

THE KING COMES

Session 5

Inter-Testamental period

- Israel still under pagan rule
 - Persians (536 - 333BC)
 - Greeks (333-323 BC)
 - Ptolemies, Egypt (323-204 BC)
 - Seleucids, Syria (204-165 BC)
- Independent from 165 - 63 BC, until Pompey (Roman) conquered Jerusalem

Key developments



Hellenization

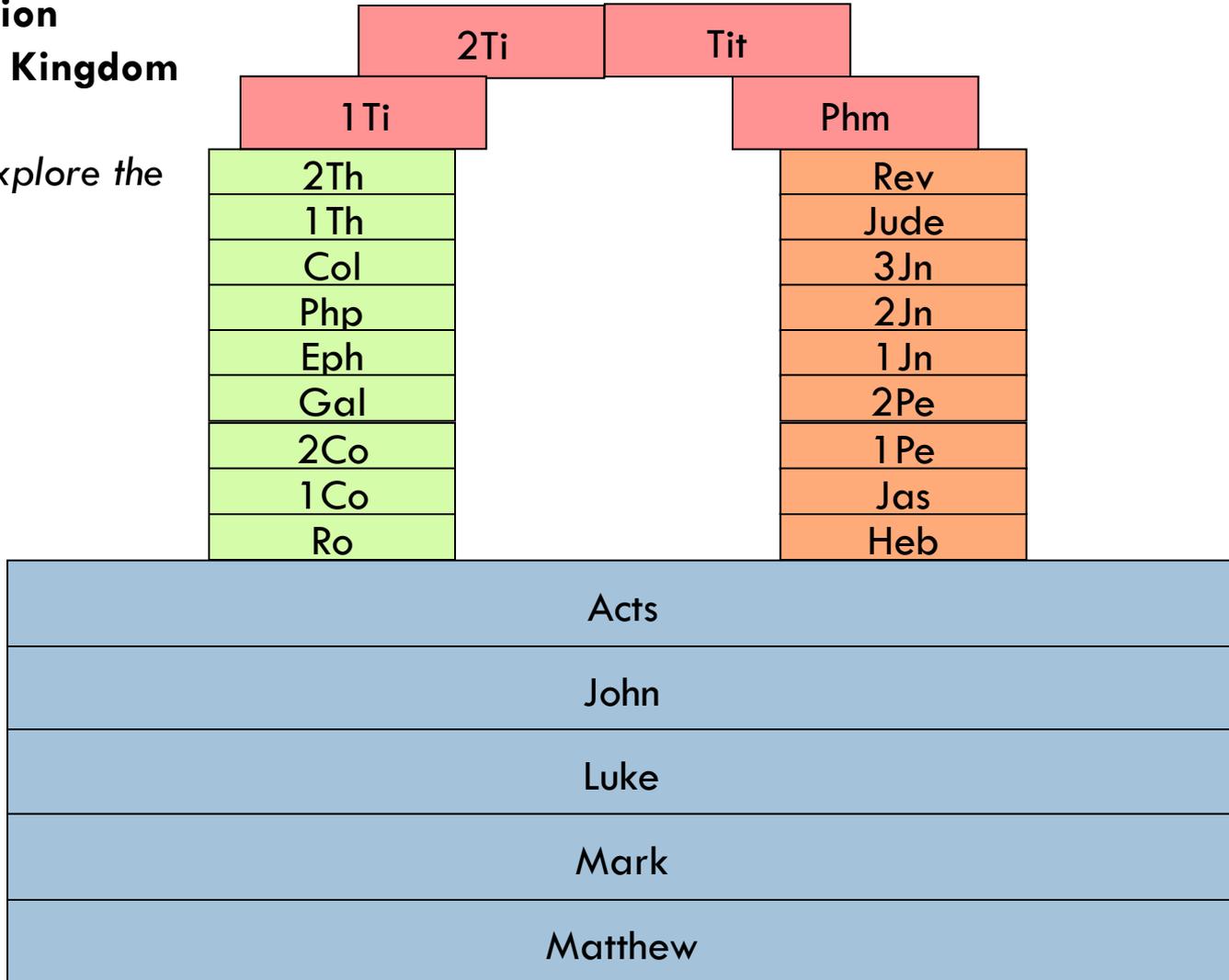
Messianic hope

The 4 groups

- **Essenes** – withdrew, nothing more to do with the temple, which they saw as compromised. Just waiting for the kingdom to come, praying for it to come
- **Pharisees** – focused on the law, setting up untenable demands, all in the name of “holiness”
- **Sadducees** – strategic compromise; compromise with the ruling powers; carve out an area you can continue to be faithful; compartmentalization of faith
- **Zealots** – violent revolt; take up the sword and fight

Subject: **Jesus Christ**
Object: **Salvation**
Project: **Jesus' Kingdom**

From Baxter, Explore the book



John announces the King



John the Baptist's central message is
"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Jesus' central message is that "the kingdom of
God has come"



“The central theme of Jesus’ message, as it comes down to us in the Synoptic Gospels, is the coming of the kingdom of God.”

Herman Ridderbos

4. The King Comes

Gospels – 4 portraits of the King

Matthew – Messiah King, reign and rule (lion)

Mark – Jehovah's Servant, serve and suffer (ox)

Luke – Son of Man, share and sympathise (man)

John – Son of God, reveal and redeem (eagle)

Meekness and Majesty, Manhood and Deity

Significance of Jesus' baptism



- Identification with Israel
- Fulfills prophecy of outpouring of Spirit
- Anointing for the work

Significance of the 3 temptations

Temptations to be the wrong kind of Messiah

The populist Messiah - turning stones into bread

The wonder working Messiah – jump from the temple

The violent Messiah – Satan's way of conquest of the kingdoms of men

Jesus' Kingdom work



Announces the kingdom

Authenticates the kingdom

Gathers the kingdom community
correcting misconceptions
forming a people

Dies for the kingdom

Announcement that demands response



Repent – turn from their wicked and hateful ways

Believe – the kingdom has come

Follow - learn a whole new way of life

Authenticating the kingdom

“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

Luke 7:22-23

2 misconceptions of the kingdom



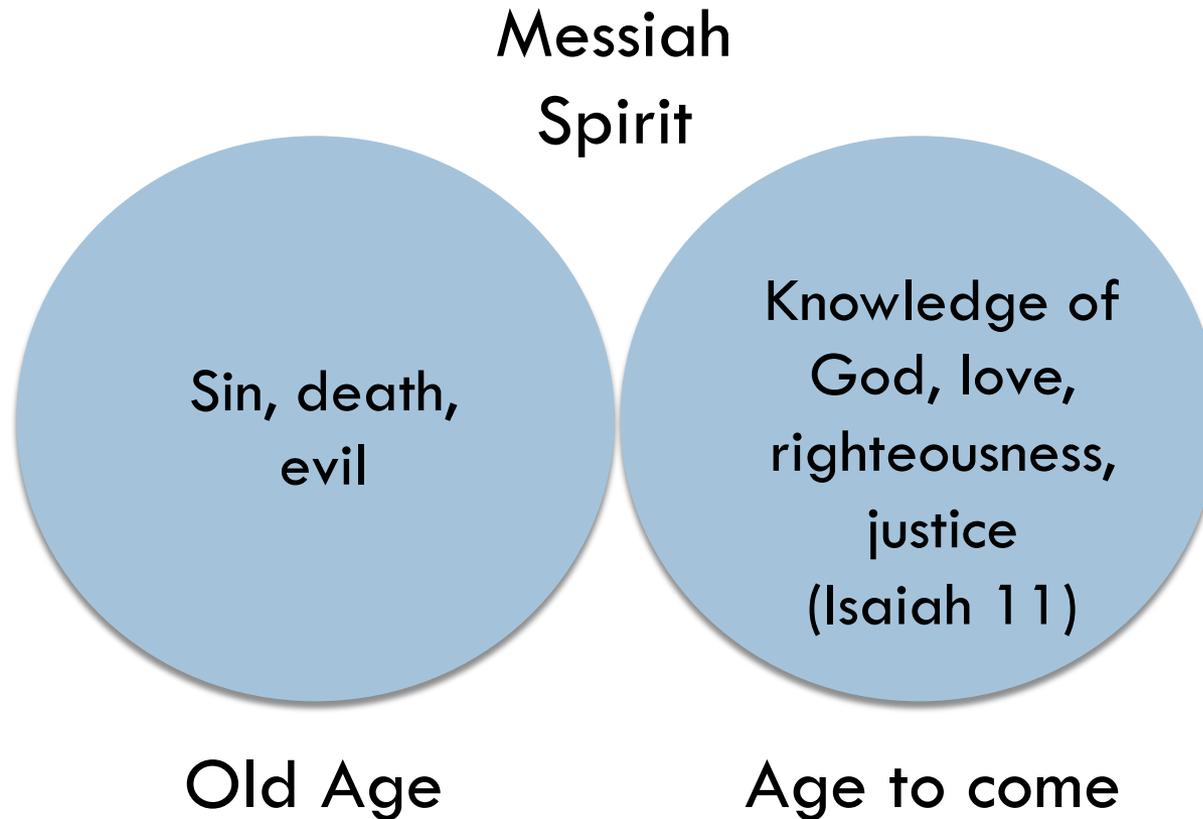
Coming all at once

Exclusive to Jews

An already but not yet kingdom

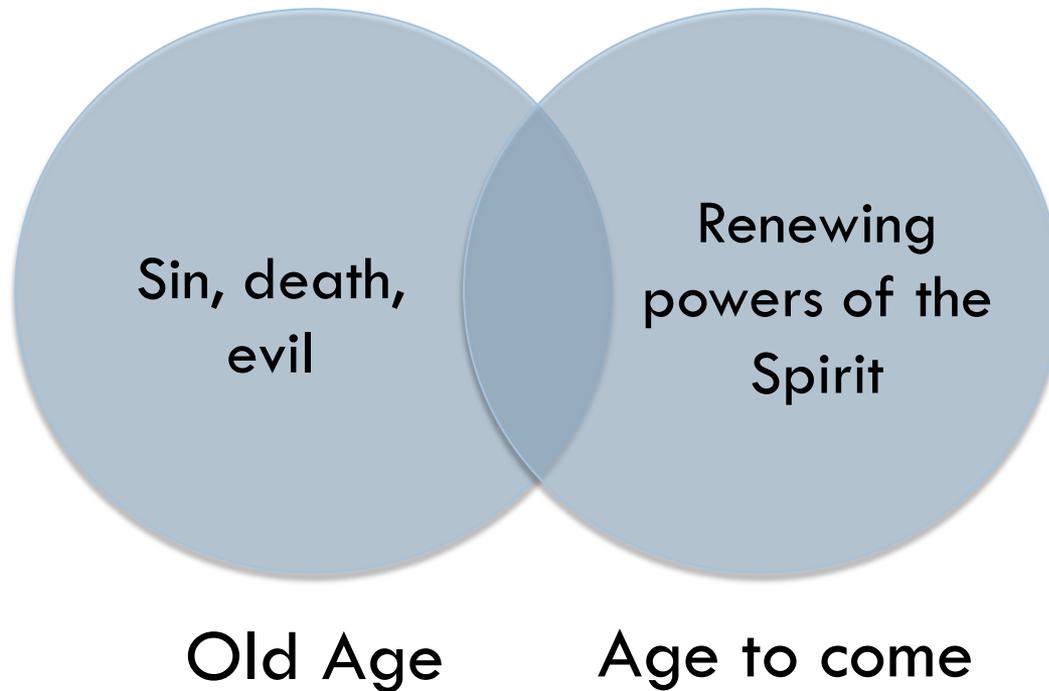
- The Messiah has come; the Kingdom has arrived
 - ▣ The power of the Spirit's renewing work is present
- But the old age – sin, death, evil, Satan, sickness, suffering, pain all remain
- 2 kingdoms engaged in battle over the whole of God's creation

Rabbinic expectations



From Goheen, M. W. (2013). BI201 The Story of the Bible. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

NT revelation



An inclusive kingdom



Jesus accepted the socioreligious outcasts of the day into the kingdom

He healed them

He dined with them

The kingdom through parables

40 parables in the gospels

Corrects wrong notions of the kingdom

“sower” than “conqueror”

tolerance rather than judgment for now

for the “lost”, repentant

inclusive not exclusive

Jesus' Kingdom work

Announce the kingdom

Authenticate the kingdom

Gather the kingdom community
correcting misconceptions
forming a people

Forming the kingdom community



The way of discipleship,
recovering missional calling

Washing the disciples feet

Sermon on the mount

Jesus embodies Kingdom life

- Abba relationship with the Father
- Empowered by the Spirit
- Joy and peace
- Total obedience to the Father
- Justice – in solidarity with the marginalised

Why did Jesus die?

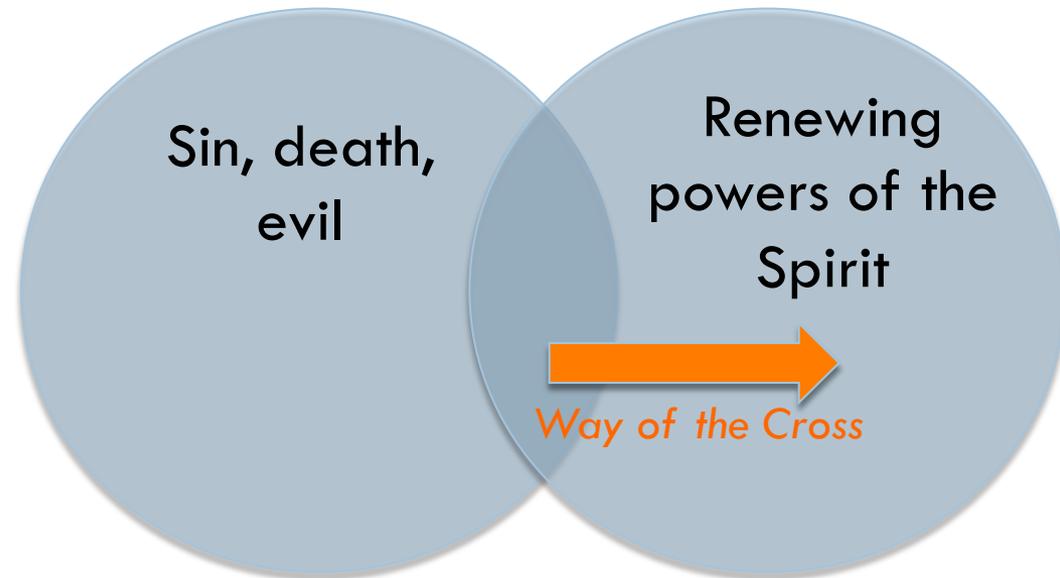
- Break the power of the devil over death
- Appease the justice of God as High Priest
- Break the power of sin over us

Meaning of the resurrection

- “Inauguration” of the new kingdom
 - ▣ Jesus is the firstborn from the dead – Rev 1:5
 - ▣ Jesus is the firstfruits – 1 Cor 15:20
 - ▣ Rest of creation will follow

3 stages of resurrection

- Firstborn – Jesus
- Present “resurrection life” – Rom 6:4, Rom 8:11
- Final resurrection – Rom 8:23, 1 Cor 15:20-23)



Questions

“The way of discipleship is not just about personal living, it is also about recovering the original missional calling.”

“At the heart of our missional calling is the self-giving and self-sacrificing love towards others”

“It is the way of loving our enemies instead of seeking their destruction, a way of unconditional forgiveness instead of retaliation”

1. Are there people who have hurt and disappointed us that we we need to pray for and forgive? Share and pray for one another.
2. Reflect on how God has led our church to demonstrate self-giving and self-sacrificing love towards others. How can you be a part of this?