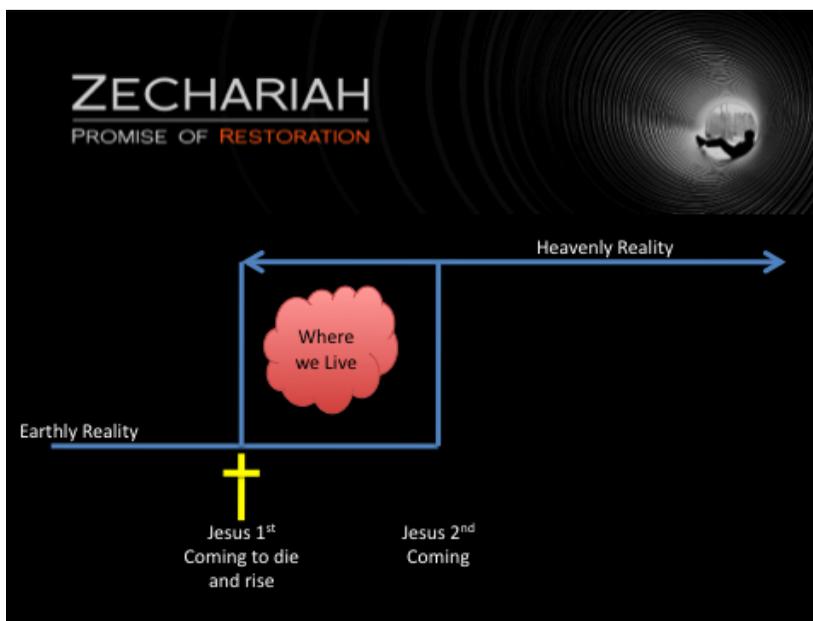


Eschatology 101

Eschatology is a study of the *last things* or of the *end times*. There is much that can be said about *eschatology*. For our purposes the diagram below and brief notes to follow shall suffice.

The diagram below seeks to explain how Christ coming into the world in his 1st coming *inaugurated/established* the Kingdom of God and how his 2nd coming will *consummate/bring in complete fullness* the Kingdom of God.



Living in the box (as in the above diagram) means there is a tension. There is a tension between *now* and *not yet*. The earthly reality and the heavenly reality exist side by side. But there will come a time when the earthly is done away with and all that will remain is the heavenly. This happens when Christ returns in his glory.

An example from everyday life might help to illustrate. When a woman is pregnant it is true that she is with baby. However, there is still something more to come. This is a kind of *now* and *not yet* tension. Romans 8 uses this image of pregnancy to explain the tension in the Christian life.

Or consider a marriage. The couple are married at the church. Their marriage is *now* a present reality, however it is *not yet* consummated.

Or consider the world of agriculture. The first-fruits as you can imagine is the first-fruit to produce of the entire crop. The first-fruits of the harvest guarantee what is to follow. The harvest is here *now*, but it's *not yet* fully realised in some way. First-fruits is used in the NT to describe the assurance we can have of future redemption [Rom 8:23; 1 Cor 15:20ff].

So in Zechariah's visions of God's Kingdom coming, we need to remember that both the 1st coming of Christ to die and rise and his 2nd coming are in view.