

CORRELATING OUR LIVES with the AGES, a Bible Study, 3 pgs

State your observations about Jesus' comments concerning **age** in the following passages: **Mt.12:32; Lk.18:29-30** [time]; **20:34-36** [that age]. **He is contrasting this age with the age to come.**

An age is a period characterized by certain set of features. **What are the distinguishing features of each age?** **This age** includes the temporal aspects of physical existence. **The age to come** involves immortality. This contrast is found throughout the NT. *We look **not** to the things that are seen, but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal, 2 Cor.4:18*

What are some further distinguishing features of this age? [age is translated *world* in some passages] **Gal.1:4; Eph.2:2** (Lit., *according to the age of this world*) **The present age is evil and Satan is it's ruler, it's god (2 Cor.4:4). Rom.12:2; Eph.2:2 It has powerful negative influence. 1 Cor.1:20; 2:6** What passes for wisdom is foolishness.

What conclusion(s) do the following passages lead to?

Heb.1:2, Long ago ... but in these last days¹... **1 Cor.10:11**, these things [warning: judgment against Israelites crossing the wilderness after being delivered from slavery in Egypt] ... were written down for our instruction, on whom **the end of the ages** have come. **1 Cor.7:29-31**, The time has grown short ... let ... those who deal with the world [live] as though they had no dealings with it. For **the form of this world is passing away**. **Rom.13:11-12a**, *the hour has come* for you to wake from sleep for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; **the day is at hand**. **1 Jn.2:8b**, **the darkness is passing away** and **the true light is already shining**. **1 Jn.2:17**, **the world is passing away** along with it's desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

[After the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the lake] ... you are looking for me **not** because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate all the loaves of bread you wanted [Gk, and were filled]. Do not work for the food that disappears [parishes, referring to the temporary nature of it], but [work] for the food that remains to eternal life—the food which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has put his seal of approval on him [by the miraculous signs Jesus had been performing]. So then they said to him, What must we do to work the works of God [do signs such as you have done]? Jesus replied, **This is the work of God—to believe in the one [Jesus] whom God sent, Jn.6:25-29**.

Since the resurrection there is a new sense of urgency to our dedication to God because the end is near. **The new age** has already begun but **the old age** has not yet ended. The 2 ages are distinct yet run concurrently with one another for a time. The characteristics of the old age are the destructive results of man's fallen-ness due to his autonomy from God. Therefore no success or pleasure that is connected with this age can fulfill or satisfy because it is not truly life (**1 Tim.6:18-19**).

What events characterize **the close of the present course** of history? (**Mt.13:39-40, 49; 28:20b; 1 Cor. 15:20-28**) the presence of Christ with His people through the Spirit until the end; the resurrection of the justified and judgment of the wicked; the end of mortality

What period of time does **this age** refer to? the period from the fall of man to the second coming of Christ

What events characterized the inauguration of the kingdom of God? (Mt.12:28-29; Lk.17:20b-21; Acts 1:8; Eph.1:20-21) the resurrection, ascension, and installation of Christ as head over all for the sake of the church; the gift of the Holy Spirit; the plundering of Satan's house by the Gospel

What is the time frame for **the age to come** (Eph.2:7)? from the 2nd coming of Christ on -

How did Peter describe the dawn of the age to come (Acts 1:4-5; 2:2-4, 16-21)? He recognized the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as marking the last days,¹ the time of the New Covenant in contrast to the former days of the Old Covenant.

Comment on the **overlap** period between the 2 advents of Christ, commonly referred to as the church age. It was created by the impact of the kingdom of God breaking into the world [read through Matthew with this in mind]. The resurrection of Jesus marked the dawn of the age to come resulting in the transfer of believers from the domain [authority, dominion] of darkness to the kingdom of his dear son (Col.1:13; Eph.2:5-6). Believers in Christ constitute the church and are the first-fruits of the Gospel² (Jas.1:18; Rev.14:4; Rom.8:19-23). They are citizens of heaven sojourning on earth, in the world but not of it, awaiting the completion of their redemption and restoration of all creation. They enter into Christ's suffering as the already, but not yet people of God.

... thus an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you, 2 Pt.1:11 ... to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen, Eph.3:21.

1. The Bible contains numerous expressions which refer to various aspects of the end of the age: *the end; the day of the Lord; the day; that day; the last day(s); etc.*
2. God required Israel to bring an offering from the first part of a crop in recognition that all the harvest belonged to Him. Because Christ is our representative [see Justification by Imputation <http://pop.eradman.com/>], His bodily resurrection guarantees ours (1 Cor.15:20-23).

HISTORY OF THE WORLD

creation
& fall

cross &
resurrection

the return
of Jesus

eternity

.....the old age.....

.....the new age.....

.....the coming age.....

Verses

HISTORY OF A CHILD OF GOD

birth

conversion

death

eternal life

.....the old life.....

.....the new life.....