

## **CK3 This Present Age - A Time of Preparation**

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### **I. Ages in the Bible**

#### **1. There are Two Ages: "This Age" and "The Age to Come"**

- **Jesus spoke of these two Ages**
  - *Mat 12:32* Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.
  - Jesus is speaking about two different ages, separated in time
  - "Age"...Gk. .aion....A distinct period of time when God is working out an aspect of His eternal Kingdom plan
- **Paul Spoke of these Two Ages**
  - *Eph 1:20* which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
  - *Eph 1:21* far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, **not only in this age but also in that which is to come.**
  - Paul also speaks about two different ages..."This Age" and "The Age to Come"
- The "Age to Come" refers to the 1000 year Millennial reign of Christ upon the earth as King over all the earth
  - *Zec 14:9* And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.
  - *Dan 2:44* And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

#### **2. These Two Ages are separated by Two Events**

##### **(i). The Second Coming of Christ**

- *Mat 24:3* Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"  
*Mat 24:30* Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- The disciple enquired about the destruction of Jerusalem and end of this Present Age
- This Age will come to a close with then second coming of Christ and the Age to Come will begin

##### **(ii). The First Resurrection from the Dead**

- *Luk 20:34* Jesus answered and said to them, "**The sons of this age** marry and are given in marriage.
- *Luk 20:35* But those who are counted **worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection** from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;  
*Luk 20:36* nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are

*sons (Huio) of God, being sons(Huio) of the resurrection.*

- **Jesus refers to two ages:** "This Age" and "that Age" meaning "The Age to Come"
- In this Present Age those who live marry and raise children to continue the human race
- In the Age to Come people enter it by way of resurrection, the First Resurrection.
- These are the Sons of God (Huio) , those matured and who have made themselves ready
- They are "counted worthy to attain" ...to deem entirely deserving...Sons of the Resurrection
- They will have a resurrected body just as Jesus did after His resurrection (Phil.3:21)
- They will be like the angels in that they are **no longer subject to death** and will not marry

## **II. Five Characteristics of This Present Age**

### **(i). This Present Age is called an Evil Age**

- Gal 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
  - "Evil"...Gk ponderos...bad, malignant, hurtful, full of labour and hardships, wicked nature
  - This Age is characterized by wickedness, evil and rebellion against God
  - It is an Age where men need to be delivered from sin and demonic influences by Jesus
  - We cannot deliver ourselves....we need to be saved ...we need a Saviour
  - God delivers us out of the power of darkness and into His own Kingdom and rule (Col.1:13)

### **(ii). This Present Age is Dominated by the Invisible influence of Satan**

- *Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to **the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,*
  - "Course" ....Gk aion.....Age
  - "World"....Gk. Kosmos....The order, government, structures that make up society
  - This world bears the character and influence of Satan, called the Prince of the power of the air
  - He is permitted in this Present age to exercise a destructive influence over people and nations
  - He influences the thoughts and values and actions of people
  - He "works in" them....Gk energeo....to energize, to be active, put forth power, display activity
  - He exercises an invisible spiritual influence in and through people causing them to rebel and disobey God

(iii). **This Present Age is characterized by Spiritual Blindness**

- 2Co 4:3 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 2Co 4:4 whose minds the **god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*
  - Satan is revealed to be the god of this Present Age.
  - Satan has been permitted by God to exercise an evil influence in this age as if he were god of this age
  - Satan works to obstruct and hinder people believing in Christ. His basic desire is to keep men from Christ
  - He blinds the minds of people with ideologies, philosophies, religion and unbelief
  - His rule is called “the power of darkness” (Col.1:13)
  - People are blinded from seeing the impact of sin on their lives and the hope in Christ  
This is the core of evil: spiritual blindness, darkness and unbelief
  - **The primary manifestation satanic influence and evil is religious...it is blindness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God**

(iv). **This Present Age is characterized by Hostility and Resistance to the Gospel**

- Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*  
Eph 6:13 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be **able to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*  
*Satan attacks and obstructs believers from living a life that honors and pleases God*
  - Satan is the source of the evil, hatred, deception, strife, sickness, pain and suffering that characterizes this Present Evil Age
  - The source of evil in this Present Age is an evil supernatural spirit being who contends along with hosts of evil spirit beings against believers and followers of Christ
  - He is called many names...
    - “Your adversary, the Devil” (1Pet.5:8),
    - “the god of this age” (2Cor.4:4)
  - A commitment to follow Christ is a step into experiencing and seeing the reality of spiritual warfare
  - There is open contempt and resistance to the values and standards of the Word of God
  - In many nations men and women and children are losing their lives because they follow Christ

(iv). **The Spirit of this Present Age works to Choke the Word of God**

- Mat 13:22 *Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world** and the deceitfulness of riches **choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.*

- Jesus taught the parable of the sower and seed is fundamental to understanding the Kingdom
- The Word of God is like a seed that enters the heart and produces change and good fruit when we believe and act on it
- The Word of God can be choked so that we become unfruitful and remain immature
- ***“World” ....Gk..aion.....Age***
- ***“Cares” .....Gk..merimna....Anxiety, worry, to divide into parts, distract***
- The care of this age is worry and anxiety about earning a living and managing daily life
- It is also the entire spirit that characterizes this Present Age ...the drive of self centred ambition for wealth, prosperity, recognition and power, exclusive of God
- John called it : Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1John.2:16)
- The spirit of this age is hostile to the Gospel and the working in mens hearts and lives
- It pressures people to conform to This Age and its values rather than surrender to follow Christ
- Paul warns believers “not to be conformed to this world” Rom.12:2  
“Conformed” ...Gk.....suschematizo.....to form the external shape, appearance, behaviours  
“Transformed” ..Gk ...metamorphoo....totally change form, like a caterpillar to butterfly
- The key agents in transforming us are the Word and Spirit of God

(v). **This Present Age, (in Conflict with the Kingdom of God,) will end with Judgment**

- ***Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.***
- ***Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,***
- ***Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.***
- ***Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!***
  - This present Age is an evil age under the influence of Satan , the god of this Age
  - The Kingdom of God is from the Age to Come
  - This Age will end in Judgment and demonstrations of great power
  - The Kingdom of God will prevail over the Kingdoms of this Age and fill the earth (Dan.2)

### III. In this Present Age We can Taste The Power of The Age to Come

#### 1. The Power of the Age to Come has Penetrated this Present Age

- *Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,*
- **The Age to Come is future, but the blessings and power are available to us now by faith**
  - There are two manifestations of the Kingdom of God:
  - **The Kingdom in the Age to Come**.....full of great power and glory when Christ returns
  - **The Kingdom which is Present Now** ....where we can access and experience the power and blessings of the Age to Come
- **While we still live in this age and Satan is still god of this age we can experience the great supernatural power of the Age to Come**
  - *"Power"....Gk..dunamis.... Supernatural power of God that overcomes natural circumstances*
  - *"Tasted"...Gk..geuomai.....try the flavour of, become acquainted with by experience, To eat or drink a small portion of something*
  - Tasting the power of the Age to come is real.
  - It is not a promise for the future but an experience we can have now
- **The Power of the Kingdom of God in the Age to Come is here and available to us now**
  - Jesus came.....The King came into this Present Age .....The Kingdom came into this Age
  - Resurrection has now already invaded this present Age.....Christ has risen and overcome
  - The defeat of Satan has now already begun in this Age .....Legal defeat at the Cross.
  - *Mar 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."*
  - Faith gives us access to access the power of the Age to Come
  - **Faith makes all things possible to us now, in this Present Age**

#### 2. Salvation is Evidence the Kingdom is available now

- *Gal 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us from this present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father,*
  - Christ has delivered us from the dominion and power of this Present Evil Age
  - He has rescued us from the power of sin and of Satan
  - The purpose of His death was to free us from the power of darkness and bring us into His Kingdom, to taste and experience its life and power now
- *Col 1:13 He has **delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom** of the Son of His love,*
- *Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Col 1:13 For He has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the **dominion of darkness**, and has **transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, (AMP)*

- “Delivered” ....to rescue, draw to oneself
- “Conveyed” ....to transfer, to remove from one place to another
- Through the death and resurrection of Jesus the power of the Age to come is available now
- By faith in Christ we are delivered from the Kingdom and power of darkness of this present age and transferred into the Kingdom of God
  - The Kingdom of God, the rule of God has begun in our heart.....now.....today...
  - The mighty Spirit of God that raised Christ, has come to dwell in our hearts by faith
  - We **now have access** to the blessings and protection and power and life of the Kingdom of God....Faith is Now
- **Though we live in this present age we are citizens of the Coming Kingdom of God**
- **We have access by faith to the powers of the Age and Kingdom to come now**

### **3. Deliverance is Evidence the Kingdom is available now**

- **Mat 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**
- **Mat 12:29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.**
- **The Kingdom of God is the Rule of God. It is the defeat of the enemies of God**
  - Casting out demons means that the Kingdom of God is present here and now
  - We can have victory over Satan and demonic spirits now, today
  - The Kingdom that belongs to the Age to Come when Christ comes in glory is **already present**
- **Satan is the “Strongman” .....His House is “This Age”**
  - Satan is not yet bound or destroyed as he will be during the Millennium but his defeat is seen when people are delivered from demons
  - Deliverance is a working of miracles,
  - Deliverance is demonstration of the present reality and power of the Kingdom of God
  - **We can prevail over demonic spirits now by exercising faith in Christ and His Word, and exercising the authority Christ has given us.**

### **4. Healing and Miracles are evidence the Kingdom is available now**

- **Luk 10:8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.**
- **Luk 10:9 And *heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'***
  - Every healing and miracle is evidence of the reality that the power of the Kingdom and Age to Come is a present reality now
  - **It is not yet here in its fullness but we can taste and experience it now**
- **All through the Bible men and women have tasted the power of the Age to come**
  - They reached out **by faith into the Age to Come** and that power became available to them in this present age
  - There are great miracles throughout the Bible where men of faith brought the supernatural power of God into this Age

- Those men are gone from the earth.....**this is our day to believe** and do great works
- **This is our day to be a people of faith**
  - Heb 6:11 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,*
  - Heb 6:12 *that you do not become sluggish, but **imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises***
  - Sluggish...Gk..nothros....*Lazy, dull, acting like illegitimate children with no Father or inheritance*
  - Don't be sluggish.....Be diligent, be an imitator of men of faith and endurance

#### IV. Will He find faith on the earth?

##### 1. **The Parable of the widow and Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)**

- She was experiencing a deep injustice.
- She persevered relentlessly in seeking justice
- Jesus taught the need for relentless persevering prayer in seeing Justice
- Luk 18:8 *I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*
- **We are all called to live in hope of the Kingdom and Age to Come**
- **We are all called to activate faith and patience, and persevering prayer that brings the power of the Age to Come into this Present Age**
- **We are commanded to Prepare!**
  - Mat 24:44 *Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

##### 2. **The Warning by Peter**

- 2Pe 3:1 *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),*  
2Pe 3:2 *that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,*  
2Pe 3:3 *knowing this first: that **scoffers will come in the last days**, walking according to their own lusts,*  
2Pe 3:4 *and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*  
2Pe 3:5 *For this they **willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,*  
2Pe 3:6 ***by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.***  
2Pe 3:7 *But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*