

Books in Review
The Gospel of the Kingdom
and
The Blessed Hope
by George Eldon Ladd

These two books are clear, scriptural, readable, cheap and simply loaded with truth. I know of no better guides to help someone in coming to a clearer understanding of the biblical concepts of "eternal life," the "kingdom of God" and the "second coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each book is written by the highly respected NT scholar, G.E. Ladd- late Professor of NT at Fuller Theological Seminary.

[*The Gospel of the Kingdom*](#) is particularly helpful in showing how God is working to bring to pass the ultimate victory of his kingdom - "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10) - for *all* of his people. It is a collection of lectures that were originally given in oral form and then adapted for this book. In particular, I highly recommend the chapters: "The Kingdom is Tomorrow", "The Life of the Kingdom" and "The Kingdom, Israel and the Church." I quote short excerpts from the book:

The Bible conceives of the entire sweep of human history as resting in the hand of God, but it looks for the final realization of God's kingdom in a realm "beyond history," i.e., in a new and different order of existence ... The entire sweep of man's existence is set forth in terms of this age and the age to come ... This Age had its beginning with creation, but the Age to Come will go on endlessly, for ever. This Age is dominated by evil, wickedness and rebellion ... while the Age to Come is the age of the Kingdom of God. In I Cor. 15:50 Paul says that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." Our bodies must undergo a transformation so that they no longer consist of flesh and blood but are incorruptible, glorious, powerful, "spiritual" bodies. Only in these transformed bodies will we enter the Kingdom of God [from chapter 2 "The Kingdom is Tomorrow" pp. 24-34].

[*The Blessed Hope*](#) is a wonderful book about the second coming of Christ. It gives a short history of differing views about Christ's *parousia*; deals specifically with "pre-tribulation" thought and then spends most of the book dealing with the terminology and biblical passages about Christ's second coming. Both books consist of thorough scholarship coupled with an irenic tone and are a joy to read.

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