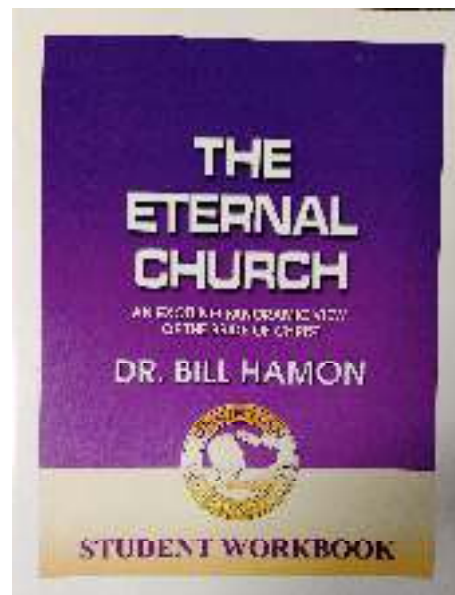




THE ETERNAL CHURCH BIBL STUDY

APOSTLES ALAN & RENNEE DAWSON
JESUS PEOPLE LIVING WORD CHURCH





LESSON 2

THE ORIGINATION OF THE CHURCH



A. THE CHURCH ETERNAL

1. GOD PLANNED THE CHURCH WITH JESUS!

A. THE CHURCH WAS PLANNED OR ORDAINED BEFORE THE **FOUNDATION** OF THE WORLD



THE CHURCH ETERNAL

B. THE CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH IS ETERNAL AS CHRIST HIMSELF. THOUGH THE CHURCH WAS BIRTHED AT THE PARTICULAR **TIME**, YET IT ALWAYS **HAS BEEN**. THUS, IT CAN RIGHTLY BE CALLED THE ETERNAL CHURCH.



THE CHURCH ETERNAL

C. THE CHURCH WAS **CONCEALED** IN THE **WOMB** OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THEN WAS **BIRTHED** IN **THE NEW TESTAMENT.**



THE CHURCH ETERNAL

D. THE **RESURRECTION** OF JESUS **AUTHORIZED** THE BRINGING FORTH OF THE CHURCH AND THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST GAVE **BIRTH** TO THE CHURCH.



THE CHURCH ETERNAL

E. CHURCH WAS PURCHASED BY
THE **BLOOD** AND CONFIRMED
BY HIS **RESURRECTION**



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

2. JESUS PROVIDED ALL THINGS FOR THE BIRTH, GROWTH AND MATURITY OF THE CHURCH!



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

A. JESUS **PLANNED, PURCHASED,
PRODUCED** AND **EMPOWERED**
THE CHURCH.



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

B. JESUS IN HIS **HUMAN BODY**
PURCHASED THE CHURCH BUT IT
IS THROUGHT THW WORK OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT THAT HE IS **BUILDING**
THE CHURCH.



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

C. CORRELATING ANALOGY:
KING DAVID & KING SOLOMON



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

D. THE COMPLETE GODHEAD
BECAME INVOLVED IN
PRODUCING THE CHURCH:



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

- D.1. GOD GAVE HIS SON FOR **REDEMPTION**
- 2. JESUS GAVE THE **HOLY SPIRIT** FOR **EMPOWERMENT, PRESERVATION AND PERFECTION**



THE ETERNAL CHURCH

D. 3. THE HOLDSPIIRIT GIVES
**EACH INDIVIDUAL THE ABILITY
TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD
IN A NEW PRAYER LANGUAGE.**

THE CHURCH AGE

1. WHAT IS A “DISPENSATION”?

A. THEOLOGICIANS HAVE DIVIDED MAN’S EXISTENCE ON EARTH INTO DIFFERENT **PERIODS** OF **TIME** CALLED “DISPENSATIONS”.

THE CHURCH AGE

B. A DISPENSATION IS: A PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH GOD WORKS WITH MAN ACORDING TO A SET OF **DIVINE RULES** AND **PRINCIPLES** WHICH MAN MUST FOLLOW IN ORDER TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND TO FULFILL HIS WILL.

CHURCH AGETHE

C. AT THE BEGINNING OF A
“**DISPENSATION**”, GOD ESTABLISHES A
PLAN AND A **PURPOSE** FOR A
GENERATION AND IT CONTINUES TO BE
GOD’S WILL AND WAY FOR MAN UNTIL
HE CHANGES THE PATTERN AFTER WHICH
ANOTHER DISPENSATION IS INITIATED

THE CHURCH AGE

TWO THEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

A. SOME VIEW DISPENSATIONS FROM
EITHER A

1. **DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY**
2. **COVENANT THEOLOGY**

THE CHURCH AGE

3. POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT DISPENSATIONS

A. SINCE A DISPENSATION HAS A BEGINNING AND AN END, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT WE CANNOT CONCLUDE THAT A NEW COVENANT DISPENSATION **ABOLISHES** THE OLD COVENANT OR THE OLD DISPENSATION.



THE CHURCH AGE

B. A NEW COVENANT
SUPERCEDED AN OLD
COVENANT BUT DOES NOT
ABOLISH THE OLD
ARRANGEMENT



THE CHURCH AGE

C. SINCE THE NEW SUPERSEDES
THE OLD, THEN ALL OF THE OLD
THAT IS IN AGREEMENT AND
WORKABLE WITH THE NEW
REMAINS.



THE CHURCH AGE

AS AN EXAMPLE:

1. THE **OLD TESTAMENT** IN THE BIBLE WAS NOT ABOLISHED BY THE **NEW TESTAMENT**- THE BIBLE IS STIL **ONE INSPIRED BOOK**

THE CHURCH AGE

- ▶ CEREMONIAL LAWS AND SACRIFICES WERE SUPERSEDED BY **CHRISTS ONE ETERNAL SACRIFICE**

THE CHURCH AGE

- ▶ GRACE SUPERSEDED **LAW**
- ▶ MT ZION SUPERSEDED **MT. SINIAH**
- ▶ THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE (THE CHURCH)
SUPERSEDED THE **TABERNACLE OF
MOSES**



THE CHURCH AGE

THE LAW WAS NOT
ABOLISHED BUT
FULFILLED

THE CHURCH AGE

D. THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT
CONCEALED

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT
REVEALED

E. THE NEW TESTAMENT MAKES A STATEMENT OF
TRUTH BUT ONE MUST GO BACK TO THE OLD
TESTAMENT TO GAIN THE **TYOLOGY**
BACKGROUND AND DETAILS.

THE CHURCH AGE

4. OLD TESTAMENT A PATTERN OF THE NEW
A. 1 CORINTHIANS **13:46** REVEALS THE
SIMPLE ORDER THAT GOD HAS
ESTABLISHED RELATIVE TO **PROGRESSION
OF TRUTH AND TO CREATION ITSELF.**



THE CHURCH AGE

B. ONE OF THE **MAIN PURPOSES** FOR DIVIDING GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MAN INTO COVENANTS, DISPENSATIONS AND AGES IS TO HELP YOU **RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH.**



THE CHURCH AGE

YOU MUST KNOW TO WHAT “AGE” THE SCRIPTURE IS SPEAKING FOR PROPER INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION. THIS IS CALLED THE **CHRONOLOGICAL** PRINCIPLE.

THE CHURCH AGE

EXAMPLE OF AGES:

- ▶ **ETERNAL AGES PAST**
- ▶ **AGE OF CREATION**
- ▶ **AGE OF RE-CREATION**
- ▶ **AGE OF PATRIARCHS**
- ▶ **AGE OF ISRAEL AS ANATION**
- ▶ **THE COMING MESSIAH & CHURCH AGE**
- ▶ **THE ETERNAL AGES**



THE CHURCH AGE

5. EACH AGE MAKES WAY FOR THE NEXT:
 - A. THE NEW AGE THAT COMES IS GREATER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE BECAUSE IT MOVES INTO A HIGHER LEVEL IN THE **ETERNAL PURPOSE** OF GOD. IT REVEALS MORE OF

THE CHURCH AGE

- ▶ **GOD'S WILL**
- ▶ **GOD'S WAY**
- ▶ **GOD'S DESIRES FOR HUMANITY**

EXAMPLE:

- ▶ **AGE OF LAW REVEALED MORE**

THE CHURCH AGE

6. THERE ARE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE AGES
A. THESE ARE SHORTER PERIODS OF TIME
REFERRED TO AS:

▶ **TIMES**

▶ **SEASONS**

▶ **DAYS**



THE CHURCH AGE

- ▶ **WEEKS**
- ▶ **MONTHS**
- ▶ **YEARS**
- ▶ **THE LAST DAYS**
- ▶ **THE LATTER DAYS**



THE CHURCH AGE

7. DISPENSATIONS & COVENANTS & TIME PERIODS

(REVIEW TABLE IN YOUR WORKBOOK)



THE CHURCH AGE

8. COVENANTS CORRELATED

IMPORTANT POINT: EVEN THOUGH THE METHODS CHANGED BETWEEN COVENANTS, GOD DID NOT CHANGE HIS WORD, HIS WILL OR HIS WAY FOR MAN'S JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION AND SPIRITUAL MANIFESTIONS.



THE CHURCH AGE

9. WE ARE STILL LIVING UNDER THE CHURCH COVENANT

A. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME CHURCH, SERVING THE SAME CHRIST AS THE EARLY CHRISTIANS. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE IN THE LATTER PART OF THE CHURCH AGE WE STILL HAVE RIGHTS TO THE SAME **PROVISIONS** AND **EXPERIENCES** OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS.



THE CHURCH AGE

10. **JESUS NEVER CHANGES**

A. WHY AREN'T WE OPERATING AND MANIFESTING TODAY WHAT WE SEE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS? WHAT HAS LIMITED THE CHURCH?

THE CHURCH AGE

- 1. PREACHERS, TEACHERS, THEOLOGIANs**
- 2. HEATHEN CUSTOMS, PRACTICES & BELIEFS HAVE BEEN MIXED INTO THE ORIGINAL PATTERNS.**
- 3. TRADITIONS OF MEN HAVE TAKEN PRECEDENT OVER TRUTH.**

THE CHURCH AGE

11. WE NEED TO STUDY THE BOOK OF ACTS
 - A. **RE-READ** THE BOOK OF ACTS WITH AND **OPEN MIND.**
 - B. **COMPARE YOUR** PERSONAL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE TO THOSE OF TH CHRISTIANS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.



THE CHURCH AGE

C. IF YOU ARE A **PREACHER/TEACHER**,
COMPARE YOUR TEACHING, PREACHING,
POWER AND MANIFESTATIONS TO THAT
OF THE MINISTERS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE CHURCH AGE

D. THE BOOK OF ACTS HELPS ESTABLISH
A NEW TESTAMET **PATTERN** .

E. BE A **BELIEVER!!**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

1. LUKE IS THE WRITER

A. THE HUMAN WRITER IS LUKE, THE DIVINE AUTHOR IS THE **HOLY SPIRIT**

B. LUKE WROTE TWO LETTERS:

1. **ST. LUKE**

2. **BOOK OF ACTS**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

2. TITLES GIVEN ACTS

A. CURRENTLY IT IS KNOWN AS THE **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

B. THROUGH THE YEARS, MANY TITLES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO “THE BOOK OF ACTS”. (SEE YOUR WORK BOOK)

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

3. PROBABLE DATE WRITTEN

A. NOT ALL HISTORIANS AGREE BUT THEY ARE NO MORE THAN 3 YEARS APART. MOST AGREE THAT LUKE WROTE THE BOOK OF ACTS WHILE IN ROME IN **A.D.**

63

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

4. BOOK OF ACTS SPANS THE FIRST 30 YEARS OF THE CHURCH

A. THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE BOOK IS:

1. THE BOOK STARTS WITH THE **ASCENSION OF JESUS.**

THE CHURCH AND THE BOOK OF ACTS

2. OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT IN AD **30**
3. STONING OF **STEPHEN**
4. CONVERSION OF **PAUL** 3 YEARS LATER
5. PAULS'S FIRT JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM AT APPROXIMATELY A.D. **35.**

THE CHURCH AND THE BOOK OF ACTS

6. THE CONVERSION OF **CORNELIUS** ABOUT 10 YEARS AFTER THE DAY OF PENTECOST
7. PAUL'S MINISTRY & MISSIONARY JOURNEYS COVERING **30** YEARS A.D. **33**- A.D. **63**
8. PAUL'S ARREST WHILE IN THE TEMPLE TRYING TO PLEASE THE **CHRISTIAN JEWS.**

THE CHURCH AND THE BOOK OF ACTS

D. THE EARLY CHURCH

1. **70** YEAR PERIOD FROM A.D. 30 TO
A.D. 100

A. THIS STUDY IS NOT A **TECHNICAL
DESSERTATION**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

5. BOOK OF ACTS IS THE “EXODUS” OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. IT IS THE STORY OF GOD LEADING A BODY OF BELIEVERS OUT OF THE BONDAGE OF **JUDIASM** INTO THE **PROMISED LAND OF KINGDOM LIVING.**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. CHAPTER 1 OF THE BOOK SHOWS THE TRANSFORMATION FROM THE “**PHYSICAL PRESENCE**” WALK WITH JESUS TO THE “**SPIRITUAL PRESENCE**” WALK.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

6. PROGRESSIVE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. DELIVERING THE CHURCH FROM THE LAW WAS A **PROGRESSIVE WORK**. IT TOOK **10** YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINATION OF THE CHURCH BEFORE THE APOSTLES REALIZED THAT NO-JEWS COULD BECOME CHRISTIANS WITHOUT BECOMING JEWS FIRST.



PROGRESSIVE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

B. **30** YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH, THE JERUSALEM CHURCH WAS STILL TRYING TO KEEP THE LAW.

PROGRESSIVE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

C. IT WASN'T UNTIL THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, A.D. **70**, THAT JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY WERE FOREVER SEPARATED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE WORLD AS TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES.



MIRACLES & THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

A. COMPARING THE BOOK OF ACTS AND
OTHER EPISTLES TO PRESENT-DAY
PRACTICES WOULD SHOW QUITE A
CONTRAST.

MIRACLES & THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. CHURCH IS NOT A **MAN MADE INSTITUTION**. THE CHURCH OPERATES ON **SPIRITUAL LAWS AND FUNCTIONS IN THE SUPERNATURAL.**

MIRACLES & THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. THE POWER OF THE **CHURCH** IS NOT IN **POLITICAL PRESTIEGE, SECULAR POSITIONS, WEALTH, OR FAME** BUT IN THE **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

MIRACLES & THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. THREE RACES CREATED BY GOD-

1. **ORIGINAL RACE**
2. APPROX. 2,000 YEARS LATER – **HEBREWS**
3. 2,000 YEARS LATER THE CALL OF ABRHAM, GOD ESTABLISHED A WHOLE NEW RACE – **THE CHURCH**



PROGRESSIVE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

D. TAKE THE MIRACLES OUT OF THE BOOK OF ACTS, AND THERE IS LITTLE LEFT.

E. DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS (THE NEW WEBSTER DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE)



PROGRESSIVE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

REVIEW THE DEFINITIONS IN THE
WORKBOOK FOR FUTURE USE AND
UNDERSTANDING

N.T. CHURCH- THE CHURCH OF THE SUPERNATURAL

A. BOOK OF GENESIS THE BEGINNING OF
THE **NATURAL** HUMAN RACE

BOOK OF ACTS THE BEGINNING OF THE
SUPERNATURAL HUMAN RACE.

N.T. CHURCH- THE CHURCH OF THE SUPERNATURAL

B. DEFINITION OF “RACE”= ACCORDING TWO WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY, “A LARGE BODY OF PERSONS WHO MAY BE THOUGHT OF AS A UNIT BECAUSE OF COMMON CHARASTICS”. THE CHURCH IS A BODY OF BELIEVERS (UNIT) WHOHAVE BEEN MADE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST’S DIVINE NATURE.

N.T. CHURCH- THE CHURCH OF THE SUPERNATURAL

C. THREE RACES CREATED BY GOD

1. **ORIGINAL RACE**
2. APPROX. 2000 YEARS LATER- **HEBREWS**
3. 2,000 YERS LATER THE CALL OF ABRAHAM, GOD ESTABLISHED A WHOLE NEW RACE- **THE CHURCH**



JESUS THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

A. JESUS IS TO BE OUR EXAMPLE:
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS
SUPERNATURAL



JESUS THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

B. TO BE THE **SPIRITUAL** CHRISTIAN IN THE CHURCH, THE SUPERNATURAL IT IS TO BE **NATURAL** FOR HIM. IT IS TO BE **EXPECTED**, NOT THE **UNEXPECTED**; THE **NORMAL**, NOT THE **ABNORMAL**.

JESUS-THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

C. GOD HAS NOT LEFT US WITHOUT
PROOF – ACTS 1:1

THE **BOOK OF ACTS** IS THE **DOING** AND
DEMONSTRATING OF THE CHURCH. (THE
EPISTLES ARE THE TEACHING AND
INSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH)

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURL RACE

D. **35** REPORTS OF THE
SUPERNATURAL IN THE BOOK OF
ACTS.

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

1. **1:9**- CHRIST'S ASCENSION TO HEAVEN
2. **2:3** – PENTECOST- SUPERNATURAL SPEAKING, WIND AND FIRE
3. **2:43** SIGNS AND WONDERS DONE BY THE APOSTLES
4. **3:7, 4:16-17** HEALING OF THE LAME MAN AT THE TEMPLE

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

5. **4:3** GOD ANSWERED PRAYER BY AN EARTHQUAKE

6. **5:5-10** –ANNAIS & SAPPHIRA DIED

7. **5:12** – SIGNS AND WONDERSM BY THE APOSTLES, CONTINUE

JESUS - THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

8. **5:15,16** - MULTITUDES WERE HEALED BY PETER'S SHADOW
9. **5:19** - PRISON DOORS WERE OPENED BY AN ANGEL
10. **6:8** - STEPHEN WROUGHT GREAT WONDERS AND SIGNS

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

11. **8:6, 7, 13-** PHILIP DID GREAT MIRACLES
AND SIGNS

12. **9:3-9-** SAUL CONVERTED BY A DIRECT
VOICE FROM HEAVEN

13. **11:18-** AGABUS PHOPHESIES ABOUT A
FAMINE COMING

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

14. **9:17, 18-** AT THE WORD FROM ANANIAS, SCALES FELL FROM SAUL'S EYES

15. **9:32-35-** PETER HEALED ANENEAS & WHOLE REGION CONVERTED

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

16. **9:40-42**- PETER RAISSED DORCAS FROM THE DEAD

17. **10:34-48** – CORNELIUS WAS DIRECTED BY AN ANGEL.

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

18. **10:9-22; 11:15-16**- A VOICE FROM GOD SENT PETER TO CORNELIUS
19. **12:10** – A PRISON GATE OPENED OF ITS OWN ACCORD
20. **13:11, 22** – THE BLINDING OF A SORCERER LED THE PROCONSUL OF CYPRUS TO BELIEVE

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

21. **14:3,4** – PAUL DID SIGNS AND WONDERS AT ICONIUM
22. **14:8-18** – THE HEALING OF THE CRIPPLE AT LYSTRA
23. **15:12,19**- NARRATION OF SIGNS AND WONDERS CONVINCED JEWISH CHRISTIANS THAT PAUL'S WORK AMONG GENTILES WAS OF GOD.

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

24. **16:16-34** – IN PHILIPPI, PAUL HEALED A SOOTHSAYER AND AN EARTHQUAKE RELEASED PAUL AND SILAS FROM PRISON

25. **19:20, 19:6, 11, 12-** IN EPHESUS, 12 MEN SPOKE IN TONGUES AND SPECIAL MIRACLES DONE BY PAUL

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

26. **20:8-12** IN TROAS, PAUL RAISED A YOUNG MAN FROM THE DEAD
27. **28:3-6; 8,9** – IN MELITA, PAUL'S HAND IS HEALED FROM THE VIPER ANDM PAUL HEALED ALL ON THE ISLAND OF THEIR DISEASES.

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

28. **10:3, 9:3-4-** DREAMS AND VISIONS
WERE RECEIVED BY PETER AND PAUL
29. **8:39, 40** – PHILIP WAS BODILY
TRANSPORTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

SUPERNATURAL ANGELIC VISITATIONS

30. **5:19**- ANGELS DELIVERED THE
APOSTLES FROM PRISON

31. **8:26**- ANGELS SPOKE TO PHILIP
DIRECTING HIM

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

32. **10:3, 7,22, 11:13-18, 15:5-11-** ANGEL DIRECTED CORNELIUS TO FIND A PREACHER SO HE COULD BE SAVED.

33. **12:7-11, 15-** ANGEL AWAKENED PETER IN PRISON

JESUS- THE FIRST OF THE SUPERNATURAL RACE

34. **12:23** –THE ANGEL OF THE LORD
KILLED HEROD

35. **27:33** –ANGEL STOOD BY PAUL IN THE
SHIP

D, THE EARLY CHURCH

1. 70 YEAR PERIOD FROM A.D. 30 TO
A.D. 100

A. THIS STUDY IS **NOT A TECHNICAL
DISSERTATION**



D. THE EARLY CHURCH

2. THERE ARE TWO CHURCHES IN THE WORLD TODAY

A. THESE TWO CHURCHES EVOLVED FROM THE **EARLY CHURCH**. SOMETIMES THEY ARE **SEPARATE**, SOMETIMES THEY ARE **UNITED**.



D. THE EARLY CHURCH

B. THE **STRUCTURAL** CHURCH

C. THE **SPIRITUAL** CHURCH



D. THE EARLY CHURCH

3 WHY STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

4. A.D. 30 TO A.D. 100

A. THE CHURCH STARTED ON **THE DAY OF PENTECOST.**

B. EVERYTHING FOUND IN ACTS WAS NOT ONLY INTENDED FOR THE FIRST GENERATION CHURCH BUT FOR THE **WHOLE CHURCH AGE**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. ALL TH BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WERE WRITTEN **BEFORE** THE CLOSE OF THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH. MANY YEARS LATER THEY WERE ALL ACCEPTED, COMPILED AND CANONIZED INTO THE 27 BOOKS OF TH NEW TESTAMENT.



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

D. FIRST 40 YEARS- BEFORE THE FORT
40 YEARS, WAS UP, THE FIRST
GENERATION BELIEVERS HA SPREAD
AROUND THE WORLD.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

E. THE CHURCH WAS BIRTHED BY THE **SUPERNATURAL** – NOT BY DOCTRINES AND CREEDS. THEY DID NOT PREACH DEAD SERMONS BUT A LIVING CHRIST! A CHRIST THAT WAS ABLE TO:



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

1. HEAL THE SICK
2. CLEANSE THE LEPER
3. RAISE THE DEAD
4. CAST OUT DEVILS
5. TRANSFORM INDIVIDUALS!



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

F. GOSPEL PREACHED TO THE
WHOLE WORLD IN PAUL'S
GENERATION. (COL. 1:23)

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

5. POINTS TO REMEMBER

A. ALL THE MANIFESTATION IS THE FIRST GENERATION CHURCH WERE BASED UPON TWO MAIN FACTORS – THE BELIEVERS **BELIEVED** AND THEY **YIELDED** TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF GOD IS NOT DEPENDED UPON TH PERSON'S **MATURITY DOCTRINAL CORRECTIONS, OR HOLY CHARACTER.**



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

E. THE CHURCH SEPARATING FROM JUDAISM

1. A.D. 68 TO A.D. 100



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

2. THE GREAT DISTINCTION- CHRISTIAN VS. JEWISH

A. JERUSALEM'S FALL IN A.D. **70** MADE A GREAT CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS AND IN THEIR DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. HISTORY OF THE TIME: **THE PROVIDENCE OF JUDEA MOST REBELLIOUS OF ROMAN RULE. ALSO IN REBELLION AGAINST GOD.**

MATT. 24- JESUS PREDICTS THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. BEING LED BY PROPHECY: BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE, THERE WERE DELAYS BEFORE THE ACTUAL SIEGE OF JERUSALEM THAT ALLOWED THE CHRISTIANS TO RETREAT INTO THE MOUNTAINS

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

D. HORRORS BEYOND COMPREHENSION: JOSEPHUS CALCULATED THAT 1.1 MILLION JEWS WERE KILLED IN THE CITY, ANOTHER 257,600 WERE KILLED IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS. MANY OF THE 97000 CAPTURED WERE SENT TO ROMAN PROVINCES TO BE DESTROYED BY SWORD & WILD BEASTS IN THE ARENAS.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

E. THE TEMPLE WAS ALSO DESTROYED DURING THE SEIGE: THE TEMPLE CAUGHT FIRE CAUSING THE GOLD TO MELT AND RUN DOWN THE WALLS TO THE FOUNDATION. THE ROMANS TOOK THE TEMPLE APART BLOCK BY BLOCK TO REMOVE THE GOLD. MATT. 24:2

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

3. THE LAST OF THE 12 APOSTLES

A. **BY THE YEAR A.D. 100 APOSTLE JOHN IS THE ONLY ORIGINAL APOSTLE ALIVE.**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

4. THREE GENERATIONS OF CHRISTIANS.

A. BY THE CLOSE OF THE 1ST CENTURY, THERE WERE FAMILIES WHICH FOR THREE GENERATIONS HAD BEEN CHRISTIANS. CHRISTIANITY WAS STILLSPREADING RAPIDLY AND THE CHURCH COULD BE FOUND INAS FAR AS PRESENT DAY **SPAIN** AND **GREAT BRITIAN**.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. THE WELL KNOWN LETTER OF PLINY TO THE EMPEROR TRAFAN, WRITTEN ABOUT A.D. 112, STATES THAT IN THE PROVINCES OF ASIA MINOR BORDERING ON THE BLACK SEA, THE TEMPLES OF THE HEATHEN GODS WERE ALMOST **FORSAKEN**, AND THE CHRISTIANS WERE EVERYWHERE IN A MULTITUDE



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. WHEN WE STUDY THE EPISTLES AND BOOK OF REVELATION, WE FIND THAT **WORLDINESS** AND **FALSE TEACHING** WERE BEGINNING TO MAKE INROADS INTO THE CHURCHES.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

F.THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH WAS
RECOGNIZED BY:

HIGH MORAL CHARACTER

SUPERNATURAL SIGNS AND WONDERS

QUALITY OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

PURITY OF DOCTRINE

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

F. THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH

1. SUFFERING ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD.
 - a. 1 PETER 4:19- WHY DID GOD ALLOW SUCH A WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF HIS PEOPLE DURING THE FIRST 300 YEARS?: THERE IS NO INDICATION IN SCRIPTURE THAT THIS PERSECUTION CAME FOR ANY OTHER REASON **OTHER THAN THE WRATH OF THE WICKED AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS.**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

2. WHY CHURCH PERSECUTION? WHY DID GOD ALLOW IT?

A. THE MOST COMMON REASON WAS TO **KEEP THE CHURCH PURE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE**. IT SEPARATED THE “WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF.” NO LIGHT DECISIONS WERE MADE FOR CHRIST AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT COULD HAVE MEANT:

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ **LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP**
- ▶ **IMPRISONMENT WITH DAILY STARVATION**
- ▶ **TORTURE WITH DEATH**
- ▶ **CRUCIFIXION**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ **BURINING WHILE STILL ALIVE**
- ▶ **BEING THROWN INTO THE AREAN TO BE SLAUGHTERED**
- ▶ **ABDUCTION & ABUSE OF YOUNG WOMEN**
- ▶ **DEATH OF CHILDREN-RIPPED FROM PARENTS WHO WOULD'NT DENY CHRIST**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

3. ROME'S REASON FOR PERSECUTION
 - A. BEFORE THE FALL OF JERUSALEM, THE CHRISTIANS WERE NOT HARASSED NEARLY AS MUCH BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED **A SECT OF THE JEWISH FAITH.**



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. AFTER THE FALL OF JERUSALEM, THE DISTINCTION BECAME QUITE CLEAR AND THE CHURCH MEMBERS WERE MADE TO STAND ALONE WITH NO **LAWS TO PROTECT** THE CHRISTIAN RAE FROM ITS ENEMIES

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. WHY DID THE ROMAN EMPERORS INSTIGATE SUCH SEVERE PERSECUTION AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS?

- ▶ **COMMERCE- HEATHEN WORSHIP WAS HOSPITAL TO NEW GODS- CREATES BUSINESS AND JOBS. CHRISTIANITY OPPOSES ALL WORSHIP OTHER THAN TO GOD.**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ **IDOL WORSHIP WAS SOCIALLY & CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE. CHRISTIANITY DEEMED ANTI-SOCIAL**
- ▶ **SANG SONGS & PRAISES TO ANOTHER KING... CONSIDERED REVOLUTIONISTS**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ **DISREGARDED CLASS SYSTEMS AND DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES**



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

4. CHRISTIANITY OUTLAWED FROM A.D. 100 TO A.D. 313

- A. CHRISTIANITY WAS FORBIDDEN AND FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WERE OUTLAWED. THEY HAD NO MORE RIGHTS THAN THE SLAVES BEFORE THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. PERSECUTION WAS **INTERMITTENT**
BECAUSE ONLY CERTAIN EMPERORS
BROUGHT SEVERE PERSECUTION.

C. MARTYDOM VS. TRANSLATION: (SEE
MANUAL NOTES)

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

5. THE LAST PERSECUTION

A. THE LAST AND GREATEST PERSECUTION
TOOK PLACE DURING THE REIGN OF
DIOCLETIAN AND HIS SUCCESSORS,
FROM **A.D. 303 TO A.D. 310**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. IN A SERIES OF EDITS, IT WAS ORDERED THAT:

- ▶ **EVERY COPY OF THE BIBLE BE BURNED**
- ▶ **ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE TORN DOWN**
- ▶ **THOSE WHO DO NOT REOUNCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION SHOULD LOSE CITIZENSHIP AND OUTSIDE THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW.**

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

6. EMPEROR CONSTANTINE

A. A.D. 313 CONSTANTINE ISSUE

THE **EDICT OF TOLERATION.**



THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

B. THUS, CHRISTIANITY PASSED FROM ITS
TIME OF PERSECUTION TO ITS **POLITICAL
PROSPERITY**, WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT:
ITS DECLINE AND DETERIORATION.

THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

C. AFTER THE EDICT OF CONSTANTINE, THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH FADES INTO OBSCURITY UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE REFORMATION OVER 1200 YEARS LATER.