



# Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## THE PRECANON & POSTCANON ERA

The Church Age is divided into two separate periods:

- The pre canon period
- The post canon period

The pre canon is relatively short period in which the New Testament canon was being formed. The pre canon is documented in the Book of acts, which preserved the historical record of the early Church but does not attempt a comprehensive presentation of Church Age doctrines. Some phenomena found in Acts were required in initiating the Church Age but were no longer pertinent after their purpose was achieved and the Church Age doctrines were authoritatively and permanently recorded in the New Testament epistles<sup>1</sup>.

The pre canon period was differentiated by temporary spiritual gifts such as apostleship, prophecy, knowledge, tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles and healing (1 Corinthians 12-14). These temporal gifts have limited purpose needed during the pre canon period:

- To propagate the teaching of the mystery doctrines
- To gain a hearing for preachers and communicators of the new doctrines
- To organize and administer local churches
- To warn Israel of impending national discipline from God

After God fulfilled these purposes, the temporal spiritual gifts were no longer necessary, and were step-by-step removed after the completion of the New Testament Canon (1 Corinthians 13:8). The pre canon period came to an end with the death of John the beloved, the last apostle, sometime after he wrote the Book of Revelation in A.D. 96. The pre canon is distinct from the post canon period in many ways.

- The end of temporal spiritual gifts and miracles
- No prophecy
- No more direct messages from God through personal contact, dream or vision
- The end of rituals adapted from Old Testament practices
- Permanent spiritual gifts
- No more spectacular display of divine power
- Put emphasis on personal doctrinal thought, application and advance of spiritual life.

The post canon period is the era of permanent spiritual gifts. Gifts like pastor-teacher, evangelism. Helps and administration are designed to preach or proclaim the Biblical doctrines of the written Word of God and carry out the spiritual functions of the local church (Ephesians 4:11-13). The spiritual gifts of the post canon period of the Church Age are designed to sustain and operate the royal family of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 4 page 131

The post canon Church Age believers lives by divine truth in their souls, without depending on the emotional stimulation of overt rituals, divine appearances, direct revelation from God, miraculous deeds performed by some highly visible Christians.

Spiritual maturity is the objective of the Christian life in every dispensation and believers in this era possesses powerful spiritual devices & resources than any other era. Bible doctrine gives the believers inner power, and our spiritual victory lies in using these spiritual assets and resources resulting to progressive attainment of spiritual maturity, with all the mental and emotional riches.

The post canon emphasizes:

- Spiritual growth
- Doctrinal thought
- Application of doctrines
- Bible doctrines in the soul

**ISRAEL**