

THE WISDOMS OF SCRIPTURE
Part 3
The Wisdom of the Present Evil Age
1st Co. 1:17-25

INTRODUCTION

One way that satan impacts the world is by substituting a false wisdom that runs in opposition to God's wisdom. The design of the pseudo wisdom is to convince men of a different way that life can work that runs counter to God's revelation of the way things really are. His operation is called today "The Present Evil Age". It is a strategy that is highly effective because it operates behind the scenes, using men to express satanic desires. The effects of this age can be seen in the false views of family; of the purpose of life; of the self-concepts of oneself. The evil age has manipulated the minds of men in each of these categories. The end result of the doctrines of this age is a directing of men away from God's plan and purposes to a road of self destruction. False teachers in Corinth were used to indoctrinate some at Corinth into the doctrines of the age. The end result was a moving, by some in Corinth, away from God's description of the way things really are into a walk motivated by the wisdom from the age.

- I. AGES ARE SEEN IN SCRIPTURE AS PERIODS OF TIME IN WHICH GOD IS REVEALING THINGS TO RATIONAL CREATURES CONCERNING HIMSELF BY COMPARISON OR CONTRAST.
 - A. The word for age rarely translated in King James translation of the New Testament.
 1. The word for age is aiown and can be defined as "a period in God's plan and purposes in which He is reveals something to rational creatures (spirit beings and men) by comparison or contrast." -- H. L. Schafer
 2. The word is often translated "world" in the King James. cf. Matt. 13:22; Heb. 6:5
 - a) The New American Standard translations translates the word age most consistently.
 - b) Darby translates the word age consistently
 - c) The NIV translates the word more consistently than the King James
 3. There are several places in the King James were ages is correctly translated. Eph. 2:7; Col. 1:26
 4. The ages were framed by the Son in eternity past. Heb. 11:3; 1st Co. 2:7
 5. There are future ages to come. Eph. 1:21; 2:7
 6. God uses ages to bring glory to Himself. cf. Gal. 1:5; Phil. 4:20; 1 Tim. 1:17
 7. This ages is characterized as the present evil age. Gal. 1:4
 - a) The word for evil means *to lack in character of what's expected*

in such a way as to spread that lackingness. cf. 1 John 3:12

- b) The word “present” is a Greek word *enstotos* which literally means to be standing in versus that which is about to come. Cf. Heb. 9:9 (the things under law were a symbol for the present time)

- B. God is using the present evil age to contrast how He applies what he knows versus how Satan applies what he knows. Cf. 1st Co. 2:7-8; Eph. 3:10-11
 - 1. The wisdom spirit beings conveyed to men was that the death of Christ would negate his effect. 1st Co. 2:8
 - 2. God wisdom anticipated men’s response to use the death of Christ to bring glory to believers in this dispensation. 1st Co. 2:8-9

II. THE PRESENT EVIL AGE IS EQUIPPED TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF THE AGE.

- A. The “*Present Evil Age*” has the personnel behind the scenes to execute its strategy in the world.

- 1. It has a god. 2 Co. 4:4
 - a) The term “*in whom*” can be better translated, *among whom*.
 - b) Satan, the god of this age, blinds the “*minds*” (*conclusions of the mind*) of unbelievers from behind the scenes in order that they can’t see the good news.
- 2. It has rulers. 1 Co. 2:7
 - a) The word for “rulers” is *archonton* which is used of those who are the chief ones in a group. Cf. John 7:26 (of the rulers of the Pharisees)
 - b) The rulers don’t seem to have an experiential knowledge of what God is doing. cf. 1 Co. 2:7a
 - c) The rulers adjust their plans based upon what they experientially know about God’s plans. cf. 1 Co. 2:7b
- 3. It has sons. cf. Lk. 20:34
 - a) They are wiser than the children of light. Lk. 20:34
 - b) They specialize in undermining the things of God. cf. Acts 13:10
- 4. It has debaters. 1 Co. 1:20 cf. Mk. 12:18-19; Acts 6:10
- 5. It has wise men. 1 Co. 1:20 cf. Acts 7:22; Col. 2:22-23
- 6. It has scholars (*one distinguished for learning or wisdom* – GreeAnalytical Concordance). 1 Co. 1:20 cf. John 7:15; Matt. 13:54

- B. The “*Present Evil Age*” uses wisdom as a lure to the age.
 - 1. Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge. cf. Ja. 3:13
 - 2. How men apply what they know in a variety of situations attract men to the age. cf. 1 Co. 3:18
 - 3. *The evil age can be described as satan’s elaborate plan of using spirit beings to impart wisdom to his mature sons in the world for the purpose*

of diverting people in the world away from seeing things the way that they really are. -- K.D.J.

III. THE PRESENT EVIL AGE AFFECTS THE WAY MEN SEE LIFE IN THE WORLD SYSTEM.

A. The unsaved walk according to the present evil age. Eph. 2:2

1. The word walk looks at the *individual decisions, situations* cf. 2 Co. 5:7
2. Unsaved men make decisions and take steps according to the influence of the “*Present Evil Age*”.
 - a) The age has doctrine for families.
 - b) The age has doctrine for relationships.
 - c) The age has doctrine for religion.
 - d) The age has doctrine for social issues.
 - e) The age has doctrine for education.
 - f) The age has doctrine for every realm of life.

B. Believers can be diverted from God’s plan and purposes by submitting to the doctrines of the age.

1. Believers can love the age by abandoning God’s wisdom for that of the age. 2 Tim. 4:10
 - a) Demas *sacrificed* to be apart of the evil age.
 - b) Demas’ sacrifice for the age caused him to *abandon* the apostle Paul.
2. Believers can substitute God’s wisdom for the wisdom of the evil age. 1 Co. 3:18
 - a) True wisdom is that which is oblivious to the wisdom of this age.
 - b) The age uses consensus to lure men to accepting its wisdom.
3. Believers can allow the age to direct them into an improper view of riches. 1 Tim. 6:17
 - a) Rich believers in this age can be directed to tempted to be “*highminded*” – ***to reflectively think about one’s self above what is necessary.*** cf. Rom. 11:20; 12:16
 - b) Rich believers in this age can be tempted to put their “*trust*” in uncertainty of riches instead of God.

CONCLUSION