

- \* “the god of this age” (**2 Cor 4:4**)
- \* “principality and power of the air” (**Eph 2:2**)
- \* “ruler of the world” (**Jn 12:30; 14:31; 16:8**)
- \* owns all the nations of the world (**Lk 4:6-7**)
- \* “controls entire world” (**I Jn 5:19**)
- \* “has the power of death” (**Heb 2:14**)

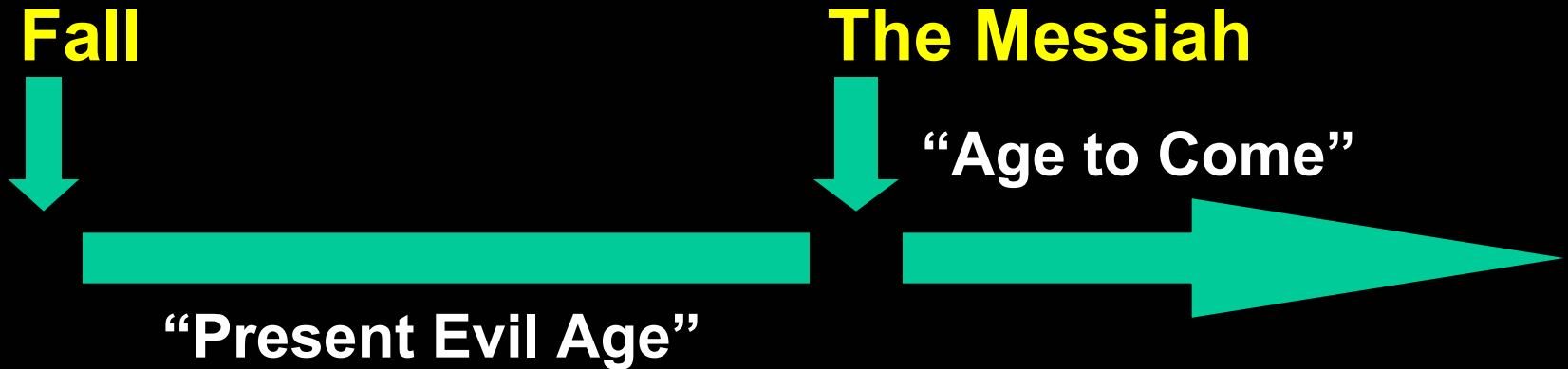
**Rom. 8:20** ...for the creation was subjected to futility...in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God...the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now...

# Jesus came to

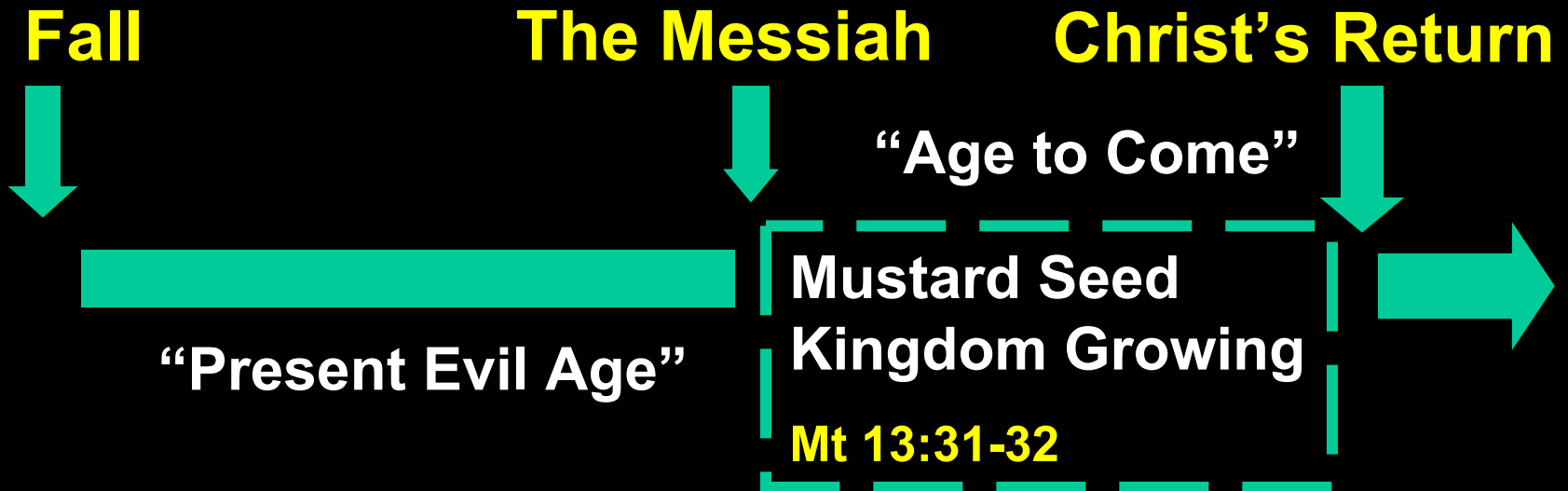
- \* reveal God (**Jn 1:1, 14:8-10; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3**)
- \* defeat the devil and his legions (**Heb 2:8; I Jn 3:8; Col. 2:14-15**)
- \* restore all of creation (**Rom. 8:20-23; Col. 1:18-20**)
- \* save and re-enthrone humans (**Heb 2:8; Rev. 5:10; 2 Tim. 2:12**)

**Heb. 2:7-9** You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; “you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.” Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, *we do not yet see everything in subjection to them*, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

# Traditional Jewish View of History



# Early Christian View of History



**Ex. 23:19** The choicest of the first fruits  
of your ground you shall bring into  
the house of the LORD your God.

**2Th. 2:13** But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the *first fruits* for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

**James 1:18** In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of *first fruits* of his creatures.



**Rev. 14:4** It is these [the Church] who ...  
follow the Lamb wherever he goes.  
They have been redeemed from  
humankind as *first fruits* for God and  
the Lamb...

**Manifesting the “first fruits” of  
the kingdom means working with God  
to have the husk peeled off.**

**2Cor. 5:17** So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**Eph. 4:22-24** You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness...

**Rom. 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

**The mustard seed kingdom grows as  
the “first fruits” reveal the future**

**“Be the change you  
want to see  
in the world...”**

**Ghandhi**

- **a window into the future**
- **a sneak preview of heaven**
- **the “already” in the midst of the “not yet”**
- **the “picked corn” in the midst of the “uneatable green things”**
- **heaven on earth stationed at the gates of hell**
- **God’s will done on earth as it is in heaven in a world in which his will is not yet being done....**
- **Look like Jesus in a world that doesn’t**