

HOLY SPIRIT: CHURCH AGE (PART II)

The dispensation of the church fulfills a different purpose than any other age. That purpose is the gathering out of Jews and Gentiles a heavenly people called the Body of Christ. "If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God...how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:2-6). During this age the church is to be a witness to the crucified and resurrected Christ throughout the world (Acts 1:8). Israel is not the focus of the church age. Israel's covenants and promises are temporarily suspended. After the church is raptured, God will once again deal with Israel as a nation. The Holy Spirit is working in and through the church to reach the world with the Gospel. The gifts and workings of the Spirit are uniquely designed for this "present evil age" (Galatians 1:4). Jesus described this evil age by seven parables in Matthew 13, which He refers to as a "mystery" form of the kingdom. Satan is the "god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4 KJV). The church is called out of the world to preach the Gospel of Grace. Every gift and ministry of the Holy Spirit is to make the Gospel known to the world, and to call out a bride for Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32). During the church age, the Holy Spirit works in and through believers to accomplish the eternal purpose of God in reaching the world with the message of Jesus Christ.