



THE END OF THE  
**STORY**

**GARY HARGRAVE**

Sometimes I like to go to the end of a book to find out what is going to happen. It does not ruin the story for me; it just makes it all the better to see how the storyline is going to unfold. So I thought we could do that regarding our faith, the Scriptures, and our walk with God. It is an interesting thing to be a believer, to be a Christian, to be a part of what God is doing, and to talk about His Kingdom. But sometimes the Bible story seems so vast that you can lose the point of the story. You may wonder, “What is in the heart of God? What is He doing?” Our Christian teaching has not always painted this picture clearly. When people talk about the point of their faith, they generally focus on receiving salvation: “We believe in the forgiveness of sin so that you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die.” But then we get these visions of harps and angels floating around on clouds. Yet that is not what this whole picture in the Word is all about. So let us look again at the Scriptures.



## The Resurrection of Christ

First Corinthians 15 is a tremendous place to start because if you are going to talk about the end of the story and what is really going on, you have to start with the resurrection of Christ from the dead. If there is no resurrection of Christ, there is no story.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15:20–22)

The cross of Christ is very important. But without the resurrection, the cross has no meaning. Paul started out here by saying that Christ was “raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.” So we are tracking along with this story that Christ came; He died on the cross; He was resurrected. And by our faith in that death, burial, and resurrection, we find a release from death. A lot of times we say a release from sin, but death is the wage of sin. So we are really focused on this idea of a release from death and all it contains.



## There Is an Order to What God Is Doing

Through Adam's disobedience death came into all creation, and through Christ's obedience and resurrection, life came into all creation. In 1 Corinthians 15:23, Paul continued, "But each in his order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming." There is an order to what God is doing. Everything God created was created with an order. This is important because when Yeshua (Jesus) came the first time, He preached "the kingdom of God" (Matthew 4:17, 23; Mark 1:15). And the purpose of Christ's second coming is to establish the Kingdom of God.

Yet a lot of times Christianity loses the impetus of this Kingdom by focusing on going to heaven and living in another realm. But if we go back to the clarity of the Hebrew Scriptures, they likewise are talking about the Kingdom (Jeremiah 33:17–26). The prophecies to Abraham as well as the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah all point to this Kingdom coming into the earth. When Yeshua taught the disciples to pray, He said to pray this one thing: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). What is transpiring on earth begins in the heavens because the order of the Kingdom has its roots of divine order in the heavenly realm.

A kingdom has a government that must be administered. Even though it is a kingdom with one sovereign, the king cannot run the government all by himself, even if he is the king. So it requires an order of things. Likewise, God created an order in His creation. When we define the term *order*, it can mean "the lack of confusion." Everything is in its place; everything is in order. A government is not necessarily good because of who is at the head but because everything is in order under that head and functioning properly. Otherwise, people are living in total confusion and chaos with things being done improperly.



## Yeshua Is the Plumb Line by His Obedience

Order can also mean a sequence of events: first, second, third. When we have an order of things, they happen in a natural progression because of that order. When we talk about the Kingdom of God, both definitions of this order are valid. For the Kingdom of God to manifest, a perfect divine order must be put in place. That is why Paul said, “Christ is the first fruits.” When Christ was resurrected and ascended into heaven, He became the first of obedience. He was made a Son by the things that He suffered, and He was made perfect in His obedience (Hebrews 5:8–9).

The Kingdom of God is all about obedience. Through Adam death and disorder came into creation because of disobedience. In Christ life and order were established in the Kingdom through His obedience to do the Father’s will. Yeshua’s obedience to do the will of the Father gives us a comparison. It becomes a model or a plumb line to help us see how everything else lines up. When Yeshua was exalted to the right hand of the Father, He was put above everything else. He was given a name above every name. He was exalted above all things (Philippians 2:9–10). Why? Because He now becomes the plumb line of this obedience and order.

With Yeshua positioned as the perfect obedient spirit placed at the right hand of the Father, He now reveals everything that is out of order. Now everything that is not in alignment with Him becomes evident. Until you have a plumb line, how do you know what is right or wrong, what is good or bad? It only manifests when you have something to compare it to. That was the significance of the Law under Moses. In Romans chapter 7, Paul stated, “Look, I could not tell if I was good or bad until the Law came along. It shows whether I’m in rebellion or I’m in submission, whether I’m right or I’m wrong” (see Romans 7:7). The Law is good and not a negative thing. In fact, it is the tutor that teaches us. It is not some legalistic thing. It is a plumb line that shows us where we stand or fall, relative to the perfect illustration of the way things should be. So that is what Christ became.



## Israel Displaced Those Whom God Rejected

We may think, “Christ came a long time ago. So what is taking the Kingdom so long to get here?” We have a great illustration again in the Hebrew Scriptures. When God was talking to Abraham, He said, “Your descendants are going to be slaves in a foreign land, and they’re going to remain there for four hundred years until the iniquity of the Amorites comes to the full” (see Genesis 15:13–16). God knew Israel was going to inherit the Promised Land. But He could not just throw out the inhabitants and bring judgments on them. So God gave the Canaanites more than four hundred years to change their ways. The Bible does not show us the progression of how God dealt with the Amorites and Canaanites or mention if prophets were speaking to them. We do not see that picture, but we do know clearly that the unrighteousness and wickedness of the Amorites became more and more fixed and settled until they were determined not to come into God’s order. They were so determined not to be obedient vessels in God’s Kingdom that He had to displace them. So after waiting hundreds of years, Israel was finally allowed to go in and inhabit Canaan. But they had to work out their salvation, as the Scripture says, with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12; Deuteronomy 4:9–10).

God is a God of grace. He is a God who desires that mercy triumph over judgment (James 2:13). He is a God who is constantly extending to people the ability to come to Him and choose to walk with Him. But God does not make people into robots. He does not make you worship and serve Him. That is not sonship; that is slavery. God wants us to be His dear children who are obedient from our hearts, crying, “Father, we want to do Your will. We want to serve You.” That is what Yeshua did. He said, “I come to do Your will, O God. It is my determination. It is My will to do Your will and to worship You” (see Hebrews 10:7). God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). And He wants it to be done from the heart by your free will.



## God Is Displacing the False Order With a True Order

As God builds His Kingdom, He has to displace the false order with a true order, just as He did in the Promised Land. That is the process we are seeing now. There is so much happening in the world of spirit that is absolutely essential to the Kingdom of God because when God created the heavens and the earth, He created a divine order in things. That is why there are principalities and powers and dominions and rulers (Colossians 1:16). All these authorities that exist in the spirit realm are part of the government that God established when He set everything in order. At some point He sat back and said, “This is good. This is very good. I did a great job” (see Genesis 1:31).

But as in the natural realm with Adam’s disobedience, so disorder came into the world of spirit. We see this in the illustration with Satan and his angels who rebelled against God (Revelation 12:7–9). Those who rebelled were part of God’s order of running creation and overseeing it as rulers and authorities in His heavenly Kingdom. God gave these spiritual beings an opportunity as He did with man in the natural realm and said, “Okay, you can serve Me or not serve Me. But I’m going to create a plumb line.” Christ is a plumb line—not only to mankind but also to the entire Kingdom. That which is visible and invisible are both made manifest by His plumb line, and each happens in its own order.

It is important that we keep in mind the whole creation as we think about what Christ did. On earth we seem to be waiting and waiting, but we have to remember that mankind is at the bottom of the order. The heavenly realm comes first, then the natural, and then comes the end. So all these things happen each in its own order: “Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming, then comes the end, when He [speaking of Christ] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Corinthians 15:23–25). Christ will be able to take all creation in this divine order and hand it to the Father, saying, “Father, I give it to You, and everything is in perfect order. There is no longer any disobedience or rebellion in the natural world or in the spiritual world.”



## Yeshua Presents to the Father a Perfect Kingdom

So what triggers the end of the story? It is when Christ has established the order of the Kingdom and then gives the Kingdom back to the Father. When you get this picture, you really come to an understanding of what is going on. All disobedient rulers, all disobedient powers, all corrupt authorities must be abolished and replaced. Yeshua must present back to the Father a perfect Kingdom in perfect order. And the only way you can have perfect order is by replacing disobedience. God did not just remove the Canaanites and the Amorites; He replaced them with the Israelites so that the land of His Kingdom would be in order.

Yeshua is reigning now and exercising His authority until all His enemies are under His feet. Everyone who continually refuses to submit to His plumb line of obedience and do the will of the Father will be displaced. Christ must continue to reign through a process of order that does not just come like a shotgun blast and say, “I judge this; I judge that.” When James and John saw that the Samaritans did not receive Yeshua, they asked Him, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” (Luke 9:54). What was Yeshua’s response? “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them” (Luke 9:55–56).

God looks for the opportunity for people to change and for the spiritual rulers to come into order. He gives everyone this opportunity. We do not see that process operating because we do not see the world of spirit. But we do see the grace of God manifesting all the time in our own lives and in the lives of our brothers and sisters. When we mess up, we watch God extend grace and give us a chance to grow. We are given a choice to make decisions and change. For some of us that can be a long-drawn-out process. But thank God He does not call fire out of heaven and

consume us in our ignorance. We realize that more is going on behind the scenes regarding the perverted order of these existing rulers and authorities and powers. Some of these spirits do not have the ability to do the right thing. Why? Because they are under a false order and have to submit to it. So it can be complicated.

Christ is working by this process of reigning. He is exercising that authority from the right hand of God to continually, step by step, bring the various levels of authority into the opportunity to serve God, serve His Kingdom, and become obedient. Now they have an illustration because Christ sits at the right hand of the Father.



## Fix Your Eyes on Yeshua

If you want to understand obedience, all you have to do is look to Him. That is what the book of Hebrews tells us to do: “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). If we need a good example of how to walk and what to do, we can look to Him. All creation has that same plumb line to look at. They are all going through this same process of choosing to become obedient or not. Ultimately, the Kingdom of God must be by a choice of heart for those who want to live in it.

God has put all things except Himself in subjection under the feet of Christ. Yeshua is the Son of God who comes to sit on the throne of David and rule and reign, but He will always



be under God. “All things are put in subjection to Christ,” but it is evident that God is the exception because He is the One who put all things in subjection to Christ. There are still a few rogue principalities and powers out there. However, there will be a moment when everything is subjected to Yeshua, “then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28). What a wonderful thing. Imagine if everything were yours. Would you really be able to receive it and then give it all back to the Father? That is submission. That is a beautiful picture of the relationship between the Son and the Father.



## You Are Being Made Ready to Rule and Reign With Christ

**G**od chose to use Israel to displace the disobedient inhabitants in the land of Canaan. And that is what God is doing with His believers today. Why is He working in our spirits? Why is He perfecting us and bringing us into obedience? Because these rogue spiritual authorities must be displaced with something. It is God’s good pleasure to take the weak things of creation to confound the mighty and the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). So He takes us and transforms us from glory to glory into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18). “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). This must happen. If God is going to use us to displace principalities, powers, rulers, and authorities, He must bring

us into that capacity to rule. God used Israel to displace the unrighteous nations, and that is what He is doing again with us as His believers.

God is making us ready to be those who will rule and reign with Christ and bring His Kingdom into the earth. God created the authorities and powers to have a place of rulership, and they can only lose it through their wickedness and disobedience. We will not be displacing things until there is a reason, and we will not be displacing anything without our own preparation. Those two things are our reality. This is the purpose of our salvation. It is not just so that we can escape death and eternal judgment. God's real purpose is to bring us into this process with Himself of establishing His rule and reign on the earth in the Kingdom of God. That Kingdom is what Yeshua preached. That is what is going to manifest at His coming. God is doing a thorough job, and He is bringing about His Kingdom in its perfection on this earth.

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Contact us by sending an email to [\*\*silvana@hargraveministries.org\*\*](mailto:silvana@hargraveministries.org)

*All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*

# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

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**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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