
THE MISSION OF GOD

Talk 2: The Kingdom of God

“As there is only one God, so there can be only one gospel. It is when we have the only gospel, and not till then, that we have the gospel for all.”

James Denney

INTRODUCTION

A prayer for the end of the world

Matthew 6

Revelation 11:15 “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

A complication

- **Far**

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,... 23 [but] I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Matthew 26:9 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Mark 13:32 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ...35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

- **Near**

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 4:11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you

Mark 9:1... “some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

Mark 12:34... “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

1. KINGDOM EXPECTATIONS

A. Israel's story (history)

Genesis 12:3... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Universal / Particular

Gathering

- **Rescue**

Exodus 3:14-16 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation....I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

- **Purpose**

Exodus 19:3-6 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession, because the whole earth is mine. You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Deuteronomy 4:5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of. 6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." 7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Isaiah 60:3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. 5 Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. 6 Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

- **Climax**

1 Kings 10

Deuteronomy 12:5-8 To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

Peace

Plenty

Praise

Scattering

“horses, wives, silver and gold” (1 Kings 10:23-25 / Deuteronomy 17:16-17)

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Jeremiah 29

B. Israel's hope (prophets)

“Same again, but better”

Like David...but better

1 Samuel 17

What the ‘better-than-David’ Son of David must do:

- **Release the captives**

Psalm 126:1-3 When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion,
we were like men who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

Isaiah 43:16-19 This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.”

- **Re-create creation**

Isaiah 42:5-7 This is what God the LORD says—
he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;

I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

Isaiah 55:12-13 You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

- **Conquest**

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Daniel 7:13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

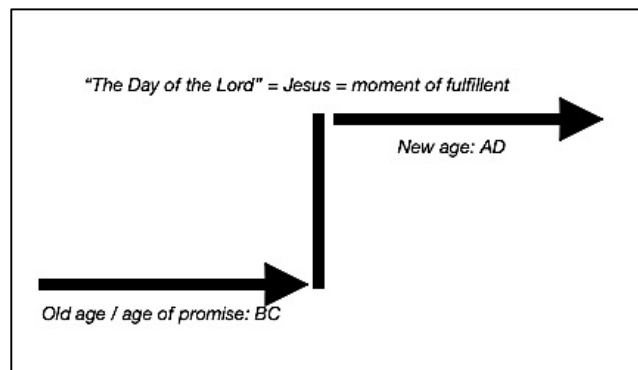
Psalms 72:1-4 Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
He will judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
The mountains will bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
he will crush the oppressor.

Israel’s hope: the return of the King

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God draws near:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, strong Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery*



2. KINGDOM ARRIVAL

Now

Luke 1-4

Mark 15:37-39 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

John 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

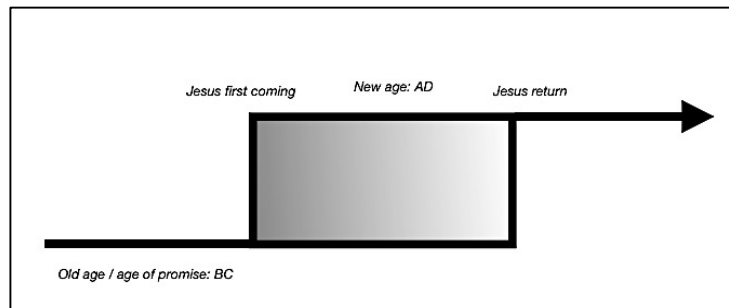
1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Revelation 1: 5...To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Not yet

Luke 24:45-47 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

2 Peter 3



3. KINGDOM LIFE

Understanding what lasts

Living for what lasts

1. Kingdom people

2 Corinthians 6:2 I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

1 John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

2. Kingdom work

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

3. Kingdom conflict

Luke 21:17 All men will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By standing firm you will gain life.

RESPONSE

Something I've been reminded of:

Something new I've learned:

Something I need to do or change as a result: