

The everlasting Kingdom.

The twofold plan of redemption.

1 Our destiny secure.

The word everlasting is a strange one for us. I think it is only in the context of our Kingdom that the word everlasting is relevant. Nothing we know here is everlasting. Everlasting denotes eternity, without beginning and end. I heard a scientist say this last week that the sun is about middle-aged now, it will last as long as it has lasted.

The purpose of Jesus was to re-establish the reign of God on earth and for it to be everlasting.

*Isaiah 9⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace **there will be no end.** He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from **that time on and forever.***

*Dan 2⁴⁴ "In the time of those kings, the **God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, NOR will it be left to another people.** It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

The question is, how do we who are finite, (with an end or limit, computable) relate to such a Kingdom?

Just for us to have a graphic image of this look at this rope. If it represents the Biblical age of man, you had forefathers and maybe you will have succeeding generations. You and I are this little piece here. Once we die we enter into the eternal domain that we now don't understand.

This little section determines the rest. How we live now determines how we spend eternity.

*Gal 6⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, **from that nature will reap destruction;** the one who sows to please the Spirit, **from the Spirit will reap eternal life.***

The only one who can help us in the understanding of this is Jesus, why? He was with the Father;

*John 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² **He was with God in the beginning.**³ Through him **all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

Jesus is the one who spans the finite, being fully man with the infinite, being fully God. And Jesus never died, he is not finite He lives. He has conquered the physical barrier called death for you and me.

Our future is secure as we are faithful to our Lord. Heaven is our destiny but it is not our goal.

2 Reigning with our King.

*Eph 3¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the **rulers and authorities** in the **HEAVENLY REALMS,**¹¹ according to his **eternal purpose** which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

The location of these *Heavenly Realms* becomes important for us. *There is wisdom we are to make known and there is a battle to be fought (struggle).*

*Heavenly realms = Eph 6¹² For **our struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Heavenly Realms is not heaven, it is the domain of spiritual forces that are influencing, controlling and destroying mankind. We have been (through the church) given dominion, rule and authority over them.

Jesus now has entered into that domain and because He came and made it possible we too can enter in. While we are a finite creation we can venture into and have free access to the realm of the Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not so that we can speak in tongues. It is so that we can have access to spiritual mysteries. Tongues merely helps us do just that, it is a way the Lord confirms in us the fact that authority has come for us.

Our role is to take dominion.

Rom 16 ²⁰ *The God of peace will soon **crush Satan under your feet.***

What is the significance of satan under our feet? How did he get there? The battle is ours but the victory is given to us because we have the authority of Christ to overcome.

1 Cor 15 ²² *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.* ²³ *But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* ²⁴ *Then the end will come, when **he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.*** ²⁵ *For **he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*** ²⁶ *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* ²⁷ *For he “has put everything under his feet.”*

For this to happen authority is the key. The authority must come to my life so that I can enforce that authority. The Spirit of God needs to manifest through me. It is not given by just going to a man/woman of God and ask them to lay hands on me so that I can receive that authority. When hands are laid on us the power of God is present but I need to manifest it in my life.

Jesus had to have this encounter. He was baptised and the Holy Spirit came upon but His next step was to be most significant.

Luke 4 ¹ *Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit,** returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,* ² *where for forty days **he was tempted** by the devil.....* ¹⁴ *Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit,** and news*

about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ *He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.*

What is happening in your desert experience? The Israelites wandered around in the desert for 40 years unnecessarily because they had no faith in or for the desert. It is the place of temptation, the place where authority is imparted. When we overcome temptation in the desert there is nothing the enemy can put on us.

We are this end time Kingdom. It is ours, it won't be left to someone else. You and I are the present day authority of Christ.

Dan 2 ⁴⁴ *“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, **nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.***

Take hold of it. Fight for it.

1 Tim 6 ¹² *Fight the good fight of the faith. **Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called** when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

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