

**NEW LIFE
CHURCH CRAWLEY
DAVID DICKSON**

MESSAGE

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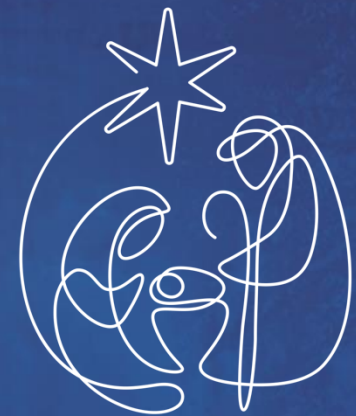
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- The expectations of people about God's kingdom and His Messiah were misunderstood.
- God had promised a Messiah, a Saviour.
- We find it in the carols based on the Bible:



“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel (which means ‘God with us’).”

Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6



“but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”

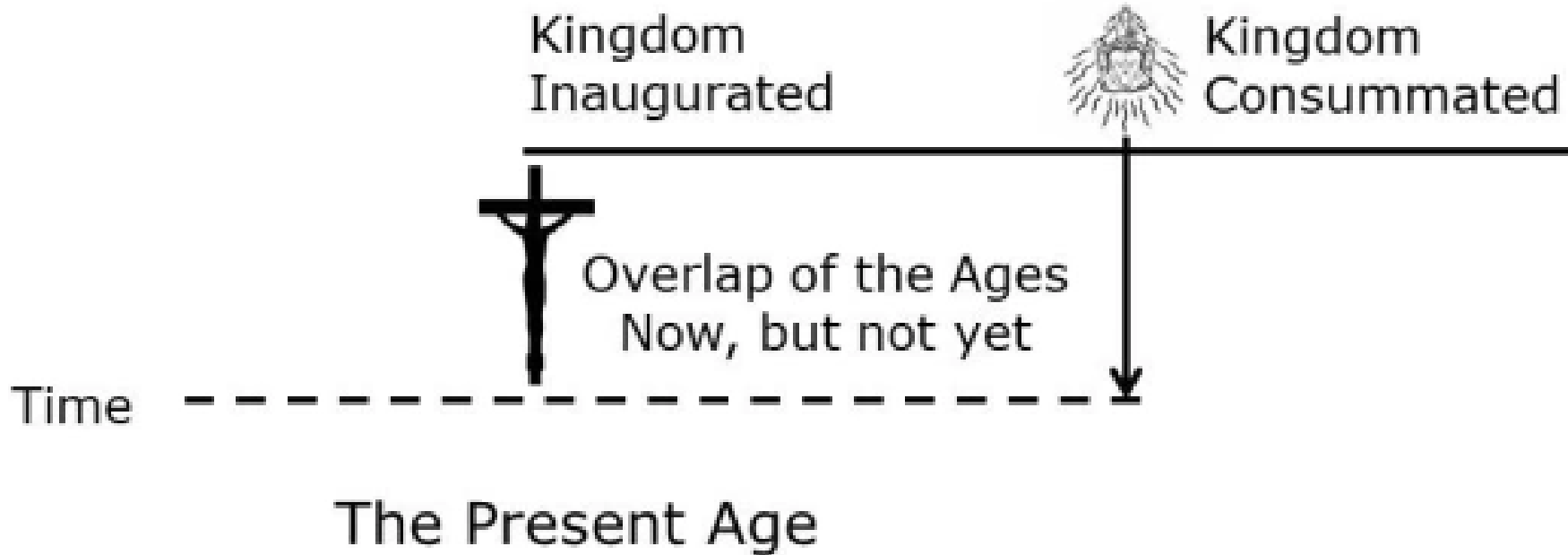
Luke 2:10-11

WE CAN RESPOND TO THE
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY
ACCEPTANCE



*Acceptance of An
Upside-Down Kingdom*

The Age to Come



STAGE 1 & 2 OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD



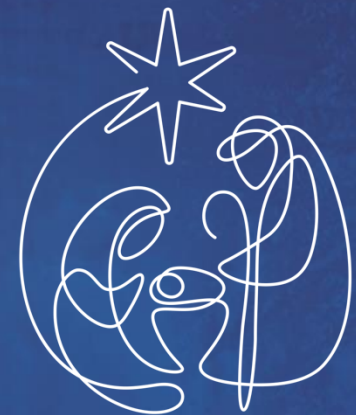
- The wise men expected Jesus to be born in Herod's palace, they eventually found him in a humble backstreet home.
- Jesus' first guests weren't the rich or powerful, but lowly shepherds.
- Jesus criticised the so-called "important" people and lifted up the sick, the marginalised and the outcasts.
- He didn't pander to nationalistic hopes, he didn't conquer by force or might but demonstrated His love



God can't be
co-opted into
our selfish
plans.

**WE CAN'T
MAKE GOD IN
OUR IMAGE**

The Bible emphasizes the
importance of accepting
Jesus Christ as central to
salvation and a restored
relationship with God.



WHAT DOES THIS ACCEPTANCE MEANS FOR US?

1. It means acceptance of Jesus as the only way to God

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6)

WHAT DOES THIS ACCEPTANCE MEANS FOR US?



2. It means acceptance of belief in Jesus leads to eternal life

“God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.” John 3:17-19

WHAT DOES THIS ACCEPTANCE MEANS FOR US?



3. It means acceptance of confession and faith as necessary for salvation

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)



WHAT DOES THIS ACCEPTANCE MEANS FOR US?

4. It means acceptance of Jesus providing forgiveness for your sins

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.”

(Ephesians 1:7)

WHAT DOES THIS ACCEPTANCE MEANS FOR US?



5. It means acceptance that rejecting Jesus has eternal consequences

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)



WE CAN RESPOND TO THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY

- ACCEPTANCE
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



In his letter, James uses an image of seeds planted in the ground to help us with this:

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

(James 5:7-8)



So God calls us to be patient, enduring, faithful farmers - imitating Jesus wherever we find ourselves:

- using our gifts,
- caring for the sick,
- reaching out to the lonely,
- tending God's planet,
- proclaiming the good news
- trusting in that glorious day when the fullness of the harvest will fully manifest.



CONCLUSION:

HOW CAN YOU RESPOND TODAY?

- Acceptance of the message?
- Acknowledgement of responsibility?

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb,

If I were a Wise Man

I would do my part,—

Yet what I can I give Him,

Give my heart.

VIDEO:

Christmas spoken word –

Worship at His feet

<https://youtu.be/7S-1U5PzGqg?si=rp9amc-kkMSRW5YC>

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