

Biblical Ages

Overview

God created man with the plan that mankind would own and rule the earth (Gen 1:26 -28). Because God gave man a free will (Deut 30:19), mankind has repeatedly chosen to oppose themselves (2 Tim 2:22-24) and, in so doing, has unknowingly opposed God's plan. Adam sinned and turned the earth over to the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4) and Jesus had to come and defeat satan (Col 2:14-15).

In order to achieve His goal, God has had to lead man from the Adamic fall back (Rom 5:17) towards the maturity of being adults in the family of God (Rom 8:14,19-23). The process of God leading us into maturity covers several distinct periods of Revelation Knowledge during which God reveals Himself and parts of His plan to mankind. These periods are called Ages or Dispensations.

1. Age of Obedience
 - a) The period is from creation to the Fall of Adam.
 - b) Mankind, Adam and Eve and their descendants, were to live in power, authority and in a world of goodness. They could not disobey God. Gen 1:28
 - c) Adam was to start the process of reclaiming the earth (i.e., subduing the earth) by keeping and protecting the Garden of Eden. Gen 2:15

2. Age of Death
 - a) The period is from the Fall of Adam to Moses.
 - b) Adam sinned and died spiritually (Gen 2:17). He died physically at 930 years. Gen 2:17
Adam's authority and dominion were transferred to satan. Luke 4:6
 - c) Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression. Rom 5:14

3. Age of Law
 - a) The Period is from Moses to Jesus.
 - b) The Law was given by Moses (Ex 20). The wages of sin are death. Rom 6:23
 - c) Till the law, sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Rom 5:13

4. Age of Grace
 - a) Period is from birth of Jesus to the Glorious Church.
 - 1) For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17
 - b) Living under Grace.
 - 1) Jesus, the last Adam, remitted our sins and restored us to our Adamic rights & more.
 - 2) Grace came so that all men have the choice to live in the redemption which Jesus purchased for them or to continue to live a life of damnation.
 - 3) Death has been abolished for believers.
 - Our Savior Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Tim 1:10
 - Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. Heb 2:14
 - 4) As sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 5:21
 - c) The Ending of the Age of Grace.
 - 1) The time will come when all will have made a choice to be saved or to be damned.
 - There shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repents. Luke 15:7
 - And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. Rev 8:1

- 2) The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 1 Cor 15:26
- 3) And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. Rev 9:6
5. Age of the Church
- a) Period is from the Resurrection of Jesus (John 20:23) to the return of Jesus. 1 Thes 4:15-17
- b) Manifestation of the Glorious Church.
- 1) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:27
- 2) In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery** of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his prophets. Rev 10:7
- 3) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**: Col 1:27
- 4) And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. Rev 11:3
And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. Rev 11:5
- c) Reigning in Life.
- 1) For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Rom 5:17
- 2) Has made us unto our God kings & priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Rev 5:10
- 3) And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Rev 11:15
6. Age of Perfection
- a) The period is from the Glorious Church (Eph 5:27) to the Great white throne. Rev 20:15
- b) Living in Perfection.
- 1) Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God. Heb 6:1
- 2) For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Heb 10:14
- 3) He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father. Rev 3:5
- c) Avoiding the Second Death.
- 1) They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the **first resurrection**. Rev 20:2-6
Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- 2) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, Rev 20:11
And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Rev 20:12
The sea gave up the dead which were in it; & death & hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. Rev 20:13
Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:14,15
- 3) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Rev 21:8