

## **DISCUSS THIS**

Why do we need “a story of the world” in order to wrestle with the most important questions of life?

Why do we need “a story of the world” if science explains everything?

From among all the stories we could chose to see the world through, why chose Christianity?

The Bible is the great overall story of the world into which all little stories fit properly and find their real context and meaning.

## **DISCUSS THIS**

Why did Jesus need to come to Earth?

*“The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the gospel!” Mark 1:15*

What does *gospel* mean?

What was Jesus’s gospel?

What does *metanoia* mean? How does it relate to Jesus’s gospel?

### **DISCUSS THIS**

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people about the Kingdom of God. What was He trying to teach them about it?

Why did Jesus describe Himself as “a temple?”

How did Jesus facilitate the arrival of the Kingdom of God in human history?

What was Jesus talking about when He said *the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18.*

What is the relationship between the defeat of evil, the coming of the Kingdom, and the remarriage of Heaven and Earth?

### **DISCUSS THIS**

Why were Jesus’s disciples, and the crowds, confused by the way Jesus went about advancing God’s Kingdom on Earth?

Why did people think Jesus might have come to “abolish the law and the prophets?” What did He mean when He told them, “*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*”

“Let it never be forgotten that what the law demands of us, the gospel really produces in us,” said Charles Spurgeon

Why did Jesus facilitate a slow expansion of the Kingdom of God on Earth, instead of an instantaneous reckoning?

**(END OF AUDIO SEGMENT ONE)**

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**(START OF AUDIO SEGMENT TWO)**

**DISCUSS THIS**

What are the three things Jesus taught His disciples that His cross would accomplish?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why would the forgiveness of sins alone, be inadequate as a solution for humanity?

What is the biblical idea of judgment?

How did the cross bring about the dethroning of evil powers who had taken over the rule of the Earth?

How did the cross reopen the Heaven-Earth connection?

What is eternal life?

*But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4:14*

How did Christ pouring out His life start the process of setting the world right?

### **DISCUSS THIS**

What is the significance of the fact that Christ has already begun his reign on Earth?

*All authority in heaven **and on earth** has been given to me. Matthew 28:18.*

### **DISCUSS THIS**

Are we waiting for the New Creation, and the New Age, or has it already begun?

Jesus Christ is... *the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18)*

Jesus's resurrection body is the first piece of New Creation that has been made. Are there any other pieces of New Creation around right now?

*Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16.*

Are we currently in the Old Age or the New Age?

*[The scriptures] were written down to instruct us, **on whom the ends of the ages have come** 1 Corinthians 10:11.*

*"The darkness is passing and the true light is already shining." 1 John 2:8 .*

## **DISCUSS THIS**

How is God bringing about the expansion of the Kingdom of God on Earth?

“We are that dangerous interface where Heaven and Earth meet, where present and future bump into one another” N.T. Wright

Accessing the power of God and using it to bring Heaven down to Earth is what Jesus did, and what He taught His disciples to do.

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

If the job of setting all things right is going to be finally finished up perfectly and completely in the end by God Himself, why should we strive for the Kingdom now?

## **DISCUSS THIS**

What is the last step in God’s Kingdom finally and completely returning to Earth?

*[Christ] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 1 Corinthians 15: 25*

Should we look forward to the second coming of Christ? Any reason we might not?

What will be the role of humanity when God’s Kingdom is fully established on Earth?

*the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)*

*God will be all in all (15:28).*

**DISCUSS THIS**

Why doesn't God just bring about the full establishment of His Kingdom on Earth right now?

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 1 Peter 3:9*