



**EDISON**  
*Theological*  
**SEMINARY**

# **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

## **A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MINISTRY**

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# CHURCH TRENDS IN A POSTMODERN AND POSTCHRISTIAN CULTURE

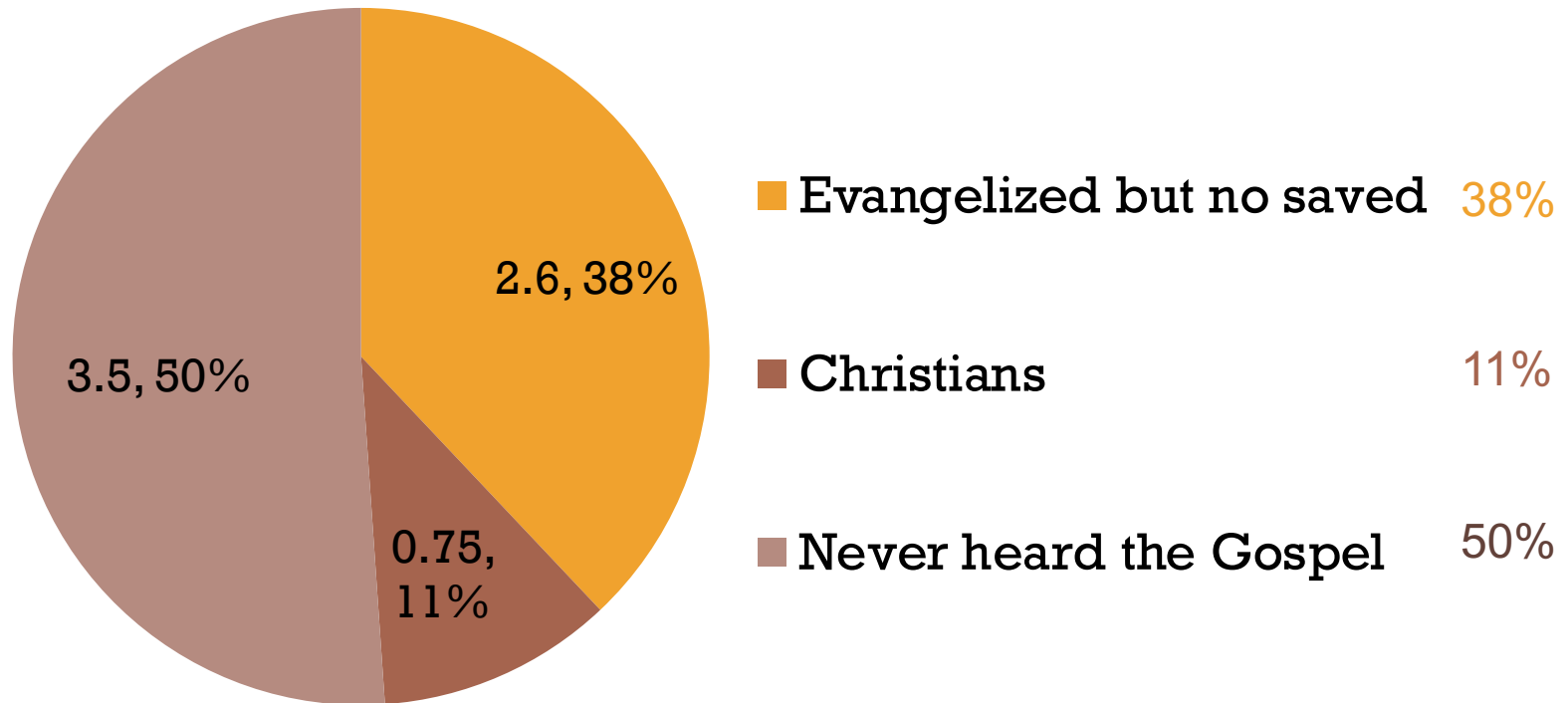
*"I like Christ but I don't like Christians;  
Christians are nothing like Christ"*  
Mahatmas Gandhi

- As of April 2012, there were approximately 7 billion people on Earth.
  - Approximately 750 million (or about 11 percent) of those are willing to claim Jesus as personal Lord and Savior.
  - At present, just over 50 percent of the world's population (or 3.5 billion people) have not heard the gospel and most of them do not have a realistic opportunity to hear the gospel.
- <http://doug nichols.blogspot.com/2012/07/statistics-about-unfinished-task-of.html>

**STATISTICS  
ABOUT THE  
UNFINISHED  
TASK OF  
WORLD  
EVANGELISM**  
BY RONNIE FLOYD,  
(THOMAS NELSON, 2011),  
PP. 62-64

# XXI CENTURY GOSPEL REPORT:

**7 Billions habitants**



# MORE CHURCHES CLOSING THAN OPENING BY RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED: MAY 26, 2021

## More Protestant churches closed than started in 2019

*Estimates based on information from 34 denominational and other groups representing 60% of U.S. Protestant churches*

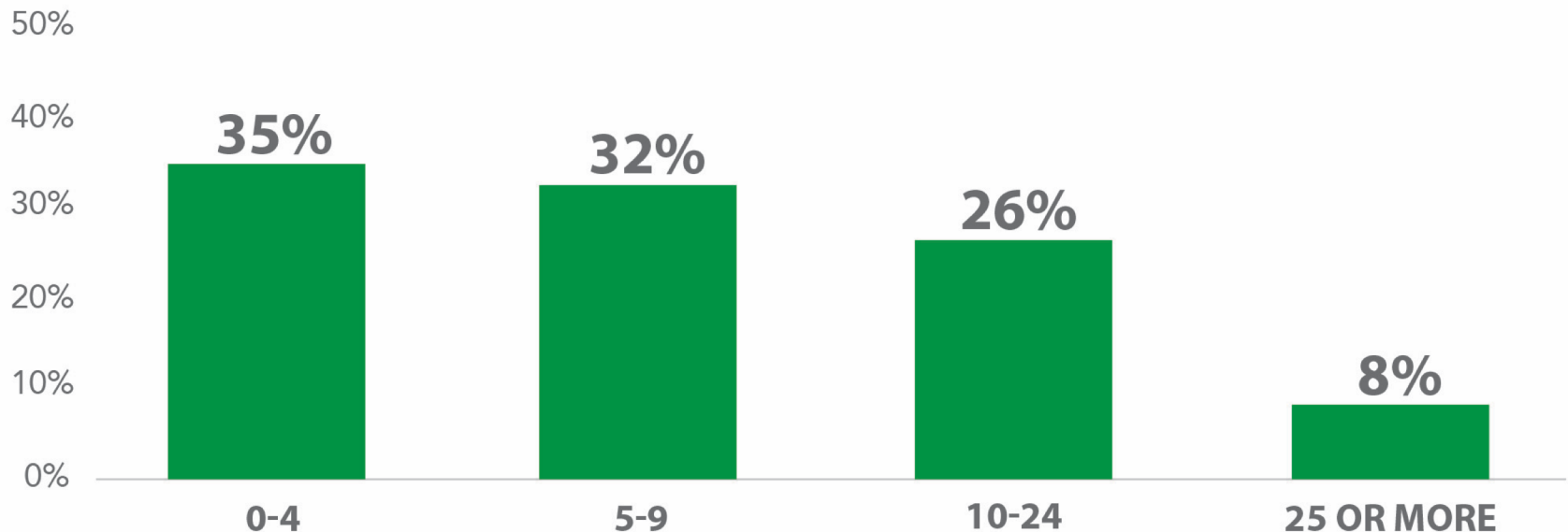


# 2023 FASTEST GROWING CHURCHES IN USA

			Attendance	Growth #	Growth %
1	Kingdom Fellowship AME	MD	2097	1747	+509%
2	Maryland CC	IN	2087	1202	+136%
3	Grace Family Church, Lutz	FL	11204	3171	+39%
4	Venture Church	MS	3398	1320	+64%
5	Grace Church	VA	1409	1035	+277%
6	Lakeside Church, Orlando	FL	2117	1055	+99%
7	Elevate Life Church, JAX	FL	3863	1227	+47%
8	Radiant Church, Tampa	FL	5135	1492	+41%
9	Liquid Church	NJ	3338	1116	+50%
10	Community Bible Church	TX	14791	3403	+30%
14	Coastal CC, Parkland	FL	2286	791	+53%
15	First Orlando, Orlando	FL	7897	1769	+29%
19	The Church of Eleven22, JAX	FL	14473	2972	+26%

# New commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior per 100 attendees

*According to Protestant pastors:*



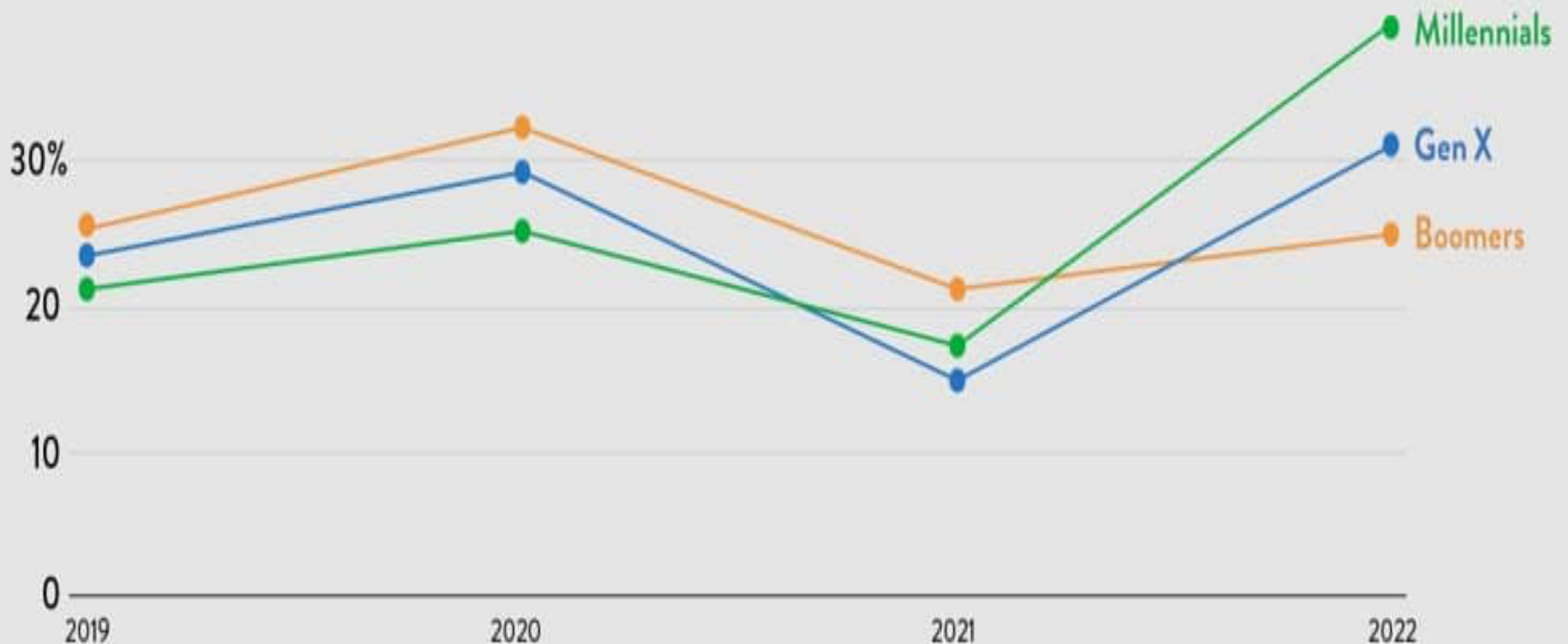
Note: Does not equal 100% due to rounding.



LifeWayResearch.com



# Weekly Church Attendance, By Generation



Source: Barna.com | A New Chapter in Millennial Church Attendance  
© 2022 Barna.com | <https://www.barna.com/research/church-attendance-2022/>

n=13,349 U.S. adults, 2019-2022

# FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF GEN Z CHURCH

More Presence

Less Performance, Less program Driven  
More Experiential

More Space

Less Noise  
More Reflection & Prayer for the Sick

More Participation

Less production Worship  
More corporate Worship

More Heart

Less Information  
More Transformative

More Humility

Less Personality  
More Christ Centered



# THE MISSING NARRATIVE OF THE KINGDOM

Rescuing The Original Message

- Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

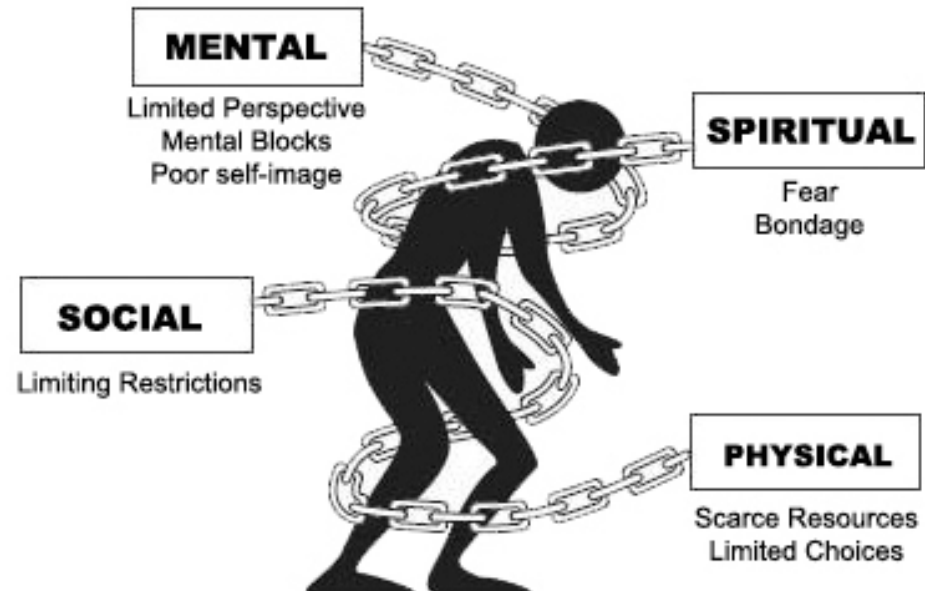


Figure 4-10: Poverty as a lack of freedom to grow.  
(After Jayakaran 1996, 14) Bryant L. Myers (2011-11-09).  
Walking With The Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development  
(Revised and Expanded Edition) (Kindle Location 3182).

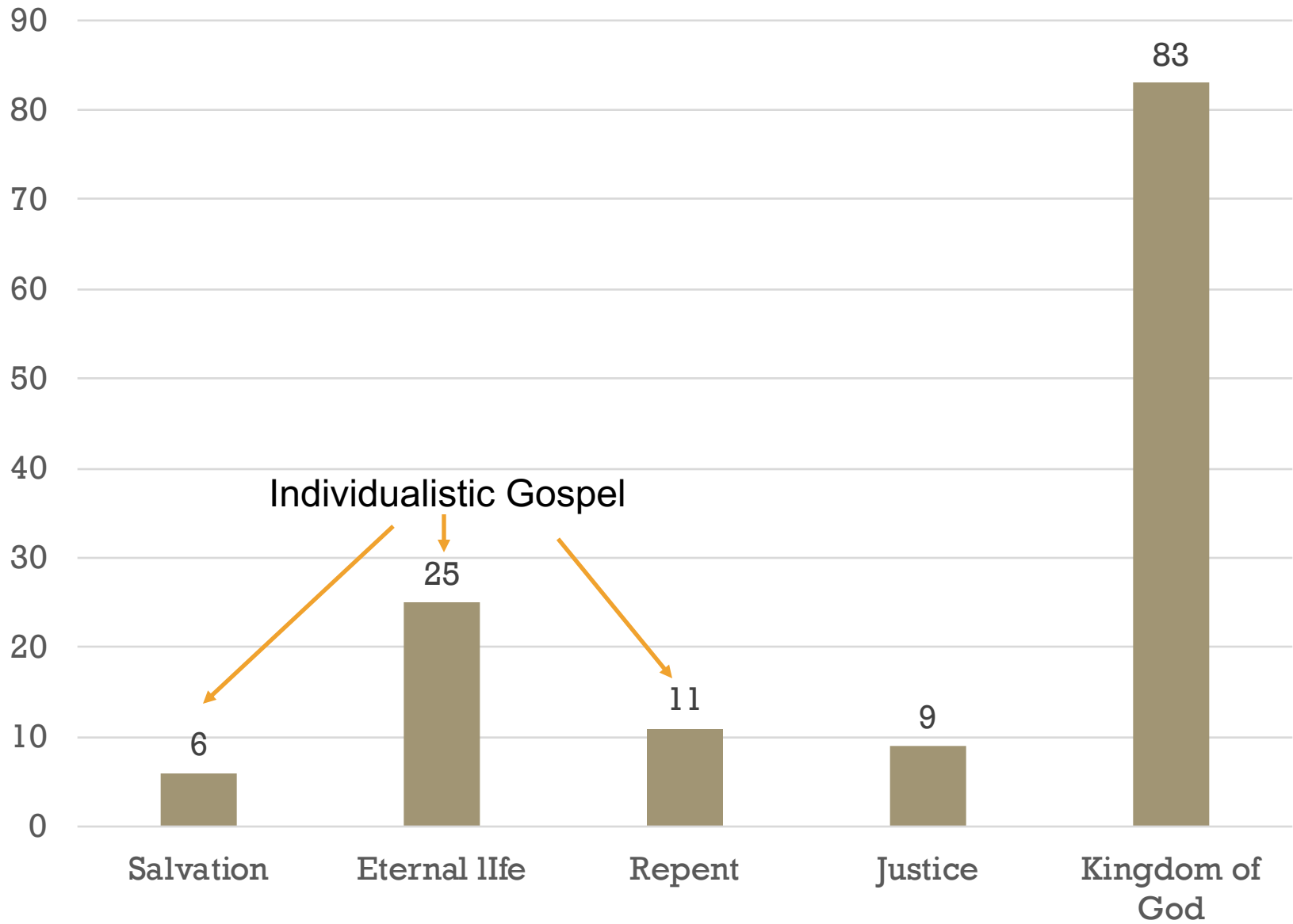
# SEMINARY RESEARCH

1. Search & catalog Jesus' main topics in the Greek text
2. Narrow main topics to five areas
3. Present findings in histogram

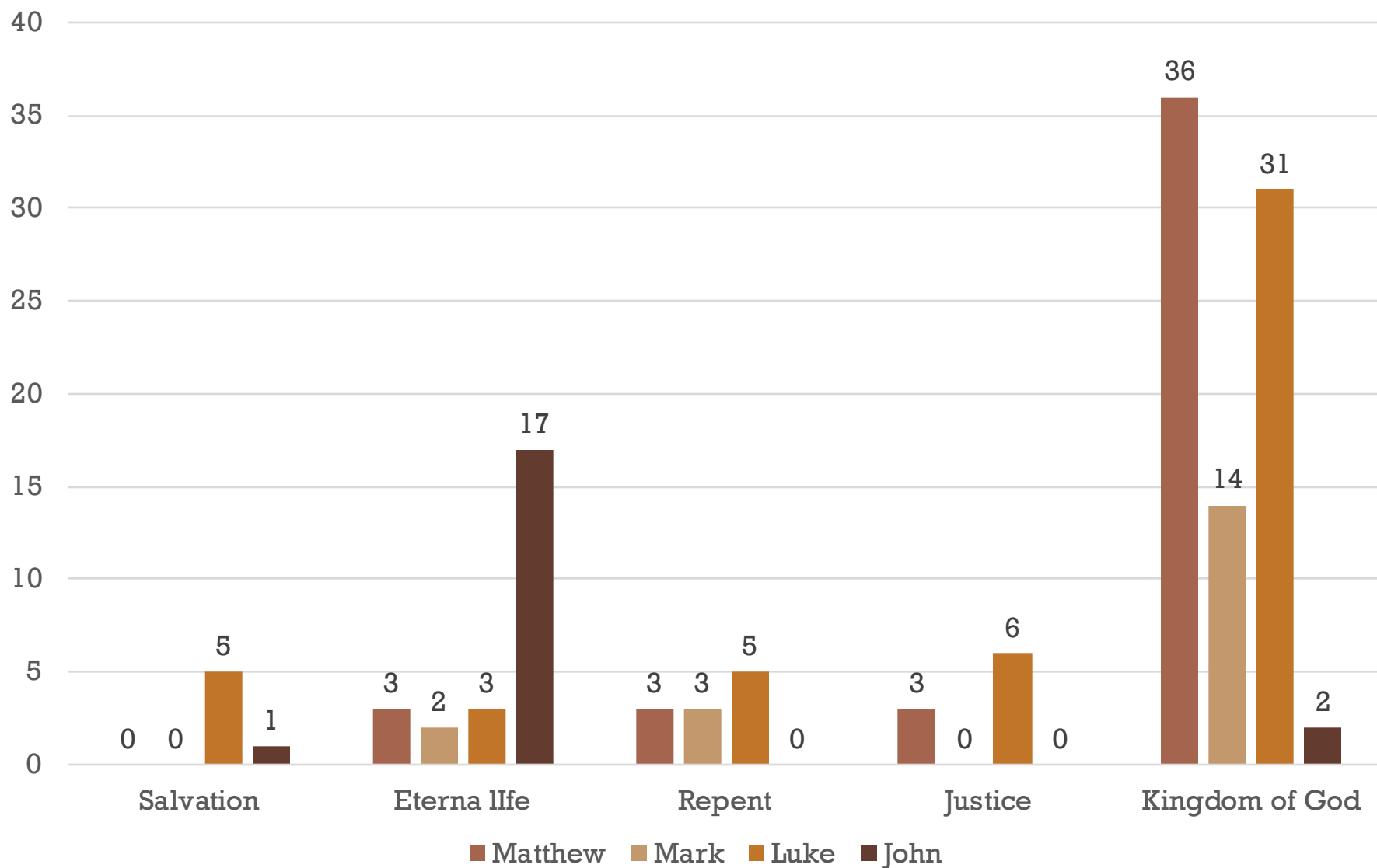
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	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Total
Salvation	0	0	5	1	6
Eternal Life	3	2	3	17	25
Repent	3	3	5	0	11
Justice	3	0	6	0	9
Kingdom of God	36	14	31	2	83

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## Themes by Gospels



- **The Kingdom of God entails God's salvific work & God's government on Earth as it is on Heaven**

- As such in the present tense *we experiment God's blessings in this fallen world.*
- The Church is NOT the kingdom of God, but the kingdom is expanded by the Church (Matt. 16:19)
- That's why we are called to be Salt & Light in a decaying culture (Mat. 5:13-16)

## WHAT'S THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

- The Kingdom of God is the context of salvation
- It provides the framework where salvation is most effective & faithful to the great commission in Matthew 28

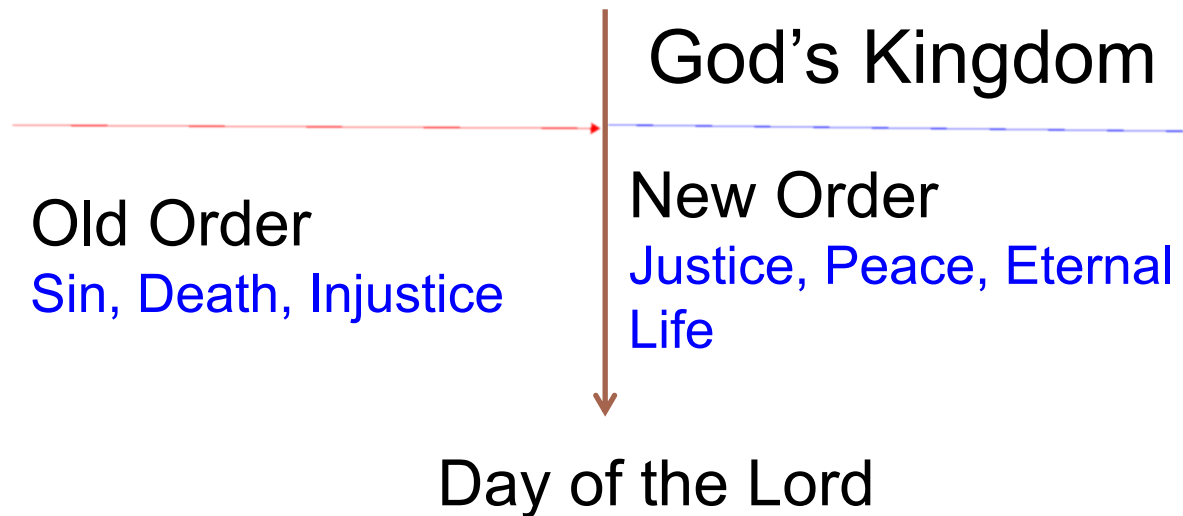
- There are those who think and have popularized the idea that the Kingdom of God ***lays in the future*** and will be established by a cataclysmic/apocalyptic episode; However.....
  - **Mar 1:14** *Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where He preached God's Good News.*
  - Mar 1:15 *"The time promised by God has come at last!" He announced. "**The Kingdom of God is near!** Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"*
  - **Mat 12:28** *But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then **the Kingdom of God has arrived** among you.*

## THE PRESENT/FUTURE TENSION

Futuristic  
Tendencies  
popularized by  
dispensation  
theology (Left  
Behind series..)

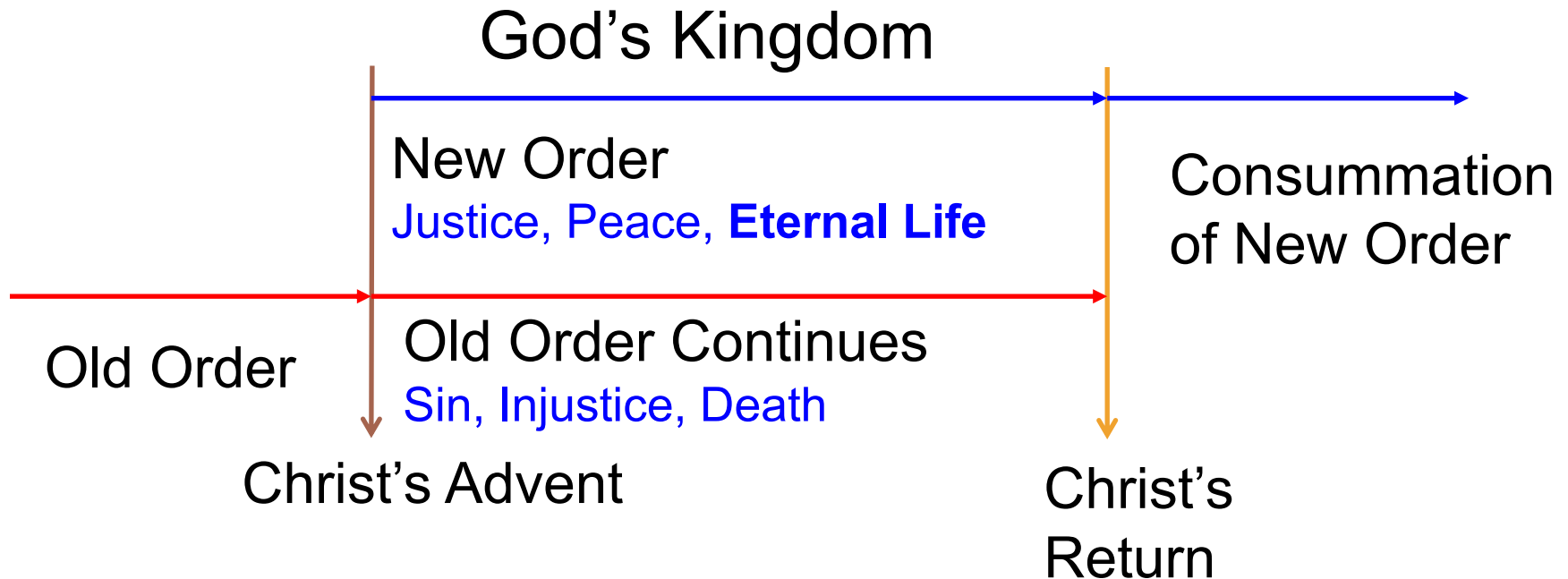
# THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TEMPLE THEOLOGICAL EXPECTATIONS

- a. The Jewish theological expectations awaited for God's Kingdom through the fulfillment of the ***Day of the Lord***.
- b. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead and openly announced that the Kingdom was at hand
- c. Yet the Romans remained in power oppressing the people
- d. This was a problem for John the Baptist (Mt. 11:3) and the Jews



# HERE ....BUT NOT YET

- Life between the tension of two Kingdoms
- Explains miracles, problems, sickness and healings



# LESSONS LEARNED

- The Gospel is really good news and addresses the Spiritual, the Physical, the Emotional and the Social order.
- The Kingdom of God requires the church to engage in rescuing and restoring people's lives.
- The Kingdom of God requires us to exchange our values and agenda. Follow Him....
- The Statistics show that western society has rejected the messengers but not the message. This is why The Kingdom of God is disciple driven
- The Church of the Kingdom must be incarnated in its community and partners with God to destroy the works of the devil.

# **Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil 1 Jn. 3:8**

**Hunger**

**Poverty**

**Addictions**

**Sickness**

**False Information**

**Destruction of the Nuclear family**

**Distortion of human sexuality**

**Ethnic & Religious Persecution**

**Corrupt Governments**

