

1 The Victorious kingdom

A hope-filled, biblical view of the end times.

2 The importance of a Hope – filled vision

Our Father is the “God of all Hope,” so our God-given vision should be filled with Hope!

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The plans which God has for us:

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity -- to give you a future and a hope.

[KJV: to give you an expected end] (Jeremiah 29:11)

- Even in former seasons of judgment, God's word always births hope, not fear.
- The purpose of studying the End Times is to know better how to partner with God in bringing “expected ending” into the earth.
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The plans the enemy has for us:

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall (seek to) wear out [harass] the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws...(Daniel 7:25)

- *Times* = culture/ influences of the day. “*These are the times...*”
“Kairos” moments
- *He is filled with great fury because HE knows his time is brief...*(Rev 12:12)
- *Laws*: = unwritten rules of cultures, which eventually become codified in written law
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The God of Promise will have His way

- We are still on Plan “A.” The Garden Mandate is still in effect.
- Each generation depends on God's people to seize upon *Kairos* times, advancing the *King's Dominion* into their nation/ spheres of

influence.

- God's revelations of the end of this world have *always* been hope-filled.
- Negativity is the result of focusing on what the Kingdom of Darkness is doing, rather than being busy about our Father's work.

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Studying the "end times" (Eschatology)

- The first Question is not one of *eschatology*, but rather Christology:
- *Is He King of Kings now, or does He become that in the future?*
- Our view should inspire *hope* and *vision*:
...Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness...also to *all who have loved His appearing.* (2 Timothy 4:8)
- If your view makes you fearful or discouraged, *stay tuned!!!*

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Two major last days views:

(1) Futurist

- *The biblical prophecies concerning the return of the Lord and the final "judgment of the world" are (almost all) in the future.*
- *The world will worsen through sin and its consequences until the Lord returns to establish His Kingdom on earth during His Millennial reign. (Pre-millennialism)*
- *Our mission is to rescue as many souls as possible from the destruction to come before the rapture, when it will be too late.*
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(2) Historicist/ Preterist

- *End time(s) prophecies are fulfilled in Christ, have been accomplished in history, and are being fulfilled through the church.*
- *The world will improve as the Kingdom of God advances into all nations, and the people of God invest their Kingdom treasure into every sphere of society.*
- *The Church exists to prepare nations for the return of the Lord, as He comes for a fully ripened harvest in the nations. (Post or (a)-millennialism)*

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Why does it seem like evil is prevailing?

- ▶ We have been taught a theology of discouragement, and a focus on what is *wrong*, rather than celebrate testimony
- ▶ We are bent to find evidence for whatever we believe already (prejudice)
- ▶ The voice of the world is cynical, negative, hopeless, meaningless... The voice of the Father is hopeful, positive, joyful, expectant.
- ▶ *With which voice do we fill our minds?*

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Why does it seem like evil is prevailing?

If we believe that scriptures teach that the world must worsen until Jesus returns, we have passively agreed with satan that the Great Commission will ultimately fail.

- ▶ When we spend time focusing on what *satan* is doing, rather than looking for what The Father is doing, we glorify satan!
- ▶ What if the Church believed that we are destined to win? And HAVE been winning?

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When did people begin to abandon the worship of idols, unless it were since the very word of God came among men? When have oracles ceased and become void of meaning, among the Greeks and everywhere, except since the Savior has revealed himself on Earth? When did those whom the poets called gods and heroes begin to be adjudged as mere mortals, except when the Lord took the spoils of death and preserved incorruptible the body he had taken, raising it

from among the dead? Or when did the deceitfulness and madness of demons fall under contempt, save when the Word, the power of God, the Master of all these as well, condescended on account of the weakness of mankind, and appeared on Earth?

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When did the practice and theory of magic begin to be spurned underfoot, if not at the manifestation of the Divine word to men? In a word, when did the wisdom of the Greeks become foolish, save when the true wisdom of God revealed himself in the Earth? In Old Times the whole world and every place in it was let astray by the worship of idols, and men thought the idols were the only gods there were. But now all over the world men are forsaking the fear of idols and taking refuge with Christ; and by worshipping him as God, they come through him to know the father also, whom formerly they did not know?

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria (early 4th Century)

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Here's how God says this all ends...

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteous-ness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:7)

"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. (Ps 2:7-8)

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Here's how God says this all ends...

Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it... (Isaiah 2:2-3)

...indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Numbers 14:21)

"For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

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All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You. For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules over the nations.

(Psalm 22:27-28)

"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

(Daniel 2:44)

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He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him (Ephesians 1:9-10)

"YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him... (Hebrews 2:8)

20 ***What we believe affects how we live***

- Why would we try to improve a world we believe is prophetically destined for destruction and judgment?
- All theologies of defeat indicate that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will ultimately fail and it's mission to transform the Earth.
- The fact is: *you will not work for the transformation of society if you don't believe Society can or even should be transformed.*

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- Jonathan Edwards – predicted the US would bring in the millennium as the Great Awakening Spread worldwide.
- Charles Finney – believed 2nd Awakening was endangered by Pre-Millennial teachers: strongly opposed them.
- Their influence lead to great social reform movements: Democracy

in the US, temperance, abolition, world peace, women's rights, education, expansion in mission work to other nations.

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“Unity” by Violet Oakley
(PA State Capitol – Senate chambers)

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It's as if Isaiah was right!
The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners... So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, They will raise up the former devastations; And they will repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. (Isaiah 61:1-4)

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What if I told you...

- That we are living in the most peaceful, prosperous, and free world in all of history?
- That there is currently less hunger, disease, and illiteracy than ever before?
- That we are living longer, safer, healthier lives by every measurable standard?
- That this is exactly what the prophets have told us it would be like from the day of Jesus' birth until His return?

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31 **Destined for victory:**

"You are the *salt of the earth*; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. "You are the *light of the world*. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but *on the lampstand*, and *it gives light to all who are in the house*. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

32 **The Dominion Mandate**

God has been remarkably clear in His expectation that His Sons will rule the earth. It's clear from the beginning.

33 **In The Beginning...**

► Humans were created to rule the earth:

Gen1:27-28...*fill the earth, subdue it; rule over ...every living thing that moves on the earth.*"

► Q: *What needed subduing?*

► *Every living thing* included the fallen angels, who had been cast to the earth:

Isaiah 14:12 "*How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth...*

34 **In The Beginning...**

Psalm 8:4-6 *What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God [Elohim] And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.*

► Though inferior to the angels in might and majesty, *the crown* grants undisputed authority.

► All demonic power in this realm is borrowed from Adam's race.

35 **The Gift of the earth**

► The earth has been given to us:

Psalm 115:16 *The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, But the earth He has given to the sons of men.*

► Our eternal dwelling is not heaven:

Luke 23:43 *Truly I say to you today: you shall be with Me in Paradise.* (“Eden”)

Matthew 5:5 *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

36 ***We’re still on plan “A”***

- There is no biblical reason to believe God has abandoned His vision and commission – to have Adam and his seed rule over the *visible* realm of earth
- The NT promise is always *resurrection*, and a *new Earth*
- As with the flood – God will always be working with a “remnant” of His creation

37 ***Jesus re-inaugurated the Kingdom of Heaven***

*...John the Baptist *came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Mt 3:1-2)

...Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt 4:17)

“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Mt 12:28)

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matthew 10:7)

38 ***The 2nd Adam restored what the 1st one lost***

- Adam willingly gave away his crown and glory when he followed the *original* usurper
- The second Adam (The “son of man”) came to restore that rule: Eph 1:19-23 *He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church*
- As His body, we are perpetuate His ministry in the earth!

39 ***The 2nd Adam restored what the 1st one lost***

Heb 2:5-14

(5) He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

Lit: The world which is now coming upon us

(8) But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him (that’s OUR job!)

(10)...in bringing many sons to glory (i.e. – crowned with glory to rule once again!)

40 ***We preach the Gospel of the Kingdom***

- ▶ The Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven

Luke 10:8-9 ...and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

- ▶ This Kingdom will restore Adam's rule in the earth by destroying the works of the devil:

Luke 10:18-19 ..."I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy..."

41 ***The Great Commission (Matt 18:18-20)***

All authority...Make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...

- ▶ The Gospel of Salvation Is only the *entryway* into this Kingdom.
- ▶ Establishing the Kingdom goes into all realms of individual hearts, transforming people who transform the world:
- ▶ Kingdom of God, COME, Will of God, BE...

42 ***To which category does the church belong?***

RELIGION

FAMILY

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

MEDIA

GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

BUSINESS



43 ***The Church is a governmental institution***

Matt 16:18-19...upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Church: ekklesia (a gathering for discernment and law-making)

44

His (and our) reign began 2000 years ago...

..."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 brethren has been thrown down...and they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (Rev12:10-11)

► The context of this vision is within the church age!

45 **The Seed Principle:**

► Just as salvation and the rebirth is a progressive work, so is the Kingdom's growth in the earth:

► *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...is like leaven*

► It grows through history until its final seal is accomplished on the Last Day

► *Like Israel in the Land of Promise: "I will drive them out before you little by little... (Ex 23:30)*

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Daniel's vision of the Kingdom of Heaven

Daniel 2:44 *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

► Daniel's revelations all pointed to the days of Messiah, and the establishing of the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth

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Daniel's vision of the coronation of Christ:

Daniel 7:9-14

9 *the Ancient of Days took His seat...*

► This is God the Father

One like a Son of Man...He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him...And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom...

► A clear vision of the ascension of Christ!