

# Jesus, The Way

God has set all things in their perfect place and sent Jesus right on time to be the way, the truth and the life for us!

Date of Sermon 12.03.23 | # 1 Week in Series

Series Title: The Fullness of Time | Template Author: Jordan Biel

Core Scripture: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son into the world...”

Galatians 4:4

Use 🗉 emoji to indicate that the line is a slide for presentation.

## NOTE TO CAMPUS PASTORS:

*Be sure to include the apologetics at the end for two reasons. 1. They can grab hold of it themselves understanding that Jesus is not only the faith way but the logical way. 2. They can repeat it to their friends during the holidays - a time when many become “religious”*  
*Doing this at end of sermon so they feel empowered and commissioned (living out our role as pastor to equip them Eph 4:12)*

## Summary of Main Points

- God has always had a perfectly timed plan.
- God reveals what He is like through sending Jesus, born a man.
- Jesus is the way to the Father who came at just the right time.
- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, rejected by many, received by some.

## // Summary of Conclusion

- What do we want to see the outcome be? A Trust in God's Sovereign Plan to save Mankind through His Son Jesus
- Practical Application: Trust in the Gospel
- Response: Salvation Invitation // **Introduction Ideas**

- Possible Directions: Tell a story of when you went the **WRONG** way and there was only one way. For example, I'm going to tell them how I went the wrong way after a hospital visit in Pittsburgh and ended up needing police to escort me away from the TRAM Track.

## 🗉 // #1 God has always had a perfectly timed plan

- 🗉 Hebrews 1:1-4
- In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days (now) he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand

of the Majesty in heaven.<sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

- **■ Jesus, God's Son, has always been in the mind of God as the means of which we would be saved and united with our Creator. In the time past, God revealed His message through prophets, even warriors and Kings but all of them served as a compass pointing towards Jesus who came at God's appointed time.**

The Gospel of Matthew in particular gives us many of these prophecies about Jesus being God's perfected timed Savior and answer to the problem of humanity's sin. The events associated with the birth of Jesus fulfilled numerous Old Testament prophecies given centuries before the events they described. [Matthew 1:22](#) introduces a common statement in his work. He wrote, "So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet."<sup>1</sup> Since he used this phrasing in at least a dozen passages, Matthew knew it was important to point out to his readers that many of the events he described fulfilled specific prophecies. Let's take a look at some of these ancient proclamations - the ones Hebrews is referencing - before explaining why these give us a cause to celebrate. The first use of the fulfillment phrase mentioned above introduces one of the best-known prophecies in the [Bible](#).

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." ([Matthew 1:23](#))

In reference to the birth of Jesus, Matthew cited a specific prophecy from Isaiah made more than 700 years earlier. Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ([Isaiah 7:14](#))

Just as foretold, the virgin (Mary) indeed did conceive ([Matthew 1:21](#)) and bore a Son who is called Immanuel. This amazing event demonstrates God's infinite knowledge and power. He is capable for foretelling the future with perfect precision, and He has the power to bring His prophecies to pass, even if that means a virgin would need to conceive and bear a Son.<sup>2</sup>

After Christ's birth the magi arrived in Jerusalem. Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes and asked them where the Messiah was going to be born ([Matthew 2:3](#)). They responded by citing an Old Testament prophecy pinpointing Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Christ: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel." ([Matthew 2:6](#); cf. [Micah 5:2](#); [John 7:42](#))


Herod's murderous response of slaughtering the young boys of Bethlehem led to the fulfillment of three more prophecies. First, this tragic massacre fulfilled the words of Jeremiah.

“A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more.” ([Matthew 2:18](#); cf. [Jeremiah 31:15](#))

The original context of this prophecy had to do with mothers in Israel lamenting the deportation of their sons to Babylon. These mothers were personified as “‘Rachel,’ the mother in the days of the patriarchs whose sons Joseph and Benjamin had also been threatened with being ‘no more’ (i.e., carried away into Egypt; cf. [Gen. 42:36](#)).”<sup>3</sup> Ramah was a town close to Jerusalem and associated with Rachel's tomb ([1 Samuel 10:2–3](#)).

The second fulfilled prophecy resulting from Herod's paranoiac rage took place after Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Upon their return, God's words to Hosea were fulfilled. “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” ([Matthew 2:15](#); cf. [Hosea 11:1](#)) This prophecy was originally made as a statement of history—God had called (and brought) Israel out of Egypt. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Matthew used these words to refer to the Messiah.


The final prophecy discussed by Matthew pertaining to events in the early years of Jesus has to do with his boyhood home. God warned Joseph in a dream not to go back to Judea, so instead he took Mary and Jesus to Nazareth in Galilee, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene’” ([Matthew 2:23](#)).

- MT 16 Jesus asked the disciples the same question being asked Him by Chiaphas, the high priest at the end of His life right before He is crucified “Are you the One?” Jesus KNEW who He was.
-  Who do you say I am?
- You are the Anointed One, the Christ - the High Priest This revelation is a blessing from God!
- In the Torah, the first person to ever be called Anointed One is the High Priest
- “Do you think you can have my robes and my position?!” This indicates his sense of self - all that he has achieved and earned
- Jesus reply - a quote from Daniel chapter 7
- About a person who ascends into the heavens who goes before God has a HIGH PRIEST!

- **Jesus is the WAY and the ONLY WAY**
  - JESUS is telling Chiapas “I’m the real thing. You’re just a symbol.” No wonder he was so offended. wow. Jesus told him, “You’re just a mere reflection of who I am!”
  - It was Jesus who’s with the father on behalf of the mt
  - Jesus is freeing captives
  - Jesus is offering forgiveness
  - Jesus is the only one perfect, and therefore
  - Caiaphas tears off the wardrobe of the high priest - accidentally prophesying again! The real priest has arrived!
- Jesus’ cousin John the Baptist, was born at just the right TIME when God wanted him to be born. A forerunner for Jesus! Zechariah and Elizabeth giving birth to John the Baptist - miraculously in their old age Zechariah’s need to believe in the word of the Lord ... Sometimes what you think is God taking His time (or being late) is actually God working in the fullness of time - in His perfect time to execute His perfect will. His doubt caused him to be mute for 9 months until John was born.
- Mary becomes pregnant right after the promise from the angel ..
- Mary actually gives us a picture of us. We too can carry Jesus if we’ll only be humble enough to obey. **We can carry Jesus if we too will say “May it be to me as You have said.”**
- The prophets served as a decent demonstration of who God is but certainly not perfect. How else can He illustrate and demonstrate WHO He is? He sends His Son!

## #2 God reveals what He is like through sending Jesus, born a man.

- Let’s see what God’s Word tells us about the exclusivity of Jesus.

 John 10:1-15 Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.



4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.<sup>[a]</sup> They will come in and go out, and find pasture.10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.


12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- Jesus is the Way - the Good Shepherd
- What makes Jesus the Great High Priest and all the others mere symbols is empathy.
- “The difference between pity and empathy is proximity.” God didn't just look down and feel bad. He came to us. It'd be one thing for God to just feel bad and send a message, a card, a letter, an angel. But when God comes CLOSE and sits with us in our pain, our despair and hopelessness, He shows genuine love and what we call empathy. God is WITH us as our Shepherd, guiding us, loving us, being our teacher and best friend.
- Bono - memoir he describes seeing impoverished dying children in the Sahara.
- Tho He is KING He came to us as a shepherd and before shepherd a baby! A king only in prophecy- announced to who? Shepherds!
- Hebrews calls Jesus *the new and living way*

### #3 Jesus is the way to the Father who came at just the right time.



-  Galations 4:4 “In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son ...” The NIV says it like this...
-  Galations 4:1-7 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. **2** The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. **3** So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces<sup>[a]</sup> of the world. **4** But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.<sup>[b]</sup> **6** Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba,*<sup>[c]</sup>

Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

- God always planned on adopting you by sending Jesus to earth to become your perfect older brother who makes your adoption possible! There was a set time for that!
-  400 years of silence - no prophet - no warning - not for 4 centuries. Then in silence when the “star” jupiter was over Bethlehem, a baby named Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary.

God revealed His message of His son’s arrival in a host of angels!

- Sometimes we don’t get the visit from angles. We’re just alone with our thoughts. Sometimes we doubt though. Sometimes everyone around is putting their faith in Jesus but for certain reason, we’re not. We’re doubting. We’re wondering. We’re thinking “Is all this really true? Is Jesus really who He says He is?” That’s who Nicodemus felt. Gentiles and some of His Jewish friends were leaving tradition and trusting this carpenter’s son to truly be the Messiah - the long awaited Savior. Nicodemus had to find out for himself. He wasn’t brave enough to speak with Jesus in the daylight - in front of his piers but rather at night.

-  John 3 NICODEMUS story.
  - Tell the story - he met in secret - HS inspired curiosity - too prideful to ask in daylight - went away sad
  - Don’t be Nicodemus! Put your faith in JESUS even if thousands of others have rejected Him and declared their own way to be the right way.
  - **This story tells us something else powerful. Jesus will always welcome us. Love IS love. He welcomes us. But He does not ignore our sin or need to repent no matter “good” and well-behaved lives we’ve lived.**  
 **What Jesus tells Nicodemus, He tells all of us. We must repent of our sin and be born again - made NEW by God Himself!**

## #4. Jesus is the Way, Rejected by Many, Received by some

Many who are atheists and don’t believe in God have ended the conversation with Christians by repeating a famous line “There simply isn’t any evidence for God.” That statement often leaves the Christian - 99% of them - mute and unsure of how to respond. Today, we’re giving you the response! When someone says “there simply isn’t any evidence for God” Our reply should be “I can give you at least 5 reasons right now.” That undoubtedly causes them to say “Like what?”



### 5 Reasons I Know God Exist and Jesus Is The Way

1. **God is the best explanation why anything exists.** It’s harder to believe that nothing started everything than God a divine designer created it all. This is the law of cause and effect. Even

agnostics and ir-religious consider a “BIG BANG” started everything. It didn’t just happen. Something caused what we see, creatures, oxygen, solar system, humankind, etc.

2. **God is the best explanation of the fine tuning of the universe.** God is the best explanation of intelligent life
3. **Objective moral values and duties in the world.**
4. **God is the best explanation of historical facts concerning Jesus.**
  - a. Up to 500 people wrote down their eyewitness testimony of a resurrected Jesus appearing to them!
  - b. Historical documents reveal Pilot, the Governor pardoning Jesus and releasing Barrabas. Either Roman officials and book-keepers are telling the same lie as early followers of Jesus OR Jesus really did die and Barrabas was freed.
  - c. Israel and the territory of Jerusalem - archeology in recent years validates the Bible’s claims. City of David found 8 years ago.
5. **God can be personally known and experienced**
  - a. I myself have been changed by His love and grace
  - b. I know hundreds of people who swear that their marriage is better, their life is improved by knowing Jesus and His mercy and restoring power
  - c. Millions of people worldwide have testified of His miracle-working power

#### // Conclusion

- As your Pastor, I want to challenge you to put on the clothes of a priest. Rev says He has made us a *kingdom of priests*. Did you know that you can lead someone to Jesus?
- Story here - I remember leading someone to Christ when I was ...
-  *But to all who receive Him, become children of God* In the fullness of time God sent Jesus to make it possible for YOU and ME to be adopted by a PERFECT heavenly Father! God PLANNED for you and WANTS you in HIS FAMILY! You are WANTED!
-  Zechariah prophecy “He will save them from their sins.” This was always God’s perfectly timed goal being perfectly executing in sending Jesus to a poor Jewish girl named Mary. A surprise to us - the plan of God.
- **Jesus is the WAY and we can not enter unless we repent of our sins.**

**CAMPUS PASTOR - it’s up to you if you want to take the message a step further into the idea of us being commissioned to tell people that Jesus is THE WAY. If you want that piece about challenging the Christian with the Great Commission. You can of course leave it as it is and end with simple salvation call only.**

**We are called to carry out Jesus message of hope to everyone - as priests we’re uniting them with God! You have JESUS to give people. You have HOPE to give people!**

Then when Jesus began His ministry, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days. This would test His character and endurance and mission.

He came out of that experience knowing His mission and He even stated it...

He told us WHY HE CAME

**Luke 4:14–21 (ESV): And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.**

**16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,**

**18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” That was like the first mic drop.

It was like “Scroll Drop” BOOM Jesus came to set the captive free!

What’s amazing about this passage is that so many in that audience that day didn’t even understand the full extent of the mic drop! He wasn’t only saying that HE was the Messiah - the promised one. He was also saying who THEY WERE. This also tells us who WE ARE.

We are all “the poor” We are all captives, blind, oppressed by sin!

**Jesus wasn’t saying “I came for some” He was saying “I came for all!**

For all who are willing to see that they are blind without God, captive without salvation, oppressed without the joy of the Spirit, & poor without the glory of God, I’m coming to save you!

No matter how much money you make, you are poor without God.

No matter how much vision you have for your life, you are blind without Jesus.

**No matter how many liberties America has given you or your job has given you, you are captive, a slave to sin, until you let Jesus save you.**

Women, no matter how beautiful you are, you need Jesus to save you!

Men, no matter how strong you are, you need Jesus to save you!



You must become like a child to receive the Christ child!

Humility is the only prerequisite to salvation and to eternal life. And ironically, humility is also the key to experiencing all that God has for you in this life!

**You must come to Him as a child if you're willing to receive Him as the newborn King, the child in a manger.**

If you're captive to fear today, Jesus can set you free!

If you're captive to worry and always assuming people are out to get you, assuming the worst of people, then Jesus can set you free from that!

If you're captive to an addiction, fits of rage, a spending money addiction, an alcohol or drug addiction or pornography, Jesus can set you free! It's WHY HE CAME!

He was on a mission to recover the sight of the blind - to proclaim GOOD NEWS to the poor - to heal the broken hearted!

And before Jesus comes into our life, we are all blind captives.

There are so many signs of this in the Bible. Let me give you just one.

For those that are still skeptical to believe in a one, true God, can I tell you just one little sign of Him revealing who He is and how He is needed in your life?

The very name Yahweh was originally just four Hebrew Letters and those 2 letters next to the other two letters is literally translated "breath"

So when we breath as humans we are actually saying the name of God in just our breathing. As we breath in and out we are admitting the reality of GOD. HE designed that!

So even the atheist who says "there is no God" actually declares the name YHWH when they say that.

Jesus came to save us and to redeem all that was lost in His creation.

Have you come to the place where you're child-like enough to admit your need for Him? **A child is so dependent and worry free.**

If I say to my four girls "Let's eat." They don't think about going to the store to get the food. They don't think about working to get money to afford to buy food. They don't think about how the silverware or plates got there.

When they want to be warm, they just ask you.

They don't think about the gas that was paid for when you paid bills the day before. They are completely dependent upon you and relying on you! Think of this irony.

They are a child and KNOW that YOU as their parent are their source - of ALL things. The same is true of us and God!

Jesus came as a baby - totally dependent upon Joseph and Mary.

Jesus teaches us that the Kingdom of God belongs to the childlike. He says this over and over.

**HOW He came to us, unlocks the mystery, of how WE must come to Him.**

And yet even after salvation there are times when we Christians lose sight of this truth and begin to compare ourselves one to another, vying for position or respect. I've seen pastors do this. I've seen lay leaders do this. I've seen Christian artists do this. It's SILLY!

When in reality, the maturing Christian knows that he or she is completely helpless without God. The maturing Christian is like a CHILD - he or she has a TOTAL trust in GOD that HE is their provider and protector.

In fact, the more you grow as a Christian, the more you become like a child in your trust of God and obedience to His voice.

Let me say it like this,

**The more you become like Christ, the more childlike you become and the more you see God as the source of all things good in your life - the good that you have and the good that is to come.**

Are you child like enough to accept the salvation of God this holiday season? Because again... HOW He came to us unlocks the mystery of how WE must come to Him.

Are you humble enough to come to Him like a child and admit your total dependence upon Him? OR .. Are you just going through the motions of Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you going to be like so many in Jerusalem who couldn't see the glory of God in Jesus blind because of their "adulthood" and their pride.

Or, are you going to be humble - and see that God is ready and willing to save you and give you a promised life of being in God's beautiful presence?

ALTAR CALL - SALVATION

REPENTANCE FOR NOT BEING CHILDLIKE

- Practical Application
  - Define
- In-Service Response
  - Define

## // Discussion Questions

1. Question 1
2. Question 2
3. Question 3
4. Question 4
5. Question 5