

## Part 5: The Doctrine of Eternity and the Kingdom of Heaven

<p><b>Creation. Fall. Redemption. Consummation.</b></p>	<p>“...no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” <b>1 Corinthians 2:9</b></p>
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**Genesis 1-2 & Revelation 21-22**

- The Bible begins and ends with God creating something new
- The Bible begins and ends with a garden (paradise/home)
- The Bible begins and ends with perfect fellowship
- The Bible begins and ends with God’s provision
- The Bible begins and ends with man’s purpose
- The Bible begins and ends with a wedding.
- The Bible begins and ends with God and Man dwelling together

**What Scripture clearly teaches about the future:**

<p>Jesus Christ will return, but no one will know the day or the hour.</p>	<p><b>Matthew 24:36-39, 44</b> 36 <b>“But concerning that day and hour no one knows</b>, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... 44 Therefore you also must be ready, <b>for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.</b></p>
<p>Jesus’ return will not be secret, but obvious to all.</p>	<p><b>Matthew 24:24-27</b> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 <b>For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.</b></p>
<p>The dead will be raised and the living transformed with Resurrected bodies.</p>	<p><b>1 Corinthians 51-53</b> 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, <b>but we shall all be changed</b>, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and <b>this mortal body must put on immortality.</b></p>
<p>Jesus will judge the living and the dead. Some will be raised to eternal punishment, others to eternal life.</p>	<p><b>2 Timothy 4:1-4</b> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, <b>who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:</b> 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.</p> <p><b>1 Peter 4:3-6, 7</b> 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 <b>but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.</b> 6 ...7 <b>The end of all things is at hand;</b> therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.</p>

<p>Creation will go through a radical transformation of renew or re-creation.</p>	<p><b>2 Peter 3: 10-13</b>  10 <b>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief</b>, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 <b>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.</b></p>
<p>The Glorified people of God will inherit the Kingdom and New Creation to dwell with God for all of eternity.</p>	<p><b>Matthew 5:3-5</b>  3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for <b>theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</b> 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for <b>they shall inherit the earth.</b></p> <p><b>Matthew 25:34</b>  Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, <b>inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.</b></p> <p><b>1 Peter 1:2-5</b>  3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an <b>inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven</b> for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation <b>ready to be revealed in the last time.</b></p> <p><b>Revelation 21:2-3</b>  Then I saw <b>a new heaven and a new earth</b>, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “<b>Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.</b> He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.</p>

“God created both body and soul, and the resurrection of Jesus shows that he is going to redeem both body and soul. The work of the Spirit of God is not only to save souls but also to care and cultivate the face of the earth, the material world. It is hard to overemphasize the uniqueness of this vision. Outside of the Bible, no other major religious faith holds out any hope or even interest in the restoration of perfect shalom, justice, and wholeness in this material world.” – **Tim Keller, The Reason for God**

### The “Now” and the “Not Yet” of New Creation

**John 3:3**  
Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17**  
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## The “Now” and the “Not Yet” of the Kingdom

### Matthew 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ **will enter the kingdom of heaven**, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 **On that day** many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

### 2 Timothy 4:1

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and **by his appearing and his kingdom**:

### Hebrew 12:28

Therefore let us be grateful for **receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

### Matthew 3:2

“Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

### Matthew 10:7

And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The **kingdom of heaven is at hand.**’

### Matthew 12:28

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the **kingdom of God has come upon you.**

### Luke 10:8-10

8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**’

### Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and **the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

### Luke 17:20-21

20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “**The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed**, 21 nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, **the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.**”

## The Rightful King has Landed

### Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the **prince of the power of the air**, the **spirit** that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

### John 12:30-23

30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will **the ruler of this world** be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

### John 14:29-31

29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, **for the ruler of this world** is coming. He has no claim on me, 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

### John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, **because the ruler of this world** is judged.

“Enemy-occupied territory---that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.”

– C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

### Colossians 1:13-20

13 He has delivered us **from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son**, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

### The Kingdom Gives New Life:

#### Galatians 5:19-24

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

#### Colossians 3:1-10

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

### The Kingdom Gives New Family, Identity, and Purpose:

#### Matthew 12:48-50

46 While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. 48 But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!**" 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

#### 1 Timothy 3:14-16

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the **household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth**. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: "He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

#### Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of God...**

#### 1 Peter 3: 13-18

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God...**