

**THE
MYSTERY OF
THE AGES
Rev. Bertrand
Compartet**



About Pastor Dr. Bertrand L. Comparet, A. B., J. D.

Upon reading these most interesting discussions one will quickly recognize that the author is an ardent student of the Bible and particularly eschatology or the study of the prophecies of the things which have already taken place, the things that are now taking place, and the things that are yet to take place in the future. He is an ordained minister. His studies in this area of thought extend back over a period of thirty years.

One will quickly appreciate also the straight forward manner of factual presentation and logical thinking. This is due to his professional training and occupation as a well recognized Attorney at Law. He not only writes in a clear, convincing style, but is distinguished in the pulpit, on the lecture platform, and over the air for his clarity of thought and profound logic.

Bertrand L. Comparet is a native Californian, born in San Diego. He was graduated from Stanford University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor. He was admitted to the California Supreme Court or California Bar in 1926 and by the United States Supreme Court in 1956. From 1926 to 1932 he was a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County and from 1942 to 1947 was Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Diego.

After that time he was in private law practice.

Quite obviously, he is a tried and true Christian and a loyal and patriotic American, a believer in a Sovereign America under Constitutional government.

Pastor Bertrand L. Comparet started teaching in 1933 and continued for over 40 years. He returned to the Father in August of 1983.

THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES

Rev. Bertrand Comparet

IT IS AMAZING HOW MUCH THERE IS IN THE BIBLE which is not known even to the most devout Christians, because it is concealed from them by the many mistranslations in the commonly-used King James' Version of the Bible. Because of these mistranslations, many false doctrines have developed among people who faithfully believe what they have read---not knowing that what they read is sometimes mistaken. One of these errors which has misled many is the mistranslation of the Greek word "aion"---meaning "an age" ---as everlasting", "eternal", etc. For example, we see many places where the King James' Version speaks of "everlasting life" and many others where it speaks of "eternal life": and some fine, devout people have worked up elaborate doctrines about the supposed difference between "everlasting" life and "eternal" life.

Will it shock you to learn that the Bible actually makes no such distinction at all? The New Testament is where we find these references; and you know that almost all of our English New Testaments are translated from ancient manuscripts written in the Greek language. In Greek, "aion", commonly called "aeon" in English, means "an age"---a period of time of long, but indefinite, duration. And the Greek word "aionios", commonly called in English "aeonian", means "to the age"---that is, to the end of the age. If you will look up in a good Concordance every reference to "everlasting" life, you will find that in every case the word translated "everlasting" is this Greek word "aionios", meaning "to the end of the age." Now also look up every reference to "eternal" life, and you will see that, in every case but one, this, also, is the same Greek word, "aionios". The translators simply got tired of always using the same English word, and thought it made a better literary style to use sometimes the word "everlasting" and sometimes the word "eternal". Where now do you find the elaborate distinctions between the two kinds of life? Not in the Bible surely; only in the mistranslation.

So the Bible deals with time in terms of "aeons", or ages. Let's find out more about them. First, the Bible tells us that the ages had a beginning, for it speaks of times before them. For example, in Hebrews 1:2, it speaks of Jesus Christ, through whom God "made the ages (Yes, I know that your King James' Version says, "Made the worlds"---but in the original Greek it says "made the ages".) Again, I Corinthians 2:7 speaks of "a secret which God foreordained before the ages to our glory." Again, II Timothy 1:9 speaks of the grace of God that was given us in Christ Jesus "before the times of the ages.

Also, however long an aeon or age may it be, it also has an end. Matthew 24:3 tells of the disciples asking Christ Tell us, when shall these be; and what is the sign of Thy presence, and of the full end of the age?" In I Corinthians 10:11, Paul tells us that the Scriptures "were written for our admonition, to whom the end of the ages did come."

The Bible speaks of "ages" in the plural, so there are several of them. How many? There must be at least six of them. We are living in one. In the past, there must have been at least two others, for in Colossians 1:26 it speaks of "the secret that has been hid from the ages and there must be at least two more in the future, as Ephesians 2:7, tells us that God has raised us up and seated us together in the heavenly places, "that He might show, in the ages that are coming the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Jesus Christ."

Past ages have been ended by terrific cataclysms or other occurrences which definitely mark the beginning of a new age. Genesis 1:1 tells of the beginning of one age, with the creation of the earth; in the next verse, it tells of the wreckage of it in some catastrophe. No, your King James' Version doesn't tell this: it is mistranslated. But in the original Hebrew, Genesis 1:2 says that the earth BECAME chaotic and empty ---obviously as the result of some great cataclysm. Jeremiah 4:23-27 was a vision of this, where the prophet said, "I beheld the earth, and lo it was without form and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and lo! they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and lo! the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of Yahweh, and by His fierce

anger. For thus hath Yahweh said: 'The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. In this first age lived the civilizations, of which archaeologists now find some trace, many, many thousands of years older than Adam. The second age began with the restoration of order out of this chaos and the re-population of the earth, from Genesis 1:1 onward; and probably Noah's flood, in Genesis 6-8, marks the end of the second age. The resurrection of Jesus Christ marks the end of the third age: no greater dividing point can be found in all history. Therefore, we are now living in the fourth age, which will end in the overthrow of the existing satanic world-order and the return of Jesus Christ to rule for the millennium. But we say that Ephesians 2:7 spoke of "ages" still to come, so that proves that there are not less than six ages referred to in the Bible.

The Bible also speaks of something longer than just an age: in several places, such as Revelation 1:18 Hebrews 13:21 and II Timothy 4:18, it speaks of "the ages of the ages" --usually translated "forever." But even this is not really eternal or endless. Revelation 11:15 says that Christ shall reign "for the aeons of the aeons". There comes a time when Jesus Christ gives up the kingdom to God the Father; and Hebrews 9:26, speaks of the end of the ages.

Are you beginning to wonder whether your life will finally end at the time when we run out of aeons? Have no fear of that. I Corinthians 22-26 tells us that Jesus Christ will reign until He has conquered all enemies, and that the last enemy to be abolished is death. From that time on, for those who are saved or redeemed by Jesus Christ there is no death. It no longer matters whether there may be any reason to mark off a certain period of time as an age.

The life He then grants to His own will be truly endless--Hebrews 7:16 speaks of an indissoluble, or endless life; and Peter 1:4 says that by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has begotten us into an inheritance incorruptible ---that is, never decaying--and which does not fade away. So life for the ages carries you up to the point where death is completely abolished, and life does become eternal.

But remember, don't try to find a distinction between eternal life and everlasting life: they are the same thing, being merely different translations of the very same word, with the very same meaning. Don't think of me as just an old meany who goes around puncturing your pet doctrines: I'm only trying to bring you the truth as accurately as I can get it.

When we do run out of ages, that doesn't mean the end of things: just the beginning of something on a much greater scale. We shall be living in that great Kingdom of God, of which Isaiah 9;7 says, "of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." Something which never comes to an end is truly eternal. And notice this: it does not say merely that of His government there shall be no end ---It says that of THE INCREASE of His government there shall be no end. There is room for all of your hopes and aspirations in such a plan as that. By the time you have learned one phase of it so well that it is becoming a bit old, there will be new and greater developments open to you: truly an eternity of ever-expanding greatness. It will forever challenge your greatest abilities and spur you on to finer achievements.

For quite a while to come, we will have the ages. Make the most of them, for they are the school, the training period for the true eternity, the eventual period without end, when we-shall be in God's kingdom, doing His will, and finding therein the highest possible happiness.

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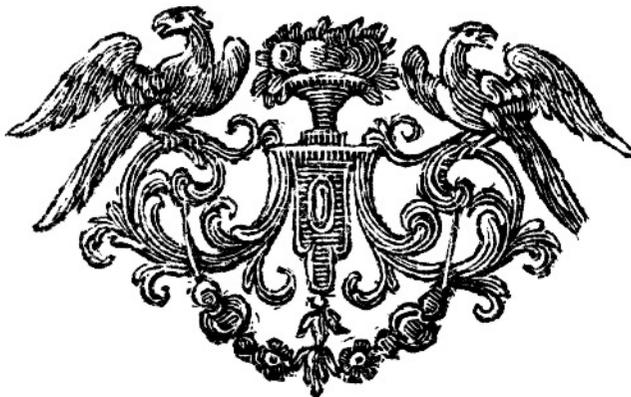
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