

1. 'the time had fully come'

- Why did God send Jesus precisely at the moment he did?
- The world was looking for Imperial Man
 - Imperial Man had the power of both heaven and earth.
 - Was considered able to hold the world's chaos at bay.
- Galatians 4:4
 - God chose the perfect moment to send his son when the world was looking for a Savior, an Imperial Man, to bring order to the chaos.

2. References:

- Mircea Eliade – *The Myth of the Eternal Return*
- Ethelbert Stauffer – *Christ and the Caesars*
- Both authors discuss the “Terror of History” or the “Guilt of History” and the issues created for humanity.

3. Ancient Conception of the Cosmos

- The ancient mind understood the cosmos as an endless cycle that needed to be periodically regenerated to renew everything.
- Characteristics of ancient cultures with this mindset:
 - Fatalistic
 - No personal responsibility or agency
 - The individual goal was to gain the power to have a better life.
 - Suffering and injustice were woven into the fabric of the cosmos, and individuals were not called to fix the injustices.
 - Little progress was made.

4. God and the Bible

- God calls humanity out of the great cycle toward a goal – the promised land, the kingdom of God, a new Heaven, and a New Earth.
- **Genesis 12:1**
- **Genesis 18:19**
- Goal = Greek *Telos* – or end state.
- Jesus is the *Telos* of the Law. Christlikeness is the *Telos* of a Christian

5. Something New is Created because we Exist Across Time:

- God only gives us moment by moment.
- In each moment, we are bound by limitations – life, knowing, etc.
- Because we can consider our actions in the past, we experience three primary negative emotions which create a “thingness.”
 - Guilt
 - Shame
 - Regret

6. Sin Creates a “Thingness”

- Sin creates a weight that we can feel. A weight that burdens our souls and must be dealt with¹

6. How do we deal with the Weight of Sin?

- **Judgment** – all sin must be brought into the light. Jesus is the light of the world that will illuminate our sin so that it can be judged for what it is.
- **Forgiveness** – forgiveness is the process of releasing or sending away. We release the “weight” of sin. Jesus has the authority from God to forgive our sins.
- **Healing our Soul** – Jesus, through whom all humanity was created, has the power to heal your soul; therefore, you experience authentic freedom from the terror or guilt of history.

7. **King Croesus** – Lydian king who lost his empire to the Persians.

8. **Imperial Man:**

- If the negative thingness of sin can be introduced into the cosmos, then a human being, a king, can be introduced who can benefit humanity.

9. **Jesus, the Heavenly Imperial Man:**

- God sent his son as the Heavenly Imperial Man at this exact moment in history.
- Jesus has the authority from God to judge and forgive, providing humanity the highest order of freedom – should you choose to enter the kingdom of God.

¹ Gary Anderson, *Sin: A History*