

Table 2 - Two Ages/Two Realities/Two Qualities

This Age (the age of this world) – Things Temporal

- Matthew 12:32 – There is no forgiveness for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in this age.
- Matthew 28:20 – Christ’s spiritual presence would be with his disciples till the completion of the age.
- Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30 – The present age has to do with material property (i.e. homes and land) and families, with persecutions.
- Luke 20:34 – The people of this age marry and procreate.
- Romans 12:2 – We are not to be conformed to the pattern (or fashion) of this age.
- 1 Corinthians 1:20 – The world has it’s own wisdom and philosophy in this age.
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 – The wisdom of this age has it’s own spiritual rulers who are coming to nothing.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – Satan is the god of this age whose kingdom blinds the minds of unbelievers.
- Galatians 1:4 – The present age is evil and wicked.
- Ephesians 1:20-21 – Christ reigns via his spiritual kingdom in this age.
- Ephesians 2:2 – The age of this world is dominated by transgression and sin, and the ways of the flesh.
- 1 Timothy 6:17 – The riches of this age are not the riches of the coming age for they will perish.
- Titus 2:12 – Believers are to live godly lives in this present age waiting for the completion of redemption.

NB. For the NT apostles writing in the 1st century, prior to Jerusalem’s destruction in 70 AD, ‘this present age of the world’ was intimately related to Old Covenant Judaism, which was soon to become obsolete (cf. Hebrews 8:13; 9:10, 15, 26-28). In that sense, they were expecting the end of the age to occur in their own generation with the destruction of the temple (Matthew 24:1-3).

Subsequently, they entered the fullness of the coming age at the coming of the Son of Man in 70 AD. Nevertheless, the age of this world continues on, running parallel to the eternal reality of the kingdom of God and of Christ.

That Age/The Impending Age – Things Eternal

- Matthew 12:32 – There is no forgiveness for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in the coming age. It is therefore an eternal sin (Mark 3:29).
- Matthew 13:40 – The judgment of the eternal fire of Gehenna belongs to the coming age.
- Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30 – The reward of eternal life belongs to the coming age.
- Luke 20:35 – Marriage and procreation do not belong to the coming age of resurrection and immortality. The children of God will be like the angels.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God in the coming age.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50 – Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God in the eternal age.
- Galatians 5:21 – Those who live according to the flesh shall not inherit the kingdom of God in the eternal age.
- Ephesians 1:21 – Christ reigns in the eternal age.
- Ephesians 5:5 – No immoral person will inherit the kingdom of God in the eternal age.
- 1 Timothy 6:19 – The eternal age has to do with true life, eternal life
- 2 Timothy 4:18 – The eternal age has to do with the heavenly kingdom of God.

NB. For the NT apostles and the early church, the eternal age of the kingdom was about to occur at the coming of the Son of Man; that is, the future age was impending or about to be coming; it was near and Christ was coming soon. Hence, since the Day of the Lord in 70 AD, these two ages run parallel to one another in two contrasting realities of temporal and eternal.

For all the generations of believers since, the principles of these contrasting ages remain the same; that is, the realities of the eternal age are entered upon death from this present age of the world. The same principle will also apply at the future consummation of world history (Revelation 20:9-10).

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, **since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NIV)

The list above is adapted from *A Case For Amillennialism* by Dr Kim Riddlebarger, (Baker Books, 2003) pp. 89-91.

For further details that illustrate the above, see my chart *Two Ages/Two Realities*.

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