

### Carl Sagan

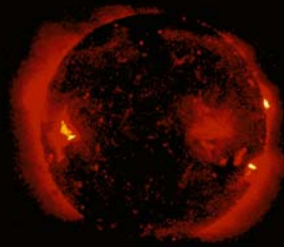
Sagan laments that scientists have to carry out their mission in a demon-haunted world, filled with superstitious claims of alien abductions, crop circles, and fairy sightings. Likewise, futurists today must work in a "Jesus-haunted" culture



### Earth



### Doomsday!

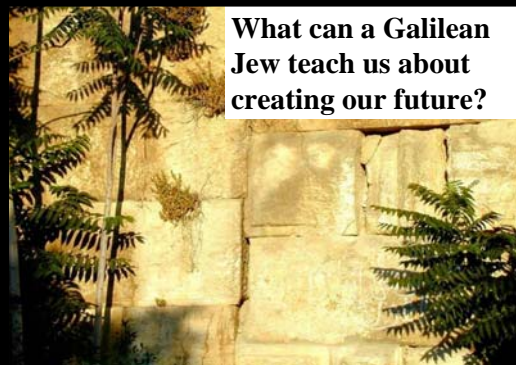


### Profession



"Futurism is incompatible with religious worldviews, shaped by determinism, fatalism, apocalyptic or afterlife beliefs" -Bruce Tonn, PhD

What can a Galilean Jew teach us about creating our future?




**It's Your Turn!**


1. Name 2 approaches that we might take to talk about "The Future According to Jesus."  
\*  
\*

2. Rank yourself confidence (1-high; 4- low) in your ability to:

- \_\_\_ Explain to others the history of futures thinking.
- \_\_\_ Share how Jesus approached the future of his society.
- \_\_\_ Relate Jesus' 1st century leadership to 21st century challenges.
- \_\_\_ Compare and contrast eschatology with futurology.



<http://www.jaygary.com/futurejesus.pdf>




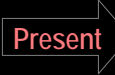

THE  
**FUTURE**  
according to  
**Jesus**

Exploring a First-Century Galilean Model of Foresight

with Jay Gary


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**Modern Time**

 <b>Past</b>	 <b>Present</b>	 <b>Future</b>
History Identity	Perception Achievements	Hopes Fears Intentions Plans

Slaughter, R.S. (1996) Futures Concepts and Powerful Ideas, 1996, pp 43-44


**Modern Time**




Past, present, future

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**Modern Time**



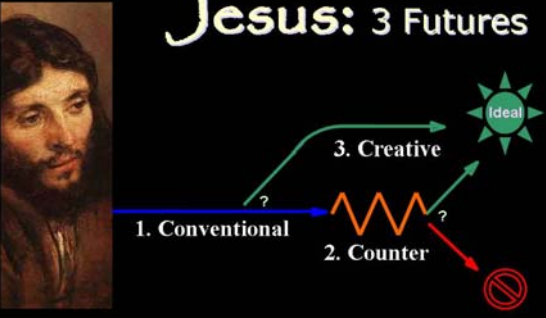
Past, present, future



**Mediterranean Time**

(Malina, (1989) Christ & Time

**Jesus: 3 Futures**



## Conventional Future

- Business as usual
- Official future
- The Main story
- Top-Down

1. Conventional

2. Counter

3. Creative

## 1. Conventional

What Future?

## Urbanization

### Jerusalem: Temple & State

## Romanization

### Caesarea & Empire

- emperor worship
- military occupation

Picture credit: Jesus-the complete story

## Romanization

### Herod's World Class Port

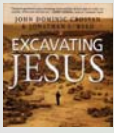
Man-Made Harbor

## Commercialization

### Sepphoris

Roman Cardo, 20 A.D.

Picture credit: Jesus-the complete story



**1. Conventional**

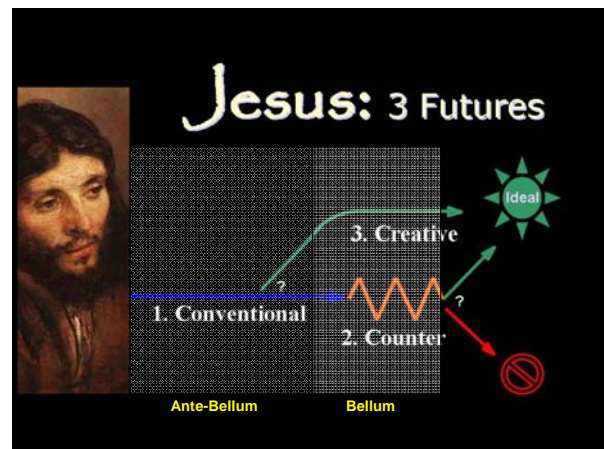
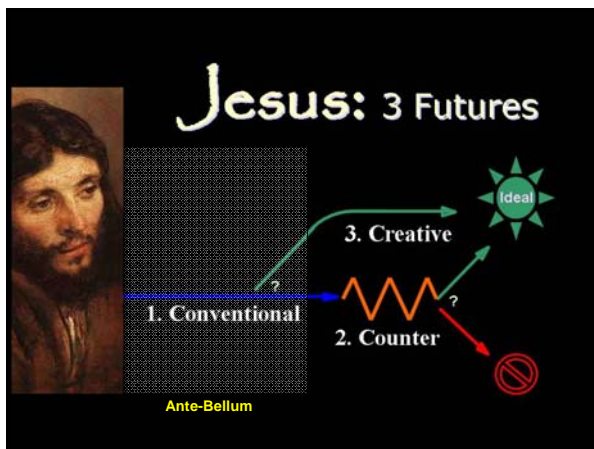
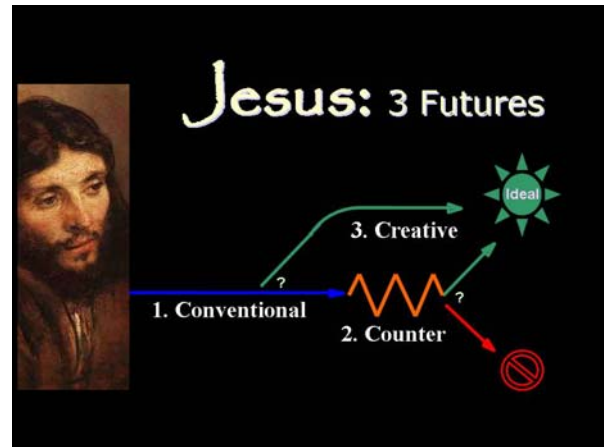
So when Jesus comes proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near," Crossan claims his audience would have understood his proclamation as relief against the intensive *Romanization, urbanization and commercialization* that first entered the Jewish homeland through Caesarea.

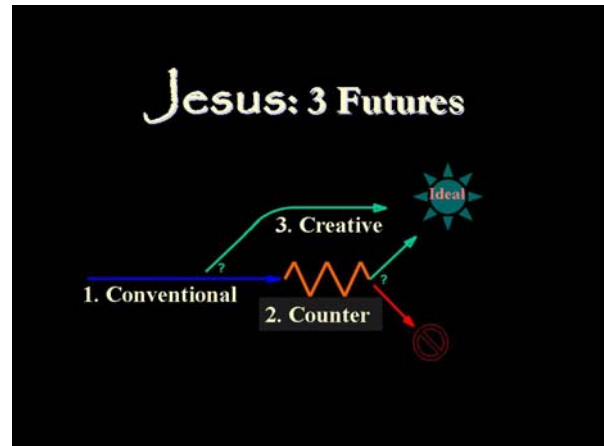
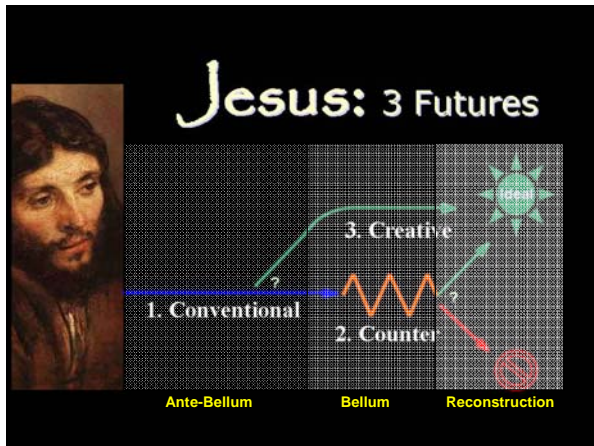
Crossan says

### Jesus' Foresight

**1. Conventional**

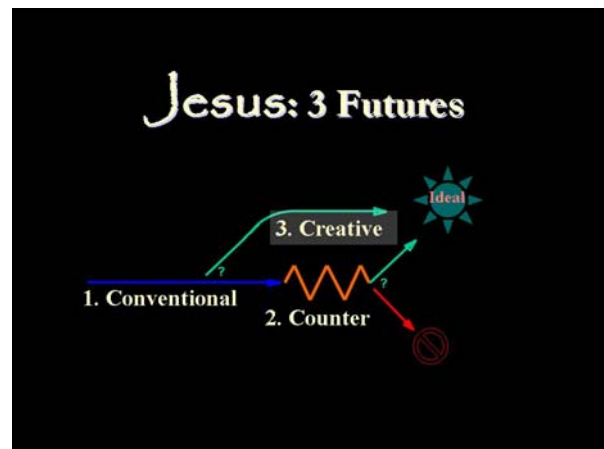
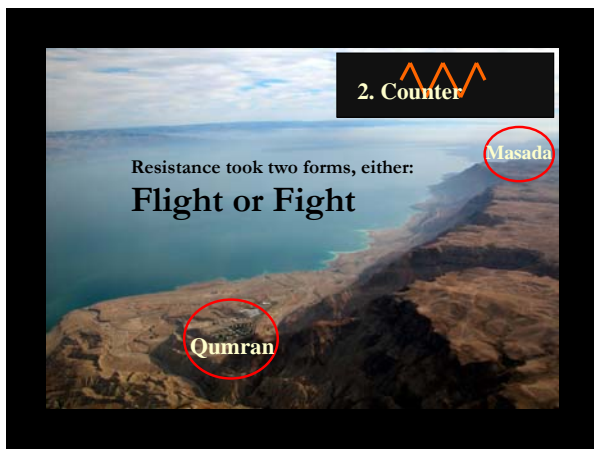
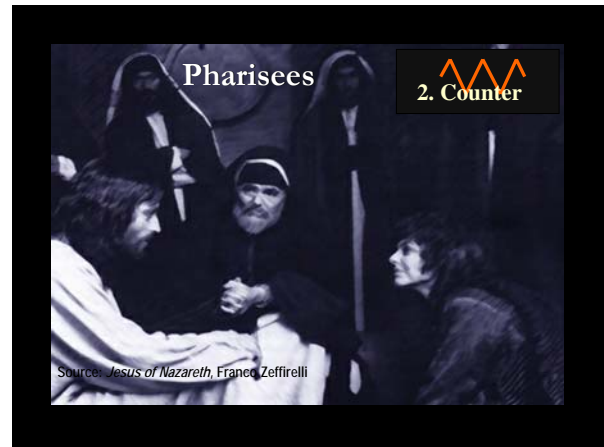
He forecast the "official future" and its Jewish Temple state would collapse, with "not one stone being left upon another."



**Counter Future**

- Rocky road ahead
- Facing a crisis
- We must intervene
- Bottom up



• There is a better way  
• Beyond fight or flight, Jesus offered a third way: faith

**Creative Future**

**Jesus' New Way**

3. Creative

- Unlike the Zealots, faith for Jesus did not mean a repeat of history, i.e. the "Maccabean Miracle" of 167 B.C.
- The "official future" and its Jewish Temple state would collapse, with "not one stone being left upon another."

3. Creative

**Upon himself**

He would take upon himself Israel's rage, and defeat it, saving her from the judgment to come.

**Jesus' New Way**

3. Creative

Those who followed in his way would be spared from the carnage of the impending Great War.

Roman-Jewish War, AD 66-74

**Ideal**

**Jesus: 3 Futures**

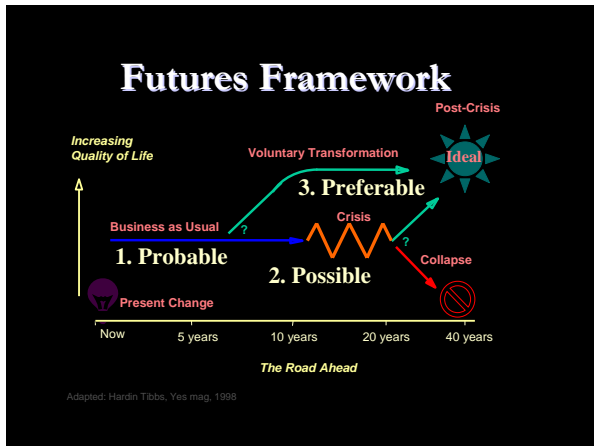
1. Conventional      2. Counter      3. Creative

**Ideal**

"The Galilean has been too great for our small hearts." -H.G. Wells

**Jesus: 3 Futures**

Conventional	Counter	Creative
Probable	Possible	Preferable
Official	Alternative	Ideal
Mainstream	Side stream	Upstream
Top-Down	Bottom-Up	Inside Out
Control	Chaos	Creativity



### Jesus: 3 Futures

1. How did this model help you understand Jesus' world?
2. How could futurists apply this framework to their work today?

## The Future According to Jesus

- ✓ Transformational change
- ✓ World futures
- ✓ Global Leadership

## Dr. Corné Bekker

✓ Editor, *Journal of Biblical Perspectives in Leadership*  
 ✓ Social Cultural Rhetorical Criticism

School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship  
**REGENT UNIVERSITY**

- MBA, entrepreneurial
- M.A. in Strategic Foresight
- Doctor of Strategic Leadership
- PhD in Org. Leadership

Dr. Corné Bekker (Luana)  
 Associate Professor  
<http://www.regent.edu/global>

## Horizon of the Kingdom?

1. Imminent? (Schweitzer, 1901)
2. Existential? (Bultmann, 1957)
3. Inaugurated? (Cullman, 1950)
4. Contextual? (Wright, 1992)

### Learn More

CHALLENGE of JESUS  
 JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN & JONATHAN L. REED  
 EXCAVATING JESUS  
 BEYOND THE STONE  
 BEHIND THE STONE  
 THE MESSAGE AND THE KINGDOM  
 WITH JESUS AND PAUL  
 JESUS  
 THE HISTORY OF GALILEE  
 BAPTIST PROPHECY & MESSIAH  
 RICHARD A. HOUSLEY  
 GALILEE  
 HISTORY POLITICS PEOPLE



**Tsvi Bisk**






Tsvi Bisk  
 Director, Center for  
 Strategic Futurist  
 Thinking  
 Author, *Optimistic Jew*




<http://www.zivgroup.co.il/>

**Ask Ourselves?** 

How might contextual approaches today to a "third-exodus," whether Moses-like or Jesus-like, critique extreme ideologies, that couch themselves in fundamentalism, nationalism or colonialism, and lead the 21st-century world-system to a post-growth, post-crisis economy?

**This session helped me appreciate ...**



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