**December 16, 2018 “In the Fullness of Time” II Peter 1:19-21**

There are two sayings that I think well depict the subject of our study today. The first one is this; sometimes you cannot see the forest because of all the trees and the second is this; along the pathway of life take time to smell the roses.

Both of these statements infer that we often are too busy with the things of life to recognize the really important things and I think this can especially happen during the Christmas season. How often this season have we taken the time to realize that we are living in extraordinary times in the Biblical calendar?

When was the last time we seriously reflected on the events in recent history and marveled at them like Mary when she “pondered these things in her heart” or like the shepherds who said, “let us go straight to Bethlehem then and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us”?

I found myself thinking those exact thoughts several times over the last couple of weeks and decided to use our Scripture verse today as a foundation of an examination on the term used in Galatians 4:4 which is “but when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son born of a woman, born under the law”.

Note especially the term… “in the fullness of time”. This term denotes an exact period of time when God in the ages of eternity past determined that His Son would arrive on the earth. I want to submit to you today that is the time in which we live today. The fullness of time of the return of Jesus Christ for His Church is eminent and I want to show why I am saying this to you today.

1. II Peter 1:19-21
	1. The prophetic word
		1. Which you would do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place
			1. How many times when we listen to the news does it not feel like a dark time?
				1. Renewed persecution of the Church throughout the world
				2. Enemies of our nation both foreign and domestic stacked like cord wood intent on the destruction of freedom
				3. The stock market fluctuating wildly
				4. Riots around the world
				5. China and Russian sabre rattling
				6. On and on it goes
2. We have the prophetic word made more sure
	1. Note these prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus Christ
		1. Micah 5:2… where He was to be born (Matthew 2:5-6)
		2. Isaiah 9:6-7… unto us a child is born… unto us a Son is given (John 3:16-17)
		3. Isaiah 7:14… Immanuel… God with us
			1. Centurion… Matthew 27:50-54
			2. Matthew 3:16-17; II Peter 1:15-18
		4. Isaiah 12:2… God is my salvation
			1. Matthew 1:21… dream of Joseph
				1. “Yeshua”… means “salvation”
3. So, what about you and me today?
	1. Consider the following
		1. May 14, 1948… Isaiah 66:7-8
			1. The United States through Truman recognized the Sate Israel that very day
		2. May 15, 1948… Arab armies attacked and were defeated
		3. 1967… outnumbered 50:1, Israel retakes Jerusalem
	2. Today in our time
		1. Zechariah 14:6… celebration of the “Sukkot” feast of tabernacles which is the Day of Pentecost. 25% percent growth in tourism since 2016… resulting in $5.8 billion in revenue
		2. Isaiah 55:12; Acts 2:19
			1. 100-year old Jewish prophecy
4. Why am I telling you all this?
	1. His first coming came a few signs for those who were looking
	2. Today there are abundant signs all around us

It is not a question of His return… it is going to happen!! The question is… are we ready for His return? In the parable of the ten virgins waiting for the Bridegroom, they all knew He was coming but only five had their lamps trimmed and burning bright.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

This world needs to have the light of God’s Grace shining in our lives especially now in this time of approaching darkness.