

The World Did

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What happens when your life isn't moving in the direction of your plan?

- God loves us.
- God is faithful.
- God's timing is perfect.

The Christmas story begins with an unbelievable promise made about 2000 years before Jesus was born...

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:1-3

"...I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:6

My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 1:11

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son... Galatians 4:4

...the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:30-33

Even when God is silent; He is not still.

- God sent Jesus to be your Savior, in your world.
- God is present, He is listening, and He keeps His promises.

Let's Connect

Is the Christmas season a positive or negative time for you? In one word, describe how you feel about the holidays.

Let's Talk About It

Who needs Christmas? Well, as it turns out, we all do. God waited until the time was right and things were just the way He wanted, to send His Son to save us. Jesus' life, death and resurrection were a demonstration of God's perfect timing and His faithfulness to fulfill His promise.

Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Malachi 1:11; Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:26-33

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Genesis 12:13. Abram believed something he couldn't yet see. What is something you're believing for that hasn't happened yet? How does Abram's example inspire you to keep believing?
- Read Galatians 4:4. Pastor Gregg traced how the Christmas story unfolded over two thousand years until the conditions were exactly as God wanted them. When has God's timing been different for you? How does hindsight often change your feelings?
- The struggling nation of Israel had no reason to believe God's promises given their dire circumstances. Talk about a time when you've seen someone trust God despite challenging or seemingly hopeless circumstances. Why do we often struggle to trust in God's faithfulness to us?
- Read Luke 1:26-33. The full Christmas story – from God's promises to Abram all the way to the birth of Jesus – is a reminder of God's timing and His faithfulness. Which of those do you need to be reminded of this Christmas?

Take a Step

- Identify an area where you're struggling to trust God's faithfulness and His timing. Spend some time in prayer surrendering this area to God.
- Invite someone to attend one of our Christmas services.

Here's My Prayer

- Lord, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus when the time was just right. Help me to trust in Your perfect timing and faithfulness in my life.