

## I. "The age to come"

## I. Introduction

## A. Life in this world, as it is, will not continue forever.

1. In this world, there is death, crying, pain, sin, destruction, and all sorts of evil.

2. This world must come to an end, even in the presence of such good things as marriage, children, health, and enjoyment of the best of the world.

a) The world is passing away.

b) This is in order to make "room" for the world that is to come.

3. Listen to what man has dreamed up concerning the cause of aging and how to reverse it:

a) "**senescence**" = the absence of the appearance of aging; if you can slow/stop aging, you will never reach death (except by trauma or disease).<sup>1</sup>

(1) They have observed this phenomenon in tortoises, flatworms, and other simple animals.<sup>2</sup>

(2) They believe that this is discoverable and repeatable in humans and is working hard to discover this state scientifically.

b) Some methods of senescence are:

(1) **Brain uploading** = they down load, at the neurological level, all the information, state, etc.. of the brain onto a computer ("computational device") and store it to be used again in another "person" in the future.

(2) **Cryonics** = study of very low-temperature preservation of a body, with the hopes of future resuscitation. As of 2014, 250 people have been preserved after being declared legally dead, by means of very low-temperature preservation (-196 C).

(3) **Calorie-reduction** = a primitive (1960's) precursor to senescent thinking.

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immortality> accessed 3/27/2016

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negligible\\_senescence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negligible_senescence) accessed 3/27/2016

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4. Thus, in the world of science, so-called, man tries to obtain eternal life by simply arresting the present life.

5. In the world of religion, man has also dreamed up aspects of eternal life.

a) Immortality is the goal of many in religious circles.

(1) Buddhists, Eastern religions, and modern Atheistic religions, believe that you are absorbed into the cosmos.

(2) Some believe in reincarnation, coming back to this world as an animal, bug, or another person.

(3) Seventh-Day Adventists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, etc... believe in eternal life in the sense of a re-made earth as heaven. Some deny hell.

b) For most every religion, eternal life, immortality, etc.. is simple a Utopian that is mostly like life on earth as it is now.

B. Every person knows that this world does not go on forever.

"God has made all things beautiful in its season; eternity has been given in the heart (of a man) without which a man could not discover the works, that which God has made, from the beginning until the end."

a) Ecclesiastes 3:11

11 אֶת־הַכֹּל עָשָׂה יְקָה בְּעֵתוֹ גַּם אֶת־הָעֵלֶם נָתַן בְּלִבָּם מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמְצָא הָאָדָם אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה הָאֱלֹהִים מִרֵאשׁ וְעַד־קוֹף:

b) This is a powerful statement that Solomon has made (Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12).

(1) In some way, unless God has made each man to have a sense of the eternal in his heart, he would not be able to find out what God is doing.

(2) Thus, let's say, there was not sense of eternity.

(a) Man would be no better than the animal.

(b) Man would have no sense of the eternal, nor that the Person of God exists

(c) Man would dream up thoughts and theologies about their existence.

(3) WAIT! That is exactly where man is-they have denied God and the truth about eternity.

(a) But you cannot hide it.

(b) You cannot remake it.

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(4) However, since man is created with the sense of the eternal, they are guilty of disobeying Him, and they know it (Romans 1:18ff.).

2. Again, every person knows that this world does not go on forever.
  - a) Every person knows that somehow, there is a life after death.
  - b) Every person knows that something more is coming that transcends this world.
3. And, they are right.

C. However, what they refuse to understand is that the age to come is nothing like this age, in quality, but a lot like it in location and purpose.

*IN LIGHT OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD, I THINK THE CHURCH NEEDS TO REMEMBER THAT THIS CURRENT AGE IS NOT FRIENDLY TOWARD US, NOR ARE WE TOWARD IT.*

## II. "The Age to Come"

A. Hebrews 11:1 = faith is understanding that what God has said in His Word will happen at some point, mostly future to us now.

1. John 16:29-33

a) The Lord said to His disciples that "[He has] overcome the world."

(1) This statement is vast and far-reaching.

(2) Think about it.

(a) What is the world?

(i) Earth.

(ii) People

(iii) Gravity

(iv) Science

(v) Music

(vi) Relationships

(vii) Discovery

(b) In spite of all that is good, what is the end of every person and animal in this world?

(i) Death.

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- (ii) 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
  - (a) In Adam, all die.
  - (b) In Christ, all live.
  - (c) Death, however, is the end of every person.
  - (d) And, death is the common denominator of the "age."
    - (i) v. 24 "...comes the end."
    - (ii) End of What?
    - (iii) End of the "age."

b) Death is the end of all rule, power, and authority that is ruling in this age, and in the ages that are coming.

- (1) And, death has ruled, and will rule, up to that point.
  - (a) At the end of these ages, that time when the kingdom comes and all the earth is consumed and handed over to the Father, death will die.
  - (b) Therefore, more accurately, we must consider the "age" that we live in, from Genesis 3 to Revelation 21 as the "age of death."
- (2) "As in Adam all die"

Romans 5:12

**12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

- c) However, Jesus Christ has overcome that.
  - (1) Jesus Christ has now conquered the power of death.

Hebrews 2:14–15

**14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

**15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

- (2) The death of Christ is powerful, efficacious, unconquerable.
- (3) **However, the death of Christ is useless without the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
  - (a) Otherwise, the Catholics are right-Christ's death is celebrated; every mass.
  - (b) BUT, He is still dead! (they say in their theology/practice).

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(4) But, Jesus Christ is (actually) no longer dead, but He is alive and is at the throne of His Father waiting for the consummation of the Father's plan.

d) Now, what I want to do today to bring you, the church, to consider what all of this looks like.

(1) I want to consider the age in which we live, and the age to come, that age to which Jesus Christ attained by means of being raised from the dead.

(2) Ultimately, I want you to be better prepared for the age to come than the age we are in.

A. Today's church is fanatical about the current age.

2. It loves it.

3. It wants to prolong it.

4. It wants to thrive in it.

a) Just look at all the marriage helps, financial helps, parenting helps, etc.. that thrive in the church.

b) Notice that the church is little interested in "age the come" helps.

B. The church does little to anticipate, and provide for, the age to come.

1. It is the worst possible long-term plan for future rewards.

2. It is the worst-possible plan for the future to NOT plan for the future.

C. Or, in other words,

1. Matthew 6:33

(1) 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2. That is, seek after that age to come, not the present age.

D. What do I mean?

1. Matthew 12:32

2. Jesus is speaking of the leaders of Israel who accused the Holy Spirit of being Satan.

a) That blasphemy is unforgivable.

b) It is grieving the Holy Spirit such that He does not, cannot, display His power in the life of someone if all they say about that is that it is Satan working.

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3. However, it is the time-frame that I am more taken by:
  - (1) "...in this age, or the age to come."
    - (a) What does this mean?
    - (b) How does that work in this context?
  - (2) I want to look into this in order to make us prepared more for the age to come than "this present age."

## III. "This age; the age to come."

A. Every man or woman who was every used of God anticipated the future and thought very little of the present in comparison.

1. They had a right understanding of the future.
2. They had a right understanding of the present.
3. For example,

Jude 14–15

**14** *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,*

*15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

4. Hebrews 11:
  - a) v. 7-Noah
  - b) vv. 8-10 - Abraham
  - c) vv. 13-16 - all like them.
  - d) v. 20 - Isaac
  - e) vv. 24-26 - Moses
  - f) vv. 39-40 - all these people who lived like this gained approval by their faith, in spite of the fact that they never received what was promised, not yet.
5. Hebrews 12;1-2 - Jesus had a "joy set before Him" and that allowed Him to endure the cross.
  - a) This is a clear study in the ability to endure knowing what is about to come in the future age.
  - b) Jesus endured the worst of this age for the sake of the attainment of the joy concerning the age to come.
6. John wrote much about the age to come.
  - a) Revelation 1:8
  - b) Revelation 2:5, 16, 25; 3:3, 10-11, 20.

## I. "The age to come"

## B. "This age"

## 1. What kind of age is it now?

a) **At the end of this age, there will be a judgment**-**Matthew 12:32; 13:39.**

- (1) That means that this age is a temporal, created, one.
- (2) That also means that the quality of life lived in this age will come into view at the end of it at judgment.

b) **Concern for it will choke out the Word of Christ.**

- (1) **Matthew 13:22**
- (2) **Mark 4:18-19**

c) **There is benefit in this age of following Jesus Christ.**

- (1) **Mark 10:30**

d) **There are those who only a part of "this age" and they are distinct from the "sons of light."**

- (1) **Luke 16:8**
- (2) That is, they are the product of this age, but will not see the age to come.

e) **The people of "this age" marry. However, those who "are worthy to attain" to the age that is to come do not marry nor are given in marriage**

- (1) **Luke 20:34-35**
- (2) There is a very different quality in the people who enter into that age to come.
- (3) The people of this age marry and are exercised in the created conditions and the created functions of it.
- (4) But, not so for those who enter the age to come.

f) **Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven, at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1).**

- (1) **Ephesians 1:21**
- (2) He, in doing that, has been elevated above all angels, demons, heavenly host and all the strata of angelic realms.
- (3) What is "the one to come"?

g) **It is possible to love this age and leave ministry that is for the age to come.**

- (1) **2 Timothy 4:10**
- (2) That is, a person like this rejects the age to come for the present age.

h) **The present age is evil.**

- (1) **Galatians 1:4**
- (2) It is characterized as evil in comparison to God and the age to come.

i) **We are not to be conformed to this present age.**

- (1) **Romans 12:1-2**
- (2) Antithetical to the will of God.

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- (3) The age that is now is characterized by:
    - (a) Disregard for judgment.
    - (b) A preoccupation for all that it affords.
    - (c) Shrewdness of money.
    - (d) Marriage.
    - (e) The love for it in disregard for ministry.
    - (f) Evil.
    - (g) Being against the will of God.
  - j) There is a "spirit" at work in the "age of this world."
    - (1) **Ephesians 2:2**
    - (2) Who is this spirit?
      - (a) He is the prince of the power of the air.
      - (b) He is working in the "sons of disobedience" "now."
    - (3) What does this spirit produce?
      - (a) Lusts of the flesh.
      - (b) Desires of the mind.
      - (c) Children of wrath.
2. This age is temporal, characterized by evil, and is not the residence of the children of the age to come.

## IV. "The age to come"

A. If a person blasphemes the Holy Spirit now, he will not receive forgiveness even in the age to come.

a) Matthew 12:32

B. The age to come is characterized by eternal life.

a) Mark 10:30

b) Luke 18:30

c) It will be culmination of following Jesus Christ.

C. 1 Corinthians 10:11

a) This age is the end of all the ages that have come.

b) After this age, there is the age that is coming and that is forever.

D. God will display His grace and kindness in that age to come.

a) Ephesians 2:7

b) Therefore, that age is characterized by the display of the kindness of God!

E. Those who enter that age do not marry.

a) Luke 20:35

(1) But, what about those in the Millennium who do marry?  
How does that work?

(2) That "age" is post-resurrection (Luke 20:36).

b) It is not the Millennium.

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F. It is the topic of the book of Hebrews.

- a) Hebrews 2:5
- b) See the rest of the book.

G. Eternal redemption is the means of entrance into the age to come; "the good things to come."

- a) Hebrews 9:11
- b) The "age to come" is the eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15).

H. The Law of Moses was only a shadow, a reflection, a glimmering mirror, of the righteousness of the age to come.

- a) Hebrews 10:1
- b) That means that it cannot make perfect those who enter the age to come.

## B. What are some reasons for understanding this?

1. The age to come and the present age are not the same in character.

a) *The present age:*

- (1) The present age is evil, dark, filled with lust, ruled over by the spirit of disobedience.
- (2) The present age is temporal and culminates in judgment.
- (3) The present age is filled with temporarily good things.
- (4) It is possible to be in this present age and be the enemy of God.

b) *The age to come:*

- (1) The age to come is eternal.
- (2) The age to come transcends the creation.
- (3) The age to come is the eternal inheritance for the saints of God, and therefore, is what was planned in the heart of God forever.
- (4) The age to come is not governed by the Law of Moses.
- (5) The age to come is entered into only by the redemption work of Jesus Christ.
- (6) The age to come is characterized by eternal life, and does not contain death.

2. However, you live in this age.

a) *However, you work, raise your families, marry, grow old, in this age.*

b) *So, what do you you need in order to attain to the age to come without shame?*

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## V. Conclusion

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- 13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God **has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- 14** It was for this He called you through our gospel, **that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 15** So then, brethren, **stand firm** and **hold to the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.
- 16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, **who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,**
- 17** **comfort** and **strengthen your hearts** in **every good work and word.**

## VI. Chosen from the beginning

1. That you may gain the glory of Jesus Christ – age to come.
- B. So,
1. Stand firm
  2. Hold to the teaching
- C. God has loved us
1. God has given us eternal comfort
  2. Good hope by grace
- D. We ask for
1. comfort
    - And
  2. Strong hearts
  3. As we work and preach the words of Christ.

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II. Conclusion