

**The Church Age**  
**and**  
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Joe Rogers

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## Introduction

This tract is intended to make men aware of the time we live in, which is the church age. What God is doing and what we should be doing. This is a glorious time but there is much confusion, many think we are living in the kingdom age.

Knowing how God deals with man profoundly affects our understanding of the scriptures, they must be rightly divided. If we do not rightly divide the word of God, we will miss the better thing He has for us in this age we are living in. The bridal message!

Believers today are encouraged to be busy with service and ministries, but the better part is to know Jesus intimately and fall in love with Him.

## Ages and Dispensations

Dispensations are God's dealings with man in different ways in different ages. The Bible tells of real men in real situations, and real things that God did and will do in these ages. There are seven ages or dispensations in scripture. Below is the list of these dispensations with verses that reference the beginning of the age:

- Innocence – Adam & Eve (Gen 1:26-29)
- Conscience – Gen 3:22
- Human Government – Gen 7; Heb 11:7
- Promise – Gen 12:1-3; 13:14-17
- Law – Exodus 20:1-17
- Grace/Church – Acts 2
- Kingdom/Millennium – Isa 2:2-4; Acts 15:13-18

A distinguishing mark of dispensationalism is consistent, literal interpretation of the Bible.

**1 Corinthians 10:11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Some think that all the saints of all the ages are “the church”; others believe that we are already in the kingdom age. But this leaves no room for the future restoration of the nation of Israel in fulfillment of God’s promises.

Previous to the time we live in, God was dealing mainly with the nation of Israel.

## Israel – God’s Chosen People

They are a special people, not because there were more of them, but because of His love for them. God swore an oath unto Israel and it is important to know He will keep His promise.

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8** For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: <sup>8</sup>But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers,

God chose Israel to be His witnesses to nations and the earth.

**Isaiah 43:10-12** Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. <sup>11</sup>I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour. <sup>12</sup>I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when *there was* no strange *god* among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

God used Israel (the smallest nation) to defeat Egypt (the greatest nation at that time) and then to defeat the nations in the land of Canaan. This is God’s way, He takes the smallest to defeat the greatest so that He gets the glory. Even in

modern times we see how God kept Israel and they came out on top. In the six day war in 1967, the outcome was a swift and decisive Israeli victory.

## **The History of the Kingdom of Israel**

Israel began as a Theocracy, a divine government; the LORD was their King. This lasted until the time of Samuel, when they wanted to be like other nations and have a king.

**1 Samuel 8:4-7** Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, <sup>5</sup>And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

After rejecting God as their king, Saul, David, and Solomon each reigned 40 years. The kingdom then was then divided into the ten tribes of Israel, and the two tribes of Judah. There were 19 kings of Israel (all were wicked), and 20 kings of Judah (only 8 were good).

This was the Age of Law, but Israel failed to keep the law. Israel became rebellious and turned away from the Lord. They intermarried with the heathen and worshiped idols. God sent them prophets to turn them from their wickedness but they would not hearken. God was so grieved with Israel that He let them be carried away captive by other nations.

**Ezra 5:12** But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.

When Israel was carried away as captives, this began the times of the Gentiles (non-Jews).

## The Times of the Gentiles

**Luke 21:24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

The times of the Gentiles began in 606 BC with the captivity of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar.

Because of Israel's disobedience, God took away their national liberty and made them subject to other nations. That was the beginning of Gentile dominion. For 70 years they were in exile in Babylon. Zerubbabel returned to Israel first, later Ezra, and Nehemiah. They rebuilt the temple and walls and the city of Jerusalem, but not back to the magnificence it formerly had.

Despite their captivity, Israel had prophecies to look forward to of the return of the King and Kingdom.

In the Davidic Covenant God promised to establish the throne forever.

**1 Chronicles 17:11-14** And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup>He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever. <sup>13</sup>I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee: <sup>14</sup>But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

David's son Solomon built a house for the Lord, but his throne was not established forever. The seed of David spoken of here is Christ, just as Abraham's seed refers to Christ.

**Galatians 3:16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Jeremiah 23:5** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

In Daniel chapter two, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image which represents four world empires, and then a stone was cut out without hands, which is God's kingdom that will stand forever.

**Daniel 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel also had a vision of this kingdom being established.

**Daniel 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup>And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

In spite of Israel's unfaithfulness, God will keep His promises. He is the faithful one.

## The End of the Age of Law

**Luke 16:16** The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

**John 1:17** For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Jesus is born and He fulfills these prophesies in part (the rest He will fulfill at His return). He was of the tribe of Judah, the seed of David, born in Bethlehem, born of a virgin.

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her about Jesus.

**Luke 1:31-33** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup>He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup>And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

## Jesus comes Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom

In the gospels it is evident that Jesus preached a kingdom message, it was only to the Jews and only for the nation Israel.

**Matthew 4:23** Jesus went about teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom,

**Matthew 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, *Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:* <sup>6</sup>*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*



The Syrophenician (Gentile) woman whose daughter was vexed with a devil came to Jesus. Jesus explained to her He was sent only to Israel.

**Matthew 15:24** But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

### First Mention of the Church

Now we come to the first mention of the church in the Bible. Notice that Jesus viewed the church as future.

**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### The King is Rejected and Crucified

Before Jesus would become King He had to become our Saviour. Before He could enter into glory, Jesus had to be rejected by His people, suffer, die, be buried, and rise again. (Isaiah 53; Psalm 16 & 22)

Jesus had to do all of this in fulfillment of the scriptures before becoming King.

**Luke 17:25** But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

**John 1:11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Pilate said, Behold your King! But they answered, we have no king but Caesar. The Jews did not recognize that Jesus was God's Anointed and they had Him crucified. The superscription written over Him was:

**JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

But after three days Jesus rose from the dead. And that same day He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and told them this had to happen to fulfill the scriptures.

The Jews were looking for a king that came in grandeur, not a lowly man that suffered.

**Luke 24:25-27** Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: <sup>26</sup>Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? <sup>27</sup>And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Even after the resurrection of Jesus, the Jews still did not believe. Their final rejection of Him was at the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7.

So, the Lord set aside Israel and the kingdom and granted repentance to the Gentiles, bringing in the church age.

**Acts 13:46-47** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup>For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

### **Israel Set Aside but not Cast Off by God**

**Romans 11:1-2** I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid . . . God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

**Jeremiah 31:35-37** Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: <sup>36</sup>If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. <sup>37</sup>Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

## The Church Age

The church is distinct from Israel

The church does not replace or continue Israel, and is never referred to as Israel. The only reference to the church in the Old Testament is in Acts 7.

**Acts 7:38** . . . the church in the wilderness (meaning assembly or congregation).

Jesus is the Head of the church, which is His body.  
The church is the mystical body of Christ. (Eph.1:22, 23)  
It is an organism not an organization.  
The church began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

God is visiting the Gentiles in this church age. After this visit, He will restore the kingdom to Israel. The following verses in Acts 15 are basically this study in a nutshell.

**Acts 15:13-18** And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: <sup>14</sup>Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. <sup>15</sup>And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, <sup>16</sup>After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: <sup>17</sup>That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. <sup>18</sup>Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

First, God will take out of the Gentiles a people for His name, then He will build the kingdom.  
Nothing surprises God, He knew Israel would reject Jesus. God had this church age in mind all along, "from the beginning of the world" (Eph. 3:9).

## Paul a Chosen Vessel

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:**

Paul was the apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13).  
Romans 2:16 and 16:25 Paul says “my gospel”.  
The church was revealed to the Apostle Paul.

## A Hidden Mystery Is now Revealed

**Ephesians 3:1-11** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, <sup>2</sup>If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward: <sup>3</sup>How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, <sup>4</sup>Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) <sup>5</sup>Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; <sup>6</sup>That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: <sup>7</sup>Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; <sup>9</sup>And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: <sup>10</sup>To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, <sup>11</sup>According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Paul was given this dispensation (stewardship). It was a mystery not known in other ages. Although some wanted to know, like Daniel, but it was not the time, so God told him to shut up the words and seal the book (Daniel 12:8-9)

The Church shows God's wisdom to the heavenly powers

**Ephesians 3:10** that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (RSV)

Just as with Israel, God chooses the weak things against overwhelming odds. He uses "earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2 Cor. 4:7) Praise His glorious grace!

Notice in Eph. 3:11, "the eternal purpose", this was not something God had to come up with at the last moment. It was always His purpose that there would be a church, the body of Christ, and out of that body would come a rib portion (Gen. 2:21-22) that would be a bride for His Son. The mystery, "hid in God", was the divine purpose to make a whole new thing – the church, baptized with the Holy Spirit, and made up of Jews and Gentiles.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

The revelation of this mystery was committed to Paul. In his writings we find the doctrines for the church.

Some outstanding teachings to note are:

- Israel was promised a land; we are to set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:2).
- We are saved by grace, not by the works of the law. (Eph. 2:8). Men have always been saved by grace. You can never earn or merit salvation, but the Jews thought they could become righteous by the works of the law.

- God's inheritance in the saints (Eph. 1:18), and our inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:11), and that we can be joint heirs with Jesus (Rom. 8:17).
- Ranks in the resurrection, and that there will be a translation – not all will sleep (1Cor. 15:23, 51).
- The race course (1Cor. 9:24), and the prize of the high calling (Phil. 3:14).
- Suffering with Christ and reigning with Christ (Rom. 8:17; 2Tim. 2:12).
- The two natures in the believer (Rom. 6:6; 2Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24).
- The spiritual warfare of the believer. We battle principalities and powers in the heavens and we are to put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18).
- Seven mysteries including the great mystery, the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:32).

Much of the preaching today is out of the four gospels. They are good, as all of the word of God is given by inspiration and is profitable for us. However, the Apostle Paul was given the message for this age, for the church, and the teaching today should be mainly from his epistles.

**Colossians 1:24-27** Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: <sup>25</sup>Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; <sup>26</sup>Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: <sup>27</sup>To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Christ in us is the way God can show His wisdom and power. He puts His own life in these earthen vessels and enables us to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Lord is using the church to show that it is His life in us. He gets the glory because it could never be through the weak vessels we are. This is the gospel of grace and glory.

## **Paul's Gospel is the Gospel of Grace and Glory**

**2 Corinthians 4:4** the light of the glorious gospel of Christ,

**1 Timothy 1:11** the glorious gospel of the blessed God,

**Romans 9:23** And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

**Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,

**Ephesians 5:27** a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle,

**2 Timothy 2:10** salvation with eternal glory.

When Jesus ascended up on high, He gave five gifts to the church for the building up of the church.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Believers in this age can and should be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. (Acts 19:1-6)  
There are nine gifts of the Spirit given to the members of the body, to edify the body.

**1 Corinthians 12:8-10** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup>To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; <sup>10</sup>To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

We have something better in this church age. The promises to Israel were mainly natural blessings. The church has been

blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ (Eph. 1:3).

At the close of Hebrews chapter 11 “the Old Testament hall of fame” we read:

**Hebrews 11:40** God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

## The Close of the Church Age

Many today believe that a great revival is about to take place but that is not how the Bible pictures it.

**Matthew 24:12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

**2 Timothy 3:13** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

The Lord has promised He will return. Many say, I have heard that for a long time – where is he? But Jesus said He will come again, and His promises are yea and amen!

**John 14:3** . . . I will come again

**Hebrews 10:37** For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



Aren't you glad He tarried long enough for you to get in on this grace and glory message?

We can by His grace learn more of Him through the scriptures, especially Paul's gospel.

Romans 9, 10, and 11 refer to Israel's past, present, and future. Chapter 11 in Romans shows the falling away of Israel, and specifically in verse 25 we see they have been blinded, until the "fullness of the Gentiles" comes in.

**Romans 11:25** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The "fulness of the Gentiles" is the completion of the purpose of God in this age, that is, the taking out from the Gentiles a people for Christ's name.

That is when the church age will be complete, Jesus will have His bride with Him and He will begin to set up the kingdom.

## The Kingdom Age

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven His disciples asked Him a question.

**Acts 1:6-7** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? <sup>7</sup>And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

It was not the time for the kingdom even though Jesus had told them all power was given to Him.

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

Jesus has not yet taken this power to Himself.

In the Book of Revelation, John is caught forward to the Lord's Day, when Jesus will take His throne.

**Revelation 1:10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

John turns around and looks back over the church age which is described in chapters two and three.

**Revelation 1:12-13** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; <sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

**Revelation 1:20** The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Then in chapter four John is shown things that will be after the church age. He sees a throne set in heaven.

**Revelation 4:1-2** After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. <sup>2</sup>And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

God gave world dominion to His Son and now that Jesus has His wife He will take His throne as King. The rulers of the earth will not submit to Him, read Psalm 2. Their refusal to recognize Christ as the Omnipotent Ruler and the Jews not accepting Jesus as the Messiah will bring in the seven years of tribulation. That is when He will take the power to Himself.

**Revelation 11:15-17** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his

Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. <sup>16</sup>And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup>Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

At the end of the tribulation Jesus will put down all those that oppose Him and establish His kingdom. Jesus referred to this time as the regeneration.

**Matthew 19:28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The apostles referred to it as the times of refreshing and the times of restitution.

**Acts 3:19-21** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup>And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: <sup>21</sup>Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

In this time He will divide the nations – the sheep nations and the goat nations.

**Matthew 25:31-34** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: <sup>32</sup>And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: <sup>33</sup>And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Notice that the kingdom was prepared from the foundation of the world, but we in this church age were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. How precious!

**Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

## **Israel Gathered Back to their Land**

God will draw Israel back to their land, no matter where they are scattered.

**Ezekiel 37:21-22** And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: <sup>22</sup>And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

**Deuteronomy 30:3-4** That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. <sup>4</sup>If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

The kingdom age will last 1,000 years (the millennium) (Rev. 20:4). Israel will be the head of the nations.

**Deuteronomy 28:13** And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail;

So many in this day are caught up with the so-called “great commission”. It is not for today, it is kingdom teaching, as is shown in this verse:

**Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

This church age is not the time for nations to get saved, it is the time for individuals. Also notice that throughout the Book of Acts people were baptized only in Jesus' name, not the Trinity.

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 19:5** When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Israel will be the first nation born in a day (Isaiah 66:8), and they will be instrumental in converting other nations.

**Zechariah 8:22-23** Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that* God is with you.

## **The Characteristics of the Kingdom Age**

When we look at the characteristics of the kingdom as shown in the Bible we clearly see it is not anything like today, showing again that this is not the kingdom age.

- Righteousness and peace. (Isa. 9:6,7; 32:1)

**Isaiah 32:1** Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

- Satan will be locked away.

**Revelation 20:1-3** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:

- **People will be saved by the thousands.**

**Isaiah 2:2-3** And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup>And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**The verses below also describe the kingdom age and not the current church age we are in.**

**Isaiah 2:4** And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**Isaiah 35:1** The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

**Isaiah 11:6-9** The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the

cockatrice' den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

It is quite obvious that we are not currently living in the kingdom age. The kingdom age will be wonderful, but we of this church age will have a better inheritance in the heavens ruling over the earth with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rev. 5:10).

## **Conclusion**

The facts have been presented with scripture references as to the differences between the church age and kingdom age. So why is it so important to distinguish between these two ages? It has been mentioned already but it needs to be emphasized. If you are living according to the kingdom age, you are missing out of the purpose of this church age. The Father is seeking a wife for His Son Jesus. (John 4:23-24) We are privileged to live in this time where we can be in that glorious group of believers known as the bride of Christ.

You can be like Martha cumbered about with serving or you can have that good part, sitting at the feet of Jesus, hearing His word and falling deeper in love with Him.

It is interesting to see the meaning of fellowheirs in Eph. 3:6 and joint-heirs in Rom. 8:17. It is the Greek word *sugkleronomos* which means "joint-heirs as husband and wife". The wife of the Lamb will be seated in the midst of the throne (Rev. 4:6), ruling and reigning with Him (2Tim. 2:12).

It is also necessary that you be filled with the Holy Spirit because He is the one who takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us (John 16:13-15).

Like Esther, she brought nothing but what Hegai (a type of the Holy Spirit) told her to, and as a result the king loved her above all the women.

The ones who take all that God is offering us will be the ones who bring Him the most glory.

Don't miss God's best!