

## **THE 'CHURCH AGE' DISPENSATION (part one)**

We'll begin by using five Greek words to define a biblical dispensation for this study.

**“A dispensation is a definite period of biblical history (kairos) during which a divine agency represents God in the world (oikonomia) that is composed of successive (chronos) generations of believers (genea) who live by a specific set of divine relations as part of the eternal plan of God (aion) (Eph.3:21) [age of ages].”**

This study will consist of two parts. **Part one** will introduce four important features of the Church Age Dispensation. **Part two** will study fifteen 'mystery' doctrines of the Church Age dispensation.

### **1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletical points of the mystery (to musterion) of the Church Age Dispensation.**

- Eph.3:1-3 (the mystery) Revelation given to Paul
- Eph.3:4-7 (the mystery) Reclassifying the Gentiles
- Eph.3:8-9 (the mystery) Riches of Christ (Part Two)
- Eph.3:10 (the mystery) Revealed through the Church

The purpose of dispensational teaching is to orient the Believer to divine viewpoint of the Biblical history in order to function properly in the Plan of God ( Rom.16:25-27; Eph.3:4-5, 9-10; 1 Cor.4:1-2).

### **2. We have divided Biblical history into the following four dispensations or ages.**

- Gentile Age From the Fall of Adam to Abraham (Luke 3)
- Jewish Age From Abraham to The First Advent of Jesus Christ (Matt.1)
- Church Age (CA) From Pentecost of Acts 2 to the Rapture of the Church of 1 Thess.4
- Millennium Age From the Second Advent of Jesus Christ to battle of Gog and Magog (Rev.20).

### **3. The CA is that period of Biblical history between Pentecost of Acts 2 and the Rapture of the church of 1 Thess. Ch.4.**

Pentecost (50 days) (Lev.23:15-16) of Acts Ch.2 occurred 10 days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ. (Acts1:3-5; 2:17, 31-33) (John 7:38-39) (Matt.3:11).

The Rapture of the Church was expected anytime after the fall of Israel in 70 AD. (1 Cor.1:22; 14:21-22; Acts 1:11) (1 Cor.15:51-57; 1 Thess.4:13-17).

### **4. Each dispensation has a specific set of divine revelation that is unique and pertinent to its age.**

The JA had the 'Promises of Abraham and the law of Moses' (Gal.3:2-3, 13-29).

The CA has the 'Mystery Doctrines' (Rom.11:24-25; 16:25-27; 1 Cor.2:7-8; 15:51-52; Eph.1:9-10; 3:4-6; 5:31-32; 6:19-20; Col.1:24-27; 2:2; 4:3; 2 Thess.2:7-8; 1 Tim.3:16-17).