

***Revelation: The World vs. the Kingdom of God***

Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

**Key Verse:**

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.

Revelation 21:3

***The World to Come***

*The following notes are not present in any of our currently sold products, but are produced as footnoted background notes for writers to use as they prepare to write on this topic in the Bible Nuts & Bolts activity or sidebar found in many of our products.*

- The Hebrew *Olam Ha-Ba* (The World to Come) has two separate but related meanings in Jewish thought: the afterlife and the end times.
- Most of the references to the World to Come in the Hebrew Bible saw God's eternal kingdom inaugurated here on earth, in what is known as the messianic age.
- The messianic age would be a period of peace for all of creation, with people beating their swords into plowshares and no more wars between nations (Isaiah 2:4). This peace extends to all of creation, with wolves lying down with lambs and children playing with snakes without any fear of harm (Isaiah 11:6-9). The earth will have no more hunger, war, jealousy, or rivalry. Paul extends this to read that there will be no more earthly distinctions between Jews and gentiles, slaves and freed people, and even male and female, as all are made one through Jesus (Galatians 3:28).
- By the time of Jesus, the afterlife was a widespread belief. Although, this was still up for debate: while the Pharisees believed in an immortal soul, the Sadducees did not.
- The afterlife has always been a central part of Christianity's message, dating to the early church. This differs from our general view of the afterlife where soul goes off to heaven; early Christians thought that Christ would return any moment to inaugurate the New Creation. They believed in a bodily resurrection (as opposed to soul only being resurrected) and this world being restored/made new in a new creation. End times was right around the corner, most scholars agree that the early church and especially charismatic figures like Paul believed that they would live to see Jesus' second coming and the inauguration of the new creation.



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