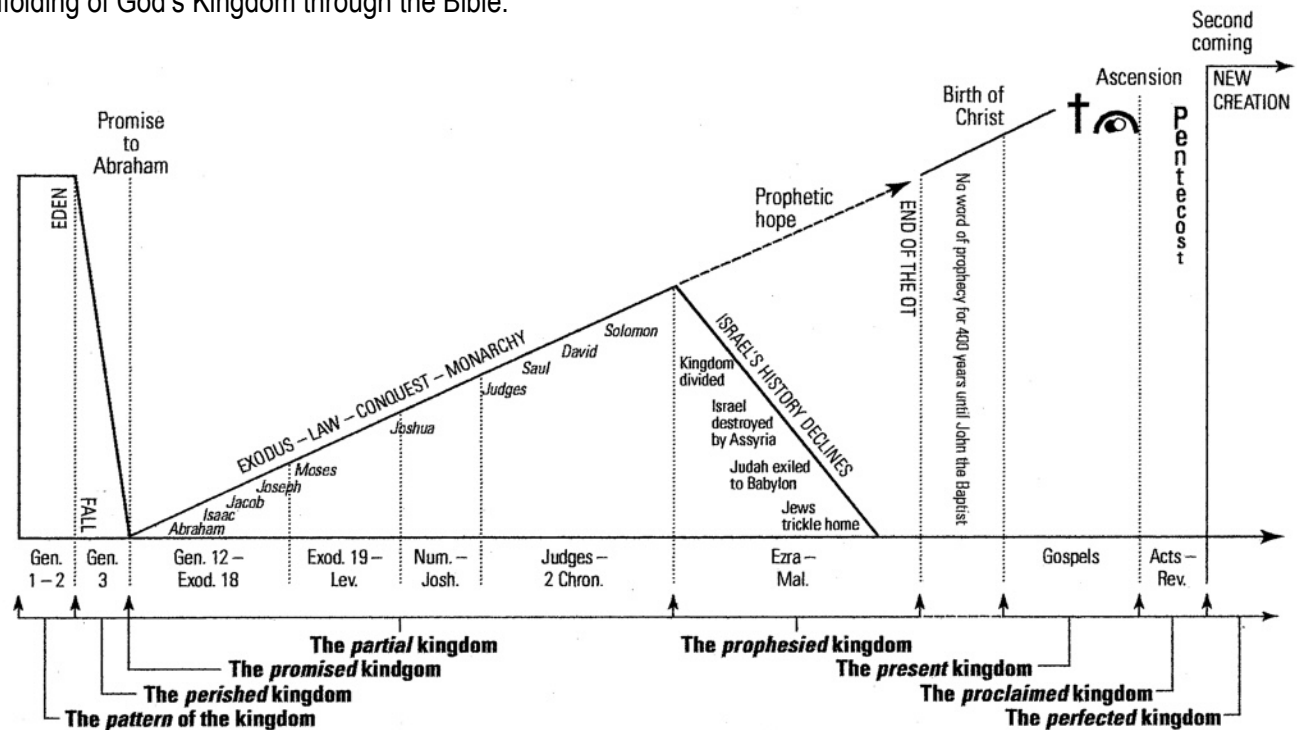


- NT discusses two ages – the present age and the age to come ... Because of our union with Christ, we belong to the age to come and yet still live in the present age – this is why we experience a tension within us and all around us ... We live in a world we no longer belong to ... We are to reflect the Kingdom we have received and no longer reflect the world we've been redeemed from ... The Kingdom we now belong to looks very different than any other kingdom that this world holds up as an alternative
- What does it mean to possess a kingdom that can't be shaken ... No matter what comes against us, nothing can in any way affect the surety, stability, and sovereignty of our King and His Kingdom ... We have the advantage – any battle we engage we do so from a position of victory, not defeat (**Rm8:37-39**) ... Because of this, our faith and hope are to be firmly rooted in the very One we're united to (**He12:1-2**)
 - The shaking of things is all around ... Every day culture is on the offensive against God and His Kingdom ... But it's with purpose that His Kingdom is opposed ... The more His Kingdom is opposed, the stronger and more visible His Kingdom becomes in this world ... Because of His image bearers – how they respond, how they live, how they (like the Kingdom they represent) cannot be shaken or defeated
 - Our God is a consuming fire of judgment and purification ... He will shake everything that's of this world, so that only what's of Him will remain ... **CALVIN: WE ARE TO LAY HOLD ON THAT KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN; FOR THE LORD SHAKES US FOR THIS END, THAT HE MAY REALLY AND FOREVER ESTABLISH US IN HIMSELF.** ... In His presence we stand exposed ... Yet we rejoice: because of Jesus, we're not consumed by judgment ... God is transforming us – shaking this world from us, and shaking us from this world ... Day by day as we walk in faith and hope
- Because of this, we live by a different standard ... The enemy wages a spiritual battle through physical means ... So often, it seems the church is trying to fight this spiritual battle with physical means – particularly political means ... Right Policies + Right People = Christianized culture and nation ... Where there's more of "us" and less of "them" ... It seems so often the Church is more concerned about the kingdom of this world rather than the Kingdom we belong to (and some even conflate the two) ... || ... NT Church lived in period of fierce persecution ... What's the call to action – Christianize Rome, conservative rulers, petition for better laws ... A life being transformed by the Holy Spirit and the gospel day by day – THIS was the call to action ... THIS continues to be the Church's call to action ... ||
 - We vote in elections; we advocate for the values of God's Kingdom ... Knowing that no political party has exclusive ownership of Christianity or the Church or God's Kingdom ... Knowing that political agendas and policies will not change the hearts of people ... Knowing that the people on the other side of the political and social aisle are not our enemy – they are not who we're to be fighting with
- If we view people through any other lens but the gospel then we're not actually seeing them ... Because when we view people through the lens of the gospel, we find commonality – we're no different than them ... The same blood of Jesus that saves you is the same blood that saves them ... Your sin is just as vile as their sin ... They need to hear the gospel just as much as you do ... Through a gospel lens we're able to see clearly – it's not "us" vs "them" ... It's us and them needing the same life-giving message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified

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