

Perfect Timing

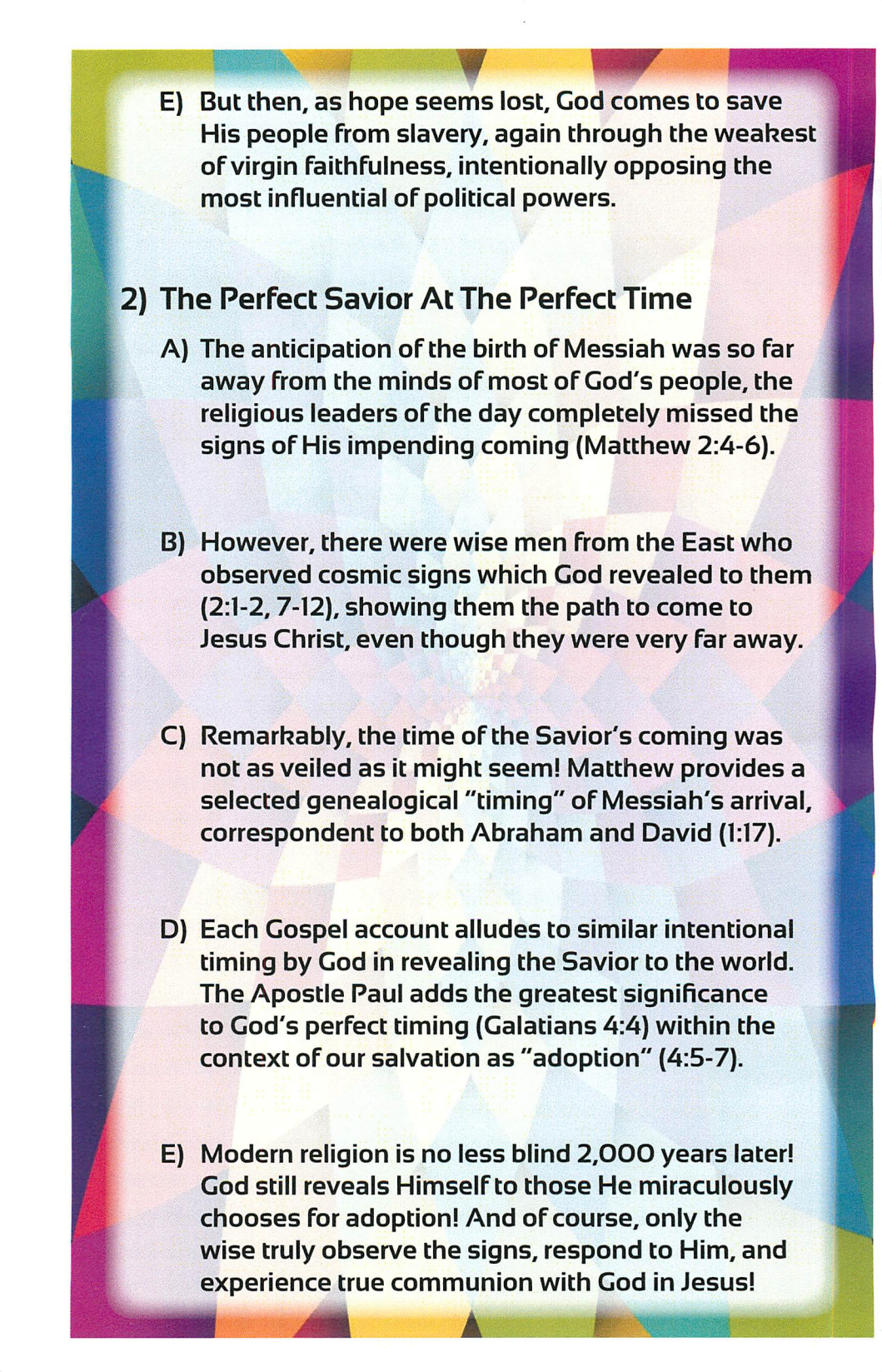
Long Beach Alliance Church • December 1, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
born under the law, to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we
might receive adoption as sons.**

~Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

1) Just When You'd Think All Hope Is Lost...

- A) In the Old Testament, God's people lived in the promises of their forefathers (Genesis 12:1-3), trusting in God's ultimate timing (15:13-14).**
- B) But by the time of Moses (Exodus 1:11-14), the promises of God had become distant memories to everyone but the weakest women (1:15-20).**
- C) But through the "virgin faith" (1:21) of the midwives, God provided a savior for His people in Moses (2:1-10), who would eventually lead Israel's millions of people to freedom from slavery (Exodus 14).**
- D) Much like the first appointed silence of 400 years (cf. Genesis 15:13), Israel is again buried in distant memories of better days, replaced by a punishing religious system and persecuting political power.**

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- E) But then, as hope seems lost, God comes to save His people from slavery, again through the weakest of virgin faithfulness, intentionally opposing the most influential of political powers.**

2) The Perfect Savior At The Perfect Time

- A) The anticipation of the birth of Messiah was so far away from the minds of most of God's people, the religious leaders of the day completely missed the signs of His impending coming (Matthew 2:4-6).**
- B) However, there were wise men from the East who observed cosmic signs which God revealed to them (2:1-2, 7-12), showing them the path to come to Jesus Christ, even though they were very far away.**
- C) Remarkably, the time of the Savior's coming was not as veiled as it might seem! Matthew provides a selected genealogical "timing" of Messiah's arrival, correspondent to both Abraham and David (1:17).**
- D) Each Gospel account alludes to similar intentional timing by God in revealing the Savior to the world. The Apostle Paul adds the greatest significance to God's perfect timing (Galatians 4:4) within the context of our salvation as "adoption" (4:5-7).**
- E) Modern religion is no less blind 2,000 years later! God still reveals Himself to those He miraculously chooses for adoption! And of course, only the wise truly observe the signs, respond to Him, and experience true communion with God in Jesus!**