

The declaration of the Gospel in the New Testament is this: God, in his relentless, dangerous, and immeasurably joyful love for his creation has made Jesus King and Lord of the universe, and that in His death he has extinguished the power of the definitive threat of fear and shame—death—while simultaneously forgiving sin. In raising Jesus from the dead, he has ushered in a new order of justice and mercy that will reach its culmination for all of creation, the earth included, with the bodily appearance of Jesus as he creates, reveals, and draws together the new heaven and new earth at some time in the near or distant future. In the meantime we are to be about the business of living under his rule, in his kingdom that is here but yet to reach its climax, practicing who and what we will be when it arrives in its fullness.