

The Good News of the Kingdom: Understanding the True Gospel of Jesus Christ

Introduction: What is the Gospel?

When we hear the word "gospel," we often think of a type of music, a set of religious books, or simply a general term for truth. But what does the word actually mean, and what is the specific message that Jesus Christ wanted the entire world to hear?

In the original language of the New Testament, the word translated as "gospel" is **euangelion**, which literally means "good news" or "glad tidings." In the ancient world, this word was used when a messenger arrived from a battlefield with wonderful news of a great victory, or when a new king ascended to the throne, bringing peace and prosperity to the land. It was a message meant to bring immense joy, relief, and hope to everyone who heard it.

Yet, if you ask different people today what the gospel is, you will get many different answers. Some will say it is the story of Jesus' birth. Others will say it is the announcement that our sins can be forgiven. While the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are absolutely essential to the message, Jesus Himself defined the gospel in a very specific way. He called it "the gospel of the kingdom of God." This narrative explores that very message—the good news of a coming divine government that will change the world forever, written in plain language for anyone to understand.

Chapter 1: Jesus and the Gospel of the Kingdom

Long before the apostle Paul wrote his letters, and long before the early church was established, Jesus Christ walked the dusty roads of Galilee. From the very beginning of His public ministry, He had a singular, focused message. He did not simply preach about Himself; He pointed people toward a reality that was breaking into human history.

Let us look at how the Gospel of Mark records the very first words of Jesus' public ministry:

****Mark 1:14–15****

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Notice carefully what Jesus was preaching: "the gospel of the kingdom of God." He told the people that the time had come, the Kingdom was near, and they needed to change their thinking and conduct (repent) and believe this wonderful news.

Jesus did not just preach this message in one or two places. It was the driving force behind everything He did. The Gospel of Matthew tells us how active Jesus was in spreading this specific message across the entire region:

****Matthew 4:23****

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

Later in the same account, we see that His mission remained exactly the same:

****Matthew 9:35****

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

To Jesus, the gospel was inextricably linked to the Kingdom. You could not separate the two. When He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, and made the lame walk, He was not just performing miracles to show off His power. He was giving people a physical preview of what life will look like when the Kingdom of God is fully established on the earth—a place where pain, suffering, and sickness no longer exist.

Chapter 2: What is the Kingdom of God?

To understand why this message is such good news, we must understand what a kingdom actually is. In the ancient world, a kingdom required four basic components: a king, a territory over which to rule, subjects to govern, and laws to maintain order.

The human experience with kingdoms and governments has been deeply flawed. Throughout history, human rulers have often been corrupt, selfish, or cruel. Even the best governments today face poverty, war, injustice, crime, and division. No human system has ever successfully wiped out human suffering.

The "Kingdom of God" is the ultimate solution to this human failure. It is the literal, sovereign government of God that will replace all human rule. It is a coming world order where Jesus Christ Himself will reign as King. Under His rule, there will be no corruption, no injustice, and no war.

The prophet Isaiah foretold this coming government, describing a ruler upon whose shoulders the government would rest, bringing endless peace. Jesus came to announce that this government was on its way. The good news is that humanity is not left to destroy itself; God has an active plan to intervene in world affairs and set up a perfect society.

The Gospel of Luke emphasizes that Jesus was sent by God for this exact purpose:

****Luke 4:43****

"And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent."

Jesus stated plainly that preaching the Kingdom of God was the very reason He was sent to the earth. It was His primary mission statement. Everywhere He went, the focus remained immovable:

****Luke 8:1****

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,"

Here, Luke calls the message the "glad tidings of the kingdom of God." It was a message of pure joy. For a people living under the heavy, oppressive boot of the Roman Empire, hearing that a new, divine government was coming was the ultimate beacon of hope.

Chapter 3: The Command to the Disciples

Jesus did not keep this message to Himself. He spent three and a half years training His disciples so that they could carry this exact same torch to the rest of the world. He did not give them permission to invent a new message or alter the focus.

When Jesus sent His disciples out ahead of Him, He gave them strict instructions on what to say. They were to replicate His ministry precisely. They were to preach the coming government of God and provide a foretaste of its power through healing.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus looked down the long corridor of time into our modern era. He knew that the world would face massive crises, deception, wars, and upheavals before the end of the age. In His famous prophecy on the Mount of Olives, He revealed the definitive sign that would mark the final days of human self-rule:

****Matthew 24:14****

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Notice that Jesus did not say "any" gospel would be preached. He said "***this**" gospel of the kingdom." The specific message of the coming government of God must reach every corner of the globe as a final witness before human history reaches its climax and Christ returns. This was a direct command and a prophecy regarding the work His true followers would be doing.

Chapter 4: The Post-Resurrection Preaching

Some readers of the Bible wonder if the message changed after Jesus died and rose again. Did the early church stop preaching the Kingdom and start preaching only about the person of Jesus? The scriptures show us a beautiful consistency. The early church preached *both* Christ's sacrifice and His coming Kingdom, recognizing that Jesus is the door into that Kingdom.

Let us look at the book of Acts, which records the history of the early church. When the deacon Philip went to the region of Samaria to preach, look at what his message consisted of:

****Acts 8:12****

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Philip did not separate Jesus from the Kingdom. He preached the things concerning the Kingdom of God *and* the name of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul is widely known for his deep theological letters about faith and grace. Yet, what was the core of Paul's lifelong preaching ministry? When Paul gave his emotional farewell address to the elders of Ephesus, he summarized his entire ministry among them with these words:

****Acts 20:25****

"And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more."

Paul's work was defined as "preaching the kingdom of God." Even at the very end of Paul's life, while he was under house arrest in Rome, waiting to face the Roman Emperor, his message remained completely unchanged. The very last verses of the book of Acts give us a clear window into Paul's final years of work:

****Acts 28:30–31****

"And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."

Right up until the end of the biblical record, the message remained the same: the literal proclamation of the coming government of God, coupled with the saving work of Jesus Christ, who makes entry into that Kingdom possible.

Chapter 5: Why It Matters to Us Today

The message of the Kingdom of God is not just an ancient historical fact or an abstract theological theory. It is a vital, living truth that has direct meaning for every single person living today.

We live in a world filled with bad news. Turn on the television or scroll through social media, and you are met with stories of economic collapse, political corruption,

environmental disasters, violence, and despair. Human beings are desperately searching for answers, trying to find a political leader, an economic system, or a scientific breakthrough that can save us from our own problems.

The gospel provides the only real answer. It tells us that our current suffering is temporary. It tells us that God has not abandoned the earth. Jesus Christ told us to look past the chaos of this present world and fix our eyes on a spectacular future.

Furthermore, this gospel demands a personal response. As Jesus said in Mark 1:15, we must "repent ye, and believe the gospel." Repentance means turning away from our own selfish ways of living, changing our direction, and aligning our lives with the laws and values of God's coming Kingdom right now. We are called to live as ambassadors of that future Kingdom today, showcasing love, joy, peace, patience, and integrity in a dark world.

Conclusion: The Ultimate Hope of Humanity

In a world weighed down by uncertainty and fear, the true gospel stands out as a brilliant beacon of unshakeable hope. The message that Jesus Christ brought to humanity is far more than a simple moral code or a philosophy; it is the thrilling announcement of a real, coming world government—the **Kingdom of God**—that will permanently dismantle oppression, end warfare, and heal a broken planet. Christ strictly charged His disciples to carry **this specific good news** to every nation, a mission that the early church faithfully maintained until the close of the New Testament. True peace will not arrive through human treaties or political revolutions, but through the literal return of Jesus Christ as King of kings. By believing this gospel and surrendering our hearts to His rule today, we gain a foundational anchor for our souls and the glorious promise of participating in a renewed world filled with eternal righteousness, joy, and peace.