

### THIS WORLD OR THE COMING ONE?

**"For what profit is a man profited, if he shall gain the world,  
and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul,"**

**Matthew 16:26.**

Today, you and I are living in the church age. It won't be long, however, when Jesus returns and we enter the kingdom age. It's a 1000 year period of time, during which Jesus shall rule the earth from Jerusalem.

Jesus shall fulfill the prayer He made at His first advent, "**Thy will done on earth**" as recorded in Mt 6:9. The Second Adam shall set up the kingdom of God; which, the first Adam forfeited when the Fall of man came under the devil's control.

While the Bible is but one plan, it clearly marks off different time periods within that plan. Besides the Fall and Recovery of man, we are privileged to ascertain other periods of time, as well.

These times periods are stages within God's plan and it is extremely important that we learn them. And, since the New Testament was written in Greek, it is beneficial to learn some Greek; at least, a few meanings of Greek words.

One Greek word is **AION**. It means "**an age**," an indefinite period of time. Aion is one age within God's plan. So, when the disciples questioned Jesus "**what shall be the sign of thy coming and the end of the world**" (Mt 24:3), they had reference to the end of the age.

The world; that is the earth of rocks, seas and sky, will not end when Jesus returns. But notice the interest! Although Jesus had taught them about the coming age, the disciples wanted to know when. We are no different. All students of the world want to learn about the "when" of His return. His coming excites the heart!

And there's a change coming! What Jesus meant about the ending of the "**age**" is that grace will end. The current stage within man's recovery act will end. The time to receive New Testament truth will end as well.

It is a time when the total Bible; especially New Testament truths, fills the earth. This time not only in word but in deed, within the **Person** of King Jesus. He will rule "**until He hath put all enemies under His feet**" (I Cor. 15:25).

#### **A BIT CLOSER LOOK AT THE TWO GRK. WORDS: *AION* & *KOSMOS***

In the King James, the word "**WORLD**" is used for both "**age**" and the "**arrangement of the earth.**" However, "world" may come from AION, or it may be from the Greek word KOSMOS. Thus, for a proper understanding of the stages of

time of separation within God's plan, we must know which Greek word is used in order to get the proper meaning in the English.

If we get out the trusty concordance; say Young's, we shall see for ourselves which Greek word is used. Is it **Aion** or **Kosmos**?

And, because the KJV (King James Version) fails to make a distinction from different Greek words, our Biblical understanding may be hindered; especially if we use the King James Bible only.

Not only is the word "**world**" confusing, KJV fails to translate the word "**church**." If the translators used the Greek meaning of church, then we would see "**assembly**" where we now read the word "**church**." **Ekklesia** means a "**called out assembly by the proper authority**."

Therefore, we need to see what the word "**World**" means in order to understand what Jesus was saying; so **let's recap**: The first and the **most** accepted meaning of the word "**World**" comes from the Greek word **KOSMOS**. **Kosmos** refers to the physical world and the earth's arrangement. It can also be taken for the universe.

**Aion** has the meaning of time. It has an age meaning; a stage within God's plan. Thus, the phrase "**end of the world**" (in most places) should be translated "**the end of the age**," according to "An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words" by W. E. Vine, M.A.

**Vine** goes on to note that "**Aion**" is clearly marked off in the New Covenant by spiritual and moral characteristics.

It is my thinking that we must know these characteristics of the age. If we do, then we may align our hearts to spiritual truths. We may learn the teaching of the Kingdom, for example, and convey its meaning to our heart. There are many blessings in God's word if we know the meaning of the word, Aion (world).

We will properly apply the meaning of Jesus when He said, "**The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage; But the which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage**," Luke 20:35.

In this world (age), there is marriage going on; but that world (age) - the coming Kingdom age, no marriage will occur; that is, for those who are worthy. Again, we see the stage of "now" and the stage of "then."

Immediately, we wonder about the word "worthy," don't we? One way to study this out is to notice what takes place in the parable of the sower. Here, Jesus explains that "**the cares of this world (aion)...choke the word, and** (those among the world's thorns) **becomes unfruitful**," Matthew 13:22.

By parabolic teaching, we are able to see what happens when one becomes so concerned for this present age - its dress, entertainment and political sway.

Without question, Jesus taught, over and over, that allegiance to this "age" may disqualify a person for the coming age. "Hear ye therefore the parable of sower," means that we are to learn how to avoid being unproductive for Jesus in the present world (age).

Our thinking and alignment is where we live, and what we live by; either we live by the dictates of this world, or the teachings of Jesus fills our hearts and the power of the Holy Spirit bears much fruit to God's glory.

And we don't have to be in Jerusalem to obey. Our Jerusalem is above; but no matter where we reside, it can be "good ground" - even in a barren place such as Texas or Arabia. All we need do is let Jesus rule and we'll start bearing fruit; "some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty," Matthew 13:23.

If we understand that we don't have to be servants of this present world (age), then our heart shall long to fulfill the position that God has called us to; that of being obedient children. Our doing, our focus, will not be of this world (age) but of the one that's coming.

Just get out that concordance, once again, and see the 150 references to the word "kingdom." Clearly, it is coming, and when we understand, the kingdom begins to rule the heart in this present world (age). Then, Jesus announces that we "may be the children (huios, son) of your Father which is in heaven:" (Mt 5:45).