

COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE  
PART 2—IDENTIFICATION OF “THIS PRESENT AGE”

I. The DISTINCTIVES of This Age

- A. Christ has COME, DIED, RISEN, and is at the right hand of the FATHER (Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1)
- B. The Holy Spirit RESIDES in EVERY believer (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16)
- C. The GOSPEL announces an ACCOMPLISHED salvation in Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8, 20-22, 55-57)
- D. Christ has revealed the FATHER, so revelation is now COMPLETE
- E. This age is distinctly EVIL in its ANTAGONISM toward God (Gal. 1:4)
- F. This age is DOMINATED by SATAN (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8)
- G. Israel has been SET ASIDE as the object of God’s focus, so cannot expect FULFILLMENT of her PROMISES during this age

II. God’s PURPOSE in This Age

- A. Christ is CALLING His CHURCH (Acts 15:14-16)
  - 1. The BODY of which He is the HEAD (Eph. 1:22-23)
  - 2. The BRIDE of which He is the GROOM (Eph. 5:22ff)
  - 3. The BRANCH of which He is the VINE (John 15:1)
  - 4. The FLOCK of which He is the SHEPHERD (John 10:7ff)
  - 5. The TEMPLE of which He is the CORNERSTONE (Eph. 2:19-20; 1 Pet. 2:5)
  - 6. The MINISTERING priests of which He is the HIGH PRIEST (1 Pet. 2:5-9)
  - 7. The NEW CREATION of which He is the HEAD and the FIRST-FRUITS (1 Cor. 15:45)
- B. God is displaying the INFINITY of His GRACE (Eph. 2:7)

III. The Character of This Age as a “MYSTERY”

- A. Its existence INTERRUPTING God's program with Israel (Mt. 13:11)
- B. The BLINDING of Israel to make this an age for the GENTILES (Rom. 11:25)
- C. Forming the church of believing Jews and Gentiles in ONE BODY (Eph. 1:9; 3:3-9; Col. 1:26-27; Rom. 16:25)
- D. The REDEMPTIVE program of God resulting in SALVATION (1 Cor. 2:7)
- E. The ACCOMPLISHMENT of the INCARNATION (1 Tim. 3:16)
- F. The progression of EVIL to culminate in the "MAN OF SIN" (2 Thes. 2:7)
- G. The development of a great apostate RELIGIOUS SYSTEM (Rev. 17:5-7)
- H. That God would receive people into His PRESENCE apart from DEATH (1 Cor. 15:51)

IV. Where This Age FITS in Old Testament Prophetic Scripture

- A. Psalm 118:22—"The stone which the builders rejected // Has become the chief corner stone."
- B. Isaiah 9:6—"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; // And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."
- C. Isaiah 53:10—"But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, // He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand."
- D. Zechariah 9:9-10—"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. // I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth."
- E. Luke 1:31-33—"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. // He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."