

Already But Not Yet

David Feddes

Hard questions

- Kingdom
- Victory
- Resurrection
- Church
- Status
- Holiness
- Prayer
- Healing
- Guidance
- Encounter

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:22)



Firstfruits of the Spirit

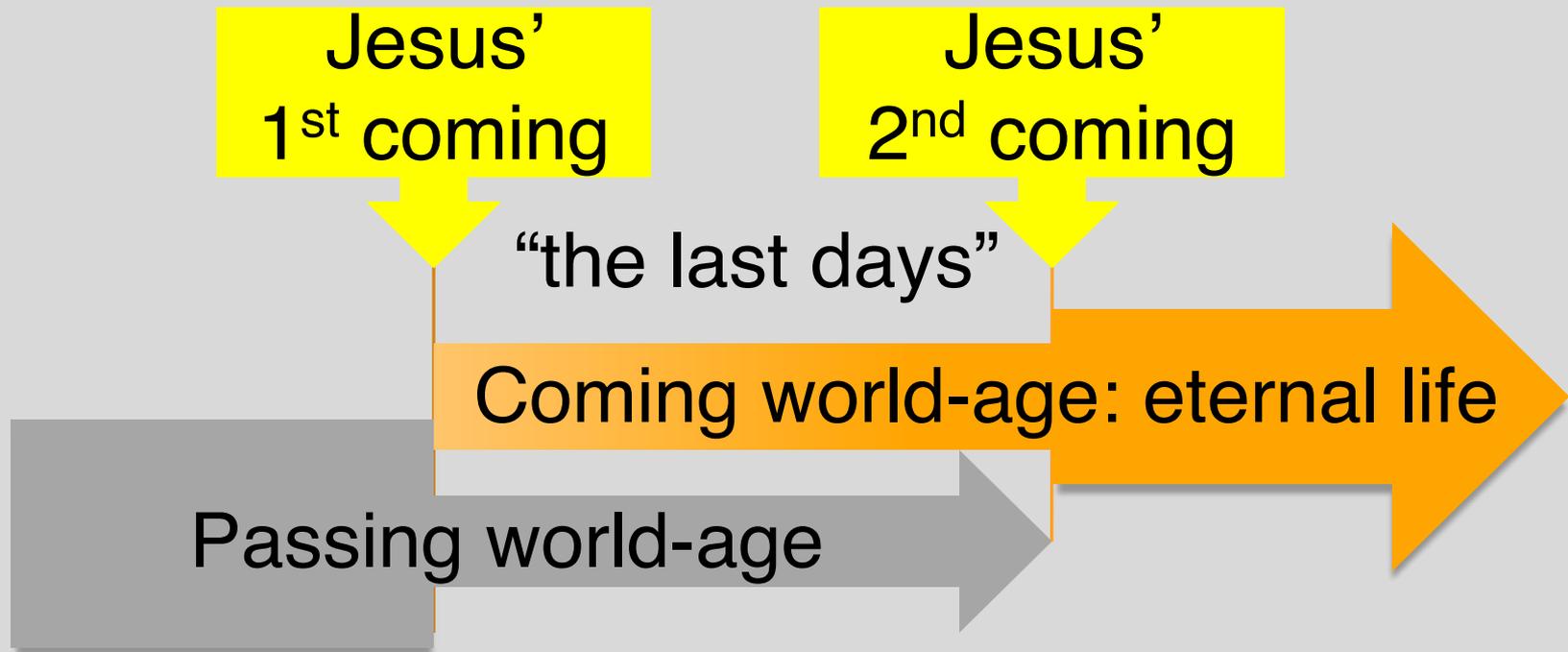


Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom 8:23)

Spirit as down payment

God anointed us,
sealed us, and
gave the down
payment of the
Spirit in our hearts.
(2 Cor 1:21)





NT speaks of two world-ages (*aions*). These overlap between Jesus' first and second coming. God's kingdom is "already/not yet."

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Kingdom

If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. (Luke 11:20) The kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:21)

Thy kingdom come. (Matthew 6:10) I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. (Luke 22:18)

Victory

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Luke 10:18) Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)

Satan hindered us. (1 Thess. 2:18)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Romans 16:20)

Resurrection

Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

We wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom 8:23)

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

(1 Cor. 15:26)

Church

Marvel. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

(Ephesians 3:10).

Muddle. I am astonished that you are turning to a different gospel. (Gal 1:6)

Status

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:1)

But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. (Galatians 5:5)

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness. (2 Timothy 4:8)

Holiness

We died to sin... You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Rom 6:2,18)

I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Rom 7:18)

Flesh and Spirit are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. (Galatians 5:17)

Prayer

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspoken groans. (Rom 8:26)

Healing

Jesus healed all the sick. (Matthew 8:16)

Crowds gathered ... and all of them were healed. (Acts 5:16) God did extraordinary miracles through Paul. (Acts 19:11)

Use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. (1 Tim 5:23)

I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. (2 Tim 4:20)

Guidance

We have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:16)

Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” (Acts 16:9)

I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia... When I planned this, did I do it lightly? (2 Cor 1:16-17)

Encounter

God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ. (2 Cor 4:6-7)

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. (1 Cor 13:12)

Healthy realism

- Treasure what has already been given.
- Accept that these last days mix kingdom glory with a fallen, fading world.
- Don't give up on others or yourself due to faults and failures.
- Expect and groan for Jesus to return and bring heaven to earth fully.
- Keep seeking more each day. Press on!

Press on toward the goal!

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Certain hope

In this hope we were saved. (Rom 8:24)

He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:8)

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)