

Rediscovering the story of the Old Testament
Session 1: The Grand Narrative – Lesson 7

**Already and not yet: Heaven and Earth joined in
His Image-bearers (3-10)**

Matthew 6:10 ... *your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as it is in heaven ...*

Acts 2:3-4 *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that
separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were
filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues
as the Spirit enabled them.*

After Jesus _____ to heaven, he told the disciples to
wait for the _____ of the Holy Spirit. Jesus
_____ the work of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to
earth. That work would now be _____ by the disciples
who would now be _____ by the very Spirit of God that
empowered Jesus.

As we wait in this in-between time, God is at _____
through the Holy Spirit,

The _____ that lies before us is to _____ Him
in His work.

The _____ He gave for us to say asks that His kingdom
be brought to earth, the Kingdom of justice and mercy.

Empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, it is our
opportunity to

- Bring His _____ and _____ on earth
- to look after the widows, orphans, the helpless, and the
marginalized;
- to have _____;
- to not lie about others;
- Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts ;
- bringing the good news of Jesus to all.

In the now-_____ earth, many people think of human civilization as a _____ and pollution of the earth, that the earth was only meant to be _____ – as it was before humans started to mess it up. When we use our God-given capabilities to join God in His kingdom building, that is _____. Many things that we design, create and build are inherently _____. But our _____ causes us to misuse every good thing .

When we were charged with filling and _____ the earth, it did not mean that we were to simply expand the Garden of Eden. God had given us tremendous creative abilities and gifts to make the things of civilization:

_____ gifts to build up one another;
gifts of _____ and _____ to make music and
_____ gifts to make governments and business

And much more

It is undeniable that, despite the _____ we see, God has provided us an abundance of _____ skills for displaying His _____ and _____ in our art, technology, engineering and sciences. He has also given us social and political skills to create human public and private institutions that can organize our _____ to do good.

It does not take much observation to notice the _____ that has _____ our society. It can seem hard to determine if we have misused more than we properly used the gifts and abilities God has given us. Nevertheless, as God's _____ we have been given a sacred _____ to join God in His _____ of the earth.

The City and the Garden: Heaven and Earth Rejoined (11-17)

2 Peter 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

Revelations 21:1-4 *Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

Daniel 12:2-3 *Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

Our final destiny is not to a disembodied existence, but to a new, _____ body, transformed in the way that Jesus was when he was resurrected. Earth itself will also be _____, with its corruption being removed, not _____ into a Garden of Eden, but into the earth as it was meant to be, _____ and civilized, with a new Jerusalem being brought from heaven to earth. We are not being sent to heaven, _____ is coming to us.

Knowing we are moving to this end, in the present age we can be motivated to _____ our hope by _____
_____ our hope as in mentioned in The Lord's Prayer.

This encourages us to do what we can to help _____ in God's kingdom now, if only in part. We do not need to wait hopelessly as if there is nothing we can do.

When Jesus was resurrected, his _____ body still bore _____ to his old body, it even kept the wounds of the crucifixion. In the same way, we should also expect that just as our _____ bodies will _____ who we are now, that the _____ earth will _____ the earth as it is now. The transformation will be a healing of earth and our bodies, rather a destruction of the corruptions within.

Just as God is _____ glorified by the _____ and the flourishing of life on earth, we should expect that such vitality and flourishing should continue. Just as we are _____ given _____ and abilities to build each other up now, we should expect the same later, although in a new, uncorrupted context. We _____ God when we, as a _____ community, can express our God-given gifts without restriction and without the impediment of sin and corruption.