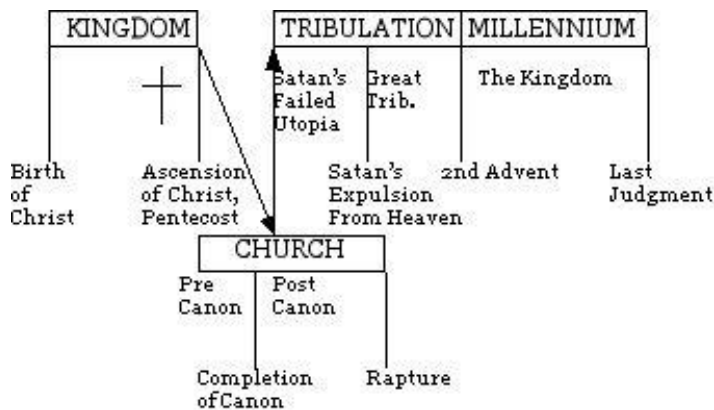


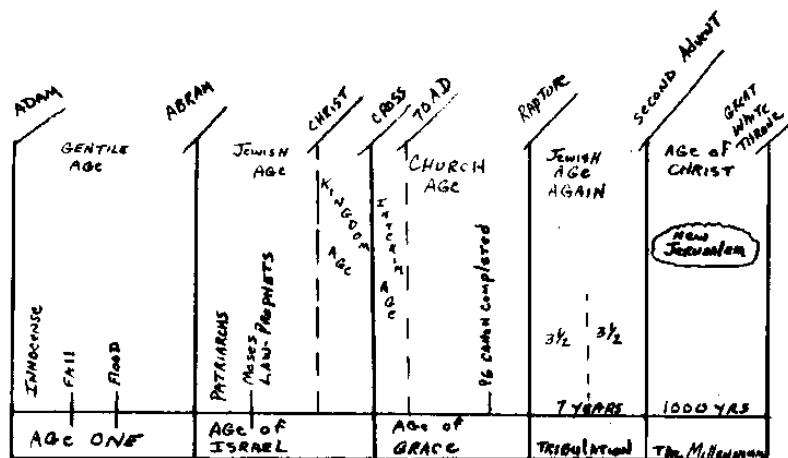
The Doctrine of Apostleship

1. Apostles once possessed significant authority and power. We have no direct comparison today.
2. There are people today in certain denominations who claim to be apostles, but in point of fact there are no de jure apostles in this portion of the Church Age. The gift of apostleship is no longer available.

2.1 It was appropriate in the early part of the Church Age, in what I like to call the Interim Age, a sub-age of the Church Age. The Interim Age is also called the Apostolic Age. The Interim Age was an age of transition from the Kingdom Age to the Church Age. It was during the Interim Age that the Canon was written. A chart will illustrate.



3. The word apostle comes from the Greek word **Apostolos**. Originally it meant the supreme commander of the Athenian fleet, though it came to mean a messenger. In Scripture, it means a supreme spiritual commander in the Apostolic Age. This period is also called the Pre-Canon period of the Church Age.



4. An apostle was in most cases over one or more local churches.

4.1 Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles and thus responsible for the early Gentile churches.

4.2 Peter it would seem had authority over all the Judeo-Christian churches in Syria, Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece.

4.3 In the case of James, the half-brother of Jesus, he was over the 200-plus local churches located in Jerusalem.

5. Originally there were 12 apostles and later there were delegated apostles. The original 12 apostles were the 12 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot, plus Paul. The delegated apostles included men like Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy and James, the half-brother of Jesus. The original 12 were ordained of God to “jump-start” the Church Age.

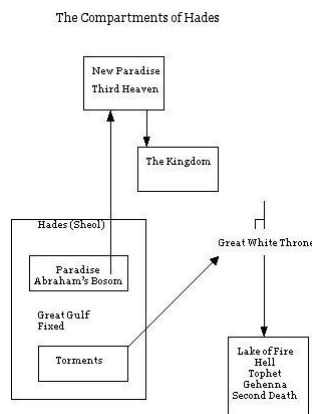
6. The gift of apostleship, like all other gifts, was bestowed by God the Holy Spirit.
1Co 12:11

1Co 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.**

6.1 Christ, however, earned the gifts by successfully completing the Father's plan. He seized His well-earned booty, but God the Holy Spirit bestowed the gifts.

6.2 At His victorious ascension Christ escorted to paradise the souls of the believers in Sheol.

Eph 4:8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and made possible the giving of spiritual gifts to men ..."



6.3 The gifts of prophecy and apostleship were given to facilitate the growth of the church during the early part of the Church Age (A.D. c. 32 to 96). The gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher were given to facilitate the growth of the church after A.D. 96.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

6.4 The gift of apostleship, like all spiritual gifts, was made possible by Christ, but distributed by God the Holy Spirit.

Heb 2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

6.5 The gift of apostleship was a temporary gift. This gift passed from the scene in A.D. 96 with the death of John and the completion of the Canon.

6.6 All communication gifts carry with them authority and are thus only given to males. Such was the case with the gift of apostleship.

6.7 Apostles also had to be eyewitnesses of the Resurrection.

6.7.1 Paul often documented his designation as the 12th apostle by telling of his own viewing on the road to Damascus.

6.7.2 There are also Scriptures which seem to teach the generally accepted belief that an apostle had to be an eyewitness of the Lord. More particularly, there are expositors, it would seem, who would require an apostle to be a witness of our Lord in a resurrected state.

Acts 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

1Co 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?

1Co 15:5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

1Co 15:6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

1Co 15:8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1Co 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

6.8 In describing the New Jerusalem of the Millennium, the names of the 12 apostles are said to be listed on its 12 foundations.

Rev 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

6.9 The original apostles were the 12 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot, plus Paul.

Joh 6:70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"

Joh 6:71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

6.10 We must not be confused by the heterodoxy of the disciples selecting Matthias as the "12th apostle."

Acts 1:21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us ...

Acts 1:23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

Acts 1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen

Acts 1:25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs."

Acts 1:26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

6.11 There were other people called apostles; they can best be described as delegated apostles. We can rightfully speak of 12 apostles (the original 12, minus Judas Iscariot, plus Paul) and numerous other delegated apostles.

Gal 1:19 I saw none of the other **apostles**--only James, the Lord's brother.

1Co 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and **Apollos** for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another ...

1Co 4:9 For it seems to me that God has put us **apostles** on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

1Th 1:1 Paul, **Silas** and **Timothy**, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you ...

1Th 2:6 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As **apostles** of Christ we could have been a burden to you,

6.12 The apostles had authority over more than one local church, and the local pastors took orders from their respective apostles. Pastors were removed and often transferred by their apostle bosses.

6.13 The apostles, it would seem, had all of the temporary gifts designed to show and establish their authority.

16.13.1 These were “whip gifts” to get the attention of the people: miracles, healing, tongues, discerning of spirits, teaching, wisdom, etc. A few Scriptures to illustrate follow.

Acts 28:8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

Acts 28:9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Acts 5:15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

1Co 5:5 hand this man guilty of incest over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Acts 5:1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

Acts 5:2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Acts 5:4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

Acts 5:6 Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

Acts 5:7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Acts 5:8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

Acts 5:9 Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

Acts 5:10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Acts 5:11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 16:16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

Acts 16:18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit

6.14 All temporary gifts passed away at the completion of the Canon.

1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

1Co 13:10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

6.15 Compare Paul's early demonstrated power in his later ministry when apparently, he could not heal.

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

Acts 19:12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Phi 2:27 Indeed Epaphroditus was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

2Ti 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

6.16 Paul's apostleship was questioned by the church at Corinth on numerous occasions.

2Co 11:5 But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

2Co 11:6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

6.17 There have been no de jure apostles since the death of John in A.D. c. 96. Future leaders had no opportunity to see our Lord.

6.17.1 Peter makes clear we as Church Age saints do not see Christ.

1Pe 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

7. In closing our doctrine, I want to review several uses in Scripture of the noun **Apostolos** and its verb form **Apostello**.

Apostolos

Luk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Luk 17:5 And the **apostles** said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Joh 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

Joh 13:5 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
Joh 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he **that is sent** greater than he that sent him.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other **apostles** answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Rom 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the **apostle** of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

Rom 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first **apostles**, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1Co 12:29 Are all **apostles**? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

Phi 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your **messenger**, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

Phi 2:26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

Apostello

Mat 13:41 The Son of Man **will send out** his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

Mat 13:42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Mar 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began **to send them forth** by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mar 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mar 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

Joh 5:33 **Ye sent** unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father **hath sent** me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Joh 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom **he hath sent**, him ye believe not.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 3:20 And **he shall send** Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

1Co 1:17 For Christ **sent** me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1Jo 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God **sent** his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1Jo 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.