

CONSUMMATION OF THE AGES

We have divided Heb.9:23-28 into three Greek sentences for study:

- (Heb.9:23) “Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these”.
- (Heb.9:24-26) “For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. 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”.
- (Heb.9:27-28) And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference* to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

In our last lesson we studied the Necessity of Shadow Christology from Heb.9:23.

In this lesson we will study four aspects of Consummation of the Ages from Heb.9:24-26.

1. The writer assumes that the readers were familiar with the doctrinal term, “the consummation of the ages”.

It was used along with another familiar term in Heb.9:26, “foundation of the world.” These two phrases emphasize the Beginning and the End with historical Coming of Jesus Christ.

Pay attention to these words (Now), (Often) and (Once and after) in our lesson text. They describe the plan of God working in the world on behalf of Jesus Christ.

- (Heb.9:24- 25) “**Now to appear** in the presence of God for us.” “Nor was it that He should offer Himself **often.**” (Earth to Heaven)
- (Heb.9:26) “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.**” (Earth)
- (Heb.9:27-28) “**Appointed for men to die once and after this** comes judgment.” “**So Christ also**, having been offered to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin,** to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heaven to Earth)

2. “Consummation of the Ages” is a messianic term used for the suffering of Christ for the sins of the world at a specific time in human history set by God (Heb.9:26).

Daniel’s Prophecy: “**Then after** the 62 weeks **the Messiah will be cut off** and have nothing, and the people of the prince (**Satan/ antichrist**) **who is to come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolation are determined.” (Daniel.9:26) [Tribulation]

There are other terms used like consummation of ages and foundation of earth:

- “Looking for consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25-35) [Simeon]”
- “Looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38) [Anna]
- “Zacharias said it in his messianic hymn, Benedictus (Luke 1:67-79/ 68-69, 76-77).

3. **The Greek word for consummation is sunteleia. It is a compound word (sun) [together] and (teleia) [to end, complete, fulfill, or finish] thus it is understood to mean “to bring together to an end”.**

This same Greek word was used in (Heb.8:8) with the exchange of the Old Covenant with the New Covenant.

“For finding fault with them, He says,

- (Jer.31:31-34) **“Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect (sunteleo/ f.a.ind.3ps) [To complete or consummate a new covenant] with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**
- (Heb.8:13) **“When He said, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear”.**

Vines comments on consummation of the ages, “It was the heading up of all the various epochs appointed by divine counsels that Christ was manifested (i.e., in His Incarnation) ‘to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Pg.199/ Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

“I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the last, the Beginning and the End.” (Rev.21:6; 22:13)

4. **The term, “fullness of time”, is also connected to the consummation of the ages.**

(Gal.4:4-5) **“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born under the Law, **in order that** He might redeem those who were under the Law, **that** we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Heb.1:1-3)**

(Rom.5:6) **“For while we were still helpless, **at the right time Christ died** for the **ungodly**.”**

(Rom.5:8-9) **“But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet **sinner**s, Christ died for us. **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from** the wrath of God through Him.”**

- **Note “much more”** in (Rom.5:10, 15, 17, and 20) Would make a good study

HOME STUDY: As students of the word of God, it is important to note the difference between ages (plural) and age (singular).

For example, our lesson was about the Consummation of the **Ages**. The Coming of Christ brought all the biblical epochs into a state of completion such as **Gentile Age, Jewish Age, Church Age** (Rapture and Tribulation period of Jewish age), then The Second Coming and the **Millennial Age**.

Pay attention to **the AGE** (singular) of each of the following.

- (Matt.13:36-43)
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- (Matt.13: 47-52)
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- (Matt.28:16-20)
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