

The Kingdom of God

- Definition of the kingdom
- Present or future?
- The kingdom and salvation

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Definition of the Kingdom

- What is the kingdom of God?

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Definition of the Kingdom

- Expectations of the kingdom in Judaism:
 - Rabbinic Judaism: keep the law.
 - Zealots: purify the nation through revolution.
 - Qumran: withdraw and purify yourselves.
 - A nationalistic kingdom.
 - Response to Jesus was the key (Mk. 10:17-27).
- Jesus' message was different:
 - Universalize the kingdom beyond Israel.
 - The presence of the kingdom in his ministry.

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Definition of the Kingdom

- Evidences of the kingdom in his ministry?

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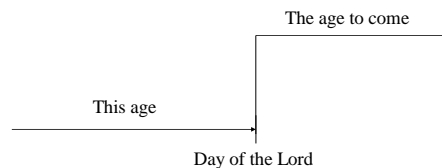
Present or Future?

- The kingdom is both present and future.
 - “Already” and “not yet” (inaugurated eschatology).
 - See Mark 10:17-27.
 - Matera: The disciples lived with eschatological reservation.
- The NT assumes eschatological dualism.
 - Present age and age to come.
 - Separated by the Day of the Lord.

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Present or Future?

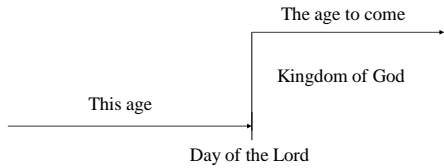
- Judaism expected a single event, the Day of the Lord, to end this age and begin the age to come.



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Present or Future?

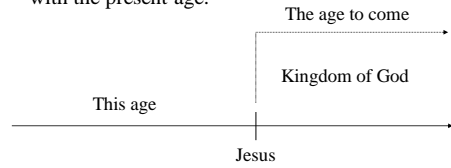
- Kingdom of God = reign of God; the government of the age to come.



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Present or Future?

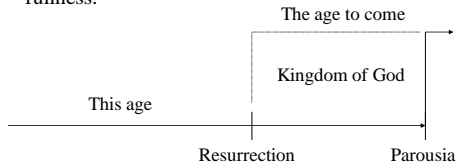
- The kingdom of God broke into history in Jesus' ministry.
- The age to come had dawned without doing away with the present age.



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Present or Future?

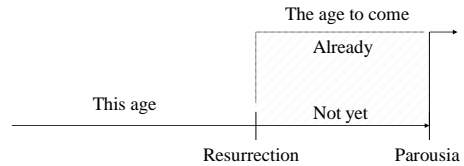
- Jesus' resurrection marked the beginning of the end.
- His parousia will bring in the age to come in its fullness.



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Present or Future?

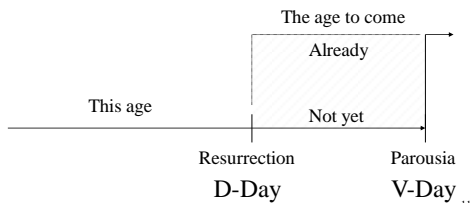
- The powers of the age to come have broken in.
- But for now, we live "between the times."
- We live with the "already" and "not yet."



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Present or Future?

- The powers of the age to come have broken in.
- But for now, we live "between the times."
- We live with the "already" and "not yet."



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Present or Future?

- When does the kingdom come in power?
 - Mark 9:1; 13:30.
 - Jesus' imminent return?
 - Transfiguration?
 - Resurrection and Pentecost?
 - The "delay of the parousia."
 - We can't know the time, so we must be vigilant (Mark 13:32-37).
 - What do you think?

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The Kingdom and Salvation

- How does the kingdom relate to salvation?
 - See Mark 10:17-27.

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The Kingdom and Salvation

- What does salvation in the Synoptics consist of?
 - Primarily eschatological (entering into the life of the age to come).
 - Immortality, fellowship with God, spared from God's wrath.
 - Forgiveness of sins.
 - Can be experienced partly in the present.
 - Wholeness.

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The Kingdom and Salvation

- What response does the kingdom call for?
 - Repentance and faith (Mark 1:15).
 - Discipleship to Christ (Mark 10:21).
 - An absolute commitment (Mark 8:35).
 - Receive it like a child (Mark 10:15).
 - Submission to reign of God as present in Jesus.
- How does the kingdom challenge our usual understanding of salvation?

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