

# Major Bible Themes

## 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*  
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### The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

- Introduction
  - By means of the Church in the present age, God is now making known His wisdom and manifesting His grace to the angelic host (Eph 3:10).
  - However, the divine commission of the Church is given to the individual believer rather than to the corporate body.
  - Christ as the Head of the Church (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18) is able to direct each believer in the paths of the Lord's will in keeping with the plan of God for the individual life.
  - All of this is in harmony with God's general purpose for the Church in the present age.
- The Present Divine Purpose in the World
  - In Acts 15:15-18, James explains to an audience of Jews how God is calling out a people from among the Gentiles.
    - ✦ After the Tribulation, the Lord will return and restore the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16).
    - ✦ During the Millennial Kingdom there will be many Gentiles who are saved (Acts 15:17).
    - ✦ But first, during this present age, God is concerned about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name (Acts 15:14).
  - In this present age the world will be filled with lawlessness, albeit restrained, until the one who restrains (the Holy Spirit) is taken out of the way (2 Thess 2:7).
  - The present divine purpose of this age is not the conversion of the world into a better place (world-improvement program), but rather the calling out from the world those who will believe in Christ to form the body of Christ which is the Church.
  - The conversion of the world is possible only by the personal presence of Christ and His immediate power which will happen when He returns at the Second Advent.
    - ✦ It is *after* the Stone (Christ) crushes the other kingdoms that the God of heaven sets up His kingdom on earth (Dan 2:44-45).
    - ✦ It is *after* He is seen descending from heaven that Christ reigns on the Davidic throne for 1,000 years (Rev 19:11 – 20:9).



- What is necessary before the world can be converted into a better place?
  
- What will become of Israel when God has gathered His Church at the Rapture?
  
- According to Acts 15, what is the order of God's program for blessing on Gentiles and blessing on the Jews?
  
- Describe God's present purpose in building His Church.
  
- What is the believer's present commission?
  
- Name some various ways by which a believer can exercise his privilege of extending the gospel to the world.
  
- What are some of the basic conditions for being an effective messenger of the gospel?
  
- In what sense is every Christian responsible for preaching the gospel to all of creation?