

The Kingdom Effect



The Kingdom Effect:

How Christ & the Kingdom Changes Everything

The Kingdom Effect...

1. On the Individual
2. On Human Sexuality
3. On Marriage
4. On the Family
5. On the Church, pt I
6. On the Church, pt II
7. On Society & Culture
8. On Worldly Powers
9. On the Future
of Heaven & Earth

“Christians are often unduly pessimistic about the present age. They tend to lay emphasis on the evil they still find in the world, rather than on the evidence of Christ's rule.”

Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible & the Future*

You Betta Check Yo Self!

What best describes you?

- The Gloomy Pessimist
- The Regal Realist
- The Bitter Cynic
- The Blind Optimist
- The Hopeful Realist (Kingdom View)

What's This World Coming To?

- *Eschaton* – “last things” or end times
- Telos – end goal or purpose

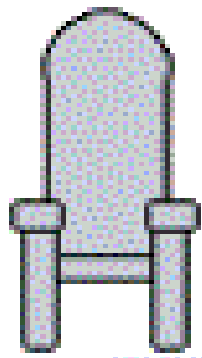
Eschatology inquires about:

- corporate human telos “Where are we going?”
- personal purpose “Where am I going?”
- goal of the cosmos “Where is creation going?”

Space, Time & God's Sovereignty

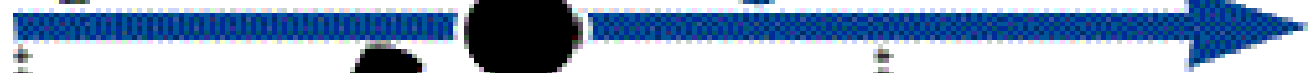
- cyclical view of history “circle of life”
 - secular progressivism (humankind is focus)
 - history is “His story” and God *guides* all things
- “History's goal is nothing less than the realization of God's purposes for creation. The grand culmination... God is ordering our story to its intended goal. And this *telos* will be realized when Jesus returns in glory.”

Stanley Grenz, *Created for Community*



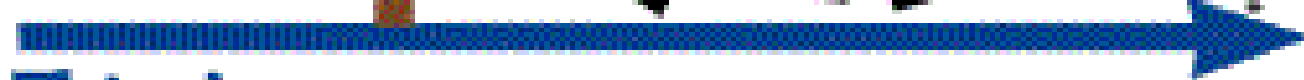
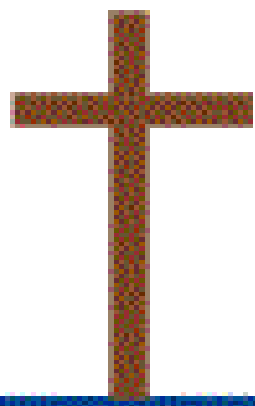
Christ reigning now
from heaven

Age to Come



Already

Not Yet



This Age

“From first to last, and not merely in the epilogue, Christianity is eschatology, is hope, forward looking and forward moving, and therefore also revolutionizing and transforming the present.”

Jürgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope*

2 Peter 3:3-13 NIV

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:8-10 NIV

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:11-13 NIV

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Secret Rapture?

Paul, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Who Gets Left Behind?

Jesus, Matthew 24:36-41 NIV

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

“Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.”

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

Paul, Philippians 3:20-21 NIV

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. **21** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

Liberation of Creation

Paul, Romans 8:18-21 NIV

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:22-23 NIV

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:44-49 NIV

44 If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.

48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 NIV

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

1 Corinthians 15:55-58 NIV

55 “Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, [since the resurrection of the dead is true] my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Marriage of Heaven & Earth

John, Revelation 21:1-2 NASB

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

* Isaiah 65:17-18

Revelation 21:3-5 NASB

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

The Kingdom Effect On the Future

- Creation is good, but is currently in bondage. God will set it free and bring about new reality.
- Christ is the prototype of what's to come, he reveals that new reality in his resurrection.
- The church is God's ministers of reconciliation. We are peacemakers, agents of new creation.
- Good and evil will exist alongside each other until the Second Coming of Christ. However, the Kingdom will advance unto the end.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Jesus, Matt 24:14 NIV

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Jesus, John 14:27 NIV

Paul, Romans 8:38-39 NLT

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. **39** No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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