

40 Days that Changed the World

Acts 1: 1-9

The number “40” in the Bible

- Flood during Noah's time
- Moses' life
- Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt
- Jonah and ancient city of Nineveh
- Jesus tempted by Satan after 40 days of fasting in the wilderness

40: number of testing, waiting, preparation, judgment

- Flood during Noah's time
- Moses' life
- Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt
- Jonah and ancient city of Nineveh
- Jesus' temptation after 40 days of fasting in the wilderness

Lent: 40 days

February 26 (Ash Wednesday)

April 9 (Maundy Thursday)

April 12 (Easter Sunday)

1/7

1/30

2/11

3/11

3/31

4/15

Jan. 7 – Chinese authorities called it novel Coronavirus

Jan. 30 – WHO declared global public health emergency

Feb. 11 – WHO announced disease as “COVID-19”

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40 Days that Changed the World

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1: 1-3)

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Luke-Acts: 2 volume work

- Former (previous) book: Gospel of Luke
... since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1: 3-4)
- Latter (current) book: Acts of the Apostles
In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ... (Acts 1: 1)

Why stay 40 more days ?

- to convince disciples He's really alive
 - Though he was killed, He had come back to life physically
- to command disciples to ...
 - Wait for the coming of Holy Spirit
 - Preach Gospel to everyone once empowered by Holy Spirit
- to clarify/correct disciples' wrong ideas about ...
 - Jesus the Messiah
 - Kingdom of God

Convince disciples He's really alive

➤ multiple appearances during 40 days

... Christ died for our sins ... he was buried,
... he was raised on the third day ... and he
appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five
hundred of the brothers and sisters at the
same time, most of whom are still living,
... 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all
the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to
me also ... (1 Cor. 15: 3-8)

Changes in Jesus' disciples

BEFORE	AFTER
Afraid	Fearless
Hiding	Bold
Discouraged & Disillusioned	Willing to face imprisonment, beatings, even death, in order to carry out their mission

Such dramatic turnaround

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2: 23-24)

Command His disciples to ...

➤ Wait for coming of Holy Spirit, their source of POWER

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.” (Acts 1: 4)

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Lk. 24: 49)

➤ Preach the Gospel to everyone once empowered by Holy Spirit

Command disciples to ...

- Wait for coming of Holy Spirit, their source of POWER
- Preach the Gospel to everyone once empowered by Holy Spirit

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1: 8)

Clarify/correct disciples' wrong ideas about ...

➤ Jesus the Messiah – Suffering Servant

... for the transgression of my people
he was punished... it was the Lord's will
to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life
an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.
After he has suffered,
... my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53: 8-11)

Clarify/correct disciples' wrong ideas about ...

- the Kingdom of God
 - Not geopolitical or military power, but a spiritual kingdom
 - Sins forgiven
 - Lives transformed
 - Gospel preached to all nations
 - Gentiles invited into this Kingdom

All that in 40 days

- Convince disciples He's really alive
- Command them to ...
 - Wait for the coming of Holy Spirit
 - Preach the Gospel to everyone once empowered by Holy Spirit
- Clarify/correct their wrong ideas about ...
 - Jesus the Messiah
 - Kingdom of God

Are we convinced He's alive?

- Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know Who holds the future
And life is worth the living,
just because He lives.
(Gloria & William Gaither)

Are we obedient to Jesus' command?

- To share the Gospel with people around us, as we're empowered by His Spirit?
- Who is our "Jerusalem" ?
- Who is our "Judea & Samaria" ?
- People from "the ends of the earth" are now our neighbors !

**What wrong ideas about the Messiah and
God's Kingdom do we have ?**

Jesus' 1st coming inaugurated the “last days” or “end times”

God chose [Jesus] as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed [Jesus] to you in these last days.
(1 Peter 1:20; NLT)

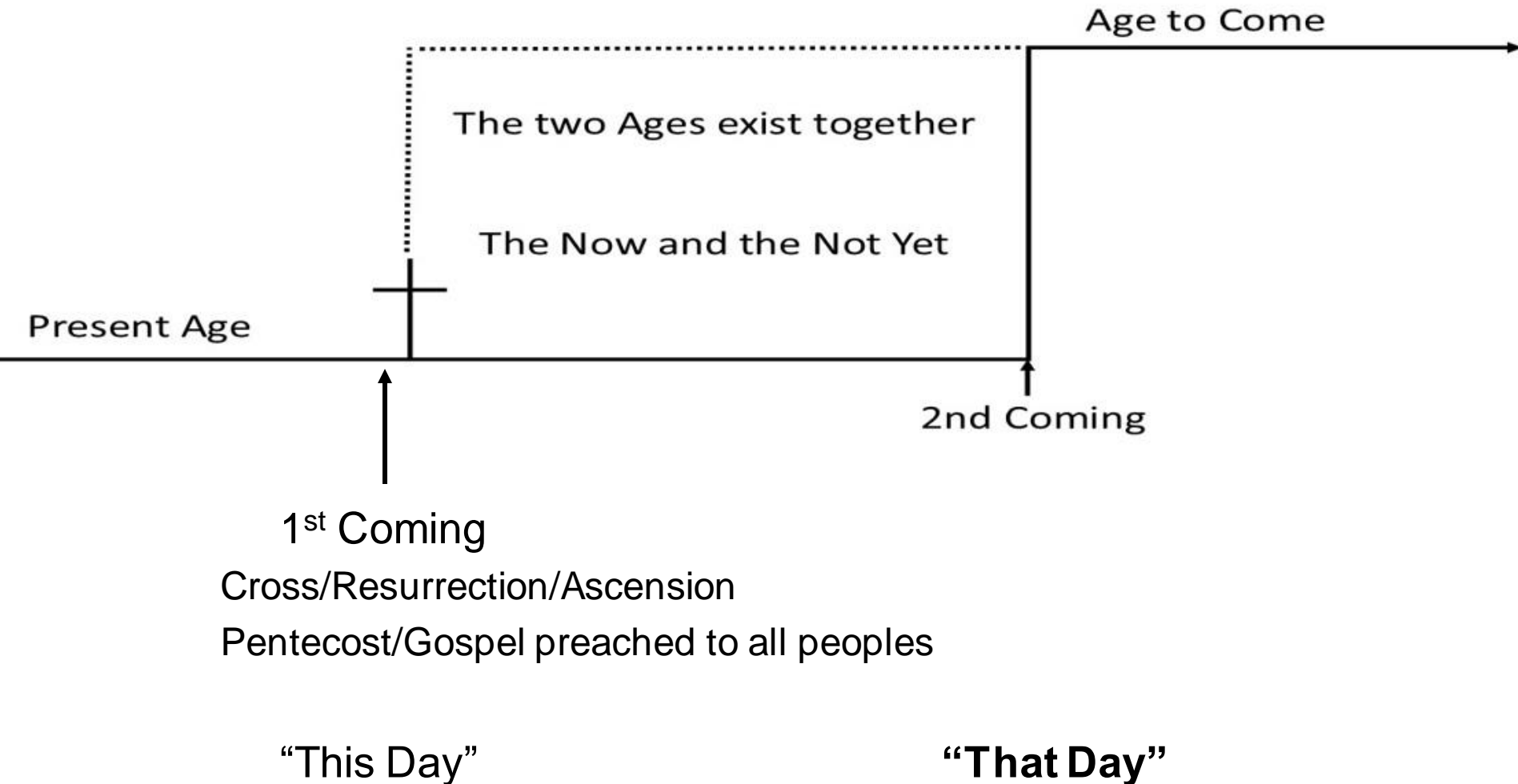
Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
(Hebrews 1:2).

The background of the image is a hazy, greenish landscape with rolling hills and mountains. In the upper center, a dark, cloud-like shape hangs from the top, with a person hanging upside down from it. In the lower center, a person stands on a dark, rocky outcrop, looking out over the landscape. The text is overlaid on the image.

THE **KINGDOM** OF GOD

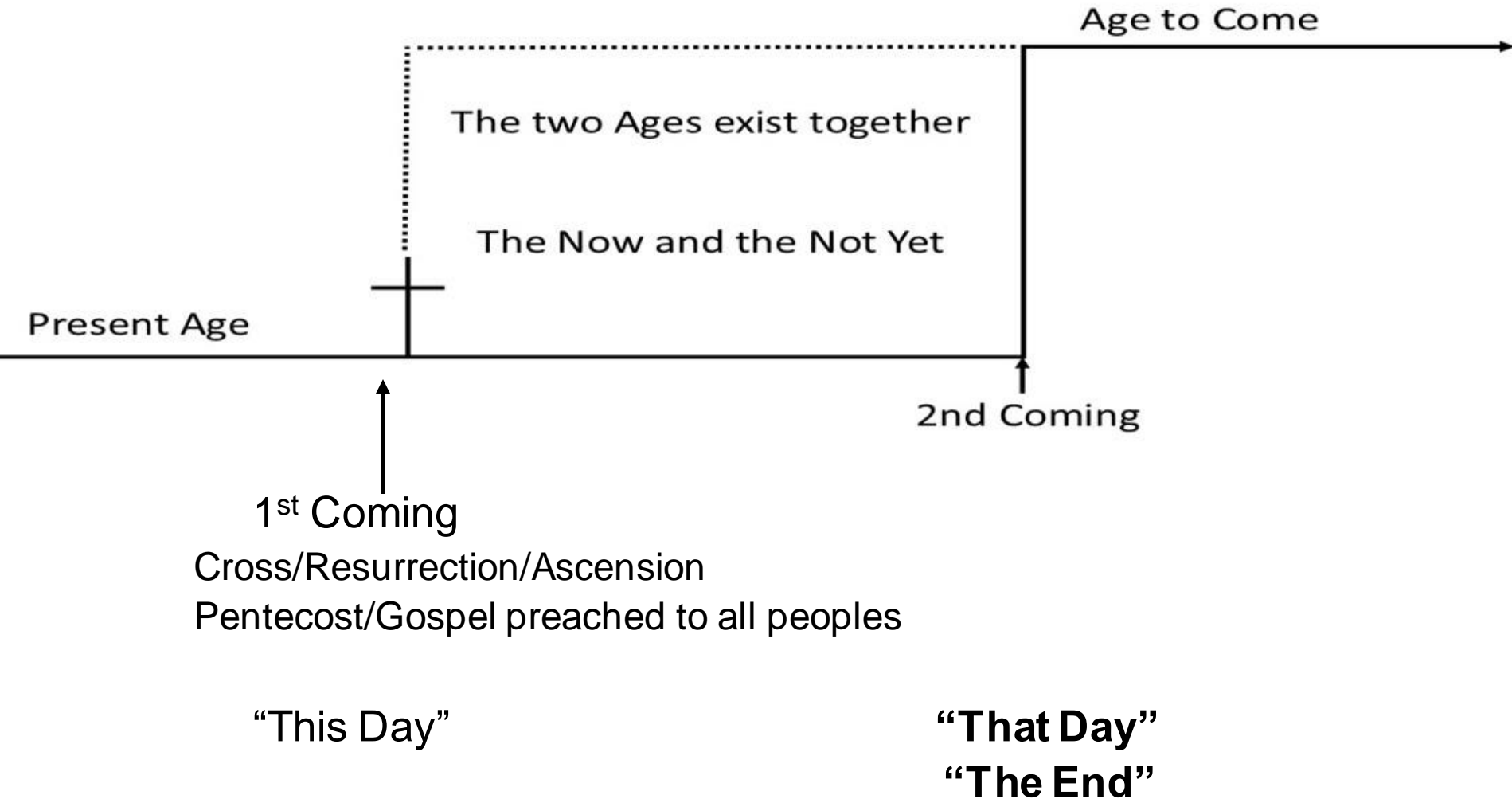
ALREADY BUT NOT YET

God's Kingdom has arrived!



Christ's return can happen any moment (imminent)

- “at hand”
- “coming soon”
- “closer than ever before”



Lord, “open our eyes” to see what’s happening in light of Your imminent return

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. (2 Tim. 3: 1-4)

Lord, “open our eyes” to see what’s happening in light of Your imminent return

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

4 Jesus answered: ...¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith ...¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24: 3-4, 10-14)

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Lord, “open our eyes” to see what’s happening in light of Your imminent return

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matt. 24: 36-39)

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- ²⁶ “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
- ²⁸ “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. (Lk. 17: 26-29)

- 7 The end of the world is coming soon.
Therefore, be earnest and disciplined
in your prayers. 8 Most important of all,
continue to show deep love for each other,
for love covers a multitude of sins.
- 9 Cheerfully share your home with those
who need a meal or a place to stay.
- 10 God has given each of you a gift from his
great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well
to serve one another. (1 Pt. 4: 7-10; NLT)

The next 40 days (post-Easter)?

Feb. 26 (Ash Wednesday)

April 9 (Maundy Thursday)
(Easter Sunday)

1/7 1/30 2/11 3/11 3/31 4/12

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Will you cooperate with the Risen Lord as He walks with you and works on you the next 40 days?

- Be convinced that Jesus is alive
- Obey His command to share the Gospel with those in your “circle” of influence, empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Discard any wrong ideas you may have about the “last days” and live accordingly

What will the next 40 days be for us ?

Ash Wednesday

LENT 2020

Maundy Thursday

Easter Sunday

1/7 1/30 2/11 3/11 3/31 4/12