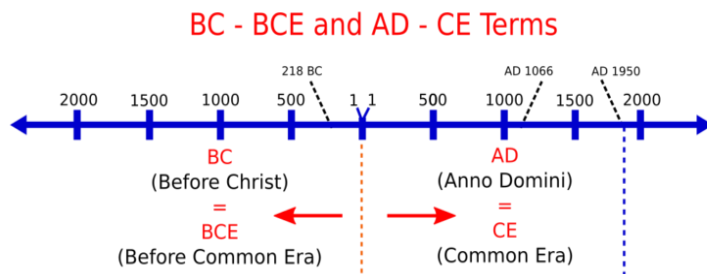


**IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME****DEVOTIONS: GALATION 4:4-7**

**GALATION 4:4-7** *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So, you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. NIV*



Our entire timeline is set to the time before Christ (BC), and the time after Christ (AD) or the year of our Lord. No true historians deny that Christ lived, was crucified, or that His grave was empty Easter morning. It’s a true historic event that all mankind will

one day acknowledge. As Christians, we embrace the truth and its historicity.

From Abraham to David was about 14 generations, from David to Jesus was another 28 generations or approximately 1000 years. Each generation adopts some ideas that seem right or sensible to them. Our generation is conditioned (by our culture) to doubt anything that isn’t considered scientifically possible, like the miraculous birth and resurrection of Christ, or any miracles of God. A common response to accepting Jesus as their Savior is “I don’t believe in that kind of stuff.” They reject the idea of the impossible becoming possible while also rejecting the actual historical evidence.

Before Christ (BC), the Jewish nation was responsible for delivering God’s words and prophecies to the world. God strategically placed them at the crossroads of nations to tell the world of the one true God. Their miraculous victories led by Moses, Joshua, Saul, and David gave other nations reasons to listen. Since Christ (AD), we are the chosen vessels; we are to be the leaders of faith.

When faced with giants in our lives, we can draw on both eras of God’s provisions – BC and AD. The purpose of the Jewish nation was fulfilled in and through Christ, their Messiah. Though many Jews failed to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, most early Christians were Jews – the disciples, Paul, and the inspired writers of the New Testament. Christians have no greater resource to fight giants than God’s written words.

**HEBREWS 4:12** *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**THEME: THE FULLNESS OF TIME**

“Timing is everything,” or so the saying goes. Everything in life is time-stamped. Our birth, the events we remember and those we don’t, life and death, all happen in the context of time. Time as we know it began on Day 1 of creation. God, however, is outside of time and is able to assert control over it.

At the time of Jesus birth, Roman rule made distant travel possible, even for commoners. The Roman empire protected all the territories around the Mediterranean, Europe, and western Asia. Roman roads were built to facilitate travel and trade. Pax Romana from 27 BC to 180 AD was considered a “golden age” – a time of peace, security, and stability. God’s timing for Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection, as well as the expansion of the early Christian Church coincided with this time.

**ECCLESIASTES 3:1-2a** *To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die;*

**TIMELINE/Introduction (History): The Classical Era**

**1000 BC to 500 AD** Roman roads, battering rams, cranes, static electricity, water organs, odometers (geometry, modern astronomy, medicine, botany, philosophy, & cartography)

The Assyrian Empire (1500-600 BC) fell to other powerful societies from Mesopotamia – the Babylonians, the Medes, and the Persians, but fortunately most of these struggles were in the northern and eastern part of the Fertile Crescent. The desert between Israel and Mesopotamia (south of the crescent) protected Israel for a time. The Southern Kingdom of Judah maintained a distinct cultural separation from these Mesopotamian societies, the same societies Abraham was called to leave.

Under King David (~1000 BC), the twelve tribes were united. After Solomon’s rule, the Northern Tribes separated from Judah and were quickly overtaken by the Assyrians, and later the Babylonians, Medes, and Persian armies. Battles were fought using new technology. Battering rams could knock down fortress gates or walls or sink a ship. Weapons were evolving and wars were often brutal.

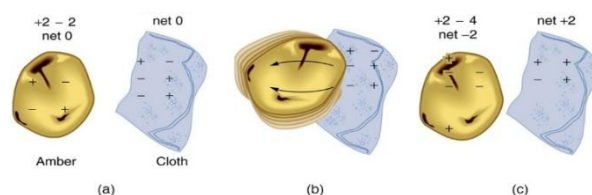
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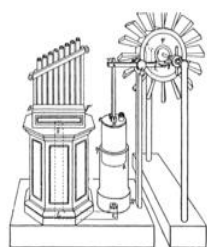
By the time the Roman Empire began its rise, naval warfare controlled the Mediterranean Sea and most of the surrounding territories. Rome’s influence rose as they defeated the Grecian, Macedonian, and the Carthaginian navies. Speed, agility, and powerful metal battering rams, attached to the bow, were used to sink enemy ships. The Roman military power spread eastward until their control reached its heights during Pax Romana.

Around the same time, from 600-1 BC, Greek philosophers gained fame for feats of intellectual progress in reason, mathematics, astronomy, science, and more. Thales of Miletus observed that rubbing amber with fur caused the amber to attract objects. He's credited as being the first to experiment with static electricity, around 600 BC. In the fourth century BC, Aristotle wrote about the attraction between objects via magnetic and static forces arising from electron transfers.

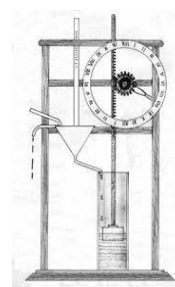
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as



By the time Jesus was born, wind and water pipe organs, cranes, water clocks with alarms, and a variety of geared mechanisms had been invented. Human hands could create timekeepers, but time couldn't be kept from its constant move forward. God's natural laws control this march of time; however, God's supernatural power is able to alter what the future holds for His children. Jesus' birth, life, and death split history into two epic era's: BC and AD!

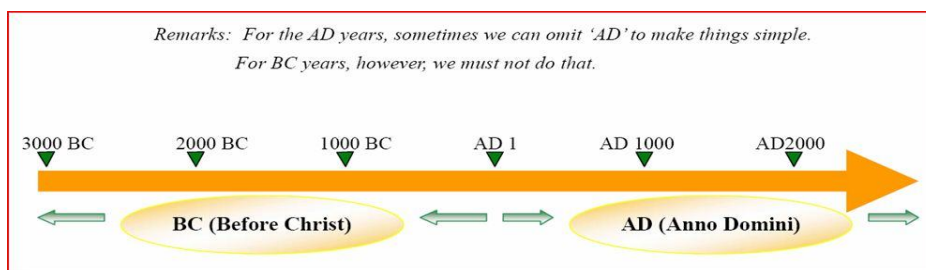


**Ecclesiastes 3:11** *He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*

### REFLECTION/Devotion:

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

This verse, John 3:16, is the most recited verse of all the scriptures. It is the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. From start to finish, the Bible tells the story of God's plan for the world. From the history of His chosen people (all those who would listen to His voice and follow Him) to the greatest love story of all time – the story of God's Son giving His life so that we may be adopted as sons of the Kingdom of God.



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God's desire is to save His creation, not to condemn it. But, as created beings with the gift of free choice, it's a choice only we can make for ourselves.

God entered into the world in the FULLNESS OF TIME. His plan, His timing, and His love guides us from death to everlasting life.

**John 3:17** *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

#### REMEMBER THESE THINGS/Devotion:

Power isn't over-rated, it's undercharged. We've rarely been charged with defeating giants even though we have been infused with power from above, the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of truth. Our fears tell us to avoid tough conversations or to listen to the cynics who say, "You can't talk about Christ here!" But, Ephesians 1:19b-20a command us to, "understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe in Him. This is the same mighty power <sup>20</sup>that raised Christ from the dead..."



**Ephesians 6:10-12** <sup>10</sup>*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* <sup>11</sup>*Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.* <sup>12</sup>*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Nothing in history compares to the brief time that separates the Age of Promise (BC) from the Age of Fulfillment (AD - aka the Church Age). These brief years of Christ's time on earth changed everything. We may struggle, we may have to fight a war, but we have already won the victory. As Christians, life is no longer defined by what happens to us or what we accomplish, but who we are in Him. The more we embrace Him, the gift, the more fulfilling life will be even in the midst of suffering.



**Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.*