

# THE AWAKENING

*“Sleeper Awake . . . And Christ Will Shine On You.” — Ephesians 5.14*

Not Just Passing Through

**Matthew 28.18-19**— And Jesus came and said to them, “All **authority** [dominion] in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of ALL NATIONS . . .”

**Luke 4.5-7**—Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all **this authority** [dominion]; for it has been **given over to me**, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

**Genesis 1.26**—Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion . . .”

**Daniel 7.13.14**—In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was **given authority**, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. **His dominion** is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and **his kingdom** is one that will never be destroyed.

**Matthew 26.64**— . . . Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: **From now on** you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

**John 13.31**—When he was gone, Jesus said, “**Now is the Son of Man glorified** and God is glorified in him.”

**John 12.31**—Now is the **time for judgment** on this world; **now the prince of this world will be driven out**.

**Mark 1.15**—“The time has come,” he said. “**The kingdom** of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**Matthew 10.7-8**—As you go, proclaim this message: “**The kingdom** of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

**Luke 9.6**—So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming **the good news** and healing people everywhere.

**Acts 28.30-31**—For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed **the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

That the world might be healed . . . — John 3.17

\*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

**Revelation 21.24**—THE NATIONS will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

**Revelation 22.2**—On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of THE NATIONS.

**Revelation 15.4**— Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. ALL NATIONS will come and worship before you, for your righteousness have been revealed.”

**Revelation 19.15**—From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down THE NATIONS, and he will shepherd them with a staff of iron [strength]

#### Two Ways to Look at Death:

Death is a Friend:

Religious denial of Egyptians, Babylonians, Platonism (Hellenistic) and Early Gnosticism (Early Christian History)

Death as an Enemy:

Hebrews: Jehovah would one day conquer

Early Christians: Jesus had conquered.

**1 Corinthians 15.26**—The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**Luke 13.19**—It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.

**Revelation 21.1-3**—Then I saw a NEW [Kainos vs Neos] heaven and a NEW earth . . . And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.”

**Revelation 21.5**—And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

### The Hebrew Paradigm of Two Ages

**Matthew 12.32**— . . . either in this age or in the age to come.

**Mark 10.30**—Will fail to receive a hundred times as much in THIS PRESENT AGE: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in THE AGE TO COME eternal life.

**Luke 18.30**— . . . THIS AGE, and in THE AGE TO COME eternal life.”

**Matthew 13.39**—And the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the END OF THE AGE, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at THE END OF THE AGE.

**Matthew 13.49**—This is how it will be at THE END OF THE AGE.

**Matthew 24.3**—As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of THE END OF THE AGE?”

**Matthew 28.20**—And surely I am with you always, to THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”

**Luke 20.35**— . . . taking part in THE AGE TO COME and in THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD . . .

**John 11:17-26**—So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. . . Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him. . . Martha then said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise

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again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies [sleeps], and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die [eternally]. Do you believe this?'

### Jesus' Hebrew Paradigm of Death

**John 11.11-14**—After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,

**Luke 8.51-53**—When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.

**John 5.28,29**—Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

### Apostle's Paradigm

**Acts 2.25-36**—David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, **YOU WILL NOT LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE DECAY**. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." Brothers and sisters, we all know that the patriarch **DAVID DIED AND WAS BURIED, AND HIS TOMB IS HERE TO THIS DAY**. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of **THE RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH**, that *he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay*. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to **THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For **DAVID DID NOT ASCEND TO HEAVEN**, and yet he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: **SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both **LORD AND MESSIAH**."

### With Jesus the "Age to Come" HAD BEGUN!!!!

**Matthew 27.52-53**—The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. )

**Acts 13.36**—Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he *fell asleep*; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. (Paul)

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The word for “MEET” [Apentesis] referred to the practice of emissaries from a city going out to meet their dignitary and escort him into their city. The contrast that this image provides with the honor thought to be particularly due to the “Lord” Caesar and his emissaries could well have provoked hostility from local officials (cf. Acts 17:7).

Acts 28.15-16—The believers from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him

“It was a custom when an Emperor visited a city for the people to go out and meet him and escort him back into the city.”  
(*The Book of Acts*, by Stanley Horton; Logion Press Commentary Series)

Philippians 1.23 [NRSV]—I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;

Acts 3.20-21—Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal **RESTORATION** that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

1Corinthians 15.20-34—But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP**. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being. For as in Adam all die, so **IN CHRIST ALL WILL BE MADE ALIVE**. But in this order: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when **HE HANDS OVER THE KINGDOM TO GOD THE FATHER** after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so **THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL**.

1Thessalonians 4.13-18— Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that for those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, God will bring them forth [from death] just as with him [i.e. from the grave, do the same thing for them that God did for Jesus]. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly **not precede those who have fallen asleep**. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds **TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR**. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Philippians 1.21-26—For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is for The Return [Analuo] and being **WITH CHRIST** [1 Thess 4.17], for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Acts 18.23—After spending some time there he **DEPARTED** [EXERCHOMAI] and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Luke 12.36—Be like those who are waiting for their master to **RETURN** [Analuo]

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from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

“Analu means clearly to return from another place to here not from here to another place.” [Tob. 2.9; Jud 13.1; 1Esd 3.3; Wisd.2.1; 5.12; Ecclus 3.15; 2Macc 8.25; 9.1; 12.7; 15.18] E.W. Bullinger’s *The Church Epistles: Romans to Thessalonians* p. 137.

Heaven is important but it’s not the end of the world— N.T. Wright

#### Four Views:

**Matthew 5.5**—Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Matthew 6.10**—Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Revelation 21.5**—And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

**Matthew 6.10-13**—Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial [the way of sacrifice], but rescue us from the evil one.

#### Cathedral Masons

**1Corinthians 15.58**—Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Hebrews 2.14-15**—Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

**Ephesians 5.11-14**—Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**The Resurrection of Christ enable us to believe a new world has come. Not a world where God’s presence is found within a system that demands the death of innocents, but a world where God’s presence dwells with the one hanging on a cursed tree being placed there by the powers that be. We no longer fear the consequences of cleansing temples in our day, we believe we are not “just-a-passin’ through”. We are moved from PASSIVITY into ACTIVELY answering the call to put on display what the world changed by Jesus looks like.**

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# THE EARLY HEBREW PARADIGM

## *The Present Age and The Age To Come*

**1Kings 2.10**—Then David *slept* with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David.

**1Kings 11.43**—Solomon *slept* with his ancestors and was buried in the city of his father David.

**1Kings 14.20**—The time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years; then he *slept* with his ancestors.

**Ecclesiastes 12.7**—And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (See Genesis 2.7)

**Psalm 104:29(NASB)**—You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust.

**Psalm 146:4 (NASB)**—His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day *his thoughts perish*.

**Ecclesiastes 9.5**—For the living know that they will die, but *the dead know nothing*.

**Psalm 6:5 (NIV)**—No one remembers you when he is dead. *Who praises you from the grave (sheol)?*

**Psalm 115:17**—The dead *do not praise the Lord*, nor do any who go down into *silence*.

**Genesis 42.38**—But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should come to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to *Sheol*.”

**RSV Psalm 13:3**—Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; lighten my eyes, *lest I sleep the sleep of death*.

**Job 3:11-14**—Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire? Why did the knees receive me, And

why the breasts, that I should suck? For now I would have *lain down and been quiet*; I would have *slept* then, I would have been at rest, With kings and with counselors of the earth, who rebuilt ruins for themselves.

## *The Age Now and The Age To Come*

**Psalms 71.20**—Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; *from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up*.

**Job 14.12**—So they lie down and do not rise; *till the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused from their sleep*.

**Job 19.25-26**—I know that my redeemer lives, and that *in the end* he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.

**Job 14:14-15**—If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will *wait for my renewal* to come. You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made.

**Psalm 88:3-5**—My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am counted among those who go down to the Pit I am like those who have no help, like those *for-saken* among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, *like those whom you remember no more*.

**Psalms 41.8**—A wicked thing is poured out upon him, that when he lies down, *he will not rise up again*.

**Daniel 12.2**—Multitudes who *sleep* in the dust of the earth will *awake*: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.