

Having the End in Sight
The End Times = Already, Not Yet

Hebrews 1 "Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son."

"I contend that the goal of the NT storyline is God's glory, and that the main stepping-stone to that goal is Christ's establishment of an eschatological new-creational kingdom and its expansion...in order to understand the NT in its rich fullness, we must have a keen acquaintance with how the biblical authors viewed the "end times"... not merely as futurology but as a mind-set for understanding the present...they were already living in the end times..."

A New Testament Biblical Theology, G.K. Beale

The Kingdom, Already at work - the rule of God is in born again lives, the Church

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. The kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" Mark 1:15

"But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you." Luke 11:20

"One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, 'When will the Kingdom of God come?' Jesus replied, 'The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you." Luke 17:20-21

The Kingdom, Not Yet Fully Realized - will be completed at the return of Jesus

"Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon." Luke 11:2

"Then he said, 'Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." Luke 22:18

John's use of "an hour is coming, and now is" = John 4:21-24/ 5:25/ 16:32/ 1John 2:18

"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war... He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God... From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. ¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords." Revelation 19:11-16

Antichrist is already, not yet - an "end times" opponent of God and God's people

Daniel 7-12 "He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High."

Mark 13:22 "For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones."

2Thessalonians 2:3-10 "For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship... ⁷ For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way...but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

1 John 2:18-19 "Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. ¹⁹ These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us...Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist."

1 John 4:2-3 "This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.³ But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here."

Tribulation is already, but not yet - the oppression/suffering of God's people because they are

Daniel 12:1 "There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered."

Matthew 5:10-12 "God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven."

1Thessalonians 1:6: "So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord."

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

Revelation 1:9 "I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus."

Revelation 7:14 "Then he said to me, "These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white."

So What?