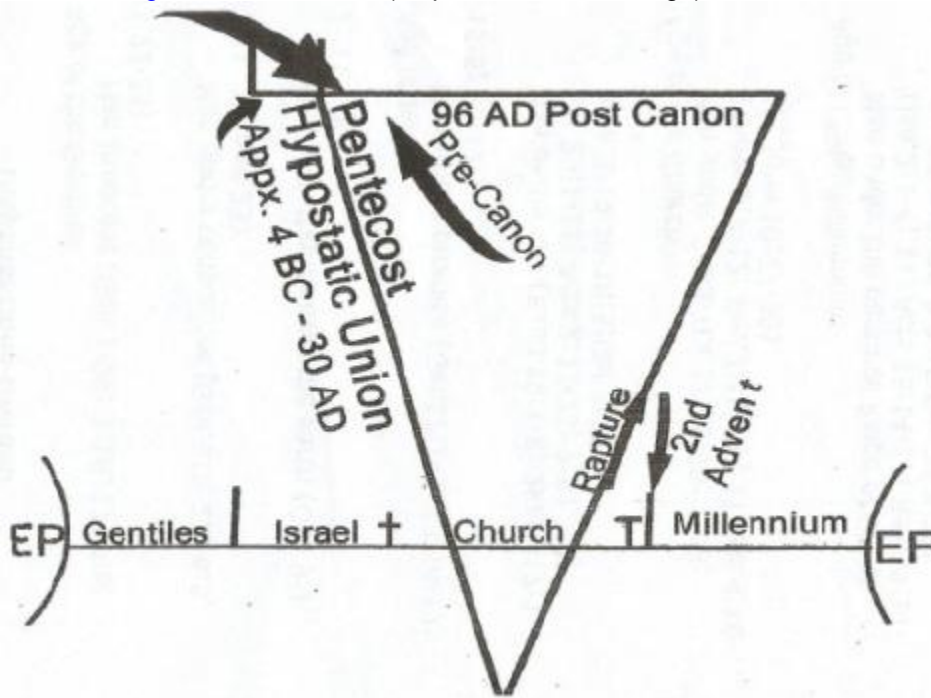


**Sunday Session 2 Bible Study – July 27, 2014**  
**"The Celebrity-ship of the Lord Jesus Christ" – (Revelation 3:7)**

Note the [diagram of the timeline](#) (emphasis on Church Age).



The Church Age is inserted into the timeline near the end of the Age of Israel. It contains the pre-canon period and the post-canon periods, the latter of which extends to this very present moment.

We need to be able to utilize God's Truth in our souls. Jesus Christ controls history and we need to be able to face life with the right attitudes.

Church Age Distinctives:

We are living in the time between Pentecost and the Rapture, in the Church Age. We must understand the *distinctives* of the church Age.

- I. Union with Christ at salvation
- II. Universal indwelling of Christ
- III. Universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- IV. Universal Priesthood of the Believer
- V. Completed Canon of scripture
- VI. Every believer is an *Ambassador of Christ*

Look at Revelation 3:7 – *"And to the angel of the in Philadelphia Church write: These things says the Holy One, the True One, the One having the key of David, the one opening and no one shall open"*

## CRISIS

I. There are two distractions for a crisis situation:

- 1) Preoccupation with the disaster, and
- 2) Preoccupation with Divine provision.

People can be distracted in a crisis...

II. The believer can be so pre-occupied with disaster that he fails to remember that Jesus Christ controls history.

III. The believer can be so pre-occupied with disaster that he is distracted from God's Word.

IV. The believer can be so pre-occupied with disaster that he forgets the Source.

V. The believer can be so pre-occupied with disaster that he becomes involved with human solutions.

VI. The believer can be so pre-occupied with the provisions of logistical Grace that he forgets the Source of logistical Grace.

VII. The believer can be so pre-occupied with the material things of logistical Grace that, having become distracted from the source, that person is *weakened* rather than *strengthened* by the support.

VIII. Both obsessions with impending disaster and obsession with the material things provided by the integrity of God can, in a subtle way, destroy the focus on the Source of the blessing, the One who controls history – The Lord Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6, 7 – “... *The government will be on His shoulders... And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace... on the Throne of David...*”).

## CHURCH

I. Place for the dissemination of Spiritual Soul Food.

II. Original churches met in homes.

III. The Church was established for the purpose of spiritual advancement.

IV. God has ordained that there be a Shepherd-teacher for the local congregation.

V. When a congregation has grown consistently over a period of years the forms of worship will be manifested: 1. Grace orientation, 2. Gratitude, 3. Witnessing, 4. Giving, 5. Teaching, 6. Service.

VI. The word “church” (ἐκκλησία) is used five ways:

1) Citizens gathering for political affairs, legislative meetings (Acts 19:25, 29, 32).

2) In the Old Testament the word was used for the assembly of Israel (Acts 7:38).

3) There is a reference to the synagogue as the EKKLESIA in Matthew 18:17. Jews met to worship. The church did not actually exist at that time.

4) The body of Christ is made up of all believers – the Church Universal (revealed in Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:17, 18).

5) The Church is also used to mean a local group. This is the geographical, visible church made up of believers and unbelievers (I Cor. 1:2, Rev. 2:3; I Thess. 1:1).

VII. The church began on the day of Pentecost, and terminates with the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I John 3:1, 2; John 14:1-3).

VIII. The *mystery* character of the church is depicted in the Epistles – Ephesians 3:1-6; Colossians 1:25, 26; Romans 16:25, 26. Mystery does not mean *unknown*, but *hidden in the past* (Old Testament) and now revealed.

IX. Born-again Jews on the Day of Pentecost were placed in Union with Jesus Christ and baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5; John 7:39). At the departure of Christ the Church actually began.

X. The Church Age ends with the Rapture of the Royal family. The following verses show that at the Second Advent the Church will come back to the earth with Christ: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Colossians 2:14, 15, compared to Revelation 19:6-8; Zechariah 13:2, I Thessalonians 3:13. At the end of the Church Age, the Bride – in resurrected body – will be glorified, just as at the beginning of the Church Age, Christ – in resurrected body – was glorified.