

## Fullness - cont.

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But, like the Romans, the Greeks also had empty philosophy (1 Corinthians 1:26-27) and failed religion (Acts 17:16ff). People were turned off by these things and they turned to Jesus.

### **Jewish Contributions ( Religious )**

The third contribution that was made came from the Jews who had been spread throughout the world for centuries before Jesus came. Their contribution was primarily religious in nature.

The Jews had already given the world the concept of the one, true God in monotheism (Ephesians 4:4-6). Through the Old Testaments scriptures, the Jews offered a Messianic hope (Luke 2:25,38; Acts 2), ethics / morality (Romans 12:9,21), the Old Testament (John 4:22; Acts 17:2; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 3:23-25), the concept of linear history (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 6:9-11), and synagogue worship (Lk. 4:16ff; Acts 13:13ff).

### **What Can Be Learned?**

Yes, Jesus came at the right time to save the world. God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). What we

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now need to do is use the “contributions” of our modern world to spread the gospel (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:3). We have a great availability of God’s word with all the Bibles. We have ease of communication and travel. We have failed denominations. Now is the time to save the lost around us!

- Chris Reeves -

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Fullness of the Time

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*So we also, when we were children, were held in bondage under the rudiments of the world: but when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that he might redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

*- Galatians 4:3-5 -*

## **The Fullness of Time**

God sent his son Jesus to earth at a specific time in world history. Jesus' coming was not random or accidental. It was planned in advance and for a specific time period. For example, a specific time was planned by God for his kingdom. Jesus would set up his kingdom (spiritual, not earthly) during the time of the Roman Empire:

*And in the days of those kings [ Roman kings - CHR ] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

*- Daniel 2:44 -*

Jesus came at just the right time - "in the fulness of the time" (Galatians 4:4; Mark 1:2-3). He came when the

time was full and complete to accomplish God's will to save all. What contributions were made at this time in the 1st Century that advanced the progress of the gospel and the salvation of mankind (Acts 26:26; Colossians 1:23)? Let us consider a few.

## **Roman Contributions ( Political )**

The first contribution that was made came from the Romans who were in power at the time. Their contribution was primarily political in nature.

The Roman politics of the day led to unity – *lex tabularum*. They had one, universal law for all citizens of the Empire. The people were used to one law for everyone. In the same way, Jesus would set forth his law and send it into all the world (Mt. 28:18-20).

The Roman politics of the day led to one citizenship for all (Acts 22:25). Roman citizenship was prized throughout the Empire. In the same way, Jesus wanted all Christians to have the same citizenship privileges in his kingdom (Galatians 3:28; Philippians 3:20).

The Roman politics of the day also led to peace for all – *pax romana* (Romans 13:1ff). Similarly, Jesus offered peace with

God for all mankind through the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Other Roman contributions included a good Roman road system. This allowed for a much easier spread of the gospel (Acts 1:8; 16:22; 17:1). The Roman military system was advanced and supreme over all other armies. The allowed Roman citizens like Paul to be protected and even gave occasion for Roman soldiers to hear the gospel (Acts 10:1ff; Philippians 4:22). Lastly, the failed religion of Roman Emperor worship and other pagan religions caused people to turn away from them to the one, true religion of Jesus Christ (Acts 14:12).

## **Greek Contributions ( Intellectual )**

The second contribution that was made came from the Greeks who were present in the higher institutions of learning. Their contribution was primarily intellectual in nature.

The Greeks gave the world the universal language of Kione (common) Greek. This allowed for the New Testament to be written in Greek which could be understood by a wide range of people (John 20:30-31). - *continued*