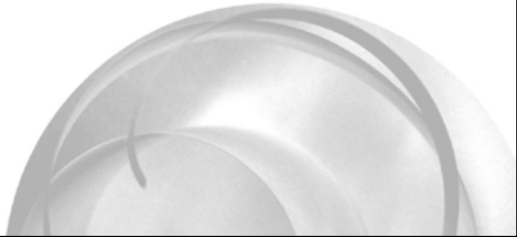




The Kingdom of God



The Old Testament 'Lens'

- Exodus:
YHWH, liberator, the God who will come down and 'tabernacle' with his people
- Davidic Monarchy:
Peace/shalom, abundance, security, justice, festivity
- Prophetic promise:
New people, new Jerusalem, new heaven & earth, judgement of evil, resurrection, healing, forgiveness, restoration, pouring out the Spirit



The Old Testament 'Lens'

- 500 years of silence:
"All we have left now is the echo of God's voice in our interpretation of the scriptures. But God is so angry with us that he has stopped speaking to us"



The Old Testament 'Lens'

- Daniel (c. 168 BC): The clash of Kingdoms

The new kingdom of heaven overturning the kingdoms of this world

*Chapter 2:
The Babylonian Empire 586 BC - [Assyrian 721 BC],
The Medo-Persian 537 BC,
The Greek 333 BC,
The Roman 63 BC.*



The Old Testament 'Lens'

- Daniel chapter 7: The 'Son of Man'

Coming in glorification on the clouds of heaven is a man. To him is given the kingdom, the glory and the power for ever. The kingdom of God which will replace the kingdoms of this world. (vv 9 & 10)

The Kingdom is also given to the community of the 'saints of the most high'. (v 27)



Out of the silence

If we could just... then the kingdom would come

- Zealots:
Violent revolution – David and Goliath
- Herodians (+Sadducees):
Collaboration - pragmatism
- Essenes:
All culture corrupt – withdraw and build the new kingdom in purity in the desert
- Pharisees:
If only we would become pure enough, obey the religious law enough. Too much sin.

Out of the silence

A voice of one crying in the desert...

- John the Baptist:

"After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Peter quotes Joel 2.28

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophecy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.



Out of the silence...

- Mark 1.15:

"The time (moment) has come," Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"



The gear change...

- Immediately or 'at once':

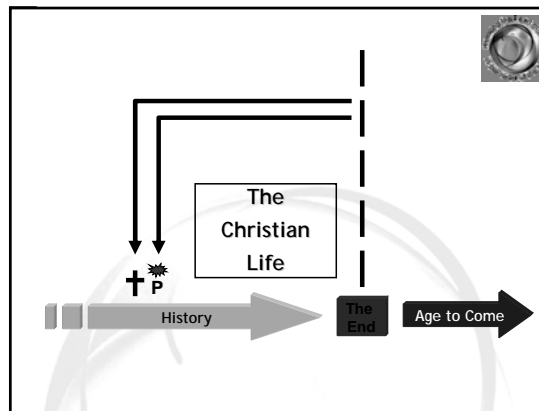
- With Authority over:
teaching, calling, demons, sin, death, nature
He announces and then he demonstrates

- Mystery:
Confounding expectations.
Even John the Baptist was unsure.



The Kingdom Mystery


- Will come in the future.
- Has come now.
- Is near or 'at hand'.
- Has been delayed.



The Kingdom Mystery

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: *in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.* (2 Cor 6.4-10)






'He is Elijah, who *was to come*'
(Lk.16:16; Mt.11:11-12,14)

"What do you want with us, Son of God?"
they shouted. "Have you come here to
torture us *before the appointed time*?"
(Mt.8:29).




The Presence of the Future

- The Cross
- The Resurrection
- Pentecost



Implications of the Kingdom

- The last days began with Jesus and at Pentecost.
- Every intervention of God since then is a breakthrough of the future age.
- The age to come and this age are now separated by a torn veil.



Implications of the Kingdom

- The ministry of healing is to be understood in this context.
- Christians are 'already' 'not yet' people.