

God's Plan for the Ages Series

Lesson #017

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



GOD'S PLAN
FOR THE **AGES**
DISPENSATIONS

THE CHURCH AGE

DISTINCTIVES; SPIRITUAL LIFE 1

The Church Age or The Dispensation of Grace

A. Scripture: Acts 2:1–Revelation 3

B. Key person:

Paul refers to the dispensation of grace as having been uniquely given to him.

C. Name:

John 1:17; the Law was given through Moses; but grace and truth through the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. Responsibilities:

To utilize the power of the Holy Spirit and be witnesses to Christ (Acts 1:8). Also there is a responsibility to the New Covenant (2 Corinthians 3:6).

The Church Age or The Dispensation of Grace

E. Basic Test:

Will man walk in the Spirit and be a witness of Jesus Christ? (see Acts 1:8).

F. Failure:

Many Christians will be apostate at the end of this age and fall into false doctrine and embrace false teachers.

G. Grace:

Before any part of the Tribulation, the Rapture will remove all believers from the earth, keeping them out of the terrible judgment of the Tribulation.

The Parameters of the Church Age

- 1. The Church *began* on the Day of Pentecost, AD 33 Acts 2.**
- 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is what forms the Church, the Body of Christ (Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5). This occurred for the first time at Pentecost in Acts 2 (cf., Acts 11:5–17).**

Acts 1:5, “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized [future tense] with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 11:15, “And as I [Peter] began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

Acts 11:16, “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ [Acts 1:5]

Acts 11:17, “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”

1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized [past tense] into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Eph. 4:5, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”

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- 3. The Church is said to be a mystery (Romans 16:25, 26; Ephesians 3:1–6; Colossians 1:25, 26). A “mystery” is something that was hidden in the past in the Old Testament period but is now revealed. The Church was never revealed in Old Testament times.**