

Journey of a lifetime

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law. (Galatians 4:4 ESV)

Hobbies come in all shapes and sizes. Some people like plane spotting. Others enjoy astronomy. Many collect stamps. Me, I'm interested in buses.

I'm not so much interested in engine sizes or electronic wizardry under the bonnet, but rather route planning and timetables. There is a great deal to ponder; are bridges high enough to accommodate double-deckers? Are there school times to be considered? What about housing estates where mums and dads with prams might need extra space on the vehicle? And where can the driver get a rest break to fit in with transport regulations.

There is a great dealing of planning that accompanies running an efficient bus service.

Of course, far more planning is needed on God's part when it comes to our journey through life. And it is more than just a hobby.

In the story of Noah's ark, for example, we find the vehicle that was built was fit for purpose. It could handle all the obstacles that might crop up on the route. And mankind was preserved so that, eventually, a Saviour was born.

Tracing back the human genealogy of Jesus Christ we see the incident of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24. Abraham sent his servant to find a suitable wife for Isaac. In verses 7 to 21 we read of a remarkable piece of timing – the right girl in the right place with the right qualities. That journey was completed with success – and the eventual result was, again, our Saviour.

And then there is the verse at the top of this study. That covered Christ's birth. But how about His death? We cannot be certain exactly how many years after Adam and Eve's creation the crucifixion took place. But we can be sure it was at just the right moment. "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

(Romans 5:6 ESV). If that 'bus stop' had been missed, our future would look very bleak.

Those are just a very few examples. You can find others where God's planning is precise – down to the last detail. Many passengers would wish the efforts of the bus managers were as accurate!

We can be sure that God has our 'route' planned out in such detail that we will reach our destination. "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). It will be our choice alone if we decided to get off before the end of the journey.