

A Different Take on “The Powers of the Age to Come”

We are used to reading and referring to the following passage:

Hebrews 6:5 (NKJV) – *and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,*

The consensus of pulpit and bible study teaching we’ve received has led us to believe that this is an eschatological statement. That is, it is referring to the Last Days of life as we know it in the natural. We’ve been taught that this is referring to either:

1. The Millennial Reign,
2. A renewed physical Heaven and Earth, or
3. The time after Jesus’ return

The basis for these allotments of time is Futurist Eschatology¹, the view of End Times subscribed to by evangelicals, Charismatics and Pentecostals. (It used to be my eschatology when I was in all three of these systems). However, if we subscribe to Full Preterist Eschatology² (currently my view), then we need to re-evaluate what this reference in Hebrews means in a Preterist context.

A look at a few Bible translations which have a different expression of Hebrews 6:5 will help set the ‘ball rolling’ in this:

Young's Literal Translation – *and did taste the good saying of God, the powers also of the coming age,*

Disciples' Literal New Testament – *and having tasted the good word of God and the powers of the coming age,*

Expanded Bible – *They found out [tasted] how good God's word is, and they received [tasted] the powers [miracles] of his new world [the coming age/world].*

ISV – *who have tasted the goodness of God's word and the powers of the coming age,*

Notice above that “the age to come” can also be rendered as “the coming age”. That puts a different emphasis on the timing, not through differences in semantics, but by nearness to it’s appearance. “Age to come” has connotations of ‘the end of time’ in circles where Futurist Eschatology is the firmly held doctrine. But, “coming age” has a sense of coming soon.

Another translations use “new world”, such as the Expanded Bible (above) and this one:

New Century Version – *They found out how good God's word is, and they received the powers of his new world.*

This translation of the expression is easily aligned with Futurist Eschatology because of the literal interpretation of Peter’s statement about a new Heaven and a new Earth³ and also a literal interpretation of Revelation⁴. Both these, of course, are easily explained as metaphorical statements (word pictures),⁵ which leaves “new world” as the new conditions brought in by the New Covenant in its fullness.

Another translation gives the idea that the powers are supernatural ones, not referring to something coming:

J.B. Phillips New Testament – *who have known the wholesome nourishment of the Word of God and touched the spiritual resources of the eternal world*

1 – “Futurism” [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism_(Christianity))

“Futurism and Dispensationalism” christianeschatology.com/futurism_dispensationalism.htm

2 – “A View of the Kingdom from the Preterist Position”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/A-View-of-the-Kingdom-from-the-Preterist-Position.pdf

“The Preterist View of the Kingdom” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/6-The-Preterist-View-of-the-Kingdom.pdf \

“Putting the Future 'To Bed” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Re-evaluating-the-Book-of-Revelation2.pdf

3 – 2 Peter 3:13

4 – Revelation 21:1

5 – “What are the New Heavens and New Earth”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/What-are-the-New-Heavens-and-New-Earth.pdf

Finally, there's the Mirror's rendition:

Mirror Bible – *and they might even begin to feast on the beauty of the Word; already having experienced the power of the age of the promise that all were waiting for.*

When our eschatology aligns with the Preterist view – that the New Covenant was initiated with the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple which ended Judaism and the Old Covenant – “the powers of the age to come” move to a completely different centring. Let me explain.

The first believers had a taste (experience) of Kingdom gifting and power, with the release of the Spirit at Pentecost in Jerusalem. They were looking forward to the full release of the Kingdom that Jesus brought back to Earth, the one which he demonstrated during his latter years. This was the ‘Age to come’ – the Kingdom Age of the New Covenant which would see the manifestation of the sons of God in their ultimate glory and functionality. Unfortunately religion has ‘killed’ that from manifesting for nearly 2,000 years.

What they were looking forward to is already here – we're in that Age right now. So we shouldn't be looking for it ‘down the track’ where Futurist Eschatology is waiting for it to occur. It's here, so we need to align ourselves with it and with Heaven, so we can grow and mature into a position where the full capacity of the Kingdom can operate through us. That's our right and responsibility as sons, but it's being held ‘at bay’ by our ignorance of reality and our adherence to the doctrines of men.

Mike Parsons has already spoken on this topic:

“You've got to understand ‘the age to come’, to them, was the Age after their present age, which was the Old Covenant age. It isn't the age to come for us. We're living in ‘the age to come’. So, we're now living in ‘the powers of the age to come’ that they were still only tasting, because it hadn't fully manifested. So, we're not talking about some new age to come in the future, although there are things, no doubt, that will come in the future...

If you still have been taught that ‘the age to come’ is still coming in the future, you won't be enjoying everything that's available to us in the present, because it will be put off to the future, and that is the deception of eschatology. It puts ‘the age to come’ when Jesus returns in the future, rather than when Jesus returned in the past. We should be living in the period of “The Restoration Of All Things” where everything is restored back to God's original intention. People are still looking for another age to come or Jesus to return, to actually do all that stuff and therefore a lot of Christians are just waiting to be rescued, giving up their responsibility of sonship and are just waiting for rescue. That whole belief system has robbed us of living in the reality of what the New Covenant is all about, which is the fullness of the Kingdom...

If you can be deceived into believing it's not yet fully manifested, you will live in that poverty and that's where so many Christians live in poverty, believing they can only get a taste and it won't be manifested fully until some future age, whether it be a Millennium age or the end of the world and everything...But in reality the powers of the age to come are for full experience now.”⁶

(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)

WATCH: "Powers of the age to come" (Mike Parsons) youtu.be/1Bx25VZA894

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

6 – Mike Parsons (26-8-2022) "Powers of the age to come" youtu.be/1Bx25VZA894 [0:00-2:50]