

“Ages” or “Eternity”

AND THE ENGLISH VERSIONS with Concordance

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For the sincere student who is attempting to arrive at the truths of God, the uppermost requirement is to have before them the most accurate words as dictated or written by the inspired writers. To do less is like an attempt by the astronomer to search for a particular star in this vast universe in a non-intelligent and haphazard manner.

The error of using incorrect words in arriving at a particular truth of God can change the entire meaning of this truth and compound the error in its related subjects.

THE ENGLISH WORD “AGE”

Let us examine the English word “age” as used in the English versions of the Old and New Testaments. The word “age” is a true single word translation of the Hebrew word ‘*ôlâm* and the Greek noun *aiōn*. These words have a common meaning and are used interchangeably as the Scriptures well note, as can be seen by comparing Psalm 45:6 and Hebrews 1:8.

Although the word “age” is a direct translation of the words ‘*ôlâm* and *aiōn*, it must quickly be added that “age” will not imply the same meaning to everyone. Now, our only course of action, in order to form a most correct definition of this word “age” as was in the mind of the inspired writers, is to observe the way it is used in the Scriptures. Let us proceed to observe the use of the Hebrew word ‘*ôlâm*, and the English noun *aiōn*, its plural *aiōns*, and their adjective *aiōnion*, to ascertain their common meaning.

OLD TESTAMENT WORD STUDIES

Leviticus 24:8

Many English versions of this verse tell of the Mt. Sinai or Mosaic covenant as being an “*everlasting*” covenant, yet Jeremiah 31:31 prophesies its end with a second and better covenant. Hebrews 8:7-13 reiterates this prophecy as being fulfilled.

This seeming contradiction is solved by checking the Hebrew words of the inspired writers. We find in Leviticus 24:8 the word ‘*ôlâm*’ used which is erroneously rendered “*everlasting*.” A student of Bible chronology can determine that the Sinai covenant lasted for over 1500 years, and was not an unlimited duration of time as “*everlasting*” connotes.

Genesis 13:15

*For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed **for ever** (KJV).*

Genesis 17:8

*And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an **everlasting** possession: and I will be their God (KJV).*

After reading and studying these two Scriptures we know that something is not accurate, because the seed of Abraham has not always retained possession of the land of Canaan. From A.D. 70 up to the past middle century, the people of Israel have been scattered throughout the entire earth and thus did not possess their promised land *endlessly*, as the words “*for ever*” and “*everlasting*” signify.

Again, by examining the Hebrew manuscripts we find the word ‘*ôlâm*’ erroneously rendered “*for ever*” and “*everlasting*,” and should be correctly rendered “*age*.”

Exodus 21:5-6

If a Hebrew servant serves his Hebrew master six full years and then does not desire his freedom, :6 says,

*Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him **for ever** (KJV).*

“*For ever*” is in error: the Hebrew manuscripts read ‘*ôlâm*’, meaning the servant will serve his master from that time until the servant’s death, and not throughout eternity.

Exodus 40:15 and Numbers 25:13

These verses in many English versions declare the Aaronic priesthood as an “*everlasting*” priesthood; but this “*everlasting*” came to its finality at the closing of the Sinai covenant with the Jewish nation.

The Word of God is proven to be sound and true again and not a contradiction, by examining the old Hebrew manuscripts. The two mentioned Scriptures reveal that the Aaronic priesthood is an ‘*ôlâm*’ priesthood, or one that lasts for a definite period of time, and not an everlasting priesthood or one that endures for an unending length of time.

Deuteronomy 23:3-5.

The “*for ever*” in many English versions of this Scripture is self-explanatory by its contents. It is a period of ten generations and the Hebrew word is again ‘*ôlâm*’, or *age*.

Let us advance to the New Testament to investigate a few of the many incorrect renderings of English versions in regard to the Greek word *aion* (“*age*”).

NEW TESTAMENT WORD STUDIES

Philemon 1:15.

*For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him **for ever** (KJV).*

Paul is writing to Philemon, a Christian, in behalf of Philemon’s former bond servant by the name of Onesimus. Paul is admonishing Philemon to accept Onesimus back again, not as a servant this time but as a brother in Christ. The “*for ever*” at the end of the sentence is an incorrect translation of *aiōnion*. The sentence correctly reads that Philemon should accept Onesimus back “*for the duration of the age,*” NOT throughout all eternity.

II Timothy 4:10.

*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present **world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia (KJV).*

The Greek word *aiōn* is erroneously rendered “*world*.” The correct rendering is “*age*,” meaning that Demas had left him and the cause of Christ, loving instead the things of that particular age or period of time.

Jude 1:7.

*Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of **eternal** fire (KJV; also read Genesis 19:24-29).*

After studying this translation, we note that something is not valid. There are no ruins that remain on fire today as an example of the wickedness of these cities as this Scripture proclaims. Archaeologists have noted the most possible sites of these cities as being at the southern end of the Dead Sea because of the great quantities of artifacts found there, and because the region of the Old Testament’s description matches that of this location. What then is amiss? By examining the text of the Greek manuscripts we find the Greek word *aiōnios* improperly translated “*eternal*” in the English

versions, and should be correctly rendered *age-lasting*. Now we have harmony of events. The cities were on fire, and smoldered only during THAT *age* or length of time that the combustible materials remained to burn.

I Corinthians 1:20

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (KJV).

Please notice that the word “world” appears twice. Upon examining this Scripture with the Greek manuscripts we find that the last “world” is correct, rendered from the Greek word *kosmos*. Now, if the English translators are consistent, we will find the first Greek word translated “world” to be *kosmos* also. However, this is not the case. The Greek word from which the first “world” is rendered is *aiōn*.

The limited space of this study restricts the listing of a greater number of Scriptures that could be used to prove the full meaning of the word “age.” By scriptural usage, *age* (*ôlâm* or *aiōn*) never denotes eternity, endlessness, time without end, perpetuity of time, unending or unlimited duration. We now have arrived at the true definition of the words *ôlâm* or *aiōn* (*age*): a duration of time, having a beginning and an ending. The duration of this time differs with the context of the Scripture where it is used. *Aiōnion*, the adjective, modifies its noun *aiōn* (“age”), and means “lasting during the age,” or “age-lasting.”

Aiōn (“Age”) = a limited duration of time

Aiōnios (“Age-Lasting”) = lasting during the age

For the meticulous student of the Word of God, that was penned by the inspired writers, I am including this concordance of the Greek noun *aiōn* and its adjective *aiōnios* with their deviations for your reference in your studies. As the basis of this concordance I will be using the *King James Version*. Mistranslations of *KJV* are in (), missing words in *KJV* are in “ ”.

Bible Verses in Question	The text of the King James Version	The text of the Greek Manuscripts
Matthew 6:13	glory for (ever)	ever or AIŌN AS not in oldest manuscripts. AIŌN AS in late century manuscripts.
Matthew 12:32	in the (world)	in this the AIŌNI or age
Matthew 13:22	care of this (world)	care of the AIŌNOS or age
Matthew 13:39	end of the (world)	end of the AIŌNOS or age
Matthew 13:40	end of this (world)	end of the AIŌNOS or age
Matthew 13:49	end of the (world)	end of the AIŌNOS or age
Matthew 18:8	into (everlasting) fire	the fire the AIŌNION or age-lasting
Matthew 19:16	may have (eternal) life	may have life AIŌNION or age-lasting life
Matthew 19:29	inherit (everlasting) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Matthew 21:19	hence forward for (ever)	produced to the AIŌNA or age
Matthew 24:3	end of the (world)	end of the AIŌNOS or age
Matthew 25:41	into (everlasting) fire	the fire the AIŌNION or age-lasting
Matthew 25:46	into (everlasting) punishment	AIŌNION or age-lasting
Matthew 25:46	into life (eternal)	into life AIŌNION or age-lasting

Matthew 28:20	end of the (world)	end of the AIŌNOS or age
Mark 3:29	forgiveness “to the age”	forgiveness, to the AIŌNA or age
Mark 3:29	of (eternal) damnation	of AIŌNION or age-lasting
Mark 4:19	cares of this (world)	cares of the AIŌNOS or age
Mark 10:17	inherit (eternal) life	AIŌNION or age-lasting I may inherit
Mark 10:30	in the (world) to come	in the AIŌNI or age to come
Mark 10:30	to come (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Mark 11:14	hereafter for (ever)	to the AIŌNA or age
Luke 1:33	house of Jacob for (ever)	Jacob to the AIŌNAS or age
Luke 1:55	his seed for (ever)	him even to AIŌNOS or age
Luke 1:70	since the (world) began	of those from AIŌNOS or age
Luke 10:25	inherit (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Luke 16:8	children of this (world)	sons of the AIŌNOS or age
Luke 16:9	(everlasting) habitation	AIŌNIOUS or age-lasting
Luke 18:18	inherit (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Luke 18:30	the (world) to come	the AIŌNI or age
Luke 18:30	life (everlasting)	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Luke 20:34	this (world) marry	the AIŌNOS or age this marry
Luke 20:35	obtain that (world)	the AIŌNOS or age that to obtain
John 3:15	have (everlasting) life	have life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 3:16	have (everlasting) life	have life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 3:36	hath (everlasting) life	has life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 4:14	never thirst, “to the age”	not may thirst to the AIŌNA or age
John 4:14	into (everlasting) life	into life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 4:36	unto life (eternal)	for life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 5:24	hath (everlasting) life	has life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 5:39	ye have (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 6:27	unto (everlasting) life	into life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 6:40	have (everlasting) life	have life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 6:47	hath (everlasting) life	has life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 6:51	shall life for (ever)	shall live into the AIŌNA or age
John 6:54	hath (eternal) life	has life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 6:58	shall live for (ever)	shall live into the AIŌNA or age
John 6:68	words of (eternal) life	words of life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 8:35	house for (ever)	house to the AIŌNA or age
John 8:35	Son abideth (ever)	Son abides to the AIŌNA or age
John 8:51	see death. “to the age”	see to the AIŌNA or age
John 8:52	of death. “to the age”	taste of death to the AIŌNA or age
John 9:32	Since the (world) began	From the AIŌNOS or age
John 10:28	them (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 10:28	never perish, “into the age”	perish into the AIŌNA or age
John 11:26	shall (never) die	die into the AIŌNA or age
John 12:25	unto life (eternal)	into life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 12:34	Christ abideth for (ever)	Christ abides into the AIŌNA or age
John 12:50	is life (everlasting)	life AIŌNIOUS or age-lasting
John 13:8	(never) wash my feet	the feet of me into the AIŌNA or age
John 14:16	with you for (ever)	with you into the AIŌNA or age
John 17:2	give (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
John 17:3	And this is life (eternal)	and this is the AIŌNIOUS or age-lasting
Acts 3:21	since the (world) began	from AIŌNOS or age
Acts 13:46	unworthy of (everlasting) life	of the AIŌNION or age-lasting
Acts 13:48	ordained to (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Acts 15:18	beginning of the (world)	known from AIŌNOS or age
Romans 1:25	who is blessed for (ever)	into the AIŌNAS or ages
Romans 2:7	immortality (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Romans 5:21	unto (eternal) life	into life AIŌNION or age-lasting

Romans 6:22	the end (everlasting) life	life AIŌNIOS or age-lasting
Romans 6:23	is (eternal) life	life AIŌNIOS or age-lasting
Romans 9:5	God blessed for (ever)	praise into the AIŌNAS or ages
Romans 11:36	be glory for (ever)	the glory for the AIŌNAS or ages
Romans 12:2	conformed to this (world)	conform yourselves to the AIŌN or age
Romans 16:25	since the (world) began	in times of AIŌNIOS or ages
Romans 16:26	of the (everlasting) God	of the AIŌNIU or age-lasting God
Romans 16:27	Jesus Christ for (ever)	glory for the AIŌNAS or ages
I Corinthians 1:20	the disputer of this (world)	disputer of the AIŌNOS or age
I Corinthians 2:6	wisdom of this (world)	of the AIŌNOS or age
I Corinthians 2:6	princes of this (world)	rulers of the AIŌNOS or age
I Corinthians 2:7	ordained before the (world)	before the AIŌNON or ages
I Corinthians 2:8	princes of this (world)	rulers of the AIŌNOS or age
I Corinthians 3:18	wise in this (world)	in the AIŌNI or age
I Corinthians 8:13	the (world) standeth	to the AIŌNA or age
I Corinthians 10:11	the (world) are come	the AIŌNON or ages
II Corinthians 4:4	(world) hath blinded	AIŌNOS or age, this blinded
II Corinthians 4:17	(eternal) weight of glory	AIŌNION or age-lasting
II Corinthians 4:18	not seen are (eternal)	not being seen AIŌNIA or age-lasting
II Corinthians 5:1	(eternal) in the heavens	AIŌNION or age-lasting in heavens
II Corinthians 11:31	blessed for (evermore)	blessed for the AIŌNAS or ages
Galatians 1:4	this present evil (world)	present AIŌNOS or age of evil
Galatians 1:5	glory for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Galatians 6:8	reap life (everlasting)	reap life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Ephesians 1:21	only in this (world)	only in the AIŌNI or age
Ephesians 2:2	according to the (course)	according to the AIŌNA or age
Ephesians 2:7	That in the ages	in the AIŌNI or ages
Ephesians 3:9	beginning of the (world)	from the AIŌNON or ages
Ephesians 3:11	the (eternal) purpose	plan of the AIŌNON or ages
Ephesians 3:21	Jesus throughout all (ages),	Jesus to all the generations
Ephesians 3:21	(world without end).	of the AIŌNOS of the AIŌNON or of the Age of the Ages.
Ephesians 6:12	of this (world)	world or AIŌNOS not in oldest manuscripts. AIŌNOS in late century manuscripts.
Philippians 4:20	glory for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Colossians 1:26	hid from ages	hid from the AIŌNON or ages
II Thessalonians 1:9	(everlasting) destruction	destruction AIŌNION or age-lasting
II Thessalonians 2:16	(everlasting) consolation	consolation AIŌNIAN or age-lasting
I Timothy 1:16	life (everlasting)	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
I Timothy 1:17	the King (eternal)	now King of the AIŌNON or ages
I Timothy 1: 17	glory for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
I Timothy 6:12	hold on (eternal) life	AIŌNION or age-lasting life
I Timothy 6:16	and power (everlasting)	AIŌNION or age-lasting
II Timothy 1:9	the (world) began	AIŌNION or age-lasting
II Timothy 2:10	with (eternal) glory	with glory AIŌNION or age-lasting
II Timothy 4:10	loved this present (world)	loved the present AIŌNA or age
II Timothy 4:18	glory for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Titus 1:2	The hope of (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Titus 1:2	before the (world) began	times AIŌNION or age-lasting
Titus 2:12	this present (world)	the present AIŌNI or age
Titus 3:7	hope of (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Philemon 1:15	receive him for (ever)	so that AIŌNION or age-lasting
Hebrews 1:2	he made the (worlds)	the AIŌNAS or ages he made
Hebrews 1:8	is for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNA of the AIŌNOS or age of the ages
Hebrews 5:6	a priest for (ever)	a priest for the AIŌNA or age
Hebrews 5:9	author of (eternal)	of salvation AIŌNIU or age-lasting

Hebrews 6:2	and of (eternal) judgment	of judgment AIŌNIOU or age-lasting
Hebrews 6:5	the (world) to come	coming AIŌNOS or age
Hebrews 6:20	high priest for (ever)	for the AIŌNA or age
Hebrews 7:17	priest for (ever)	priest for the AIŌNA or age
Hebrews 7:21	priest for (ever)	priest for the AIŌNA or age
Hebrews 7:24	he continueth (ever)	for the AIŌNA or age
Hebrews 7:28	consecrated for (evermore)	AIŌNA or age having been perfected
Hebrews 9:12	obtained (eternal) redemption	AIŌNIAN or age-lasting redemption
Hebrews 9:14	the (eternal) Spirit	Spirit AIŌNIOU or age-lasting
Hebrews 9:15	of (eternal) inheritance	AIŌNIOU or age-lasting inheritance
Hebrews 9:26	the end of the (world)	an end of the AIŌNON or ages
Hebrews 11:3	the (worlds) were framed	adjusted the AIŌNAS or ages
Hebrews 13:8	today and for (ever)	and for the AIŌNAS or ages
Hebrews 13:20	(everlasting) covenant	covenant AIŌNIOU or age-lasting
Hebrews 13:21	glory for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages.
I Peter 1:23	and abideth for (ever)	for ever or AIŌNA not in oldest manuscripts. AIŌNA in late century manuscripts.
I Peter 1:25	Lord endureth for (ever)	abides to the AIŌNA age
I Peter 4:11	for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
I Peter 5:10	his (eternal) glory	into the AIŌNION or age-lasting
I Peter 5:11	dominion for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
II Peter 1:11	(everlasting) kingdom	AIŌNION or age-lasting kingdom
II Peter 2:17	reserved for (ever)	ever or AIŌNA not in oldest manuscript. AIŌNA in late century manuscripts.
II Peter 3:18	now and for (ever)	of an AIŌNOS or age
I John 1:2	that (eternal) life	life the AIŌNION or age-lasting
I John 2:17	abideth for (ever)	abides for the AIŌNA or age
I John 2:25	even (eternal) life	AIŌNION or age-lasting
I John 3:15	hath (eternal) life	has life AIŌNION or age-lasting
I John 5:11	to us (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
I John 5:13	ye have (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
I John 5:20	and (eternal) life	life AIŌNIOS or age-lasting
II John 1:2	with us for (ever)	for the AIŌNA age
Jude 1:7	vengeance of (eternal) fire	of fire AIŌNION or age-lasting
Jude 1:13	of darkness for (ever)	darkness for AIŌNA or age
Jude 1:21	unto (eternal) life	life AIŌNION or age-lasting
Jude 1:25	both now and (ever)	for all the AIŌNAS or ages
Revelation 1:6	dominion for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 1:18	I am alive for (evermore)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 4:9	who liveth for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 4:10	Liveth for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 5:13	Lamb for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 5:14	liveth for (ever) and (ever)	ever and ever or AIŌNAS and AIŌNON not in oldest manuscripts. AIŌNAS and AIŌNON appears in the late century manuscripts.
Revelation 7:12	our God for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 10:6	liveth for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 11:15	reign for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 14:6	the (everlasting) gospel	glad tidings AIŌNION or ages lasting
Revelation 14:11	ascendeth up for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of AIŌNON or ages of ages rises up
Revelation 15:7	liveth for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 19:3	up for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 20:10	night for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages
Revelation 22:5	reign for (ever) and (ever)	AIŌNAS of the AIŌNON or ages of the ages

By checking this concordance, it can be quickly noted that, in this example, the *King James Version* correctly states the word “age” in Ephesians 2:7 and Colossians 1:26, but is incorrect in Ephesians 3:21. All of the remaining itemized Scriptures of this concordance reveal the mistranslations of the *King James Version* (and other similar English translations) that should have been rendered age, ages or age-lasting. For the in-depth student or the scholar of the biblical languages, I wish to make it quite plain that whether the searcher for truth considered the Majority or Received text to be the true renderings from the inspired writers, or considers the oldest or most ancient Greek manuscripts to be the true text coming from the inspired writers, you will find this concordance to be accurate and in accord with both schools of thought.

(Adapted from the original work of 1977.)

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