

Eschatology I: Jesus & Paul
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma - Adult Sunday school
Sunday, September 10 2023

Lesson 02: The Kingdom of God, part 2 - When is it?

“The coming of the kingdom of God is... not merely a matter of the future... It has started. The great change of the aeons has taken place. The center of history is in Christ’s coming, in his victory over the demons, in his death and resurrection... Where Christ acts and operates, the future is already decided upon... in his person the future may be considered to have been fulfilled and is still to be expected.” Herman Ridderbos, *The Coming of the Kingdom*

1. Future (“Not Yet”/ _____) - Mark 9:1; Matt. 6:10, 8:11, 26:29

“The coming of the kingdom is the consummation of history, not in the sense of the end of the natural development, but in that of the fulfillment of the time appointed for it by God... The coming events are not only represented as in irresistible fate, but as the course of the history of salvation ordained according to God’s counsel... The coming of the kingdom, as the reassertion of God’s right and glory, also consists in the redemption and restoration of life... Because God is God, the creator of heaven and earth... the ‘proportions’ of the kingdom are universal.” Ridderbos, *TCG*

2. Present (“Now”/ _____) - Mark 1:15; Luke 4:18-19

“The threshold of the great future has been reached, the door has been opened, and the prerequisites of the realization of the divine work of consummation are present; so that now the concluding divine drama can start... This one great event is described as both an already fulfilled ‘present’ and a future expectation... It is the presence of the person of Jesus himself which is the cause of the great change... The one great kingdom of the future has become present... The future, as it were, penetrates into the present. The world of God’s redemption, the great whole of his concluding and consummative works pushes its way into the present time of the world.” Ridderbos, *TCG*