

Distinguishing Ages from the World System Part III

Scripture Reading:

Acts 17:16-21, 29-34

INTRODUCTION

In the New Testament, the term “age” is a segment in time or eternity whereby God reveals some aspect of His character or abilities to His intelligent beings (Eph 2:7)

The purpose of this “present evil age” (Gal 1:4) is to reveal the antithesis of God’s character and abilities. God does this by providing His Eternal Life to His Son’s (i.e., maturing Christians) for the display of this quality of LIFE before a dark and spiritually dead world (fallen mankind)

This Age is the Stage for God's Theatrical Display of His Character

- I Cor 4:9, cf vs 10-16
 - “For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.”
 - “spectacle” (KJV) cf Heb 10 32-33
 - “gazingstock” (KJV) = made a theatrical

This Age is the Stage for God's Theatrical Display of His Character (continued)

- God and Satan are opposing directors of this theatrical
 - God's sons = those who are actively living as mature sons
 - the sons of Satan = who are mature in the in the realm of 'sophisticated' disobedience to God
- God's sons show forth Eternal Life under trials, tribulations and degrading circumstances - I Cor 4:9-16, Heb 10:32-33
 - The sons of Satan show forth the wisdom of this age by questioning established facts stated in Scripture - I Cor 1:18-24
 - Two examples: Gen 3:1-4, Acts 16:17, (cf Jn 14:6, Acts 4:12)

This Age is the Stage for God's Theatrical Display of His Character (continued)

- The rest of mankind play supporting roles
 - To some extent, imitating the roles of the two kinds of sons
- Two 'scripts' are being used for this theatrical
 - Age wisdom = always questioning God's revealed truths.
 - Everything is ambiguous: unclear, inexact, open to more than one interpretation
 - God's wisdom = accepting God's revelation as true, authoritative, without debate or question (God said it, that settles it, I believe it)

The Term “Age” and “World” used Together

- Eph 2:2 (Darby Translation) “...in which ye once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”
- The things that make up the World System appeal to the 5 human senses
 - These things support the Wisdom of the Age that questions the things of Scripture
 - The things of Scripture do NOT appeal to the 5 senses

The Term
“Age” and
“World”
used
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(continued)

- **1 Cor 1:20** (Darby Translation) “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this age? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”
- The World System supports the wisdom of this “present evil age” (questioning Scripture)
- Therefore, the wisdom of the World System is also the wisdom of the Age

The
Christian is
Not to Love
This Evil
Age

II Tim 4:10

- Demas loved this age and disputed with Paul that a believer did not have to suffer tribulations and indignities from the unsaved world in order to mature as a Christian (cf Phil 1:29)

Acts 14:22

- Demas desired the well-being of this Age by using its wisdom to consider and debate alternatives to things that unsaved men objected to in Scripture

Both the World System and this Present Evil Age share common qualities

CONCLUSION

- Both are related to Satan; Satan is the ruler:
 - “Prince of the World System - Jn 14:30 KJV
 - “God of this Age” - II Cor 4:4
- Christians are not to love the World System or this Evil Age
 - Nor should they be conformed to this age - II Tim 4:10, I Jn 2:15-16, Rom 12:2

Though this Age and the World System share certain commonalities, they are NOT identical!

The World System promotes this Age but is not the Age itself.