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God gave various gospel messages in the scriptures but only **one** can save a lost man today.

Scripture records that God Almighty gave different good news messages to different ages or times, but He requires people in each age to simply believe His words by faith.

A message that God gives in one age cannot save a person that believes those words by faith in another age. Hence, faith by itself cannot save (Jam.2: 14), but a man is **only** saved when he hears, and believes by faith the words of God (the good news message) for his age. This is evident in Paul's epistle "unto the churches of Galatia" (Gal.1: 2), where he warns them about preaching "any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (verse 8). Because "I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ" (verse 12).

In this study we will search the scriptures and establish that there **are** different ages, there **are** various gospel messages for each age, and for **the age we live in today, only** the gospel of Christ crucified, given by the risen Lord to Paul, "is the power of God unto salvation" (Rom.1: 16).

The various ages identified from the scriptures:-

The "Old Testament" (OT) and "New Testament" (NT) cover two broadly different ages. When a believer studies the scriptures (2 Tim.2:15) he will discover additional ages within the OT and NT. There are at least seven different ages, or periods of time, where God deals with a particular people, and proclaims a specific message to them through his spokesperson(s).

1. Pre-law.
2. The law and the prophets.
3. The kingdom offered to, and rejected by the nation of Israel, and
4. The age or times of the Gentiles, and
5. the great tribulation, and
6. the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth from Jerusalem, and
7. eternity.

One of these ages overlaps the two testaments – the age of the "law and the prophets were until John, since that time the kingdom of God is preached" (Lk.16: 16).

We will look at five of these ages in more detail to establish their respective messages with the hope of isolating the gospel message that has the power to save a man today.

Our five ages and the good news message that God has given to that age.

Age one – Pre-law.

1.1 The scriptures upon which this age is founded.

"And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham..And said...in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Gen 22:16, 17 & 18). C.f.:- "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made." (Gal.3: 16). And these promises were made prior to the law being given to Moses.

1.2 The gospel spokesperson.
God Almighty.

1.3 The intended audience.
Abraham.

1.4 The message.

“And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed” (Gal.3:8).

Outcome for those that believed this good news during this age.

“Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom.4: 3 & Jam.2: 23).

Age Two – The age of the “law and the prophets”.

2.1 The scriptures upon which this age is founded.

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached” (Lk. 16: 16).

2.2 The spokesperson.
Moses (1Kgs 2: 3 & Neh.10: 29).

2.3 The intended audience.

Exclusively Jews (Deut.4: 44 & Neh.8: 1) because they were under the law . Under the law – judged by the law.

2.4 The message.

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Heb 4: 2, 3).

The “them” in verse 2 refers to those of the nation of Israel who “came out of Egypt by Moses” (Heb,3: 16) that did “not enter in because of unbelief” (verse 12 & 19), those who did not believe the message God gave to Moses. That message was a part of the fulfilment of the good news God gave to Abraham (Gen.17: 3 – 8, c.f.Deut.34: 4) which included a “land flowing with milk and honey” that was, at the time inhabited by “the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites” (Ex.3: 8).

Outcome for those that believed this good news during this age.

i) They entered into physical rest in the land (Deut.6: 3), and went to “Abraham’s bosom” when they died (Lk.16: 22), and

ii) They entered into eternal rest after Christ’s death, burial and resurrection where they were cleansed by His blood (1Pet.3: 18, 19).

Outcome for those that believed **not** this good news message during this age.

i) Some died physically when “the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up” (Num.16: 32, Heb.3: 17 c.f. Num.16: 13–14), and others did not go into the land.

ii) Their names were blotted out of “my book” (Ex.32: 33).

Age three – The kingdom offered to, and rejected by the nation of Israel.

3.1 The scriptures upon which this age is founded.

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached” (Lk. 16: 16).

3.2 The gospel spokesperson.

John the Baptist, the apostles, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3.3 The intended audience.
Exclusively Jews (Matt.10: 6 & 15: 24).

3.4 The gospel message – Two gospel messages were preached during this age.

3.4.1 The gospel of the kingdom of God (KOG) **is at hand**.

What is the KOG?

“behold the kingdom of God is within you” (Lk.17: 21 & Mk.1: 15), and “Except a man be born of water [your physical birth from your mother’s womb i.e. “born of the flesh” – Jn.3: 6, not baptism] and of the Spirit [your spiritual birth into Christ], he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (Jn.3: 5). “Ye must be born again” (Jn.3: 7). Hence, the KOG is spiritual.

Outcome for those that believed this good news in the age of the kingdom.

When a man in the kingdom age heard the gospel and believed in his heart, he would:-

- i) “repent ye, and believe the gospel (Mk.1: 15), and
- ii) “receive the kingdom of God as a little child...” (Mk.10: 15 – see also Lk.18: 17).

The KOG that is spiritual has continued into the next age (refer point 4.5.7).

Outcome for those that believed **not** this good news message in the age of the kingdom.
“But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee” (Matt.11: 24).

3.4.2 The gospel of the kingdom of heaven (KOH) **is at hand**.

What is the KOH?

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt.11: 12), c.f.: “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone” (Jn.6: 15). C.f. “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Lk.1:32 & 33).

Hence the KOH is a physical, earthly kingdom when the Lord Jesus Christ will reign as king on the throne of His father David in Jerusalem, and in Jesus’ day this kingdom was **at hand**. However, when the Jewish leaders of the nation of Israel **rejected** Jesus’ message of His kingship and later Peter’s message, the KOH was deferred/postponed until His second coming (Matt.19: 28).

Outcome for those that believed this good news during the age of the kingdom.

When a man in the kingdom age heard and believed in his heart this gospel he would have sought to obey and:-

- (i) repent (Matt.4: 17), and
- (ii) be baptised (Mk.1: 4, Jn.3: 22 & 4: 1-2), and
- (iii) obey the will of the Father (Matt.7: 21), hence “keep the commandments” (Matt.19: 17), and
- (iv) “he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matt.10: 22 & 24: 13).

Outcome for those that believed **not** this gospel message during the age of the kingdom.
“But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee” (Matt.11: 24).

Age four – the age or “times of the Gentiles” (Lk.21: 24) – where Jews and Gentiles are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ.

4.1 The scriptures upon which this age is founded.

“blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom.11: 25 & Lk. 21: 24).

c.f. – “That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs” (Eph.3: 6), and “even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ” (Gal. 2: 16).

4.2 The gospel spokesperson(s).

The risen Lord Jesus ordained Paul (Gal.1: 12 – “For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ” – see also Rom.15: 16).

Any believer can be a spokesperson for the commission to the church today.

4.3 The intended audience.

Paul proclaimed his gospel first to the Jews but they **again** put it from them (Acts 13: 46), and so Paul’s audience from then on was predominantly the Gentiles (Acts 26: 16 – 18 and Rom.15: 16).

4.4 The gospel message.

The gospel of Christ crucified as outlined in 1Cor.15: 1 – 4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the **gospel which I preached** unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**; And that he was buried, and that he **rose again the third day according to the scriptures**”.

4.4.3 A man is made into a new creature in Christ (2Cor.5: 17), a Christian, the **moment** he:-

1. Acknowledges his condition before God.

Lost –“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3: 23), and therefore he cannot get to heaven by his own good works – “Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph.2: 9).

2. Receives the gospel – how Christ died for “our sins”, was buried and rose from the dead.. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1Cor.15: 3, 4).

3. Believes the gospel in his heart.

“the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto **salvation** to every one that **believeth**” (Rom. 1: 16, see also Rom.10:9 and Acts 16: 31).

4. Has faith.

“For ye are all the children of God by **faith** in Christ Jesus” (Gal.3:26).

5. Trusts.

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard...the gospel of your salvation” (Eph 1:13).

6. Confesses and calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...” (Rom.10: 9), and “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom.10: 13).

4.4.4 Outcome for a man that believes this good news message during this age.

The LOST man that believes and receives **this** gospel of God **IS**:-

1. **saved** from the wrath of God (Rom.5: 9), and from “everlasting destruction” (2Thes.1: 8 & 9), and

2. “washed us from our sins in his **own blood**” (Rev.1: 5), and

3. “reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ” (2Cor.5: 18), and

4. has “redemption through **his blood**, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col.1: 14), and

5. “justified by his blood” (Rom.5: 9), and

6. not imputed with their sin, and imputed with the righteousness of God (Rom.4: 8), and

7. “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the

redemption of the purchased possession” (Eph.1: 13, 14), and,

8. “a new creature” in Christ (2Cor.5: 17), and

9. in the body of Christ (1Cor.12: 27), and in the KOG (Acts 28: 31), and

10. a “son” of God, (Gal.4: 6), and

11. "if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal.4: 7), and
12. "if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2Cor.5: 1).

4.4.5 Outcome for a man that believes **not** this good news message during this age.

1. "That at that time ye were without Christ...having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph.2: 12), and
2. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2Thes.1: 8, 9).

NOTES:

* We are forgiven, redeemed, eternally secure, washed, justified, and have made peace through the blood of his cross" (Col.1: 20) in this age only, yet the modern-day versions of holy scripture often delete the references in Colossians and Revelation to blood.

* Some modern-day versions have a man "being saved", in other words he never knows whether he is, or is not saved, because he is in the process of being saved (see 1Cor.1: 18 "being saved").

4.6 Differences between this gospel and **all** other gospel messages.

What separates the gospel of Christ crucified (that the risen Lord revealed to Paul) from all other messages of good news?

1. this gospel, unlike any other is "according to the scriptures" (1Cor.15: 3 & 4), hence prophesied in the Old Testament.
2. "we might be justified by the faith of Christ" (Gal.2: 16), and
3. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" (Eph.1: 13).
4. **This** gospel was previously a mystery (1Cor.2: 7).

"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified...But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1Cor 2:2, 7 & 8, and see also Rom.16: 25, Eph.6: 19). This mystery of the gospel was revealed to Paul (Gal.1: 11 & 12), who was the minister to the Gentiles, in an age when "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom.11: 25) which was also a mystery revealed to Paul. When this gospel is preached it reveals four other mysteries that were hidden from previous ages.

- i. The mystery that "the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ" (Eph.3: 6), and
- ii. The mystery "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col.1: 27), and
- iii. And "the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles" (1Tim.3: 16), and
- iv. The "mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump" (1Cor.15: 51 & 52).

4.7 Other particulars of this gospel.

Paul uses other names for this gospel that include:-

1. the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20: 24), and
2. the gospel of Christ (Rom.1: 16), and
3. the glorious gospel of Christ (2Cor.4: 4). and
4. the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2Thes.1: 8), and
5. the gospel of his Son (Rom.1: 9), and
6. the gospel of God (Rom.15: 16), and
7. the gospel of peace (Rom.10: 15), and
8. my gospel (2Tim.2: 8), and

9 . Christ crucified (1Cor.1: 23).

4.8 The use of other scriptural references to support the gospel but **not** add to it. Can a preacher preach Christ crucified, and include instruction from God from another spokesperson in a different age? YES!

4.8.1 “The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ” (Gal.3:24), it is therefore useful in this age; for by it “is the knowledge of sin” (Rom.3: 20), and the holy Spirit convicts a man of his sin (Jn.16: 8).

4.8.2 **This** gospel is “according to the scriptures” (1Cor.15: 3 & 4), hence passages like Ps.2: 7, 22: 16 – 18, and Is.53: 3 – 12 etc are most useful when proclaiming this gospel message. But the preacher is warned to only use scriptures that do **not** contradict or add to **this** gospel.

4.9 Repentance.

4.9.1 When we read the context of Paul’s instruction on the gospel (predominately Rom.10 & 1Cor.1 & 15) we see that Paul does not specifically refer to the need for repentance as Jesus did in Mk.1: 14 & 15 when He preached the gospel of the kingdom.

4.9.2. Biblical repentance includes:– acknowledgement of sin, godly sorrow (1Cor.7: 10), turning away from sin and turning towards God, “and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26: 20).

When a sinner believes in his heart the gospel of Christ crucified, trusts that his sin is on the cross at Calvary, and calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ then he outworks biblical repentance.

And this is confirmed in Acts 26: 18–23 where Paul spoke of repentance in the context of becoming a Christian (verse 28), and in other passages where he points out that “godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation” (2Cor.7: 10).

Therefore, we note that the need for repentance is not specifically mentioned as part of the gospel of Christ crucified for this age, but nevertheless repentance takes place in a sinner when they believe the gospel, whereas it was specifically included in other gospel messages for other ages.

Age Five – The tribulation.

5.1 The scriptures upon which this age is founded.

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matt.24: 21). C.f.:– “Immediately after the tribulation of those days...” (Matt. 24: 29).

5.2 The gospel spokesperson.
Initially an angel.

5.3 The intended audience
Predominantly a time of the Jews **and** Gentiles.

5.4 The gospel **message**.
The **everlasting gospel**.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Rev.14: 6 & 7).

5.5 Outcome for a man that believes this good news message during this age.
When a man in the tribulation age hears this gospel and believes it in his heart he would fear God, and give Him glory and worship, and not “worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead” (Rev.14: 9, 10).

5.6 Outcome for a man that believes **not** this good news message during this age.

“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name” (Rev 14: 11).

A common denominator of all Ages.

FAITH – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb.11: 6).

The scriptures attest to faith in God (Heb.11) being the reason a person is obedient to God’s words:-

“By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain”, and

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go...obeyed...By faith he sojourned”, and

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house”.

It is man’s response to God’s words, and his faith in God carrying out His words, that in each age either saves a man or damns a man. It is his heart’s attitude to the words of God, whether he despises them, rejects them, or believes and obeys them. Those words, God’s message, in each age are different, and whether the recipient is to be baptised or repent, he does so by faith. And as a nation Israel did **not** grasp this, where the scriptures say “But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law” (Rom.9: 31, 32).

The Crux of the matter for today.

Many main-stream churches preach the gospel of the kingdom (how that Christ’s physical reign on earth is at hand – Matt.10: 7), hence they believe they are bringing in the kingdom of heaven, because that is what Jesus preached. And to a Christian that seeks to follow Jesus, that appears to be a logical gospel to preach and believe. That line of reasoning is a very powerful argument for preaching the gospel that Christ preached, **but:-**

i) the same LORD, when He was risen, revealed **another** gospel message to Paul that was previously a mystery, and it is THAT Good News message that has the power of God to save a lost man in this age, and

ii) the same LORD, when He was risen, proclaimed to the apostle Paul other mysteries that are revealed with the preaching of this gospel. Paul’s letters to the Gentile churches reveal these mysteries – that we shall all be changed in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, when Christ will return in the clouds for HIS church – the body of Christ shall ALL be one in Christ.

The gospel that Christ preached on earth was exclusively to the Jews, as was the law that Jehovah gave to Moses. BUT in **this** age, the age of the Gentiles, the Jews are in partial blindness which will not end “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (at the rapture of the church). And NO-ONE outside the age of the Gentiles (including the age our Lord was on earth) was, once-saved, sealed by the holy Spirit, IN the body of Christ, and justified (refer 2: 1 Abraham).

Scripture records that God Almighty gave different good news messages to different ages or times, but He requires people in each age to simply believe His words by faith.

A message that God gives in one age cannot save a person that believes those words in another age. Hence, faith by itself cannot save (Jam.2: 14), but a man is only saved when he hears, and believes by faith the words of God (the good news message) for his age. This is evident in Paul’s epistle “unto the churches of Galatia”, where he warns them about preaching “any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Gal.1: 8). Because “I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ” (verse 12).

We have searched the scriptures and in this study outlined the different ages, and considered five of those ages in more detail and their respective messages of

good news that God gives. We conclude that the evidence proves (“Prove all things” 1Thes.5: 21) that there are different ages, and various gospel messages for each age. And for the age we live in today, **only** the gospel of Christ crucified, given by the risen Lord to Paul, “is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom.1: 16).

If you preach any other gospel you are accursed and those that believe it are NOT saved! Woe unto you, if, having heard this instruction from the scriptures of truth you continue to preach a gospel from another age and expect those that believe it to be saved in this age...you make them “twofold more the child of hell than yourselves” (Matt.23: 15).