

## This World and The World to Come

Jesus spoke of 2 places: • this world

• and the world to come:

**Matt 12:32** And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him,  
• neither in this world,  
• neither in the world to come.

If we think of 'this world' and 'the world to come' .... as related to 'time' ....

it would be:

• 'now' or 'presently'

• and the 'future' .... or 'the ages to come'.

Jesus told His disciples of the BENEFITS of suffering for the kingdom of God:

**Luke 18:29-30** And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children,  
**for the kingdom of God's sake,**

30 Who shall not **receive manifold more in this present time,**  
and **in the world to come life everlasting.** (also Mark 10:29-30)

After Jesus rose from the dead, He sat down on the throne on high. He is presently reigning over all this world .... and will reign in the world to come:

**Eph 1:17-21** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought **in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

21 **Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:**

In the resurrection of the dead .... the children of 'this world' ....

will become the children of 'that world' to come:

**Luke 20:34-36** And Jesus answering said unto them, **The children of this world** marry, and are given in marriage:

35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain **that world,**  
and **the resurrection from the dead,**  
neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels;  
and **are the children of God,**  
**being the children of the resurrection.**

As Christ explained .... about when Moses saw the burning bush (Exo 3:2-6, Acts 7:30-32) .... God told him he was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Though they are dead 'physically' at the time .... they were/are not 'really' dead - but living with God .... because God said they are raised:

**Luke 20:37-38** **Now that the dead are raised,** even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

38 For **he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.** (Matt 22:32, Luke 20:38)

This 'life after death' resurrection principle is the same as what Jesus described to Martha, when she was grieved over her brother Lazarus, who died before Jesus got there. Jesus taught Martha about the '1st' resurrection .... when someone believes on Him. She already knew about the '2nd' resurrection .... which will come at the 7th trumpet, at the last day:

**John 11:23-26** Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again  
**in the resurrection at the last day.**

25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that**

**believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:** (he does not have to wait until the last day to live .... he is raised NOW .... he lives NOW):

26 And **whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.**

(also John 5:24)

Believest thou this?

Jesus taught the multitudes with 'earthly' stories that had 'heavenly' meanings .... as in a metaphor, a proverb, or a figure. Often He said, "The kingdom of God is LIKE ...." (Mark 13:31, 33,44, 45, 47, 52; 20:1; 22:2; Luke 13:18), but the true message was deeper than it appeared on the surface:

**Matt 13:34-43** All these things spake **Jesus unto the multitude in parables;** and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet,

saying, **I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things**

**which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house:

and his disciples came unto him, saying,

Declare unto us **the parable of the tares of the field.**

37 He answered and said unto them,

- He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 • The field is the world;

- the good seed are the children of the kingdom;

- but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 • The enemy that sowed them is the devil;

- **the harvest is the end of the world;**

- and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire;

**so shall it be in the end of this world.**

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels,

and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend,

and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire:

there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun (Dan 12:1-3)

in the kingdom of their Father. (when it comes to earth visibly)

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

God's kingdom will come in fulness (Eph 1:10) .... at the end of this world.

Jesus warned the Jews that if they did not believe in Him, they would perish:

**John 8:23-24** And he said unto them,

- Ye are from beneath;
- **ye are of [this world](#)**;
- I am from above:
- **I am not of [this world](#)**.

24 **I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**

Jesus clearly explained the choice: either this world or the world to come:

**John 12:25-26** He that loveth his life shall lose it;

and **he that hateth his life in [this world](#) shall keep it unto life eternal.**

26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Take the **scriptural** test. What do you love? the world or God?

**1 John 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.

**If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Do you desire to keep God's word? This is another proof of 'being in God':

**1 John 2:5** But **whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.**

Self-analysis is good for us. We ought to look critically at 'how we live':

**2 Cor 13:5** **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Do you 'lay up treasures in heaven,' (Matt 6:19-21), where your heart is?

**1 Tim 6:17-19** Charge them that are rich in **this world**, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 **Laying up in store** for themselves a good foundation against **the time to come**, (in the world to come) that they may lay hold on **eternal life**.

'We need to be singing, "This world is not my home," and not act like it is:

**1 Cor 7:31** And **they that use [this world](#), as not abusing it: for the fashion of [this world](#) passeth away.**

When Jesus was preparing to be crucified .... He indicated that Satan's defeat was near (Col 2:14-15). Through death, Jesus destroyed the devil that had the power of death (Heb 2:14-15, 1 John 3:8), and delivered the lawful captives (Isa 49:24-25, Psa 68:18, Eph 4:8). He knew the scriptures would be fulfilled that He would bruise the serpent's head (Gen 3:14-15):

**John 12:27-33** Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 **Now is the judgment of [this world](#): now shall the prince of [this world](#) be cast out.**

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

God promised blessings to those who overcome (1 John 5:4-5, Rev 21:7).

Through Jesus' victory at the cross, He gave victory to His servants:

**Rom 16:20** And **the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet** shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Jesus continued to teach His disciples that He was near leaving this world:

**John 13:1** Now before the feast of the passover, when **Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of [this world](#) unto the Father,** having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Jesus informed His disciples of Satan's attack, to bruise His heel (Gen 3:15):

**John 14:28-30** Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, **I go unto the Father:** for my Father is greater than I.

29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you:  
for **the prince of this world cometh,** and hath nothing in me.

Satan would be 'bound' from being able to deceive the nations (Rev 20:2-3) .... so that he could not prevail against the church of the NEW testament, founded on Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28), being built (Matt 16:16-18):

**John 16:7-11** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world

- of sin,
- and of righteousness,
- and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because **the prince of this world is judged.**

Jesus' kingdom is a 'heavenly' kingdom .... the kingdom of heaven:

**John 18:35-36** Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world:**  
**if my kingdom were of this world,** then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews:

**but now is my kingdom not from hence.** (this place, here)

The servants of God are not in a 'physical' battle over a 'physical' kingdom:

**Eph 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against **the rulers of the darkness of this world,** against spiritual wickedness in high places.

In our fight against this world .... "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God" (2 Cor 10:4) .... so we should be thankful to God that He "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His Dear Son" (Col 1:13):

**Rom 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And **be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We have overcome the spirit of antichrist, that is even now already in the world (1 John 4:3-6). We believe in Jesus Christ and that by His death .... we are saved from this world:

**Gal 1:3-5** Grace be to you and peace from God the Father,  
and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

- 4 Who gave himself for our sins,  
that he might **deliver us from this present evil world,**  
according to the will of God and our Father:
- 5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The promises for Israel in prophecy .... were not for 'the children of the flesh' .... but for 'the children of the promise' (Rom 9:6-8), which we now are (Gal 4:28). Now the Gentiles are included as partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel (Eph 3:6). All the promises of God in Christ are yea, and Amen, unto the glory of God by us (2 Cor 1:20):

**Isa 45:17** But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded **world without end.**

Jesus Christ now rules from heaven, and is glorified in His church .... both now in this world (2 Thess 1:12) - and in the world to come (2 Thess 1:10):

**Eph 3:20-21** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 **Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.** Amen.

The world without end, the world to come .... is the NEW world, without sin:

**2 Peter 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

Until 'the world to come' actually comes, we are to be diligent in 'this world':

**2 Peter 3:17-18** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.**

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of **our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**  
**To him be glory both now and for ever.** Amen.

We who keep the word and bring forth fruit with patience (Luke 8:11-15) .... are holy branches, because we have the Root (Rom 11:16). We glorify God:

**Jude 1:24** Now unto him that is able to **keep you from falling,** and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 **To the only wise God our Saviour,**  
**be glory and majesty, dominion and power,**  
**both now and ever.** Amen.

In this world ... and in the world to come ... we bless the name of the Lord:

**Psa 113:2** Blessed be the name of the LORD  
**from this time forth and for evermore.**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*