

The
Errors, Inconsistencies & False Accusations
Of a
Dispensationalist

By Lloyd Dale
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We recently received the article “The Age to Come” by Thomas Ice. We always enjoy reading his propaganda. It provides us with a good opportunity to sharpen our wits and to hone our research and writing skills. We dealt extensively with the subject of “the ages” in our book The Last Days Re-visited so will not repeat that material in this paper. (It can be found on our website: www.lloyddale.com)

Thomas Ice is absolutely correct when he states that “one’s understanding,” of the related terms ‘the age to come’ and ‘the present age,’ “is essential to a correct understanding of the biblical view of prophecy.” However, Thomas Ice’s understanding of the timing of these ages is faulty so obviously his understanding of Bible prophecy faulty as well and is simply not correct.

Ice writes, “I believe that ‘this present age’ refers to the current church age that began almost 2,000 years ago on the day of Pentecost when the church was founded.” There are several problems with this statement. First the Bible never uses the term “this current church age,” nor for that matter, does it ever use the term “Church age.” Furthermore the Bible never states nor implies that a “Church age” was founded or began on the day of Pentecost. That whole idea is merely a dispensationalist construction that has no Biblical basis or support. This concept, which springs solely from the imagination of the dispensationalists, is one of the major reasons for their confusion about the timing of “this present age” and “the age to come.”

Another major reason that Ice and his peers have such great confusion about the timing of “this present age” and “the age to come” is their refusal to accept the literal and clearly stated timing references given in the New Testament. (i.e. Matt.5:17, 10:22-23, 16:27-28, 23:36, 24:6, 15-16, 34, Rev. 1:1&3, 22:6&10 et. al.)

Some of the material Ice wrote about Christ's and the Apostles' "perspective," "use," and relationship of these two terms is correct, however, because his understanding of the timing of the so-called "second coming" is faulty. He misidentifies the timing of these ages by nearly 2000 years.

The writers of the New Testament were very careful to write that Jesus Christ appeared "once **in the end of the age** to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." (Hebrews 9:16). Thus, it becomes very clear that **a certain "present" age was ending at the time of Jesus Christ**. The question we have to answer in order to properly understand Bible prophecy is – **when did that "present" age end?** It is ***utterly inconceivable*** to think that an age ("this present age") which is clearly declared in Scripture to be ending (i.e. about to end) in the first century could be extend or "stretched out" for 2000 years or more as the futurists have done. There is **no** biblical basis for such a notion.

As Ice states, Jesus referred to the age in which He was living (that was ending) as "this (present) age" in Matthew 12:23:

And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither **in this age**, nor in the **age about to come**. (Matthew 12:32, the Greek word "mello", which means "about," is in the Greek text of this verse, emphasis added)

There is an incredible inconsistency in Ice's position at this point. In the introduction to his article Ice stated "that 'this present age' refers to the current Church Age that **began almost 2,000 years ago on the day of Pentecost when the Church was founded**" (emphasis added) **yet here he has extended "this present age" back many months before Pentecost.** *If "this present age" refers to "the current Church age" then it must have started at Pentecost as well and thus could not have been in existence during the time of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry.*

Jesus also stated that the age in which He was living ("this age") was to be followed by "the age **about to come**." If this new age was **about to come** as Jesus stated, then the age which He called "this age" was also, most certainly, **about to end** -- not be stretched out for nearly 2,000 more years as Ice would have us believe. Again the question we must answer in order to

properly understand Bible prophecy about the so-called second coming is – **WHEN DID THAT AGE END AND WHEN DID THE “AGE ABOUT TO COME” START?**

On page 18 of his paper, Ice quotes a statement by Preston and then asks the question “Is that how the Bible really uses that phrase and related phrases.” Then he answers that question, “*I don’t think so!*” **Therein lies Ice’s problem – he does not think that the Bible uses these phrases in the way that it does in fact use them.**

Now let’s answer the question – when did the period of time known in the New Testament as “this present age” actually end?

In the section “Jewish Perspective of Bible Prophecy” Ice attempts to give us the correct answer as he wrote:

The Jewish perspective of Bible prophecy views history as consisting of **two ages**. The first (age) was “this present age,” the age in which Israel was waiting for **the** (one and only) **coming of the Messiah**. The second (age) was “the age to come” the age in which all promises and covenants would be fulfilled and Israel would enter into her promised blessings as a **result of the Messiah’s** (one and only) **coming**. The present age would be terminated by the (one and only) appearance of the Messiah, and the coming age would be introduced by His (one and only) advent. The present age, then, was to end in judgment, and the coming age must be preceded by this devastation (of the judgment). (Emphasis and comments added)

It should be noted here that the Jews did not have any conception of a “first” and “second” coming of the Messiah as is clearly demonstrated in the above statement by Ice. **However, in his attempt to justify his erroneous position he is forced to ignore the incarnation of Jesus Christ [His first and only coming from the “Jewish perspective”] and apply the “Jewish perspective” to his imaginary future second coming of Jesus Christ,** thus, Ice appears to agree with the Jews that the Messiah has not yet come. There is no justification for any attempt to make this “Jewish Perspective” apply to an imaginary future second coming of the Messiah as is done by Ice.

Now dear ones please take a very careful look at the above statement by Ice and answer the following questions:

- Is there more than one Messiah? Of course not!

- Has Israel’s Messiah come? Certainly he did, the word Christ means Messiah, Jesus Christ is the Messiah of Israel!
- Therefore, when was “the age in which Israel was waiting for the coming of the Messiah”? **Israel waited for the coming of their Messiah throughout the entire period of the Mosaic Marriage Covenant instituted at Mount Sinai, and Jesus Christ, their Messiah came near the end of the duration of that covenant!**

In the above statement, Ice very clearly wrote that **the present age would be terminated by the one and only appearance of the Messiah**. All Bible students know that the Messiah appeared, ministered, was crucified, buried, rose again, and ascended in what we call the first century, and Ice stated that “The present age, then, was to end in judgment” thus, it should now be evident that **“the present age” has been terminated by the judgment and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70**. **At this point, dear ones, it should be very clear to you that the term “this age” as used by Jesus Christ and the Apostles was the period of time from the institution of the Covenant established at Mount Sinai until it became obsolete and vanished away through the judgment and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 within the first century** (Hebrews 8, the most pertinent portion we have reproduced below, but you should read the entire passage).

Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the summary: We have such an high priest (Jesus Christ), who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. ...But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also **He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises**. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second covenant. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the (old) covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my (first) covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the (new) covenant that I will make with the house of Israel (the ekklesia of the new covenant) ...In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first (covenant) old. **Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away**. (Hebrews 8:1-13)

The Apostle Paul clearly affirms to the Christians at Corinth that the end of the age came upon those first century Christians:

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our (“our” applies to first century Christians, not 21st. century Christians) admonition, **upon whom the ends of the ages has come.** (1 Corinthians 10:11, comments and emphasis added)

Ice also clearly wrote, “the coming age would be introduced by His (one and only) advent.” All Christians should readily recognize that in this context the “advent” of Jesus Christ was His incarnation which occurred in the first century. **Therefore, “the coming age” was introduced in the first century** not sometime in our future.

Again we quote Ice, “**The present age**, then, was to end in judgment, and the coming age must be preceded by this devastation (of the judgment, emphasis added). We cannot help but wonder what Ice thinks was the purpose for the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Surely, even Ice admits that the words of Jesus Christ in Luke 21:20-22 describe the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem:

And when ye shall see **Jerusalem compassed with armies**, then know that the desolation thereof (Jerusalem) is near. Then let them which are in **Judaea flee to the mountains**; and let them which are in the midst of it (Judaea) depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto (Judaea). For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-22, emphasis and comments added)

Whose “vengeance” was Luke writing about? Surely Luke was writing about the “vengeance” of Yahweh-Yahshua in promised judgment upon Judaea and Jerusalem for the New Testament clearly declares, “Vengeance (judgment) is mine I will repay says the Lord.” (Deut. 32:35, 41, 43; cf. Romans 3:5, & 12:19; et al.) Yes dear friends, Ice notwithstanding; **Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD as a result of God’s judgment upon the apostate Jews, thus fulfilling to a “T” the “Jewish Perspective” of which Ice wrote.**

Just as the “Jewish Perspective” anticipated the “present age” ended with the judgment and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and “the coming age” was “preceded by the devastation of that judgment!” Ice

notwithstanding, this is the exact “perspective” of Christ and the Apostles. ***It is very clear that Ice’s own words prove that he is in serious error in this matter.*** Contrary to his totally unproven and un-provable assertions “**the present age,**” which was the age in which Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and the pre-70 AD Christians lived **ended** with God’s judgment on Jerusalem, Judaea, and the Jews within the entire Roman world in 70 AD and “this coming age” (this age which has been in existence since 70 AD) followed exactly as the New Testament declared!

On page 17 Ice states, Preterists tend to believe that the phrase “*present age*” or “*this age*” refers to the approximately 40-year period between Christ’s earthly ministry and Jerusalem’s destruction in A. D. 70. This statement is completely bogus; no preterist worthy of the name thinks that “this present age” was limited to this 40 year period. They understand that “this present age” was the age of Mosaic Law which was instituted at Mt. Sinai and extend to the prophesied destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD as Ice demonstrated by his use of the quote from Don Preston’s writings.

On page 19 Ice wrote, “Since the Second Coming has been postponed until after the current Church Age...” **This statement is a direct contradiction of Scripture.** The New Testament clearly **declares that the second coming of Christ will not be postponed:**

For yet a little while, and **He** (Jesus Christ) **that shall come will come, and will not tarry.** (Hebrews 10:37, emphasis and comment added)

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise (of the second coming), as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward (first century people), not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (before the second coming). But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens (the Jewish temple) shall pass away with a great noise, and the rudiments (of the temple practices) shall melt with fervent heat, the land also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (2 Peter 3:9-10)

Scripture is very clear on this matter there was to be **no “stretching out of the time frame” for the second coming – Jesus the Christ would come and would not tarry!**

Also on page 19 Ice wrote, "...Paul, speaking of the entire Church Age, calls it *'the present distress'*" (1Cor. 7:26). **Here Ice strikes out again.** In this passage Paul is not writing about "the entire church age." Paul lived in the "in last days of this present age" of the Mosaic covenant as did the Corinthians to which he was writing and "the present distress" he wrote about was the distress caused by the pending end of the Mosaic covenant - the judgment about to come (Matt.3:7, Luke 3:7, Acts 17:31, 24:25 et al.) - the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple that would end the distress of that age. Ice's "the Church age," which is in reality the new covenant or Messianic age, **emerged in its fullness following the end of the Mosaic covenant age.**

It is total nonsense to state, as Ice does that, "This explains why some preterists believe that they are in the new heavens and new earth, yet they have no specific revelation, which tell them how to please God." (Last paragraph p.19) This certainly **does not** explain why preterists understand that they are in the new heavens and new earth. The Bible is our specific revelation that tells us how to please God! It also explains what the new heavens and the new earth really are, and why we are presently in the age of the new heavens and new earth (the new covenant). This, of course, is true of all Christians.

There is one more comment (to really cover the full scope of this item would require another paper) that needs to be made about the last paragraph in Ice's paper. **If we were to apply Ice's "logic" (about the applicability of the New Testament to preterists) to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; we would be forced to conclude that it has no applicability to futurists because it occurred before their "Church Age" started.**

While a complete commentary on Zechariah would require a large book, we must make a few comments about Zechariah 14 before we close. Ice erroneously declares that this passage "describes the advent (second coming) of the Messiah to institute His kingdom..." Then He quotes 14:4. Let's put this verse in context and see if Ice is correct:

Behold, the day of **Yahweh** (the LORD) cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of

the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall **Yahweh** (the LORD) go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (Zechariah 14:1-4)

Even a novice Bible student should know that when an English Bible translation uses the term “the LORD” that this is an erroneous *translation* (?) of the Hebrew Tetragrammaton (YHWH) that is a clear and certain reference to Yahweh, the God of Israel. Thus, this verse is a reference to the incarnation (first coming) of Yahweh (Yahshua) not to some imaginary futurist second coming of Jesus. Just as Zechariah foretold, Yahweh incarnate (Jesus Christ) came and “His feet stood (many times) on the Mount of Olives, in fact from this very mountain Jesus foretold the “about to be” judgment of Jerusalem which would bring about its destruction and the destruction of the temple.

Even though we recognize that Yahweh could in fact split a mountain in half, no literal mountain is going to be split in half here. Zechariah uses the Mount of Olives as a metaphor for the kingdom of the Jews in Jerusalem. The ministry of Jesus Christ split this kingdom in half. Many moved to follow the Messiah and escaped the wrath, and the others rejected Him and moved relentlessly toward the “wrath about to come” at the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

In order to make his schemes of a yet future destruction of Jerusalem appear to have merit, **Ice** (and all others like him) **must try to get good folks to totally ignore the 70 AD destruction as if it had no prophetic significance.** They fail to recognize that the events of Zechariah 12-14 are all prophecies of events that were to and in fact did occur during the first century.

Daniel chapter 2 describes four kingdoms and very clearly states that Yahweh would set up the kingdom during the days of the kings of the “image” (verses 44-45). As the kingdom was not “set up” by YHWH during the days of the kings of the first three kingdoms, both the Bible and history have established that the kingdom must be “set up” during the days of the kings of the fourth kingdom which was the Roman Empire. Therefore, in perfect harmony with Daniel, the New Testament clearly declares that this

kingdom was established by Jesus the Messiah (the WORD of Yahweh incarnate) during the days of the kings of Rome (the fourth kingdom). **This harmony, between the prophecy recorded by Daniel and the declarations of the New Testament, completely eliminates Ice's erroneous claim to a future second coming of Jesus.**

While it is true that "Paul continues to use the phrases 'this age' and the 'age to come' in the way that Christ used them," Ice's application of this usage is erroneous. Yes, "even though Jesus had come," and Paul still viewed the age in which he lived as the current or "present age," (which Ice here erroneously calls "the Church age") "as the time leading up to the (second) coming of the Messiah" does **not mean that "we (21st Century Christians) are still in "the present age"** in which Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul, and others were living during the first century. Remember that Ice clearly stated that "the Church...was founded on the day of Pentecost." If the "Church was started on the day of Pentecost" it logically follows that "the Church Age" also started on the day of Pentecost; thus, at this point, **placing Ice on the "horns" of a major dilemma.** If, as according to Ice, Paul was living in the current "Church Age," and "the Church Age" **did not start until the Day of Pentecost, then this clearly demonstrates that Jesus Christ did not live during "the current Church Age."** He lived in an age before "the current Church Age."

Thus, we see that Ice's system really requires not two ages, but three; 1) the age before "the current Church Age," "2) the Church Age," and "3) *the age to come.*"

At this point, it should be apparent to all our readers that Ice's system is badly flawed, while my preterist system is in perfect harmony with what Ice refers to as the "Jewish perspective of Bible Prophecy." **Jesus Christ's Ministry was the beginning of "the last days" of the Mosaic system.** This point is stated unequivocally in Hebrews 1:1a-2:

Yahweh, God...has in **these last days** (of The Mosaic Covenant Age) spoken unto us by *His* Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the ages; (Hebrews 1:1a-2, emphasis and comment added)

Many Christians read the above words and carelessly assume that the phrase "these last days" is a reference to the last days of planet earth, however,

nearly 2,000 years of history has demonstrated that the author and readers of this ca. 60 AD book certainly were not living in the last days of planet earth. Therefore, this phrase “these last days” **can only refer to the last days of the Mosaic system** which began at Mt. Sinai ca.1600 years earlier.

This should not seem the least bit strange to Christians who are careful Bible students. In the very early days of the children of Israel, Yahweh, through Moses (shortly before his death), declared to them that their covenant relationship would be broken because of Israel’s abominations and great evil would befall them in **the last days of that covenant relationship**:

...this people will rise up, and go a-whoring after the gods of strangers of the land...and will forsake Me, and break my covenant which I have made with them...**you will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the last days** (of the covenant) because you will do evil in the sight of Yahweh to provoke Him to anger (wrath) through the work of your hands. (Deuteronomy 31:16 & 32:29, emphasis and comment added)

And Moses also said:

“They have corrupted themselves, their blemish *is not the blemish* of his children: **they are a perverse and crooked generation.**” (Deut. 32:5)

Or as another translation puts it:

"They have corrupted themselves: Because of their blemish, they are not His children,: A perverse and crooked generation. (Deut. 32:5)

And, as it is echoed in the New Testament in reference to the first century house of Judah:

They are a **perverse and crooked generation** (cf. Matt.12:39, 45; 16:4; 21:41; et al.)

Just as Moses declared:

They provoked Him to jealousy with strange *gods*, **with abominations they provoked Him to anger**. They sacrificed unto idols, not to Yahweh; to gods whom they knew not, to new *gods* that came newly up, whom your fathers

feared not. *They shall be* burned with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword without and terror within shall destroy...O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, *that* they would consider **their last (days) end!** (Deuteronomy 32:5, 16-17, 24-25 & 29, *emphasis and comment added*)

A person would need to be “blind” (physically, spiritually, or both) to miss the connection between “**the last days**” foretold by Moses and “**these last days**” which the author of Hebrews described as the days when Yahweh spoke through his Prophet Son. Moses foretold the future “last days” advent of this Prophet in Deuteronomy 18:

Yahweh your God will raise up unto you a Prophet from the midst of your people, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him you shall hearken; ... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto you, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. (Deuteronomy 18:15-18; cf. John 7:16; 8:24-29 & 38, et al.)

And the author of Hebrews identified the first century as “the last days” Moses and other prophets foretold. “The last days” came and disappeared into history in the first century. The view of many religio-science fiction eschatology writers that the “last days started in the first century and are still ongoing in our time is baloney; totally without Biblical support. There shall be no “any-moment return of our Lord Jesus Christ.” He has already come in the first century just as, and when the Scriptures declared that He would.

Dear ones, Thomas Ice ostensibly means well, he really thinks that he is right about the second coming. However, even though he is sincere, he is sincerely wrong. The prophetic view that he espouses is totally false (as we have herein demonstrated). I am sorry that he has been ensnared in this false teaching, but I am even sorer that so many others appear to be choosing to follow him and his cronies into one of the greatest errors of all time. I pray for you and others ensnared in this false system almost constantly.

We pray that God may soon deliver his people from this great error.

That Truth may prevail!

Sincerely in Christ and in His love,

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