

AGES TO COME

A sentence is one continuous thought. Notice that our lesson text is the last verse of the one sentence, (Eph.2:1-7).

Our theme of this series is obvious, Saved by Grace (Eph.2:5, 8-9) [two of the three sentences]. In order to emphasize our theme, we have broken it down into three sections.

- (Eph.2:1-3) “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath,
- (Eph.2:4) but because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
- (Eph.2:5-10) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [end of 1st sentence] ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

<p>This lesson will study <u>three aspects</u> of the Ages to Come from our lesson text.</p>

1. The Greek word for “ages” is aion.

Aion can be translated in English as:

- Course (Eph.2:2; Gal.1:4; 2 Cor.4:4)
- Ages (Eph.2:7)
- Eternal (Eph.3:11, 21) [forever and ever]
- World (Heb.1:2; 11:3; Rom.12:2).

You can see that content is important to its translation. A basis meaning behind aion is “**relative time allotted to a specific thing.**” (TD of NT; vol.1, pg.197)

It involves a transition from one aion to another aion (from Eph.2:2; through Eph.2:4; to Eph.2:5-10/ 5-7).

2. In (Eph.2:5-6), we are given three Positional Truths as a result of being saved by grace.

In the Christian Way of Life (CWL), (Eph.2:7) refers to the reality of every believer being “**seated together in Him in the heavenly places, [in order that] in the ages (en tois aion/ plural) to come (eperchomai/ p.m.ptc. lplm) [to come upon us] He might show (endeiknumi/ a.m. subj 3ps) the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.**”

No matter what the Devil throws at us, we are always seated IN Christ with His Divine Authority over the Angelic Conflict (AC) and **have this PROMISE**, “in the ages (in those relative times that) come upon us, He (God) might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus (Positional Truth).”

(Heb.12:1-3) “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, **let us** also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin that so easily entangles us, **and let us** run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, **who** for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you** may not grow weary and lose heart.” (2 Cor.12:7-10)

3. With ‘aion’, the end of one present age is the beginning of another future age based on the eternal Plan of God.

(Heb.11:3) “By faith we understand that **the worlds (ages/ tous aion/ aplm)** were prepared by the word (rhema) of God [Eternal Life Conference] (1Pet.1:19-20), so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Heb.1:1-3; 2 Cor.5:7)

(Col.1:26-28) “That is, **the mystery** which has been **hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested** to His saints, in whom God willed to make known what is the riches of His glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory. And proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present **every man complete in Christ.**” (Eph.3:8-10; 4:13)

(Heb.9:26-28) “Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now once at the consummation of the ages** He has been **manifested** to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (1 Cor.10:11)

(Matt.28:20b) “And lo, I am (eimi/ p.a.ind.1ps) with you always (all the days), **even to (until) the end (completion) of the age (tou aion).**”

(1 Thess.4:17b) “And thus [every Living Church Age Believers (CAB) at the Rapture] (WE) shall always be with the Lord.”