



Galatians 4:1-7 "Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Three thoughts on ‘the timing’ of the very first Christmas:

1. **Christ was born** _____ (vs 4)
2. **Christ was born** _____
 - (a) At a difficult time _____ (Luke 2:1)
 - (b) It was a time of _____
 - (c) It was a difficult time for _____
3. **Christ was born in** _____ (vv 4-7)

At this time there were three main groups amongst the Jews:

 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____

Paul is saying that at the perfectly DIVINE TIME, God sent His Son into this world so that man could become the adopted sons of God and joint heirs of salvation through Jesus Christ, rather than being slaves to a cold, lifeless, ritualistic religion.