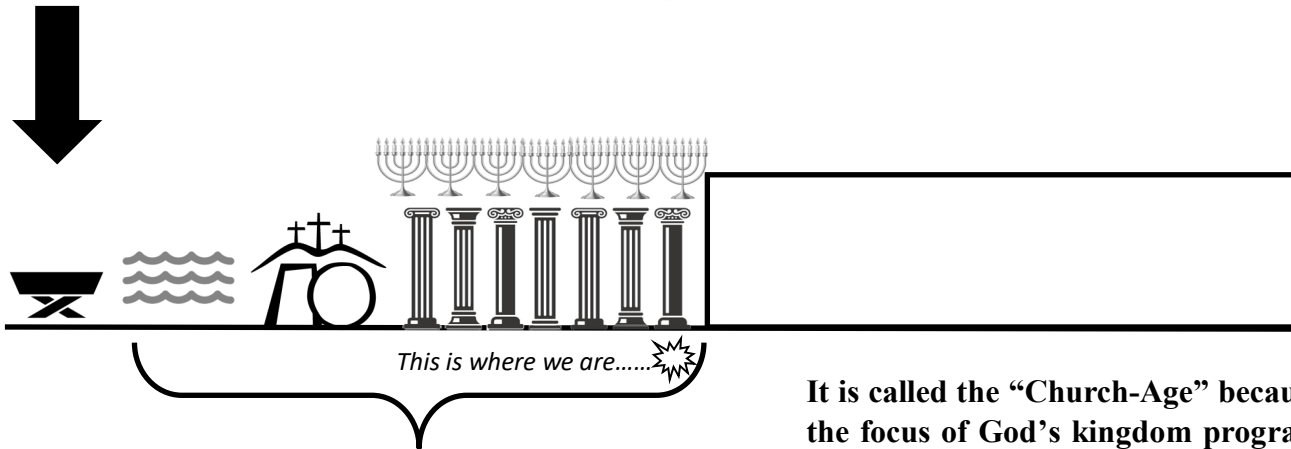


## The Bible and Future Events (The Last Days)



Our current age is Biblically called “**the present time**” (Lk. 18:30; Rom. 8:18; 11:15); “**The latter times**” (1 Tim. 4:1); “**The last days**” and “**perilous times**” (2 Tim. 3:1), “**Last times**” (1 Pet. 1:20).

**Israel** is a chosen nation (Deut. 7:6-8; 14:2; Ps. 134:4, Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:29). They are a covenant people (Gen. 12:1-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-18). They are a conflicted nation because they rejected the King and the Kingdom (Matt. 4:12,17; 10:5-7; 11:2-27; 12:43-50; 13:53-16:2, 13-28:20). Therefore Israel is presently “blind” but will be eventually restored (Rom. 11).

God’s Kingdom program is currently no longer with Israel for now. It is with “**a great mystery: Christ and the church**” (Eph. 5:32).

This present age can be called the “**Church-Age.**”

It is called the “**Church-Age**” because **the focus of God’s kingdom program is the New Testament Church (or churches) and not Israel.**

**1. The Gospel is to be preached to every creature.** (Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8; 11:18; 13:46-48; 14:27; 15:14-18; 28:25-28; Gal. 3:13,14)

**2. The Great Commission is granted exclusively to the church (churches).** (Matt. 28:19,20)

**3. The Ground Plan of God for the churches are exemplified in “the things which are” imperatives & exhortations of Revelations ch. 2 & 3.**

The churches are symbolized as candlesticks or light-bearers (Rev. 1:20) and pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).

## Biblical observations about The Last Days:

- A. Our times are perfectly described in the mystery of the kingdom parables of Matt. 13. **The Parable of the Sower** (13:1-8, 18-23) - various kinds of hearers and various kinds of results. **The Parable of the Tares among the Wheat** (13:24-30, 36-43) - false believers among true believers. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed** (13:31-32) - explosive growth of apostate Christianity. **The Parable of the Leaven** (13:33) - the spread of doctrinal error, formalism, hypocrisy, modernism, worldliness, and political ambition. **The Parable of the Treasure Hid in the Field** (13:44) - Israel, as God’s peculiar treasure, is momentarily hid (or laid aside). **The Parable of the Merchant Man** (13:45-46) - Jesus laid aside Heaven to obtain the pearl of great price (God’s people). **The Parable of the Net** (13:47-50) - The Gospel net is spread out but the results are mixed (some saved, some unsaved—they will be sorted out). **The Parable of the Householder** (13:52) - The Christian is to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
- B. Our times are marked by apostasy and wickedness (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-8, 13; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 2:18-19; read also the entire book of Jude).
- C. God has a blessed hope for all who are saved, born-again, believers, Christians, sons of God, born of God, or “in Christ.” He will close out the “Church-Age” at the beginning of Daniel’s 70th Week (Dan. 9:24) and refocus on Israel, once more. **The Church-Age will close and The Day of the LORD will begin.** These future events are ready to take place simultaneously and at any moment.