

## HOLY SPIRIT: THE CHURCH AGE

The church age is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings a whole new reality to a believer in Christ. As Chafer says, "...in this period are unfolded the whole new reality which the Christian is as well as his daily-life responsibility and service, which life and service are to be wrought by the Holy Spirit in answer to a continuing faith." The church age is equivalent to the dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2). The church age is a mystery (Ephesians 3:3). That means it was not revealed by the Old Testament prophets. That means it is not accounted for in the Old Testament predictions. The Old Testament prophesied regarding Israel, its future and final kingdom, but it completely passes over the church. The church age is a parenthesis between the rejection of Jesus as Israel's Messiah and the future preparation for their receiving Him, which will occur during the Tribulation. The church dispensation is unforeseen by the prophets (I Peter 1:10-11), and is unrelated to what has come before and what will come after this present age of grace. Since the age of the church is the same as the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, there will be manifestations and workings of the Holy Spirit which will be unlike any other period in salvation history.