

“TIME” AND “ETERNITY”

INTRO.

There are many sayings about the word “time,” such as, TIME DOESN’T STAND STILL, TIME MARCHES ON, TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING, and TIME SURELY DOES FLY BY THE OLDER YOU GET, and many more. Our lesson today is entitled, “TIME” AND “ETERNITY.” We are human beings, and live in what we call “time” (which had its beginning at the creation and will have its end when the Lord returns). The subject is NOT time “versus” eternity, but time AND eternity, as time will take us TO eternity. Eccl. 3:11 (Read). Now let’s consider the lesson, “Time and Eternity.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s study the word “TIME.”

- A. “Time” is indeed a Bible word, which simply means “period, duration, or season.”
1. It is used hundreds of times throughout the Bible.
 2. It is first used in the Old Testament.
 - a. It is alluded to in Gen. 1:1, and the events of the 6 days of creation week, and the seasons of the year. Cf Gen. 1:14
 - b. The word “time” is first used in Gen. 4:3
 3. Then, the word “time” is used many times in the New Testament.
 - a. A demon used it when alluding to the “time” his power would end. Matt. 8:29
 - b. It is used about and by Jesus as Lord. Gal. 4:4; Matt. 26:18; John 7:6
- B. “Time” is measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, decades, centuries and ages.

II. 2nd, let’s study the 3 Ages of time for human beings.

- A. The PATRIARCHAL AGE began in Eden with the formation of man.,
1. In this age, God spoke to His people, through the Patriarchs or heads of the tribes and people, who worshiped God as FAMILIES.
 2. This age has been labeled as the “Star Light Age,” in which God began to reveal His divine will for the human race—little by little, which lasted for some 2500 years of time.
- B. The MOSAICAL AGE began at Mt. Sinai, with God revealing the 10 commandments for the Jews, who were separated from the rest of the world. Gal. 3:19
1. God now worked through this NATION to develop His plan and ultimately bring the Savior of man into the world.
 2. It can be called the “Moonlight” age, as God showed MORE light to man, as the moon is brighter than stars.
 3. Clearly, those NOT in the nation of Israel, continued on under the Patriarchal system.
 4. This age lasted until the crucifixion of Jesus, for a total of about 1500 years. Col. 2:14
- C. The CHRISTIAN AGE began on Pentecost Day, as recorded in Acts 2, with the ushering in of the kingdom of God with the apostles being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
1. This age involves **all** NATIONS, and not just certain families or nations.
 2. It has been called the “Sunlight” age, as the Son of God brought eternal light to mankind.

III. 3rd, let's consider the CHRISTIAN AGE in particular.

A. It began in the “last days,” or the beginning of the “last” AGE, or Dispensation. Cf Isa. 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-3; Joel 2:28-31

B. This last prophecy (of Joel) was quoted by the apostle Peter on Pentecost day in Acts 2 that marked the beginning OF the Christian Age. Acts 2:16

1. The miracle of “tongue speaking” by the apostles created special attention by the Jews present for the feast of Pentecost,.

2. Peter explained that this marked the beginning of the “last days” or dispensation.

3. The next few verses name 3 events that would occur “before” the “great and notable day of the Lord” would come at the end of “time.” v. 20b

a. 1st, there would be the miraculous pouring out of the Spirit upon “all flesh”, which had already taken place when Peter quotes the passage.

1) The Spirit came upon **Jewish** flesh through the Jewish apostles, who served as representative heads of the Jewish people.

2) Later, the Spirit came upon the **Gentile** house of Cornelius, who served as representative heads of Gentile flesh—fulfilling Joel’s prophecy. Acts 10:44; 11:15-18

b. 2nd, this would be the FALL or **destruction of Jerusalem**, the leading fore of opposition to Christ and His church. Acts 2:19

1) This is the identical term Jesus used to foretell the fall of Jerusalem’ power. Matt. 24:29

2) This is the Old Testament language to describe the fall of mighty kings and nations in those days. Cf Isa. 13:1, 10; 14:4, 12-14

c. 3rd, there would be the offer of **SALVATION**, which would **begin** that day. v. 21

1) Peter explained the coming, life, death, resurrection, ascension and coronation of Jesus at God’s right hand in heaven.

2) The Jews were told to repent and be baptized by the authority of the King, to be saved. Acts 2:36-38, 40-41

3) The “saved” were then added TO the church Jesus built. Acts 2:47

CONCLUSION

I. Time is running out, and the lost need to take advantage of the opportunity to be saved. Eccl. 3:1-8; cf 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 6:2

II. The song, “TIME ENOUGH YET” by the late Tillit S. Teddlie, is challenging in it’s 4 stanzas.

1) O soul of mine, be not alarmed At what the Lord may say,
Some future time, when I am old, I’ll choose the heav’ny way.

2) I’m strong enough, I need no help, It’s pleasure that I crave;
When I have drunk life’s sparkling cup, I’ll call on Christ to save.

3) The Holy Spirit’s tender voice Entreats me night and day,
And ere I go in sin too far I’ll turn and Him obey.

4) Today, O friend, may be the last, Stop now and count the cost;
You stand condemned before the throne,—Your soul forever lost.

Don Tarbet