

Theme: The key to New Testament eschatology is understanding the difference between this age and the age to come, the now and the not yet.

I. Intro – Are We There Yet?

- A. Going on vacation, trip
- B. Kids are excited about getting there
- C. “Are we there yet?”
- D. Same is true in eschatology – where are we?

II. Our Inheritance – Now But Not Yet

- A. What kind of love God **has given** us (v1)
- B. We **are** God’s children **now** (v1, 2)
- C. We don’t know what **we will be** but **hope** (v2,3)
- D. NT eschatology (study of last things) – now but not yet
- E. Hoekema quote

III. Now But Not Yet in the NT

- A. This age and the age to come/last days & last day
 - 1. Ages - Mt 12:32; Lk 18:30; 20:34-35; Eph 1:20-21
 - 2. Days – Acts 2:17; Heb 1:2; Jm 5:3// Jn 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 12:48
 - 3. Graphic from Hoekema/class
- B. Contrasting this age and the age to come

1. This age is:

- a. Evil; sinful (Gal 1:4; Eph 2:1-2; Rom 12:2)
- b. Temporary riches, worries (Mt 13:22; 1Ti 6:17)
- c. Own philosophy and wisdom (1 Cor 1:20; 2:6)
- d. A time of marriage (Luke 20:34-35)
- e. A time of death (Heb 9:27 (Gen 3:19))
- f. Temporary at best; sinful at worst

2. The age to come

- a. Evil and sin removed (Mt 13:40-43)
- b. Eternal riches and true life (1 Tim 6:17-19)
- c. We see Christ, know fully (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor 13:12)
- d. Resurrection of body (Jn 6:39; 5:28)
- e. No more death (1 Cor 15:25-26; 50-54)
- f. Consummation - Riddlebarger quote

IV. Living In the Now But Not Yet

- A. Do we see the overarching concept of the ages?
 - 1. Critical to understanding NT eschatology
 - 2. Two ages for universe – not just individuals
- B. Do we see the continuity & discontinuity of ages?

1. Show chart – note continuity (horizontal line)
 2. Things from one age often go into/affect next
 3. Yet real discontinuity between ages as well
 4. Examples: call of man to work; salvation by faith
 5. Do we live as if no continuity? No discontinuity?
- C. Where is our focus – this age or age to come?
1. Is my focus short term or eternal?
 2. Does not mean ignore this world!
 3. Does mean work with view to that world! (Heb 11)

New Testament Eschatology - Now But Not Yet

1 John 3:1-3

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1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“We must note, therefore, that what specifically characterizes New Testament eschatology is an underlying tension between the “already” and the “not yet” – between what the believer already enjoys and what he does not yet possess.” – AA Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*, 14

32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. Matthew 12:32

29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life." Luke 18:29-30

The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, Lk 20:34-35

20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:20-21

17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Acts 2:17

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, Hebrews 1:1-2

3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Ja5:3

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:39-40

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day... 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44, 54

There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. John 12:48

Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age Gal 1:4

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways (literally: age) 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. Ephesians 2:1-2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world (literally: age), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. Ro12:2

22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life (literally: age) and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. Matthew 13:22

17 Command those who are rich in this present world (literally: age) not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God... 1 Timothy 6:17

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 1 Cor 1:20

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 1 Corinthians 2:6

The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, Lk 20:34-35

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, Heb9:27

40 As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. Matthew 13:40-43

17 Command those who are rich in this present world (literally: age) not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. John 6:39

28 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. John 5:28-29

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

This means that the “age to come” is an age of eternal life and immortality. It is characterized by the realization of all the blessings of the resurrection and the consummation. It is not an age in which people await the consummation. – Kim Riddlebarger, *Amillennialism*, 84.