

Don Hargrove  
Faith Bible Church  
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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

## Personal Study of the Bible-82 Galatians 4:4 – The Incarnation

**Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,**

The word “fulness” (πλήρωμα) points to the reality of something being filled up. In this case, it is “time” that is filled up, or ripe for the Messiah to come into the world. When the time was full, the most propitious and perfect time, God sent His Son. From all of eternity, God timed the incarnation perfectly. In fact, He gave us a timetable in Daniel 9:24-27 on Christ coming into the world to die for the sins of others, not for Himself. On some of the details of Daniel 9:24-27, see previous FBC studies at <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-97.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-98.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-99.pdf>; <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-100.pdf>.

The time was not only ripe for God’s people in relation to being trained under the Mosaic Law, it was ideal politically and linguistically. Politically, the Roman Empire brought the *Pax Romana* (the peace of Rome) throughout the civilized world. Linguistically, the Greek language was the language of the empire, making it an opportune time for spreading the Gospel as well as providing the conceptual means to understand important orthodox Christian doctrines like the Trinity and the Hypostatic Union.

“God sent for His Son.” The word sent forth, *ἐξαποστέλλω*, points to the reality of being sent with authority for a purpose. God sent Jesus with full authority on the mission to die for the sins of the world and to give righteousness to all who would believe in Him. The term “Son” points to the deity of Jesus Christ. God sent the “Son” before the Son took on a human nature. On what God the Son said to God the Father right before He took on the human nature in the incarnation, read Hebrews 10:5-10. On the eternal sonship of Christ as distinct from His acquired human nature (“child”), read Isaiah 9:6.

“Born of a woman.” This refers to the Virgin Birth. The Second Member of the Trinity took on human flesh by being born to Virgin Mary. However, “born” is a bad translation: the Greek word is *γίνομαι*, which means “become.” Although His eternal nature is outside of time, His human nature came to be in time. This would rule out the possibility that His human nature could have empathized with man before the incarnation. His humanity is not timeless. Understanding the Hypostatic Union is one of the single most difficult truths to grasp; it is far more difficult than the Trinity. While there is nothing illogical or irrational in the doctrine the Hypostatic Union (or the Trinity), in other words, they do not violate the three basic laws of logic (identity, excluded middle, and non-contradiction), we simply do not have the means to grasp them in depth. I would point out that this is true of almost everything, spiritual or physical. Consider the omniscience of God. While all believers believe in the omniscience of God, and rightly so, try to explain it in depth. How does God see everything? It is not like He has eyes everywhere! All we must do is make sure that we are faithful to all of the testimony in the Bible as well as maintain the three necessary laws of Logic, both of which absolutely demand, by logical necessity, such

doctrines as the Hypostatic Union and the Trinity. On the nature of cults and how they distort the nature of God, Jesus, salvation, and the Bible, see

[http://www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4217733/k.775D/Character\\_of\\_the\\_Cults\\_A\\_Christian\\_Perspective.htm](http://www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4217733/k.775D/Character_of_the_Cults_A_Christian_Perspective.htm).

“Born under the Law.” Jesus was born under the Law and kept it perfectly (Matt. 5:17; John 8:29, 55). It is because He perfectly kept the Law that He is the end of the Law for righteousness for anyone who *believes* in Him. Our so great salvation was made possible because Christ kept the Mosaic Law perfectly! When we trust in Him, His righteousness is attributed to us, as our sinfulness was attributed to Him on the Cross. What an exchange! What a deal! What grace! Read Romans 8:2-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5; 1 Tim. 1:15.

In *'Ehyeh*,

Pastor Don