

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #35

“Kingdom Now and Not Yet”

Introduction

- Explanation of Title: The heart of the biblical worldview is the revelation of the Kingdom of God, (the reign and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ), as a *present* reality awaiting a full fulfillment in the *future*. There is a "now" and "not yet" quality to Kingdom of God, the most important subject in the Bible.
- Here is our “Now and Not Yet” text from the NT Book of Hebrews:

**You have put all things in subjection under his feet.
For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is not put*
under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.
Hebrews 2:8**

- The writer of Hebrews is quoting from the Messianic prophecy in Psalm 8; the prophecy is that God would put all things under the feet of the Messiah, the “Son of Man”. But he says here that although God has put all things under Him, and left nothing not under Him, “*now we do not yet see all things put under Him.*”
- This is a perfect explanation of the current situation!

**The risen Christ is Lord right NOW; so the Kingdom of God is a
present reality. But the full manifestation of His Kingdom is NOT YET;
His Lordship is progressing through history toward the ‘end’....**

So we see the Kingdom of God is Now and Not Yet at the same time. And this is not some exotic new revelation! Dr. Joel McDurmon of American Vision said this in a recent article....

**“This dual reality is often called the “already-and-not-yet” aspect of Paul’s
theology, generally understood as meaning that some things Christ has
attained for believers they realize now, but full realization of the inheritance of
the Kingdom must await fulfillment in the future.”
Joel McDurmon**

One of the clearest teachings in the New Testament is that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit and exalted the risen Christ to sit enthroned at His right hand!

“Christ’s exaltation is fully a reality *already*, and the Church possesses that reality in Christ *already*, while our realization of that reality has *not yet* attained the fullness of Christ.”

Joel McDurmon

Anderson Tawa, in his book, “An Introduction to the Christian Worldview”, complains that the modern church is missing out on an important New Testament doctrine:

“We should give greater exposure in contemporary Christian thought to the simultaneous expression of both finality in the ascended Christ and yet the progressive reality in his Church in earth.”

Anderson J. Tawa, An Introduction to Christian Worldview: Pursuing God’s Perspective in a Pluralistic World

So let’s take a look at 3 things:

- 1-What do we mean when we say “Kingdom now”?
- 2-What do we mean when we say “Kingdom not yet”?
3. Finally, why in the world does it matter?

I. What Do We Mean When We Say “Kingdom Now”?

A. The Kingdom is a Present Reality

1. As early as Acts 2, the Church was preaching the resurrected Jesus as Lord:

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that that God has made this Jesus you crucified both Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:36

2. To say “Jesus is Lord” means the Kingdom is a present reality!

a. The word “Is”, last time I checked, is a *present tense* verb; a statement of BEING.

b. To declare that “Jesus is Lord” means He is Lord and King right now.

c. The Apostle Peter tells us that our baptism into Christ saves us...

**...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
1 Peter 3:21-22**

3. It is a doctrinal mistake to ask people to “make Jesus Lord of your life”! As Evangelist Paul Washer says:

**“Don’t think I will ask you to make Jesus Lord of your life. That’s the most preposterous thing I could ever tell you. Jesus Christ is Lord of your life! Whether you serve Him or not, whether you bless Him, curse Him, or love Him, He is Lord of your life; for ‘every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord’.”
Evangelist Paul Washer**

a. This is not just semantics. If I ask someone to “Make Jesus Lord” it means I don’t have a biblical worldview...

**Jesus is Lord whether you believe it or not!
We don’t “make” Jesus Lord. God made Him Lord a long time ago!
He is already Lord.
What we can do is surrender to Who He already is...to surrender our lives to His Lordship.**

4. This is the consistent picture presented by the Apostle Paul, especially in the Book of Colossians, and in Ephesians where Paul prayed that the eyes of the church would be enlightened to see...

**That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
Ephesians 1:19-23 NIV**

a. Christ has been raised; He has been seated at the right hand of God; He is right now above all rule and authority IN THIS PRESENT AGE and the age to come! God HAS ALREADY PLACED ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET and appointed Him head over everything for the Church which is His body!

b. This is what He meant right after the resurrection in the Great Commission when He said...

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me.”

Matthew 28:18

5. The Kingdom is NOW; it is a PRESENT REALITY! But the full manifestation of is “NOT YET”...

**You have put all things in subjection under his feet.
For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is not put*
under him. But *now* we do *not yet* see all things put under him.**

Hebrews 2:8

6. All things are under His feet NOW. But we do NOT YET see all things under His feet. SO WHAT’S THE DEAL?

II. What Do We Mean When We Say “Not Yet”?

A. What is Jesus Waiting For?

1. If Jesus IS Lord and His Kingdom is a PRESENT reality, where is it? Good question! The answer is in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians when he speaks of the coming of Christ on resurrection day...

Then will come the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 NKJV

2. Paul tells us the end is coming, when Jesus will deliver the Kingdom to the Father after He puts down all opposition; but not yet. This will not happen until He has put all enemies under His feet.

a. Paul is quoting the most quoted verse in the Bible; Psalm 110:1, one of the Messianic prophecies of David....

The LORD said unto my LORD, ‘Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies and make them a footstool for your feet’.

Psalm 110:1

b. Amazing! Hundreds of years before the birth of the Messiah, David saw a heavenly vision of the Lord (the Father God) speaking to David’s Lord, (the risen Christ), to “sit” at His right Hand UNTIL (time word), all His enemies are under His feet.

3. The Kingdom is NOW (He is reigning) but the fullness is NOT YET; it will not be fully revealed until the King comes back; but He won’t come back, He will “sit” UNTIL...

4. This is one of the most important verses in the Bible; it is referred to directly or indirectly 8 times, including by Jesus Himself in Matthew 22 and Mark 12; also in the epistle to the Hebrews...

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Hebrews 1:13

a. The operative word is ‘UNTIL’; meaning that Christ will SIT at the Father’s right hand UNTIL something happens on earth. We find the same thing in Hebrews 10:

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting until His enemies are made His footstool.

Hebrews 10:12

b. We find the same thing in the Book of Acts...

Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration (KJV-“times of restitution”) of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Acts 3:19-21 NASB

5. The Bible says over and over, in the Old and New Testament that the risen Christ will SIT at the right hand of the Father ruling and reigning UNTIL His enemies are made His footstool. This was the worldview of the early church; but not today.

6. And here comes the controversy! Some of you may be squirming because you have a confirmation bias against anything in the Bible that puts the responsibility for the timing of the 2nd coming upon the Church!

7. Many of God's people don't have a biblical worldview because they listen to teaching that "faturizes"; they can only see the Kingdom as "not yet"...

There are Kingdom No and Kingdom Now Teachers Out There

KINGDOM "NO" Teachers: Hal Lindsey, John Ankerberg, Perry Stone, John MacArthur and Sid Roth. I have said publicly that Hal Lindsey and John Ankerberg are false prophets; I believe the others are good men and we can learn some good things from them; they just don't see the Kingdom as a present reality
KINGDOM "NOW" Teachers: R. J. Rushdoony, Tommy Reid, Bill Johnson, Dennis Peacocke, Mark Chironna, Gary DeMar, Dr. George Grant

8. It's sad that the Kingdom "NO" teachers sometime call Kingdom Now preachers heretics; or misrepresent what we are teaching. (Like saying when they say we want to take over the world politically)!

9. We said in an earlier teaching that evolution is the greatest enemy of the biblical worldview of creationism; let me go on the record now that dispensationalism is the greatest enemy of the Kingdom of God as a present reality; it's popular but it will never change the world.

III. Conclusion: Why in the World Does It Matter?

A. Why *in the World* Indeed!

1. The dispensational worldview has dominated the American Christian church for the last 100 years; and it's why we're losing the culture wars.
2. Dispensationalism paralyzes God's people:

- “Futurizes” the Kingdom-It has no vision for the Kingdom of God as a present reality, one that is to be expanded into every sphere of life by the faith and obedience of the Church
- It produces people who are more fascinated with the 2nd coming than in fulfilling the implications of the 1st coming; to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all nations before the end can come
- It shuns the responsibility of the Church as agents of the Kingdom now; as if there are no conditions set forth in the Bible that must anticipate His return!

“The Church must not look only to the distant end of time for the coming of what is ‘not yet’, but according to the force of Paul’s doctrine, we should immediately focus heavenward to behold ourselves ascended with Christ in heavenly places now.”

Joel McDurmon

a. Someone says I can’t wait to get to heaven! But the Bible says we are “seated with Christ in heaven right now”! In his book, “An Introduction to the Christian Worldview”, Tawa Anderson writes...

The Church must not look only to the distant end of time for the coming of what is “not yet,” but, according to the force of Paul’s doctrine, we should immediately focus heavenward to behold *ourselves ascended* with Christ in heavenly places, *now*.

He is quoting the Apostle Paul...

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:4-6

Anderson continues...

This should provide the source of our understanding of what is “not yet” for us, and yet it should compel us to live desiring and working toward perfection and completion *already* here and now. As the church lives in union with her Lord, draws from his dispensation of heavenly gifts, and applies the truth that she sits in heavenly places in Christ, she should grow ever nearer to the mature stature of her Lord here and now.

Tawa J. Anderson,

3. So what have we said?

The risen Christ is Lord right NOW; so the Kingdom of God is a present reality. But the full manifestation of His Kingdom is NOT YET; His Lordship is progressing through history toward the 'end'....

4. And what happens at the end?

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 11:15 NKJV

a. Notice that the great end is not just us getting saved! It's about the Kingdom of God, which is already present, subduing all other Kingdoms under the reign of God and His Christ!

b. The great Martin Luther saw it this way...

"In the last days all the kingdoms of the earth shall be overcome by the kingdom of heaven, and those who dare oppose shall meet with swift and overwhelming ruin."

Martin Luther

5. Jesus is Lord NOW-and one day the War of the Worldviews will end when He is acknowledged as Lord of all!

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:8-11 NKJV

**LORD, MAY WE COME TO SEE THE KINGDOM AS
NOW AND NOT YET!**

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