

NOT JUST PASSING THROUGH

Embracing the Hope of the First Century Followers of Jesus (Handout 1)

Jewish History

Early Christian

a. The first century 'Didache' and the 'Old Roman Symbol', which came to be known as the 'Apostles' Creed'.

b. Arnobius

c. Syrian Christians (Aphrahat, Ephrem, Narsai, and Jacob of Sarug) who inherited it from earlier Jewish teachings.

d. Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus

Medieval Christianity

John Wycliffe, Some Anabaptists (Michael Sattler), William Tyndale, Martin Luther

Up to Today

Sussex Baptists (Italy and France)

John Milton

John Locke

Issaac Newton

Thomas Thayer

John Wesley (to a degree)

Today (varying degrees)

N.T. Wright

Brian Zahnd

Edward Fudge

Clark Pinnock

Gregory Boyd

Bruce Cavey

John Stott

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

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.”

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”

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!

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

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 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.**”

Just Passing Through vs. Here to Stay!

Two Ways to Deal with Death:

Religious Denial: Egyptians, Babylonians, Platonism (Hellenistic) and Early Gnosticism (Early Christian History)

The Hebrew Paradigm

Paradigm of Jesus

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.

The Age Now and The Age to Come

Matthew 12.32— . . . either in **THIS AGE** or in **THE AGE TO COME.**



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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 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?’

Apostle’s Paradigm

Acts 2:34 (NIV)—For David *did not ascend to heaven*. (Peter)

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

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decayed. (Paul)

2 Timothy 4:7-8—I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ***in the future*** there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me ***on that day***; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved ***His appearing***.

1 Thessalonians 4.16—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***.

1 Corinthians 13.13—And now these three remain: faith, ***hope*** and love.

1 Thessalonians 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] along with him [i.e. do the same thing for them]. 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.

1 Corinthians 15.12-58—Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, ***how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead!*** If there is no resurrection of the dead, ***then Christ has not been raised***; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ***Then those also who have died in Christ have perished***. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the ***first fruits of those who have died***. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so ***all will be made alive in Christ***. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over THE KINGDOM TO GOD the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power . . . And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day!

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That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you—a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived “Bad company ruins good morals.” Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body . . . So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body . . . Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! **We will not all die, but we will all be changed**, 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**. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body putson immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ . . .

2 Corinthians 5:8—We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23—But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

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.

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2 Esdras 4.7—And he said to me, “If I had asked you, ‘How many dwellings are in the heart of the sea, or how many streams are at the source of the deep, or how many streams are above the firmament, or which are the exits of Hades, or which are the entrances of paradise?’”

NIV John 20:17—Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Revelation 2.7—Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To those who are victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Luke 23:46—And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.

2 Peter 3.10-13—But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the Stoicheion will be loosened with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be loosened in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be loosened, and the Stoicheion will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

FAQ:

What About The Thief?

Luke 23.43—Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What About My Loved Ones?

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] along with him [i.e. do the same thing for them] . . . 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.

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Revelation 20.11—Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 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 sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and everyone was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is THE SECOND DEATH.

John 11:17-26— . . . Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies [sleeps], for everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die [eternally perish]. Do you believe this?’

Not only does the Hebrew Paradigm coupled with the Resurrection of Christ enable us to no longer fear death, it breaks us out of our “just-a-passin’ through” PASSIVITY into ACTIVELY answering the call to enlarge Christ’s Kingdom here and now TODAY!

Revelation 15.3-4—Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations! Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your justice has been revealed.

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

