

“THE KINGDOM OF GOD”
Session 5 “The Coming Kingdom”
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INTRODUCTION

One out of every 30 verses in the Bible mentions the subject of the end of time, or of Christ’s return. There are over 300 references in the New Testament. Only four of the 27 New Testament books fail to mention Christ’s return.

I. Jesus is coming back

Acts 1:6-11

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Matthew 24:36

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)

What God has prepared...

1 Corinthians 2:7-9

We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"

II. What is the promise for humanity?

Romans 8:22-23 (New Living Translation)

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,^[a] including the new bodies he has promised us.

- a. [Romans 8:23](#) Greek wait anxiously for sonship.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Revelation 5:9-10 (New Living Translation)

And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign^[a] on the earth."

- a. [Revelation 5:10](#) Some manuscripts read *they are reigning*.

Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

In the coming kingdom, believers...

- Will have new bodies and live on a new redeemed earth (Revelation 21:1)
- Will be transformed into Jesus' likeness with ever increasing glory
- Will reign and be priests
- Will be called sons of God (i.e. rulers)

The profound mystery: Jesus Christ is our perfect _____ and _____

Ephesians 5:31-32

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:6-9

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

III. Israel's annual feasts illustrate how it all plays out

See <http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Introduction/introduction.html>

Spring feasts:

Passover: Commemorates Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and with the sacrifice of the lamb for each family, shows how the blood of the lamb averted the judgment of God for each Israelite family. See Leviticus 23:4-5

Jesus serves as the sacrificial lamb, and was crucified on Passover

Unleavened bread: This feast showed the purity Israel was to walk in (illustrated by eating only bread without leaven, a type of sin) after the blood-deliverance of Passover. The matzah is striped, pierced, and pure. There is a custom of burying, hiding and resurrecting the unleavened bread during the Passover meal. See Leviticus 23:6-8

First Fruits: On the day after the Sabbath. A time to give the First Fruits of the harvest to God. The idea was to dedicate the first ripened stalks of grain to God, in anticipation of a greater harvest to come. See Leviticus 23:9-12

1 Corinthians 15:23

"Christ was raised as the first fruits of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."

Pentecost: Fifty days after the feast of First Fruits, at the completion of the wheat harvest, Israel was to celebrate the feast of Pentecost by bringing a new grain offering to the Lord; and by waving two loaves of leavened bread unto the Lord. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the church during Pentecost in Acts 2. See Leviticus 23:15-21

The Fall feasts (starting in September)

Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23–24

*And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.***

The Shofar was blown to usher in Feast of Trumpets. This was a call to Sabbath rest, a memorial of blowing trumpets, and marked the beginning of a ten-day period of self-examination and repentance (so people could be sealed in the book of life) culminating with the Day of Atonement (Num. 29:1).

Occasions for blowing the Shofar

The Shofar was blown to announce the coming of a Jewish bridegroom to fetch his betrothed — a picture of Yeshua returning for his Bride. All the righteous living and the righteous dead will receive glorified, resurrected bodies and will meet him in the air at the sound of the Shofar. (Compare Matt. 24:31; 25:6; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16; Rev. 11:15–18). Reflecting this tradition, Jewish gravestones were often engraved with a Shofar.

The Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 15:51

*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, v 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.***”

The coronation of the king

1 Kings 1:34

Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there, king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

Psalm 47- For the choir director: A psalm of the descendants of Korah.

Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise! For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth. He subdues the nations before us, putting our enemies beneath our feet. He chose the Promised Land as our inheritance, the proud possession of Jacob’s descendants, whom he loves. God has ascended with a mighty shout. The LORD has ascended with trumpets blaring.

The Day of Atonement

(Yom Kippur) was the most solemn of all the feast days. It was the day of cleansing for the nation and for the sanctuary. On this day alone, once a year, the high priest entered into the holiest of all, the Holy of Holies in the temple, within the veil of the temple, with the blood of the Lord's goat, the sin offering. Here he sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat. The blood of the sin offering on the great Day of Atonement brought about the cleansing of all sin for the priesthood, the sanctuary, and Israel as a nation (Leviticus 16:29–34).

It is on Yom Kippur when the Great Trumpet, known in Hebrew as the Shofar HaGadol is blown. This is referred to in Isaiah 27:13. In Isaiah 52:13–15, the suffering servant, Yeshua, Messiah is seen sprinkling many nations. In Ezekiel 36:24–26, it is the Jews returning to Israel from the Diaspora whom God will sprinkle clean water upon when they return back to the land of Israel.

In Revelation: a gathering of a great army is described multiple times, right before the final judgment

Rev 9: the destroyer comes out of the Abyss and raises up an army.

Rev 16:14, 16 kings gathered = battle on Great Day, Armageddon, hailstones fall.

Rev 17:14 war against the Lamb

Rev 19:17-19 kings gathered and killed

Rev 20:8 the dragon is released and gathers Gog and Magog, fire comes down.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

The Shofar was blown to herald the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) to announce the Year of Jubilee. Every fifty years slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and land returned to the original owner Lev. 25:9–10

Feast of Tabernacles

Called "The Season of Our Joy." The children of Israel (and all believers in the Messiah Yeshua) could only rejoice after they were redeemed and their sins forgiven. It was a time to rejoice in God's deliverance and provision for Israel during the time of wilderness wandering; a time when having come into the promised land, looking back with gratitude on all God had done to deliver and provide in the tough times of the wilderness. The Feast of Tabernacles began and ended in rest; it was all about celebration and rest and refreshment. See Leviticus 23:33-44

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

IV. So we wait and spread the good news

2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

*But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. **So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.***

