

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE AND THE COMING OF THE LORD**

Message One

The End of the Present Age—the Age of Mystery

Scripture Reading: Matt. 28:20; 24:Rev. 10:7; 1 Tim. 3:9; Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4-6; 5:32

I. “I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age”—Matt. 28:20:

- A. The word *consummation* means that there is a process that will be brought to completion of fulfillment—24:3.
- B. The consummation of the age and the end of the age refer to the same thing.
- C. In Matthew 28:20 *the consummation of the age* indicates the end of the church age, which is the age of mystery—Rev. 10:7.
- D. The consummation of the age will be the three and a half years of the great tribulation—Dan. 12:4, 6-7, 9.
- E. “To seal up vision and prophet” (Dan. 9:24c) is to close the age of mystery, that is, to finish the mystery of God—Rev. 10:7; 1 Tim. 3:9.

II. In the dispensation from the incarnation of Christ to the millennial kingdom—the church age, the age of grace—everything is a mystery:

- A. The incarnation of Christ, as the beginning of the age of mystery, is a mystery; through the incarnation of Christ, the infinite God was brought into the finite man—1 Tim. 3:16.
- B. Christ is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2:
 - 1. God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him, is the mystery of God.
 - 2. As the mystery of God, Christ is the embodiment of God; all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily—v. 9.
- C. The church is the mystery of Christ—Eph. 3:4-6:
 - 1. Christ is a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ to express Him, is the mystery of Christ.
 - 2. Christ and the church as one spirit are the great mystery—5:32; 1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 3. During the church age, the age of mystery, Christ is building up the church to be His bride—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 19:7-9.
- D. The kingdom of the heavens, the indwelling of Christ, and the resurrection and transfiguration of the saints are all mysteries—Matt. 13:11; Col. 1:27; 1 Cor. 15:51-53.

III. The age of mystery is the age of faith—Heb. 11:1, 6; Rev. 10:7; 1 Tim. 3:9:

- A. God’s mysteries are known by faith; for this reason the age of mystery is also the age of faith—Rev. 10:7:
 - 1. Without faith we cannot realize God’s economy, for God’s economy is in faith—1 Tim. 1:4.
 - 2. God’s requirement for us related to everything in the New Testament is faith—Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Mark 11:22; Luke 18:8.
- B. Faith is a substantiating ability, by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things not seen, or hoped for—Heb. 11:1:
 - 1. Faith assures us of the things not seen, convincing us of what we do not see; therefore, it is the evidence, the proof, of things not seen—v. 1.
 - 2. We do not regard, or look at, the things which are seen but the things which are not seen—2 Cor. 4:18.

3. The Christian life is a life of things unseen, and the Lord's recovery is to recover His church from things seen to things unseen—Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:27; 1 Pet. 1:8; Gal. 6:10.

IV. In this age we preach the mystery of the gospel, “the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery”—Eph. 6:19; Rom. 16:25:

- A. The gospel includes all the divine mysteries; therefore, *the mystery of the gospel* refers to the entire New Testament economy—Eph. 6:19; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- B. In particular, the mystery of the gospel is Christ and the church for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose—Eph. 5:32; 3:11.