

In the Ages to Come - Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2016 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : August 28, 2016

Last Updated : August 28, 2016

Ages Old Question: At What Point Are We In Bible Prophecy?, My Personal Quest For Scriptural Truth, Birth Of The Bill's Bible Basics Online Ministry, Available BBB Study Resources, Knowledge Puffeth Up: Error Of Assuming We Understand A Lot, Power And Deception Of The Futurist Theological Perspective, Towing The Futurist Party Line, Blinded By Futurism, Being Ostracized And Persecuted Because Of The Truth, I Re-examine My Beliefs, Fulfilled Prophecies Belonging To Distant Past, Ubiquity Of Futurist Doctrinal Propaganda, Depth Of Futurist Deception, My Choice: Embrace Scriptural Truth Or Else Stay Deceived, Not In The Chronological Prophetic Place That Many Christians Think We Are, My Longtime Dedication To KJV Bible, KJV Bible Is Inspired But Not Inerrant, Basic Premise Of The Futurist Theology, Why Futurists Believe As They Do, Olivet Discourse And End Of The World, Greek "Kosmos" Translated As "World", Greek "Aion" Primarily Means A Period Of Time An Age Or Eternity, Why KJV Translators May Have Translated "Aion" As "World" In Certain Verses, Pure Translation vs Doctrinal Biases, NCRAP: New Corrupted Revised And Perverted Versions, My Personal Bible Research Approach, Temptation To Manipulate Meaning Of The Bible, Brittle Old Bottles Set In Doctrinal Ways, Be Persuaded In Your Own Mind, Avoid Doctrinal Debates

Over the years, in fact, over many decades and centuries, Christians of every persuasion around the world have found themselves searching and pondering the Holy Scriptures, and wondering about exactly where we are, insofar as God's great plan of Redemption and Salvation is concerned. To be even more specific, many of us have asked ourselves exactly where we currently stand when it comes to the profound subject of Bible prophecy. Like many of you, ever since I first became

aware of the importance and significance of Bible prophecy about forty-five years ago, I too have often asked myself these very same questions.

Furthermore, due to my thirst and hunger to know the truth, since that time so many years ago, I have dedicated many countless hours to reading and examining God's Word, trying to make sense of it all, and then sharing my thoughts with anyone who has an interest. While I had engaged in my share of one-on-one personal witnessing endeavors in years prior, as I explain in the article called "The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?", it was during 1994, that as a member of the FidoNet BBSing network, and a moderator of my own FidoNet echo, I first began to publish my personal ideas regarding the Bible online. This was on "The Treasure Trove" BBS, later to be known as the "Armageddon BBS"; a name which my BBS still retains to this current day.

A few years later, in 1997, my BBSing endeavors evolved into the very first version of my website. This was followed a year later in 1998 with setting up my first Hotline server, which was likewise dedicated to sharing God's Word with the world. As some of my readers will know, for about sixteen years, my website was known as Endtime Prophecy Net, due to the fact that while I delve into many different topics that are of interest to modern Christians, understanding Bible prophecy has always been a central theme in many articles.

However, just recently, the ministry went through another change when I retired both the Endtime Prophecy Net website name, as well as the domain name endtimeprophecy.net. The reasons for these changes are fully explained in some of my more recent articles, such as "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?". The website is now known as Bill's Bible Basics, and can be found at www.billkochman.com. For those of you who are old school, or who are simply curious, you can still access both my BBS and my Hotline server at static IP address 202.128.4.177. This address may possibly change at some point in the future, if my ISP makes any changes to their servers.

At any rate, since I first began writing online twenty-two

years ago, I have authored several hundred articles, many of which are actually multi-part series. In more recent years, I have likewise expanded this ministry to include thousands of Bible-based graphics which I create on my computer, several hundred twelve-line poems, and over five hundred and sixty topical KJV Bible verse lists, which I first began compiling fourteen years ago. All of these study materials are freely available to you on my website, on my BBB Blog, and on the seven social networks in which I currently participate. So when my health and other issues haven't gotten in the way, I have kept myself rather busy serving the Lord, and sharing His Word with the online world.

As I said, I have dedicated many, many hours to studying the Scriptures during this time period. As a result, and as I point out in "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", and in "Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?", for the longest time, in fact, for over forty years, I was under the impression that I had a pretty good understanding regarding Bible prophecy. Obviously, I did not understand every single detail -- and I still refuse to make such a boastful claim -- but generally speaking, I assumed that I was on the right track. Perhaps it would have helped if I had been made aware of the following verses earlier on in my life:

"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."

1 Corinthians 8:1-2, KJV

But then, several years ago, certain New Testament verses began to yell at me for an explanation which I simply did not have at that time. You see, as I more fully explain in the aforementioned articles, just like many of you who are currently reading this series, I had fallen under the deception of the Futurist theological perspective, or point of view, at a rather young age. As continues to occur today, back then, Jesus Christ's imminent Return -- and the other prophetic events which are usually associated with it -- was all many Christians talked about. The idea that there might be alternative points of view to the "Jesus is coming at any

moment" scenario was pretty much unheard of. Again, just as occurs today. That is just how powerful and influential that interpretive method was, and remains to this day as well.

Thus, being a young Christian, and because I was not very well grounded in God's Word, I simply accepted what I heard from others, and I towed the party doctrinal line just like everyone else. In other words, I faithfully promoted the Futurist point of view, which stresses that we are currently living in the Endtime, and Jesus Christ is going to return at any moment now. I mean, if everyone else was preaching it, surely it couldn't be wrong, could it? Yes, my friends, I am purposely being a bit facetious and sarcastic here.

But you see, the thing is, because like any good Futurist, I looked at so many important prophecies as events which had not yet been fulfilled, and which would occur at some point in the near future, it blinded me to the actual truth of the Scriptures. That is why I struggled with certain verses which did not make much sense to me. In some cases, I just chose to ignore what some verses seemed to be implying, because they made me uncomfortable. What I really should have done a lot sooner, was to question my beliefs, and try to understand why those particular verses conflicted with what I believed.

Furthermore, as some of you probably already know, to believe in a doctrine which is not embraced by mainstream Christianity is really going against the grain, and it will upset some people. Doing so can cause a person problems of one sort or another, such as being ostracized, being called a false prophet, or worse. For the First Century Christians who embraced Jesus and His doctrines, it eventually meant persecution -- even by their own families -- and sometimes even death. Of course, suffering for His Name really should not bother us too much, if we are convinced in our hearts that we are being guided by God's Spirit and His Word. Jesus Himself spoke on this topic, as did the Apostle Paul, as we see by the following sample verses:

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one

another, and shall hate one another."

Matthew 24:9-10, KJV

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death."

Mark 13:12, KJV

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 15:18-21, KJV

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

2 Timothy 2:12, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

But regarding my personal situation, all I can say is God is

faithful. Thus, as I explain in the aforementioned articles, in more recent years, I began to re-exam the Scriptures, I put my beliefs under the microscope, and I strived to better understand some of those more difficult verses. If you have been reading some of my more recently-released articles and series, you will already know that I arrived at the startling conclusion that quite a few of the ancient prophecies which I had for decades viewed as being unfulfilled, were in reality fulfilled prophecies which pertained to events of the distant past. To make matters worse, these were things which I had been erroneously teaching in my articles for almost two decades.

Furthermore, they are the exact same misguided things which many Bible teachers and preachers continue to teach today as well in their books, from their pulpits, on their websites, on social networks, on YouTube, etc. At the same time, these misguided Futurist beliefs are likewise promoted in a number of commercial movies, in home videos, and in other forms of media. That is why it is so difficult for people like me to fight against and expose this mass deception. Many Christians simply do not want to hear the truth. The "Jesus is coming at any moment" doctrine has been so drilled into their heads for so many years, that to consider any other possibility, or any other interpretation of the Scriptures, is impossible for so many of them. In fact, they view it as heresy, and a doctrine of devils, if one even suggests that maybe Jesus is not going to return soon. That is how deep the deception runs.

But personally, when I came to realize that I was in error, I was faced with an important choice. I could either do as so many Christians continue to do, and allow myself to keep on believing in the deception, or else I could discover and embrace the Scriptural truth, and begin the very long, hard, laborious task of updating many of my articles, so that they reflect my current understanding regarding Bible prophecy. I obviously chose to do the latter, because I fear God, and I have a grave responsibility to teach His Word properly. If you are interested in a more detailed, and Scripture-based, explanation regarding how I came to realize that I had been wrong about so many of my views concerning Bible prophecy, then I again encourage you to read the aforementioned two

articles. They may be an eye-opener for you as well.

One of the results of finally having my eyes opened to the true meaning of certain Scriptures, is that I came to realize that, contrary to what so many Christians believe today, we are not at the chronological place in Bible prophecy where so many of my Christian brethren continue to think we are, and where I too thought we were as well, for so many years. In other words, if key portions of the Book of Daniel, the Book of Revelation, and Jesus' own prophecies regarding the future are indeed now past events from our perspective, then where does that leave us today? As I asked at the beginning of this series, where are we in regards to God's long-term plans and timeline?

If I am correct with all of the assertions I have made in my recent new articles and series, and article updates, then I have to conclude that we are a lot further along than most people realize. I won't pretend to know exactly where, and I don't have an answer which will satisfy everyone's personal expectations either. However, while conducting research for my series "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", I did come across a verse which offers an answer which I find quite pleasant, comforting, and nice. Quite simply, I just really like the way in which the Apostle Paul states it. To understand what Paul wrote -- I will be sharing it with you in a moment -- I need to share with you a few other things first.

As I point out in the series entitled "Is the KJV Bible the Inerrant Word of God?", as well as in "In Defense of the KJV Bible", for almost forty-five years now I have used the King James Version of the Bible as my Bible of choice. The reason for this is that I believe that it is an inspired version of God's Word. It is also very beautifully written. However, at the same time, contrary to the position that is embraced by staunch KJV Bible supporters, I do not believe that the KJV Bible is without error; that is, it is not inerrant. Whether it was due to unintentional human error, ignorance to the proper meanings of certain words, or maybe even intentional manipulation of certain words due to personal religious or political biases, I am convinced that there are some words

which were not properly translated into English by the KJV translators. We will be discussing two of these words in a minute.

Now, in case the previous paragraphs have not made it clear to you yet, without going into an extended and complicated explanation, the basic premise of the Futurist theological perspective is that certain events which are described in Bible prophecy have not been fulfilled yet, but they will be fulfilled sometime in the near future, culminating with the Return -- or Second Coming -- of Jesus Christ. As I already said, this is the very same position that I embraced for a major portion of my life, and which until very recently, I have heavily promoted in many of my articles, because I was introduced to and exposed to it when I was still young in the faith a long time ago. I was young, naive, idealistic, and very gullible, to say the least.

Some of the main reasons why Futurists are convinced that Jesus has not returned yet, are because they do not see the new heavens or the New Earth, or a glistening Heavenly City called New Jerusalem sitting on the New Earth. Furthermore, they do not see everlasting righteousness, or Jesus reigning on the Earth. In addition, they have not witnessed the rise of the Beast and the False Prophet, or seen a third Temple raised in Jerusalem. Neither have they seen the Antichrist sign a Holy Covenant, and then later profane the Temple, or heard any news regarding two Sackcloth Witnesses. The Battle of Armageddon likewise appears to be nowhere in sight; nor does the destruction of Babylon the Great by the Beast and the Ten Horns. All of these points are in fact key tenets of Futurist theology. Thus, they conclude that not only has the Lord not returned yet, but none of the prophecies concerning these events have been fulfilled yet either. As I said, I fully understand why they believe as they do, because I was a Futurist for over four decades of my life as well.

But another big reason why some Futurists believe as they do is because they have not witnessed the end of the world yet. But exactly why are they expecting this to begin with? Well, because of verses such as the following one which is found in the Gospel of Matthew. This is in fact part of what has been

called the Olivet Discourse, being as Jesus gave this sermon while He sat on the Mount of Olives with His followers. It has companion chapters in Mark 13 and Luke 21:

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Matthew 24:3, KJV

Based on the aforementioned points, we might be led to the conclusion that the Futurists are right, and that they have a strong case for believing as they do. After all, it does seem that the Disciples were making a connection between the Lord's Return and the end of the world. But what if I told you that they never really asked Jesus when the world would end? What if they asked Him something different which was actually lost in the translation? If Jesus' followers didn't ask Him when the end of the world would come, then what did they really ask Him? To discover the correct answer to our question, we need to examine two Greek words that are used in the New Testament. So let us begin.

According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the word "world" is translated from the Greek word "kosmos" one hundred and eighty-six times in the New Testament. It refers not only to the Earth itself, but also to the inhabitants of the Earth, and to the governments of the world. Furthermore, it can also sometimes refer to the actual Universe itself. It is easy to recognize that it is also from this same Greek word that we derive our English words cosmos, cosmopolitan, cosmology and similar words. This word "kosmos" is used in such verses as the following:

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

John 1:10, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;"

Matthew 4:8, KJV

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

Matthew 5:14, KJV

"The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;"

Matthew 13:38, KJV

"Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."

Matthew 26:13, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Mark 8:36, KJV

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world . . ."

Hebrews 9:26, KJV

Taking into consideration the previous verses, there should be no doubt in your mind what the Greek word "kosmos" means. However, please notice that I did not include Matthew 24:3 in that group of verses, even though it includes the phrase "end of the world" in it. As you will see momentarily, there is a very good reason why I have not included it there.

The second Greek word that we are going to examine is the word "aion". According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the primary meaning of this word is a period of time, or an

age. It can also refer to perpetuity of time and eternity. In all cases, "aion" primarily concerns units of time. In fact, as you may have already figured out, it is from this Greek word that we likewise derive our English word "eon". We all know what an eon is. It is an extremely long period of time. In the fields of astronomy and geology, it in fact represents one billion years. Yes, I understand that some of you will find exception to that statement, but I am simply informing you what the word "eon" signifies to geologists and astronomers.

Now, if you doubt what I am saying here, you can go to Google Translate right now, select Greek on the left side, type in the word "aion", and then see what appears on the right side in English. At any rate, we find the Greek word "aion" properly translated as "ages" in the following two verses:

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."
Ephesians 2:7, KJV

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:"
Colossians 1:26, KJV

But now we run into something rather strange. While the word "aion" primarily refers to a period of time or an age, in all of the verses below, the KJV translators chose to translate it into English as "world", instead of as "age". Consider for yourself:

"The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels . . . So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,"
Matthew 13:39, 49, KJV

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Matthew 28:20, KJV

". . . world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:21, KJV

So the question with which we need to concern ourselves is this: If the word "aion" means an age or a period of time, then why did the English translators of the King James Bible choose to contradict the actual meaning of this Greek word, and translate it as "world" in the previous verses, while they chose to translate it properly as "ages" in the two verses I shared with you before them? As I mentioned to you earlier, I have suspected for some time now that the men who translated the 1611 King James Version of the Bible, may have purposely translated a number of verses in such a way, so that those verses would both agree with their personal theology, as well as with the doctrines of the Church of England. While KJV purists don't like to hear such talk due to their staunch belief that the KJV Bible is inerrant, I have just provided you with some solid, verifiable proof that it is indeed not inerrant. It does contain a number of translational errors.

You see, I suspect that in their particular way of thinking, translating the word "aion" in the previous four verses in any other way than as "world" would not have made very much sense to them, due to their doctrinal background. In other words, in certain places, some Greek words were translated into English, only after they had passed through a kind of built-in theological filter in their minds. This would then result in a translation that agreed with, and conformed to, what the translators -- and likewise the Church of England -- embraced as doctrinal truth.

Because of this, I believe that to some undetermined degree, the purity of their translation of both the Hebrew and Greek texts into our English language was hampered and limited by, and perhaps even lost due to, their doctrinal biases. Again, the KJV purists will no doubt not agree with me regarding this point, and may even condemn me for taking this stance. Nevertheless, that is the way I view this situation, after reading and studying the KJV Bible for forty-five years now.

In regards to the particular verses we are discussing, if the KJV translators believed that Jesus was going to return at the end of the world, then regardless of what the original Greek text may say, I think they may have felt compelled to translate the text as "end of the world", because that is the only way in which they could understand the verse themselves. As I said, doctrinal blinders or filters may have prevented any other kind of translation for them.

Sadly, in my view, this applies to modern Bible translations even more so. Why else would there be literally hundreds of different Bible versions on the market today? While it has a lot to do with money and the profit margin, it also has a lot to do with the fact that Bible publishers like to think that they have a newer and much better translation, even if that translation does remove entire verses from the Scriptures, or relegates them to some obscure footnote which few people will ever take the time to read. If you have read my series "In Defense of the KJV Bible", then you may recall that while the big Bible publishers like to refer to their doses of devilish doctrine as the NIV, the NKJV, the NASV, the Message, or as something else, I prefer to classify them all in one category which I refer to as NCRAP; that is, the New Corrupted Revised And Perverted versions, because that is precisely what they are, in my view.

These classy, modern versions of the Bible are like the neat, pre-fabricated meals which are conveniently served at so many fast-food restaurants these days. Such meals may look really nice and smell nice, but they're loaded with growth hormones, grease, cholesterol, sugar and other harmful substances. In these modern Bibles, everything is likewise already prepared for the reader, with personal commentaries in the margins, so that nothing is left to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The unsuspecting reader is told exactly how he should believe as he reads, and different doctrines are pushed in his face.

As I have already stated, in my case, I prefer to use the old KJV Bible which does not have all of the marginal notes and footnotes which attempt to mold my beliefs for me. If I have a question or a doubt, I will judiciously compare Scripture with Scripture, in order to arrive at my conclusion. If I am

still not certain, I will refer to just a few extra-Biblical sources -- such as Strong's Numbers and the Hebrew and Greek lexicons, for example -- in order to discover the meanings of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words which are used in the original text. I may likewise refer to historical documents, Bible dictionaries, and a few online tools as well.

However, let me point out again that we must still be very careful, because a lot of the Bible study tools which are available now are quite doctrinal in nature, and promote the author's or publisher's own views and opinions regarding the meaning of certain words and Bible passages. Sometimes it is okay to read what they have to say, but in the end, we still have to be led by God's Spirit in our understanding.

While I have exposed the manipulation of Bible text by some of the big publishers, it is also important that I point out to you that those of us who read and study God's Word, and in particular, those of us who teach the Bible to other people, face this very same kind of temptation to manipulate, twist and distort the meaning of the Bible, so that it conforms to what we want to believe, and seems to support our doctrines.

Let's be perfectly honest with ourselves. The simple truth of the matter is that most longtime Christians already have what we can call a set of established beliefs. If one happens to be a church-going Christian, this is even more true, because you cannot survive for long in a particular Christian social club -- that is, in a church or denomination -- unless you pledge loyalty to their particular beliefs at some point. You either tow their doctrinal line, or you just keep quiet, or else you are eventually forced out. I discuss this very same issue to some degree in articles such as "Are You Just a Baby Huey?" and "Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?".

Sadly, today, it seems that some Christians are so deeply entrenched in their views, that challenging their beliefs by asking the simplest of questions, is viewed as declaring open warfare on them. If you doubt that this is so, then you must be hiding under a bushel somewhere, because the Internet is just filled with heated doctrinal debates occurring between different Christian factions and individuals. It is for this

very reason that I wrote such articles as "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word" and "Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?".

While the Apostle Paul did in fact write in Romans 14:5 that each individual should be fully persuaded in their own mind, what he said should not be interpreted as a license to go out and attack other Christians who disagree with you. While I was to some degree more argumentative in my younger days as a Christian, as I grew older and more mature in the faith, I came to realize that for me personally, the best approach is to use my articles as a vehicle to share my beliefs with the world. As you know, I do my very best to support my personal beliefs with the Scriptures, but then I leave it up to the reader to decide for themselves. After all, you cannot force anyone to believe anything against their will.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>

In the Ages to Come - Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2016 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : August 28, 2016

Last Updated : August 28, 2016

The Temptation To Manipulate God's Word, Bible Novices In Our Understanding, A Serious Responsibility To Teach God's Word, Continuity And Unity Of The Bible, Ask God For The Wisdom And Understanding Of The Spirit, Question The Actual Translation If Something Doesn't Seem Right, Matthew 28:20 Revisited, End Of The World Or End Of The Age?, The Prophet Daniel's Seventy Weeks Prophecy And The Prophetic Age, Physical Destruction Of

The Earth, World Without End Or Age Without End And Eternity, Jesus Appeared At The End Of The Age And Not The End Of The World To Sacrifice Himself For Sin, The Apostles Asked Jesus About The End Of The Age In Matthew 24, A Soul Harvest At The End Of The Age, Manipulation By KJV Translators, Pervasive And Powerful Futurist Doctrine, The Scriptural Truth Has Been Twisted By Futurism, The Difficulty Of Forsaking Futurism, My Current Perspective, Apostle Paul And "In The Ages To Come", God's Grace And Long-Range Salvation Plan Extends Over Ages, The First Resurrection, Apostle Paul's Thessalonians Message, Ongoing Soul Harvests Down Through The Ages, Prophetic Ages

As I mentioned at the conclusion of part one, Bible readers and Bible teachers today face the same temptation to twist God's Word so that it conforms to our personal belief system. This temptation to distort the true meaning of God's Word is nothing new. In fact, as I discuss more at length in a few other articles, it has been going on since the First Century. While sometimes it occurs intentionally in order to promote a particular doctrinal stance, at other times, it can simply be the result of a person being a babe in Christ, and a novice when it comes to understanding the Scriptures. The Apostle Peter addressed just such an issue when he briefly mentioned how some people were wresting -- or distorting -- the meaning of some of the Apostle Paul's Epistles, in the following two verses:

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

So as I said, teaching God's Word to others is very serious business which should not be taken lightly by anyone. We need to teach it exactly as the original authors meant for it to be understood, and not try to manipulate it in any way, so

that it conforms to what we want to believe, or so that it appears to support what we believe, to others, when perhaps it really does no such thing. As the Apostle James warns us in his Epistle:

"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

James 3:1, KJV

Please note that while the word "masters" is used in that verse, it is translated from the Greek word "didaskalos" which is also translated as "teachers" in the New Testament.

At any rate, if there is one thing of which I am convinced concerning the Bible, it is that there is continuity and unity throughout God's Word. As such, we cannot understand a certain word or phrase one way, and then at a later point change its meaning -- or translate it differently -- simply because we don't like what a verse is saying. If a passage we read does not agree with our personal theology, then the problem is not with God's Word, it is obviously with our theology. If such be the case, then we need to change it by prayerfully delving even deeper into the Scriptures, and by asking God to give us the wisdom and understanding of His Spirit. Consider the following verses:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Romans 8:14, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Psalms 119:18, KJV

Furthermore, if something does not seem right to you, so much so that it really bothers you, then do not be afraid to question the actual translation itself. Do not forget that the men who translated the Scriptures into English for us, were humans who were prone to error just as much as you and I. They were not gods, and they should not be placed on some kind of pedestal as KJV purists like to do. Use Hebrew and Greek lexicons, and determine for yourself if the way they translated a particular word holds up to scrutiny.

Returning to our main discussion regarding the Greek words "kosmos" and "aion", as I said earlier, making the decision to translate "aion" as "world", instead of as "age", could have been unintentional human error, or it could have been done on purpose, in order to support the doctrinal beliefs of the translators and the Church of England. Whatever the case may be, by simply examining some of those verses more closely, we can see that there are problems with them when the word "world" is used. Allow me to demonstrate my point. Let us begin with the verse from the Gospel of Matthew:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Matthew 28:20, KJV

Now, lest you misunderstand what Jesus is saying there, He is not referring to being with the Apostles to the physical

ends, or extremes, of the Earth. The word "end" is derived from the Greek word "sunteleia". This word means completion, end or consummation. As you can hopefully see, the Lord is talking about something much more than merely accompanying them as they travel around Israel, the Middle East, southern Europe, etc. Common sense dictates that the Apostles did not live to the end -- or consummation -- of the world. Thus, it does not make any sense that Jesus would say this to them. On the other hand, if we properly translate the Greek "aion" as "age", just like in the previous two verses that I shared with you, then the verse makes perfect sense, because Jesus did accompany them in Spirit to the end -- or consummation -- of that particular age. Can you see how "age" works while "world" does not? Consider the verse again with the word "age" injected into it:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the [age]. Amen."

Matthew 28:20, KJV

Exactly which age is Jesus talking about in the above verse? As I amply explain in "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?" and in related articles, I am convinced that it's the Prophetic Age which was prophesied by the Prophet Daniel in his profound "Seventy Weeks" prophecy. This Prophetic Age consisted of seventy seven-year periods -- or 70×7 -- and lasted for a total of 490 years. The age culminated with the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple compound in 70 AD by the hand of Roman general Titus and his legions, and the promised Return of Jesus Christ around the same time. If you find yourself shocked by this news, then please read the aforementioned series.

Let's take a closer look now at the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. In part one, I shared with you the last half of Ephesians 3:21, as we see here:

". . . world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:21, KJV

If you are decently familiar with Christ's teachings and the

remainder of the New Testament, then the previous verse may seem rather strange to you. After all, why would the Apostle Paul write that, when we know that the Scriptures inform us that the world -- that is, the physical Earth -- does in fact come to an end? In his own Epistle, the Apostle Peter plainly tells us that the Earth burns up. Furthermore, the Book of Revelation informs us that the Earth eventually flees away. Consider the following verses:

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"
2 Peter 3:10-12, KJV

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."
Revelation 20:11, KJV

I discuss this same subject in "Destruction of Planet Earth: The Wrath of God Revealed". Once again, if we more correctly translate "aion" as "age" in Ephesians 3:21, as it should be, instead of as "world", the verse makes a lot more sense, and its true meaning becomes clear; particularly when we look at the entire verse, as we see here:

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, [age] without end. Amen."
Ephesians 3:21, KJV

As you can plainly see, the Apostle Paul is clearly talking about the passage of time in this verse. In fact, Paul isn't just talking about many ages, he is talking about all ages. So what does he mean by "age without end"? In my mind, that phrase can only be referring to one thing. Paul seems to be talking about eternity. This becomes even more evident when

we look at the previous verses as well, and realize that he is talking about the eternal nature of God the Father, and the glory which is given unto Him, by the Church, which He Himself has established through Jesus Christ, as we see here:

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, [age] without end.

Amen."

Ephesians 3:14-21, KJV

The problem with the word "aion" being incorrectly translated as "world" -- instead of as "age" -- becomes more apparent in the following verse, part of which I shared with you in part one of this series:

". . . but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9:26, KJV

The obvious question here is why the Apostle Paul would use the word "now" -- obviously meaning the First Century -- then refer to it as being "the end of the world", and then state that Jesus appeared in order to sacrifice Himself, and thus put away sin. Unless I am just imagining things, both we and the physical Earth are still here; and we all know full well that Jesus sacrificed Himself about two millennia ago, which clearly was not the end of the world. As you can see, there is something seriously wrong with the translation; and the KJV translators actually forced Paul to say something which he definitely not say. However, if we properly translate the Greek word "aion" as "age", the verse makes perfect sense,

as we see here:

". . . but now once in the end of the [age] hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9:26, KJV

Now here is the verse in its entirety. Please note that the first instance of the word "world" is properly translated from the Greek word "kosmos", as it should be. It is only the second instance of the word "world" which is wrong; because "kosmos" isn't used there. The word "aion" is:

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the [age] hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Now that verse is properly translated; because Jesus did in fact appear, and sacrifice Himself for the sins of the whole world, towards the end of that Prophetic Age of four hundred and ninety years, as the Prophet Daniel had written so many centuries earlier.

At this point in our discussion, we have now looked at a few verses where the Greek word "aion" was translated as "world", instead of as "age", as it should have been. You may recall that in part one, I told you that there was a specific reason why I had not included Matthew 24:3 in the group of verses where we were discussing the words "kosmos" and "world". As you may have figured out by now, that reason is because in that verse -- as well as in Matthew 13:39 and 13:49 -- the word "world" is not translated from "kosmos". It is in fact translated from "aion". Here again is how the translators of the KJV Bible chose to translate those three verses:

"The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels . . . So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,"

Matthew 13:39, 49, KJV

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things

be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Matthew 24:3, KJV

In contrast, if we properly translate "aion" as "age" so that we maintain the continuity of the Scriptures, and agree with the other verses where "aion" is correctly translated as "age" or as "ages", those same three verses read as follows:

"The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the [age]; and the reapers are the angels . . . So shall it be at the end of the [age]: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,"

Matthew 13:39, 49, KJV

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the [age]?"

Matthew 24:3, KJV

By translating "aion" in this fashion, as it should be, I am quite convinced that what the Apostles really asked Jesus was not what signs would precede the destruction of the Temple, His Return, and the end of the world, but rather what signs would signal the destruction of the Temple, His Return, and the end of the age; that is, their age. In my mind, it makes no sense whatsoever that the Apostles would ask Jesus about events which were supposedly two thousand years in the far distant future, as modern Futurists like to believe.

Let me ask you a simple question. Are you really concerned about events that may occur in the year 4016? Does the year 4016 even ever cross your mind? I didn't think so. You will be dead and gone in a few decades, so you probably couldn't care less about what happens two millennia from now. You are more concerned with events which are happening right now, and perhaps in the coming decades, correct?

In the very same manner, when the Lord told the Apostles that Herod's Temple would be utterly destroyed, they were obviously most concerned about their own immediate future,

and not events which would occur long after they were dead. Thus, it makes perfect sense that they would ask "and of the end of the age", and not "and of the end of the world". Of course, in a real sense, what actually happened about four decades later was no doubt viewed by the Jews as the end of the world -- that is, their world -- but that is not what the Apostles asked Jesus according to the word "aion" which is used in that verse.

Now we come to the gist of the matter. This is the part that will be extremely difficult for a lot of my Futurist-leaning Christian friends and brethren to accept, because it directly contradicts what they have for so long believed, and want to continue to believe, regarding Jesus Christ's Return.

What this all means is that everything which Jesus said in response to the Disciples' questions in Matthew chapter 24, as well as in the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, and also in the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, concerned the end of the age, and not the actual end of the world as we know it. Everything.

For example, when those verses in Matthew chapter thirteen talk about a harvest occurring "at the end of the [age]", I am convinced that they are talking about this one:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 24:29-31, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost

part of heaven."

Mark 13:26-27, KJV

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."

Revelation 14:14-16, KJV

I suspect that it may be this issue regarding the end of the age, as opposed to the actual end of the world, where the KJV Bible translators ran into trouble. Perhaps they weren't able to accept the fact that, in reality, Jesus promised to return at the end of that age around 70 to 73 AD. Thus, they manipulated their translation, and they covered up the truth by using "world" in some verses instead of the word "age" as they should have done. As a result, we now have millions of Christians who have been deceived in our present time, who have been fooled into believing in the "Jesus is coming at any moment" doctrine, also known as Futurism.

As I clearly pointed out to you in part one of this series, the Futurist theological perspective is very pervasive. It is everywhere. It is a very strong and very powerful delusion. Furthermore, the people who promote this point of view can be very persuasive. I fell for it for many years as well. But I woke up to the truth of the Scriptures. Will you?

To reiterate, if my current understanding is indeed correct, this means that Futurists have got it all wrong, and their perspective has been twisted one hundred and eighty degrees from the Scriptural truth by the people who very adamantly promote the Futurist point of view. In short, if in reality Jesus actually returned at the end of the Prophetic Age that concluded around 70-73 AD, according to the "Seventy Weeks" prophecy of Daniel, then this means that all of the Bible verses the Futurists claim describe events which are yet to occur at some point in our own future -- including Christ's

Return -- really refer to events which occurred very long ago during the latter half of the First Century.

As I said, a lot of sincere, Bible-believing Christians -- including some of my own online friends -- have no interest in hearing this powerful truth, because it contradicts what they have been taught and told to believe for many years. As in my case, this can mean for decades, and it is not an easy thing to just let go of. You really have to love Scriptural truth more than man-made doctrines in order to make the leap.

So how has this revelation affected my own perspective, you may be wondering. Well, I now lean towards the belief that, contrary to popular expectations, the Lord is not coming for us. Rather, I believe that we Believers will go to Him when we finally reach the end of this mortal life in the flesh. I believe that this is in fact the way it has been ever since Daniel's Prophetic Age came to its conclusion two millennia ago. I further believe that this may possibly be what Paul was talking about in part when he wrote the following:

". . . but now once in the end of the [age] hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9:26, KJV

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:7, KJV

In other words, like other informed Christians of that era, I believe that Paul came to understand that while the age which the Prophet Daniel had prophesied would soon come to an end -- that is, the 490-year period which concluded with Christ's Return -- there would still be other ages to come. I think that Paul had a firm grasp and understanding when it came to God's long-range Salvation Plan far into the future.

In other words, God demonstrated His great Love, Mercy and Grace to this sinful world, when He gave His only begotten Son to die on a Roman cross during the early part of the First Century. As I explain in other articles, with Christ's

Resurrection from the dead three days later, a new race of beings was brought into existence, of which Jesus was the very first. Some Saints -- we don't know exactly how many -- rose from the dead at the same time that Christ did, as we can see by the following verses that are found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Matthew 27:51-53, KJV

However, as we discussed earlier, it also appears that many more Saints rose from the dead -- in what may have been the First Resurrection that is described by the Apostle Paul, as well as in the Book of Revelation -- when Jesus returned to the Earth about forty years later in 70 to 73 AD. In my view, this would have been the first great harvest of souls, and may be the one that is described in Revelation 14. Of course, it could also be that the one which Matthew briefly describes was the First Resurrection. At this current time, I am not certain about this point. At any rate, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, KJV

Please carefully notice Paul's attitude and perspective as he writes those words. He is not talking about a far future event that would occur two thousand years later in our own present time. Just look at how many times he uses the word

"we". He is including himself. Paul is writing with a great deal of anticipation and expectation regarding an amazing event which would occur during his own life time, during the last half of the First Century. Also, Paul is writing to the Thessalonian brethren, and not to us. Make no mistake about this.

But you see, this was by no means the end of God's Grace. It was in fact only the beginning of it. Even though all of the events we have discussed may belong to the distant past, it seems obvious from what Paul wrote that God's Grace would be extended far into the future, "in the ages to come", even to those of us who are living today as well. This is in fact the great extent of God's Grace and Kindness; that He would even consider those of us who would not even be born for thousands of years to come. His Love, Mercy, Grace and Kindness is so exceedingly great, that we today still have opportunity to be recipients of His Redemption, Salvation and Eternal Life.

Furthermore, I lean towards the belief that the harvest of souls which took place during the late First Century may have been just the first year of harvest. If we look at this issue from a purely earthly perspective, doesn't a harvest occur every year, or at least every few years, depending on what crop has been planted, and how much it has affected the vitality of the soil?

So I tend to believe that God's great harvest of souls is an ongoing process which has continued down through the ages, however many ages have occurred since the First Century. All that we can determine from the Scriptural information that is available to us, is that God apparently does have some kind of schedule or organized plan, which He seems to have divided into different ages, during each of which He has certain goals and objectives that He wishes to accomplish.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>

In the Ages to Come - Part 3

Copyright 1994 - 2016 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : August 28, 2016

Last Updated : August 28, 2016

God's Souls Harvests, Prophetic Ages And Jewish Jubilees, God Has Not Forgotten Us, Still Winners In The End, In Faithful Service To The End, Pointless Divisive Debates Regarding Past Events, Well Done Thou Good And Faithful Servant, Wasting Time And Money On A Delusion, Don't Be Afraid To Re-examine Your Personal Beliefs, New Questions, A Lot Of Work Ahead Of Me, Closing Remarks, Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part two, whether harvesting souls is a daily event, an annual event, or a periodic event which occurs every so many years, I really don't know with absolute certainty. However, based on what the Apostle Paul wrote, as well as a number of verses which are found in the Old Testament, and the fact that Believers die every single day, I lean towards the belief that the minute we Believers die, our spirit returns to God, wherever He happens to be at this current time. Consider the following verses:

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again."

Philippians 1:21-26, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle [meaning our physical body] were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 4:18-5:8, KJV

"For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, KJV

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Ecclesiastes 12:7, KJV

Concerning "the ages to come" of which Paul speaks, if the Prophet Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" prophecy is any indication, perhaps each and every Prophetic Age amounts to a total of four hundred and ninety years. In other words, seventy times seven. This would certainly seem to agree with the Biblical pattern where the ancient Israelites were ordered to let the land rest every seven years, and were also told to observe a "jubile" -- or jubilee -- every fifty-year period. In other

words, after forty-nine years, or seven times seven. Thus, by extension, seventy times seven -- or four hundred and ninety years -- could be considered a part of this very same Biblical pattern. However, this is just personal conjecture on my part. Consider the following verses:

"And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard."

Exodus 23:10-11, KJV

"And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee, And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat. And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in

it of thy vine undressed. For it is the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession."

Leviticus 25:1-13, KJV

At the very beginning of this series I posed the question "Where do we stand insofar as Bible prophecy and God's plan of Salvation and timeline are concerned?". In answer to that question, it seems that we are "in the ages to come". I am not really certain which age we are currently in, but does it actually matter? The main thing to consider is that God has not forgotten us by any means. He loves us, He cares for us, and He still wants to save us. He wants us to join Him in His eternal Kingdom, along side Jesus Christ, all of the Heavenly Beings, the First Century Saints, and all of the other Bible-believing Christians who have gone on before us to their Heavenly Reward.

To reiterate my previous point, whether Jesus comes for us as Futurists believe, or we go to Him at the moment of our death, the end result is still the same. We go to be with the Lord forever. In either case, we are still winners. If anything, as I have already said, I think too many of my Christian brethren are hung up on the whole "Second Coming" debate. So many seem to want a fast ticket out of this evil place, which grows worse and more ungodly with each passing year. But what if that is not God's plan for you? What if His real plan is for you to live out the remainder of your mortal life in service to Him and others, by being a good example of your faith, and sharing the Gospel with as many as you can? This is a topic which I discuss in such series as "Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service".

Personally, this revelation regarding "in the ages to come" has liberated me. It gives me a wonderful peace about things. It emphasizes to me that I just don't need to worry about all the confusing and conflicting doctrines that have infiltrated our faith and divided the Body of Christ. Whether it happens to be pre-Trib, mid-Trib, post-Trib or any other doctrine, it all becomes totally meaningless and moot; because if what I have stated in this series, as well as in related articles,

is correct, they have absolutely nothing to do with us modern Christians. They are past events and fulfilled prophecies; so why even argue about them? It is not only pointless to do so, but it is exactly what the enemies of Christ want. They want to divide and conquer us, and they are having a grand time at doing it. If you happen to engage in such negative activities, do you really want to continue being one of their pawns?

To reiterate, all that I need to be concerned with, is trying to please the Lord on a daily basis, and serving Him to the best of my ability, as each year of my life passes. When the day of my death finally arrives, I will graduate on to the Next Life, and that will be that. The very same thing applies to you as well. All we should be concerned with is this:

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?"

Matthew 24:45, KJV

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:21, KJV

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will ye commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, how shall ye give you that which is your own?"

Luke 16:10-12, KJV

"And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

Luke 19:17, KJV

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2, KJV

Let me ask you another question. What does all of that talk and hype about Jesus coming at any moment really accomplish? Some of you may not like my answer, but let me tell you. It keeps you spending your hard-earned money going to Christian seminars where they get people all excited, and where they erroneously promote that same line of thinking. It keeps you spending your money on books, magazines, DVDs, home videos, etc., which likewise give you the false hope that Jesus is coming for the Body of Christ any day now. It keeps you going to website after website, and social network after social network, where they fill your mind and heart with that very same strong delusion. That's what it does.

But guess what? There is one thing that all of that talk and hype definitely does not do. It does not bring Jesus' coming one single day closer; because, in my humble opinion, the Lord already returned almost two thousand years ago, exactly as He had promised His followers that He would do. To believe otherwise is to call Him a liar.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, I fully understand that what I have stated in this series, as well as in some of my other recent articles and series, is going to cause a considerable amount of consternation amongst some of my Futurist-leaning friends, who will find all of this information rather hard to swallow. It may cause you to doubt some of your current beliefs. Well, be thankful, because that is actually a good thing. Perhaps it is in fact time for you to more closely examine your personal beliefs, in order to determine if they really hold up to Scriptural scrutiny. That is exactly what I was forced to do, and what I am still doing. If we aren't willing to do this, then perhaps we deserve to be deceived.

I also realize that accepting what I have been saying as of late in some of my newer articles and updates, is going to result in a lot of new questions regarding Bible prophecy, and many things which you have embraced for perhaps many years now. You are going to have questions regarding such things as the prophecies of Daniel, Jesus' end-of-the-age sermons, and the Book of Revelation. You are going to want to know how it all fits together now, based on this new

perspective. Trust me; we are in the same boat, and I want to know just as much as you do. That is precisely why I said early on in this series, that I have a lot of work ahead of me.

If you visit my website at www.billkochman.com, you will in fact see that I have already begun to write quite a bit of new material, as well as to update some of my older articles, so that they reflect my new understanding. Please understand that this is no small task for me to accomplish. I am getting a bit old, my health is in slow decline, and my brain, eyes and back are wearing out. As such, I cannot do nearly as much as I did say twenty years ago. Neither can I accomplish it as quickly. I will say though, that I have probably written more new material during this month of August 2016, than I did in all of last year.

However, insofar as my understanding of Bible prophecy is concerned, if you want to play it safe, and if you just want to know my latest updated thoughts, then I encourage you to just read those articles and series which you find listed in the first section of articles on my home page, and not in the "Full Articles List" section below it. The prophecy-related articles which you find in the "Full Articles List" section have not been updated yet, and they will contain plenty of things which even I no longer agree with, and which I will eventually update and change, as my time and health permit. Please note that this only applies to the prophecy-related articles which you find in the "Full Articles List" section. Most, if not all, other articles in that section -- such as those which deal with Salvation, Discipleship, Witnessing, Faith, etc. -- should be fine to read for the most part.

With these last thoughts, I'll bring this series to a close. I trust that you have enjoyed it, learned something from it, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thank you so very much! May God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the

list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

A Biblical Cafeteria, or the Whole Course?
A Temple Veil, an Earthquake and a Centurion
Comet Elenin, Hercolubus, Nibiru, and Planet X
Destruction of Planet Earth: The Wrath of God Revealed
Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
In Defense of the KJV Bible
Is the KJV Bible the Inerrant Word of God?
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?
Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service
Sex, A Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels
Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?
Sorry . . . Jesus Is Not Coming At Any Moment
The Internet" Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?
The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men
The Misguided End of the World Predictions of Harold Camping
Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>