

Visions and Revelations

Message Two: The Change of the Age

- A. God's economy has seven dispensations in different ages. They are: the age of innocence, the age of conscience, the age of human government, the age of promise, and the age of Law, which concludes the Old Testament. When the Lord Jesus came, He brought forth a new age, the new covenant which is of life, which is the age of grace. When the Lord returns, He will initiate the age of the kingdom (Millennial). The Old Testament concluded with the age of Law, while the New Testament concludes with the New Jerusalem.
- B. Old Testament Law compared to New Testament Life
- a) The Old Testament Law is the requirements stemming from God's own being, resulting in the judgment of man. The New Testament brings in the all-sufficient supply from God's redemption and salvation, resulting in the satisfaction of both God and Man.
- b) The former is an outward God, the latter is an indwelling Lord;
The former is Man's striving, the latter is the divine supply of life;
The former is the Old Man's improvements, the latter is the New Man's transformation;
The former is unto perfection from the expectation of Man, the latter is conformation from the will of God;
The former is a matter of doing, the latter is a living according to the supply of life.
- C. Four examples of the change of the age: Zechariah, Mary, some shepherds, and some wise men. They all had visions from the Lord, which taken together depict a complete picture showing the transition period from the conclusion of the OT age to the coming of the New Testament age. This picture starts with the praises from a serving priest, a pure lover of God, and eventually shows the salvation reaches out to the whole world (the wise men).