

Christian Pessimism

A. Christian Views of History

1. Second Advent Christianity = God's promises fail *in history*
2. First Advent Christianity = God's promises succeed *in history*

B. The Promises of Scripture

1. The promise of the advancement of earthly peace
 - a. *"may the whole earth be filled with His glory"* (Ps.72:19)
 - b. Ps. 72:8-11, Is.2:1-5, Mic. 4:1-5
2. The promise of incremental advancement of the kingdom
 - a. *"the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...the smallest of all seeds...when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants"* (Mt. 13:31-32)
 - b. Ps. 2, Ps. 110, Dan. 2:31-44, Dan. 7: 13-14, 1 Cor. 15: 22-25
 - c. *"But now we do **not yet see** all things put under Him"* (Hb. 2:8)
3. The promise of the Holy Spirit to empower kingdom advancement
 - a. *"whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, **because** I am going to the Father"* (Jn. 14:12-14)
 - b. Mt. 16:18 = "gates" are a *defensive* weapon
 - c. Mt. 28:18-20 = *"all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me"*

C. Last Things begin with First Things

1. The goodness of creation
2. The mandate of dominion
3. The gospel as the means to the ends
4. *"Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven"* (Mt. 6:10)