

# Galatians 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

## Analysis

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### **But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.**

Paul specifies the child-heir's restriction. "Tutors" (epitropous, ἐπιτρόπους) are guardians managing the child's person and education. "Governors" (oikonomous, οἰκονόμους) are stewards managing the estate's property and finances. The child-heir, though legally owner, lives under complete supervision of appointed authorities.

"Until the time appointed of the father" (achri tēs prothesmias tou patros)—until the predetermined date set by the father. Roman law allowed fathers to set the date of majority in their wills. The child had no say; the father's appointment determined freedom. Applying this to redemptive history: God the Father predetermined when the era of law-guardianship would end and mature sonship through Christ would begin. The "fullness of time" (4:4) was the Father's appointed moment. Believers now live in the freedom of that predetermined maturity.

## Historical Context

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The prothesmia was a legal term for the predetermined date when a minor would receive full rights. This was established in the father's will and couldn't be changed by the heir, guardians, or courts. Paul's theology here is deeply rooted in God's sovereignty: the Father predetermined the times and seasons of redemptive history (Acts 1:7, Ephesians 1:9-10). The law's era ended precisely when God ordained, not before or after.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding God's sovereign control over redemptive history's stages give you confidence in His control over your life's timing?
2. What does it mean that the Father has appointed your time of freedom and maturity in Christ, not leaving you under endless supervision?
3. How do you balance submission to godly authority with the freedom and maturity you have in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ ἐπιτρόπους ἐστὶν καὶ οἰκονόμους ἄχρι τῆς  
But under tutors is and governors until G3588  
G235 G5259 G2012 G2076 G2532 G3623 G891

προθεσμίας τοῦ πατρός  
the time appointed of the father  
G4287 G3588 G3962

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