did Jesus come during the
Roman Empire?

It was the “right time.”

Eph 3:8 To me, the very least of all saints,
this grace was given, to preach to the
Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9
and to bring to light what is the
administration of the mystery which for ages
has been hidden in God, who created all
things; 10 in order that the manifold wisdom
of God might now be made known through
the church to the rulers and the authorities in
the heavenly places. 11 This was in
accordance with the eternal purpose which
He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

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 prevented the establishment of the kingdom prior to this “right time?”

For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

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. "

What made Christianity spread over the known world during the time of the Apostles and what would have prevented it from doing so earlier?

Rom 10:14 ... And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ...

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. 18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

As we noted two weeks ago, Koine Greek became the first or second language throughout the Roman Empire. “Through Koine Greek is also traced the origin of Christianity, as the apostles used it to preach in Greece and the Greek-speaking world.” (Wikipedia)

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

As we pointed out last week, the Jews
were highly literate as they read the
Scriptures.

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."

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.

2 Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again
not of seed which is perishable but
imperishable, that is, through the living
and abiding word of God. 24 For, "All
flesh is like grass, And all its glory like
the flower of grass. The grass withers,
And the flower falls off, 25 But the word
of the Lord abides forever. " And this is
the word which was preached to you.

Another of the things necessary for the gospel to “go into all the world” was a means of travel for those who would preach “to the ends of the world?”

The Roman Empire provided those roads. Many of them built to standards unknown in much of the world today.

It was not just the Jews who
could read, as the ruins at
Pompeii have graffiti on the
walls and CAVE CANEM
(Beware of the dog) on their
gates.

The second Missionary Journey of Paul

Acts 17:1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica,

Via Egnatia, connecting Philippi, Amphipolis, and Thessalonica



A
Roman
Road in
Pompeii



As Paul was transported to Rome for his first imprisonment he traveled the “Appian Way”

Acts 28:15 And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. 16 And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

Remains of the Appian Way, near Quarto Miglio



To the church in Rome —

Rom 15:24 whenever I go to
Spain — for I hope to see you in
passing, and to be helped on my
way there by you, when I have
first enjoyed your company for a
while —

Spain, Istria (Croatia)



“to the ends of the world”

Paved roads made it easy to
travel, even to Scotland

Roman roads in the UK fell into disrepair when the Romans left in 410 AD. These were still used by Alfred the Great as he sought to unite England in 899. Portions of them exist today.



We know that common soldiers in the Roman army could read from a large group of wooden writing tablets found at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall showing that soldiers wrote letters home asking their Mothers to send them new sandals and underwear and sending greetings to their old comrades in arms in the regiment. .

God's plan culminated in
Jesus' death at the "right time"

The word of the Lord went
into all the world.

Are you willing to obey those ancient words that tell of the love of Jesus for all men?

Mar 16:15-16 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (16) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.