

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

The implications of the Resurrection number 3: God's Kingdom Will Come

With the resurrection of Jesus a sequence of events will follow leading to the establishment of God's perfect kingdom.

Part 1

From the Garden of Eden in Genesis to the Garden City in Revelation in just 8 verses!

Paul considers the consequences of events in two gardens.

God's kingdom = God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing (Graeme Goldsworthy – Gospel & Kingdom).

Adam is humanity's representative/team captain (vs.21&22).

The kingdom pattern established:

God's people	Adam and Eve
God's place	Garden of Eden
God's rule and blessing	God's word and perfect relationships

(Vaughan Roberts – God's Big Picture)

In Genesis God provided a garden and was present there – communion with Adam and Eve.

Rebellion in the kingdom and as a consequence of Adam's actions all humanity dies.

Part 2

A promised resurrection harvest (v20) follows Christ's resurrection from the garden tomb.

Jesus – the second Adam is the new representative/team captain for all those who believe in Him as their Lord and Saviour. All in Christ will be made alive – they will experience resurrection (v21-23).

Christ a conquering king (v 25-26) will destroy all opposition to God's proclaimed kingdom. This is the time between Christ's first and second coming – the last days.

The end will come (Parousia) and Jesus hands over the kingdom to the Father (v24).

The kingdom perfected:

God's people	Multinational family of believers
God's place	New creation/New Jerusalem
God's rule and blessing	Perfect blessing

(Vaughan Roberts – God's Big Picture)

The members of Trinity equal in status but different in their roles (vs. 27-28).

The Nicene Creed states His kingdom will have no end.

Some things to take away

God's big plan vs. our little plans

- In the lockdown many peoples' plans have been thwarted.
- But God's big plan for the kingdom continues on.

How should we pray?

- Prayers can be seen as communion centred – seeking to draw close to God or kingdom centred prayers – asking God to exercise his power in the world (Tim Keller).
- We frequently use the Lord's Prayer but what do we think of when we say 'your kingdom come'?
- When God's perfected kingdom comes the communion with God we desire will be fully realised (Thomas Watson).

The need for creeds

- The reciting of creeds is useful as it commits their points to memory.
- When we carefully consider the statements it helps us avoid error.