

THE PRESENT AGE — PROPHETIES

THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT AGE

I GOD'S DIVINE PROGRAM OF THE AGES —

ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO REFERS TO THE SCRIPTURES AS "THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS" BEARS WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT GOD HAS DIVIDED HIS PROGRAM INTO TIME SEGMENTS.

THE HISTORY OF REVELATION — "EVIDENCES" —
THE PROGRESS OF DIVINE REVELATION —
THROUGH SUCCESSIVE AGES.

CHAFER SAYS:

THE DISPENSATIONAL STUDY OF THE BIBLE — CONSISTS IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN "WELL-DEFINED" TIME PERIODS WHICH ARE DIVINELY INDICATED TOGETHER WITH THE REVEALED PURPOSE OF GOD RELATIVE TO EACH.

THE UNRESTRAINED SOVEREIGN PURPOSE OF GOD IS SEEN IN THE ORDERING OF THE SUCCESSION OF THE AGES. THAT GOD HAS A PROGRAM OF THE AGES IS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE

DEUTERONOMY 30:1-10

NOW IT SHALL COME TO PASS, WHEN ALL THESE THINGS COME UPON YOU, THE BLESSINGS AND THE CURSE WHICH I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU AND YOU CALL THEM TO MIND AMONG ALL THE NATIONS WHERE THE LORD YOUR GOD DRIVES YOU — — —

THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BRING YOU TO THE LAND YOUR FATHERS POSSESSED AND YOU SHALL POSSESS IT. THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL "CIRCUMCISE" YOUR HEARTS — "TO LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD" WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL — THAT YOU MAY LIVE — — —

A PROGRAM OF GOD.

ROMANS 11:8-25

GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT AN ATTITUDE OF STUPOR EYES THAT SHOULD NOT SEE AND EARS THAT SHOULD NOT HEAR — HAVE THEY STUMBLED — SO AS TO FALL TO UTTER RUIN — — IRRETRIEVABLY? — BY NO MEANS — BUT THROUGH THEIR FALSE STEP — TRANSGRESSION — SALVATION HAS COME TO THE GENTILES — — FOR THEIR BEING CAST AWAY — THEIR REJECTION IS THE SALVATION [RECONCILING] OF THE WORLD TO GOD — — — THUS —

BLINDNESS IN PART HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE FULL OF THE "GENTILES" HAS COME IN. "SO" -- THIS PRESENT AGE -- THE AGE OF GRACE -- THE CHURCH AGE -- IS FROM CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION TO THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH -- THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES.

- A PROGRAM OF GOD -

OTHER PASSAGES: DAN 2:31-45 -- 7:1-18 --
9:24-27 -- HOSEA 3:4, 5 -- MATT 23:37-
25:46 -- ACTS 15:13-18 -- 2 THESS 3:1-22 --
REV 2:1-22:81 --

THE APOSTLE PAUL WRITES OF A PERIOD BETWEEN ADAM AND MOSES -- ROMAN 5:14 -- JOHN SAYS THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES. BUT GRACE AND TRUTH COMES BY CHRIST 1:17.

CHRIST TALKS OF "TIMES OF THE GENTILES" [LUKE 21:24] LIKEWISE, CHRIST SPOKE OF A HITHERTO UNANNOUNCED -- PERIOD -- BETWEEN HIS TWO ADVENTS -- AND INDICATED ITS DISTINCTIVE FEATURES. [MATT 13:1-5].

THEY ARE THE LAST DAYS FOR ISRAEL -- [SAIRAH 2:1-5] AS WELL AS "LAST DAYS" FOR THE CHURCH [2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5] NOTE: -- IN THE LAST DAYS -- THERE WILL SET IN -- PERILOUS TIMES OF GREAT STRESS AND TROUBLE --

HARD TO DEAL WITH AND HARD TO BEAR. -- PEOPLE WILL BE LOVERS OF SELF AND -- UTTERLY SELF-CENTERED -- LOVERS OF MONEY -- AND AROUSED BY AND INORDINATE GREEDY DESIRE -- FOR WEALTH -- PROUD AND ARROGANT -- CONTEMPTUOUS BOASTERS.

THEY WILL BE ABUSIVE -- BLASPHEMOUS SCOFFERS -- DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS -- UNGRATEFUL, UNHOLY, AND PROFANE -- WITHOUT NATURAL HUMAN AFFECTION -- SLANDERS -- FALSE ACCUSERS -- TROUBLE MAKERS -- INTEMPERATE -- LOOSE IN MORALS AND CONDUCT -- UNCONTROLLED AND FIERCE -- HATERS OF GOOD.

THEY WILL BE TREACHEROUS -- BETRAYERS -- RASH AND INFLATED WITH SELF-CONCEIT -- THEY WILL BE LOVERS OF SENSUAL PLEASURES -- AND VAIN AMUSEMENTS -- RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD.

THEY WILL "HOLD" A FORM OF PIETY (TRUE RELIGION) -- AND ARE "STRANGERS" TO THE POWER OF CHRISTIANITY SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

-- THIS IS TOWARD THE END OF -- THE PRESENT AGE -- CHURCH AGE --

IN HEBREWS 1:1-2 -- A SHARP

CONTRAST IS DRAWN BETWEEN "TIME PAST" AND "THESE LAST DAYS" - WHEN GOD IS SPEAKING TO US UNTO US BY HIS SON.

IT IS CLEARLY DISCLOSED THAT THERE ARE -- "AGES PAST" [EPH 3:5 - COL 1:26] -- THE "PRESENT AGE" - [ROM 12:2 - GAL 1:4] - AND THE AGE, OR AGES TO COME [EPH 2:7] AND [HEB 6:5]. IN EPHESIANS "THE FUTURE AGE" IS TERMED - THE DISPENSATION - OF THE FULLNESS - OF TIMES.

AS WE TURN - WE SEE - WE ARE EXAMINING ONLY ONE PORTION OF THE ETERNAL PROGRAM OF GOD.

(A) THE RELATION OF CHRIST TO THE AGES -

AN EXAMINATION OF PASSAGES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT MAKE REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM OF THE AGES WILL SHOW US THAT - CHRIST IS THE VERY CENTER OF THAT PROGRAM.

IN HEBREWS 1:2 - HE IS SAID TO BE THE ONE ON WHOSE ACCOUNT - THE AGES WERE ORDERED. IN 1 TIMOTHY 1:17 - CHRIST IS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM OF THE AGES - FOR HE IS CALLED -- THE KING OF THE AGES.

IN HEBREWS 9:26 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 THE AGES ARE SEEN TO CENTER IN HIS CROSS WORKING FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD -- THIS VERY WORK WAS PLANNED BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN.

ACCORDING TO [1 CORINTHIANS 2:7 - 2 TIMOTHY 1:9 - TITUS 1:2] AND IN THE PAST AGES - THAT WHICH IS NOW KNOWN WAS NOT REVEALED [ROMANS 16:25]

THUS - THE AGES ARE THE TIME PERIODS - WITHIN WHICH GOD IS - REVEALING - HIS DIVINE PURPOSE AND PROGRAM - AS IT CENTERS IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

(B) THE USE OF AGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

AGE IS USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ACCORD TO THE NORMAL USAGE OF THE WORDS - AS "THIS PRESENT AGE" - WHICH IS THAT TIME PERIOD IN WHICH THE SPEAKER OR WRITER LIVED - THE CHURCH AGE.

TO THE CHURCH THE TERM - THIS PRESENT AGE REFER TO WHAT IS CALLED - THE "INTER-ADVENT" PERIOD - WHICH IS:

THAT PERIOD FROM - THE REJECTION
OF THE MESSIAH BY ISRAEL - TO THE
COMING RECEPTION OF THE MESSIAH
BY ISRAEL.

ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
THIS PRESENT AGE - IS CALLED AND -
"EVIL AGE" [GALATIANS 1:4]. IT IS SO
CALLED BECAUSE - IT IS UNDER THE
DOMINION OF SATAN - WHO IS ITS "GOD"
[1 CORINTHIANS 4:4]

THIS AGE IS MARKED BY - SPIRITUAL
"DARKNESS" [EPH 6:12]. THIS "DARKNESS"
PRODUCES ITS OWN WISDOM - - IN
WHICH - THERE IS NO LIGHT [1 COR 2:6-7]

AS A RESULT IT IS MARKED BY -
"UNGODLINESS" AND "LUST" [TITUS 2:12]
FROM WHICH THE BELIEVER IS TO TURN
AWAY - [ROM 12:2] - EVEN THOUGH
FORMERLY HE WALKED IN CONFORMITY
TO ITS WISDOM AND STANDARDS [EPH 2:2]

⑥ THE DISTINCTION OF THIS PRESENT AGE -

① IN ALL PREVIOUS AGES - CHRIST WAS
ANTICIPATED - BUT IN THIS PRESENT
AGE - HE HAS NOT ONLY COME -
BUT HE HAS DIED - BEEN RESURRECTED
AND IS LOOKED TO NOW - IN HIS
POSITION - AT THE RIGHT HAND

OF THE FATHER -

② THE HOLY SPIRIT - WHO PREVIOUSLY
- IN PREVIOUS AGES - CAME UPON
CERTAIN MEN TO EMPOWER THEM
TO A GIVEN TASK, ONLY - - NOW HAS
TAKEN UP HIS RESIDENCE IN EVERY
BELIEVER -

③ IN THE PREVIOUS AGES THE GOOD
NEWS ANNOUNCED, OF CHRIST,
WAS ANTICIPATED - IN THIS
PRESENT AGE - THE DECLARATION
OF THE GOOD NEWS - ANNOUNCES
- AN ACCOMPLISHED SALVATION -
THROUGH CHRIST -

④ THE REVELATION - IN AGES
PAST - WAS INCOMPLETE - - BUT
IN THIS PRESENT AGE - CHRIST
HAS COME TO REVEAL THE FATHER
- [JOHN 14:9] THE REVELATION
IS COMPLETE -

⑤ SINCE THIS PRESENT AGE IS
MARKED BY ANTAGONISM TO GOD
AND HIS ANOINTED - IT BEARS A
DISTINCT CHARACTERIZATION AS
AN EVIL AGE - WHICH WAS NOT
APPLIED TO ANY PREVIOUS AGE -

⑥ THIS AGE IS, CONSEQUENTLY, --
UNDER THE DOMINATION OF
SATAN. - ITS GOD - IN A UNIQUE
AND UNPRECEDENTED WAY -

⑦ THE NATION OF ISRAEL HAS BEEN
SET ASIDE - AS A PARTICULAR OBJECT
OF GOD'S DEALING - AND CANNOT
EXPECT THE FULFILLMENT OF HER
PROMISES - DURING THIS AGE -

THESE SEVEN DISTINCTIONS ESTABLISH
THE FACT THAT "THIS PRESENT AGE" -
IS DISTINCT FROM ALL PRECEDING -
AGES.

D) THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN THIS -
PRESENT AGE -

THE OLD TESTAMENT - IN WHICH
THE PURPOSE OF GOD FOR ISRAEL WAS
STATED IN "THE COVENANTS" WHICH GOD
ENTERED INTO - BY WHICH HE BOUND
HIMSELF - CLOSES WITH THOSE PURPOSES
UNREALIZED.

AFTER THE DEATH OF CHRIST -
GOD INSTITUTED A NEW DIVINE
PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM DOES

NOT REPLACE THE PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL
BUT - SIMPLY INTERRUPTS - THE DIVINELY
COVENANT PROGRAM.

THIS NEW PROGRAM IS REVERSED BY
THE LORD - IN HIS UPPER ROOM
DISCOURSE IN [JOHN 14:13 TO 16].

IT BECOMES AN ACTUAL REALITY
AFTER THE ADVENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
AT PENTECOST.

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL [ACTS 15:14]
ANNOUNCED THAT "GOD AT FIRST DID
VISIT THE GENTILES - TO TAKE OUT A
PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME".

THE "TAKING OUT OF A PEOPLE" THUS
CONSTITUTES "GOD'S PRESENT DAY"
"PROGRAM" - THIS PEOPLE CONSTITUTES
THE CHURCH - THE BODY OF WHICH
CHRIST IS THE HEAD [EPH 5:25-27, 32]
- THE BRANCH [JOHN 15:1] OF WHICH
HE IS THE - SUPPORTING VINE -

THE FLOCK OF WHICH HE IS THE
SHEPHERD [JOHN 10:17-27] - THE
TEMPLE OF WHICH HE IS THE
CORNERSSTONE [EPH 2:19-32 - &
1 PETER 2:5]

THE MINISTERING PRIESTS

OF WHICH HE IS THE - HIGH PRIEST -
[PETER 2:5-9]

THE NEW CREATION OF WHICH
HE IS THE HEAD AND THE FIRST
FRUITS [COR 15:45]

THE REASON FOR THIS - CALLING OUT
IS STATED IN (EPH 2:7) "THAT IN THE
AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHOW THE
EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN
HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST!"

THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN THE --
OUTCALLING - OF THE CHURCH IS TO
- DISPLAY THE INFINITY OF HIS GRACE

IT CAN BE SEEN THEN THAT GOD, IN
THIS "PRESENT AGE" IS PURSUING A
PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH HIS INFINITE
GRACE SHALL BE PERFECTLY DISPLAYED
THROUGHOUT ALL ETERNITY -

THUS
- THE COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE -
NEXT

THE CHARACTER OF THIS PRESENT AGE

THE CHARACTER OF THIS PRESENT AGE

THIS PRESENT AGE - DATING FROM THE
REJECTION OF THE MESSIAH - BY ISRAEL
- UNTO - THE COMING RECEPTION OF THE
MESSIAH - BY ISRAEL - AT CHRIST SECOND
COMING - IS VIEWED AS A MYSTERY.

PAUL MAKES THIS CLEAR:
[COL 1:24-27]^a WHO NOW REJOICE IN
MY SUFFERINGS FOR YOU, AND FILL
UP THAT WHICH IS BEHIND OF THE
AFFLICTIONS OF CHRIST - IN MY FLESH
FOR HIS BODY'S SAKE - WHICH IS THE
CHURCH: WHEREOF I AM A MINISTER -
"ACCORDING TO THE DISPELATION
OF GOD" - WHICH IS GIVEN TO ME FOR
YOU - TO FULFILL THE WORD OF GOD:
- EVEN THE MYSTERY - WHICH HAS
BEEN HID - FROM AGES AND FROM
GENERATIONS - BUT NOW - IS MADE
MANIFEST - TO HIS SAINTS: TO WHOM
GOD WILL MAKE KNOWN - WHAT IS
THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF THIS
MYSTERY AMONG THE GENTILES -
WHICH IS
CHRIST IN YOU - THE HOPE OF GLORY"

IN THIS PASSAGE - PAUL CLEARLY CALLS
THE DIVINE PROGRAM DEVELOPED IN
THE CHURCH - "A MYSTERY"

SOMETHING WHICH WAS NOT FORMERLY REVEALED - AND THEREFORE UNKNOWN BUT - NOW IS MADE KNOWN BY GOD

NOTE OTHER SCRIPTURES THAT AGREE:
[ROM 16:25-26]

"NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO ESTABLISH YOU ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL AND THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST - ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION -- OF "THE MYSTERY" - KEPT SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN."

[1 COR 2:7] SO THAT YOU COME SHORT IN NO GIFT - "EAGERLY" WAITING FOR THE REVELATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."

[EPH 3:5-9] WHICH IN OTHER AGES WAS NOT MADE KNOWN TO THE SONS OF MEN AS IT HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT TO HIS HOLY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS - - - THAT THE GENTILES - SHOULD BY FELLOW HEIRS - OF THE SAME BODY - AND PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST. THROUGH THE GOSPEL - OF WHICH I BECAME A MINISTER ACCORDING TO THE GIFT OF GRACE OF GOD GIVEN TO ME BY THE EFFECTIVE WORKING OF HIS POWER TO ME - WHO AM LESS THAN THE LEAST

OF ALL THE SAINTS - THE GRACE WAS GIVEN - THAT I SHOULD PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES - THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST - AND MAKE ALL TO SEE WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP - "OF THE MYSTERY" -

WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE AGES - HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN GOD - WHO CREATED ALL THINGS - - - THROUGH CHRIST JESUS -

SCRIPTURE USES THE WORD "MYSTERY" FOR THE DIVINE PURPOSE OR PROGRAM OF GOD. THIS MYSTERY WAS KNOWN TO GOD FROM ETERNITY - BUT WHICH COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN KNOWN - UNLESS IT WAS REVEALED BY GOD

IN THE AT LEAST 27 NEW TESTAMENT USES OF THE WORD "MYSTERY" - THE BODY OF TRUTH REFERRED TO - IS - - - PARTICULAR TRUTH RELATED TO THIS PRESENT AGE.

THE EXISTENCE OF THIS PRESENT AGE WAS TO "INTERRUPT" GOD'S ESTABLISHED PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL -

[IN MATT 13:17] CHRIST SHARES

THIS WITH THE DISCIPLES. THEY ASK
- WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO THEM IN
PARABLES?

JESUS SAID: "TO YOU IT HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO KNOW THE SECRETS AND
MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
- BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN."

YOU SEE

ISRAEL WAS TO BE BLINDED - SO THAT --
GENTILES MIGHT BE BROUGHT INTO --
RELATIONSHIP TO GOD - WITH GOD --

- THIS IS A MYSTERY - [ROM 11:25] AMP
LEST YOU BE SELF-OPIONINED - WISE IN
YOUR OWN CONCEITS - I DO NOT WANT YOU
TO MISS - THIS HIDDEN TRUTH AND MYSTERY"
- BRETHREN [FELLOW BELIEVERS, CHRISTIANS]
- A HARDENING [INSENSIBILITY] HAS -
- TEMPORARILY - BEFALEN - A PART
OF ISRAEL - [TO LAST] UNTIL THE FULL
NUMBER OF THE INGATHERING OF THE
GENTILES HAS COME IN."

THE FORMULATION OF THE CHURCH - MADE
UP OF JEWS AND GENTILES - TO FORM A
BODY - WAS A MYSTERY.

THE WHOLE PROGRAM OF GOD THAT RESULTS
IN SALVATION WAS CALLED A MYSTERY --
- THE INCARNATION ITSELF IS A MYSTERY --

AMP

[1 TIM 3:16] "AND GREAT AND IMPORTANT
AND WEIGHLY, WE CONFESS, IS THE
HIDDEN TRUTH - A MYSTIC SECRET -
OF GODLINESS"

WHAT WAS THIS MYSTERY?

THE VERSE GOES ON:

"HE GOD WAS MADE VISIBLE" - IN
HUMAN FLESH - JUSTIFIED AND VINDICATED
IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - WAS SEEN BY
THE ANGELS - PREACHED AMONG THE
NATIONS - BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD
- AND TAKEN UP IN GLORY"

THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NEW
METHOD BY WHICH GOD RECEIVED MEN
INTO HIS PRESENCE - APART FROM
DEATH - WAS A MYSTERY [1 COR 15:50-54]
- NOTE - (VS 51)

- "BEHOLD I TELL YOU A MYSTERY"
WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP [IN DEATH]
BUT WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED!"

THE EXISTENCE OF AN ENTIRELY NEW
AGE - WHICH ONLY INTERRUPTS -
[TEMPORARILY] GOD'S PROGRAM FOR
ISRAEL - IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST
ARGUMENTS FOR A PREMILLENNIAL
RAPTURE.

IN THE SCRIPTURES CONSIDERED

HERE PAUL IS EXPLAINING THE MYSTERY SET FORTH AND MUST STAND.

THIS WHOLE AGE WITH ITS PROGRAMS WAS NOT REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT — THIS PRESENT AGE — THE CHURCH BUT CONSTITUTES A NEW PROGRAM AND A NEW LINE OF REVELATION IN THIS PRESENT AGE.

THUS

I] THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT AGE —

II] THE CHARACTER OF THE PRESENT AGE —

NEXT

III] THE COUNSEL OF THE PRESENT AGE —

II) THE COUNSEL FOR THE PRESENT AGE —

THE AGE FROM THE REJECTION OF THE MESSIAH BY ISRAEL — UNTIL HIS RECEPTION AT CHRIST'S SECOND BY ISRAEL IS OUTLINED IN TWO PORTIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: MATTHEW CHAPTER 13 AND REVELATION CHAPTERS 2-3.

MATTHEW 13 THE VIEWPOINT IS OF GOD'S KINGDOM PROGRAM — AND REVELATION 2-3 IS OF THE CHURCH PROGRAM. — WE WILL TRACE THE FLOW OF THIS PRESENT AGE FROM THESE TWO PASSAGES.

MATTHEW 13

[MATTHEW 13:1] REVEALS THAT THE LORD IS SPEAKING IN ORDER THAT HE MAY GIVE THE COURSE OF THE — — MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN —

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLES IN THIS CHAPTER 13 HAVE THREE DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

THE FIRST IS A — NON-DISPENSATIONAL — APPROACH. — BECAUSE THIS APPROACH ~~SEEMED~~ EXCLUDES ANY PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE FROM THIS PASSAGE AND IS STUDIED ONLY FOR ITS — —

SPIRITUAL OR MORAL TEACHINGS AS IT AFFECTS BELIEVERS TODAY.

THEY EMPHASIZE THE UNITY OF GOD'S PURPOSE FROM THE FALL OF MAN UNTIL THE ETERNAL STATE. THIS APPROACH FAILS TO MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL AND THAT FOR THE CHURCH --- THEY SEE ONLY CHURCH TRUTH IN THIS CHAPTER.

THE SECOND IS A - ULTRA-DISPENSATIONAL APPROACH. ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH --- THEY SAY THIS CHAPTER IS TOTALLY LIMITED TO GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL --- AND --- REVELATION CONCERNING ISRAEL - IN THE TRIBULATION PERIOD --- WHEN GOD IS PREPARING THEM FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

THE THIRD IS THAT THIS CHAPTER GIVES A PICTURE OF CONDITIONS ON THE EARTH IS RESPECT TO - THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM PROGRAM - DURING THE TIME OF CHRIST'S ABSENCE FROM THE EARTH.

THAT THESE PARABLES DESCRIBE THE EVENTS OF THE ENTIRE (COMPLETED) PRESENT AGE [INTER-ADVENT] PERIOD.

WE SHALL APPROACH THIS PASSAGE - USING THE THIRD -