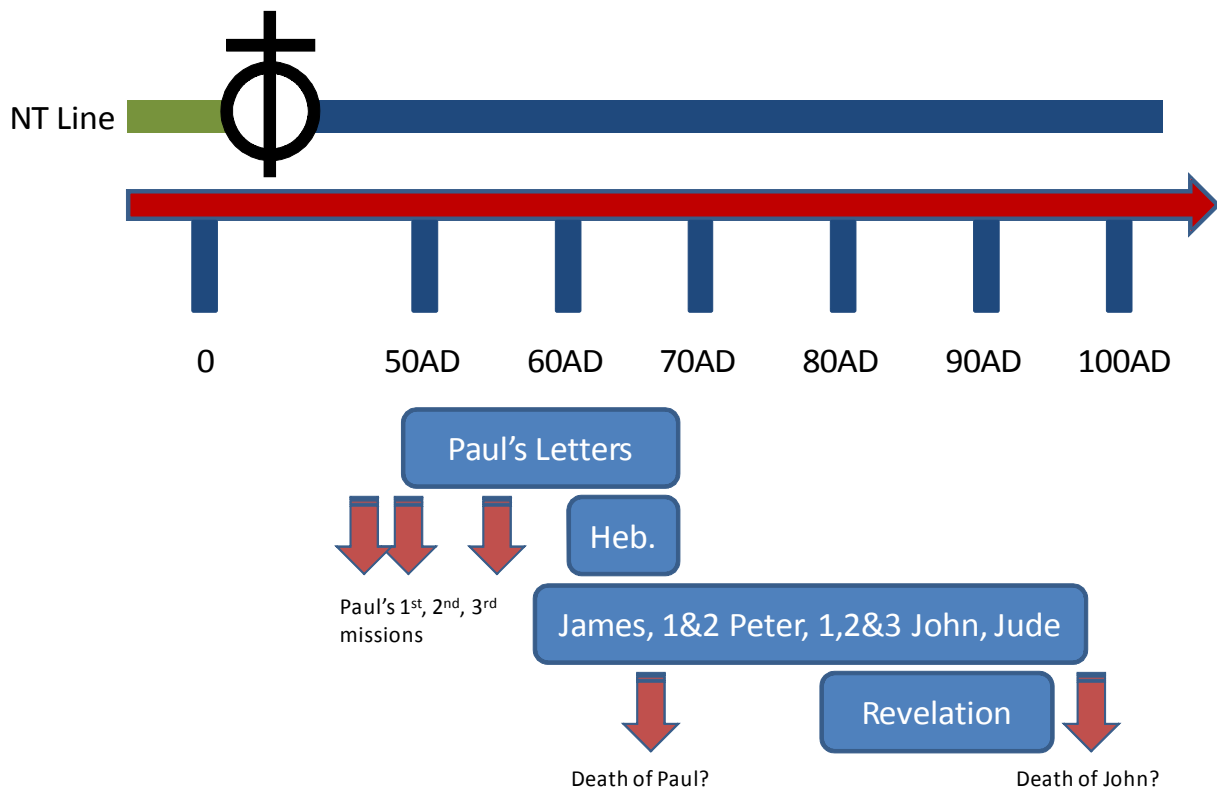


Session 5: A Future Kingdom

(NT letters & Revelation)



In our last session we saw how Jesus has brought about a new age. Let's look at what this meant for the early Church, and what this means for Christians today.

OT FULFILLED

Living in the last days – see session 4 – means that we can look back at God's plan that is revealed in the Bible, and see how many things have been fulfilled.

- **Read Romans 8:28-30** – What does this tell us about God? What does it tell us about the Christian life?

We are assured and know that [[a]God being a partner in their labour] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose. For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].

[a] Romans 8:28, some manuscripts read, “God works all things with them.”

The people of God, all Christians, are now the chosen people of God. The religious and physical representations of the OT are now a spiritual reality. Look at the verses below and note what OT imagery is being spoken about.

Compare ...	With ...
1 Peter 2:9-10	(Dt 10:1; Ex 19:6; Isa 62:12)
1 Cor 3:17; 6:19	(1 Kings 8:10-11)
Rev 19:7	(Hosea 1:2)
Heb 10:19-25	(Lev 16:3-5; 15-17)

SALVATION & REGENERATION

As well as the fulfilment of the past the life of the Christian has present and future realities. In many ways living in the last days means that the Future Kingdom is in us now.

- **Read Eph 1:3-6, 11** – What has happened in the past for every believer?

May blessing (praise, adulation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm! Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love. For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent] – [So that we might be] to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) and we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will.

- **Read Eph 1:7-8, 13** – What is the present state of every believer?

In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favour, which He lavished upon us in every kind of wisdom and understanding (practical insight and prudence). In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

- **Read Eph 1:9-10, 13-14** – What is the final result for every believer?

Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him, [He planned] for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth. In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit. That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and

foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it—to the praise of His glory.

This is often simply described as the justification, sanctification and glorification of a believer – relating to the grounds of our acceptance with God (i.e. Jesus), the result of our acceptance with God and the final fulfilment of that acceptance.

Past	Present	Future
What too place perfectly in Christ for us	<i>What is taking place in us but is not yet perfected</i>	What will take place in us and the whole of creation
The grounds of our acceptance with God - Justification	<i>The result of our acceptance with God - Sanctification</i>	The final result of our acceptance with God - Glorification
All the promises of the OT have been fulfilled in Christ	<i>All the promises of the OT are being fulfilled in and among us</i>	All the promises of the OT will be fulfilled in us and the whole creation

THE FINAL KINGDOM OF GOD

The Final (perfect) Kingdom will be one in which the regeneration of all things will be complete – this is promised at an unknown time by the NT, marked by the return of Christ and the consummation of the kingdom of God.

- **Read Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thes 5:1-2** – What is promised of Jesus? When will this happen?

And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them, who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven. But as to the suitable times and the precise seasons and dates, brethren, you have no necessity for anything being written to you. For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the [return of the] Lord will come [as unexpectedly and suddenly] as a thief in the night.

- **Read Rev 21:1-3** – What OT imagery is present in these verses? Where is God now? Where are God's people?

Then I saw a new [a]sky (heaven) and a new earth, for the former [b]sky and the former earth had passed away (vanished), and there no longer existed any sea. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified and adorned for her husband; Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne and I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God.

[a] & [b] Revelation 21:1, Joseph Thayer, A Greek-English Lexicon

The Bible is a complete story of God restoring things to their proper order and relationship, following the breakdown and rebellion seen in session 1. God has worked throughout history to bring people to Him, that is His plan of salvation that will be perfected, for all those that know Him, in a future day.

KNOW THE TRUTH, NOW LIVE IT OUT

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-20



WWW.FREEBIBLESTUDYGUIDES.ORG

2010 DAWN BOOTH

FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES. THEREFORE TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.

STAND THEREFORE, HAVING GIRDED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH, HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ABOVE ALL, TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED ONE. AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD; PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, BEING WATCHFUL TO THIS END WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL THE SAINTS—AND FOR ME, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME, THAT I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.

God's Armour

Application – fill it out!

Scripture

Belt of **truth**

John 14:6

Breastplate of **righteousness**

Matt 5:6

Sandals of **peace**

Eph 2:14-15

Shield of **faith**

Gal 2:20

Helmet of **salvation**

Acts 4:12

Victorious Sword of the spirit: **God's Word**

John 1:14