



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Theological Conference 2024 (April 7)

Is that an important question? Is it a relevant question? The gospel and its importance cannot be fathomed unless we realize that its significance. It is *“the power (dynamis, the same dynamis promised to the disciples in Acts 1:8 to accompany their evangelistic effort) of God that brings salvation but only to everyone that believe”*. (Rom. 1:16) Paul emphasized to the Corinthians, that Christ sent him to preach the gospel included in that gospel is *the word of the cross of Christ (1Cor. 1:17-18)*, which is, in its New Testament context, *“the Gospel of the Kingdom of God”*. Paul also stated there that the *“word of the cross is the dynamis of God to those of us who are being saved”*. Paul wanted the brethren at Corinth to see the gospel of the kingdom as *the Message that points to the Messiah on the Cross. (Ver. 18 MSG)* It must be thought of in terms of *“Good News”*. Why is Jesus called “Jesus Christ”? This is intended to draw our attention to “the Savior/Messiah” which blends these two ideas into the gospel:

Jesus as Saviour-

“Joseph was to call Mary’s son’s name, Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”. (Matt. 1:2)

This could be seen beforehand in the promise God

made to Abraham, when He said, *“In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed...Peter said that He would send Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”* (Acts 3:25-26) So there we can



see the promised blessing which God made to Abraham. God then made it possible for every human being, those who were the literal descendants of Abraham as well as those who were not, to be turned from their wicked ways through the seed of Abraham, which Paul emphasized in Gal. 3:16 is “**Christ or the Messiah**”. We can see from (**Gal 3:8**) that God was actually *preaching the gospel to Abraham when He promised that all the nations will be blessed in You (Abraham).*” Just before His ascension Jesus instructed the disciples, that, *beginning at Jerusalem, proclamation in His name repentance and forgiveness of sins should be made to all nations* . (**Luke 24:47**) Mark repeated Jesus’ words, “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; and he who has disbelieved shall be condemned,*” (**Mark 16:15-18**) after which Jesus was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. Thus, fulfilling the words of David in (**Psa. 110:1**) “*The LORD (YHVH) says to my Lord (Messiah): sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet.*”



Jesus as Messiah- “*He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High; and the LORD God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.*” (**Luke**

1:32-33) To fail to see Jesus Messiah in the gospel is to have an incomplete gospel.

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah who will rule in the midst of His enemies (**Psa. 110:2**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah who is after the order of Melchizede the coming Priest/King of a Kingdom which the Messiah instructed us to pray to come; (**Psa. 110:4**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah as one who will “shatter kings in the day his wrath” (**Psa. 110:5**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah as one who will judge among the nation (**Psa. 110:6**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah as one who will shatter the chief men of a broad country (**Psa. 110:7**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah handing out convictions wholesale crushing opposition across the whole earth **Psa. 110:6 MSG**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah with the government upon his shoulders (**Isa. 9:6**)

To fail to see the Savior/Messiah seated on the throne of David, putting his kingdom in order with judgment and establish it with justice and righteousness forever (**Isa. 9:7**)

Is to have an incomplete gospel. Can an incomplete gospel be a saving gospel? Let us not reject the King-Maker's choice to sit upon the throne of David. (**Psa. 2:7-8**)

Pilate asked Jesus: “**ARE YOU A KING OR NOT?**” (**John 18:37-38**) To which Jesus replied, *you say correctly that I am king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world*”. But do not overlook what Jesus had said before that, “*My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this*

world, then My servants would be fighting...My kingdom is not of this realm.” That is why Jesus taught us to pray *“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*. (Matt. 6:1) Jesus was saying “It is not time yet ”

Jesus was *“sent/anointed”* by his Father with a *“message”* of *“good news”*. The gospel which could, according to: (Isaiah 61:1-4 MSG)

Heal the broken hearted

Announce freedom to captives

Pardon prisoners

Proclaim a period of Grace and a time of celebration for God’s destruction of our enemies

To bring comfort to the mourners by addressing their needs

To provide a message of joy rather than news of doom

A message to rebuild the old ruins

Following Jesus’ temptation by the *dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan”*. (Rev. 20:2) Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit where He *“taught in the synagogues”*. (Luke 4:15) What did he teach? Did he at this time teach about his forthcoming crucifixion and resurrection at this time? No: Luke said that He attended the synagogue in Nazareth, on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read from the scripture from (Isaiah 61:1-19 refers to verses 1-4 above), announcing that God had anointed Him to *“preach the Message of good news”* or the Gospel of the Kingdom. After reading this scripture passage, He rolled up the



scroll, handed it back to the assistant and sat down. As every eye looked intently on him, he said: *“You’ve just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place.”* (Luke 4:16-21) WOW! Bet you could have heard a pin drop. It was in the synagogues in Judea that Jesus revealed his *“purpose statement”*. (Lk. 4:43):

“I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.” (Luke 4:43 NASB)

It was by the Lake of Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee) that Jesus was preaching to a multitude which was pressing around him as they listened to him preach “the word of God” which is the *“gospel of the kingdom of God”*. When Jesus began His ministry, he preached *“the gospel of the kingdom”*:

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. (Matt 4:23 NASB)

So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea. (Luke 4:44 NASB)



What many don't realize is that the gospel is the *“gospel of God”* to begin with. Paul told the Romans that *he had been set apart for the gospel of God.* (Rom. 1:1-2) Mark said that *after John the Baptist was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of God.* (Mk. 1:14-15.) Matthew said that Jesus was *proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.* (Matt: 4:2) So when Jesus preached that gospel and encouraged people to repent and believe that gospel, He was proclaiming the words so directed by God his Father. God was in effect bringing

“Life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2Tim. 1:10 NASB). Paul referred to himself as “a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as priest the gospel of God” (Rom. 15:16) Remember that God preached the gospel to Abraham, (Gal. 3:8) and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2Tim. 1:10) This explains how God could speak to the fathers in the prophets (As his spokesmen) in many ways and spoke to us in His Son as Jesus shared the same gospel (Heb. 1:1-2)

In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets. (Rev 10:7 NASB)

Jesus answered them,
 “My teaching isn’t
 mine but is from the
 one who sent me.

John 7:16, CSB



What we often forget is that Jesus said:

The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (John 14:10 NASB)

He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. (John 14:24 NASB)

My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. (John 7:16 NASB)

For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me. (John 12:49-50 NASB)



And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." (Rev 14:6-7 NASB)

First of all, I hope it is clear that the gospel began many years ago, before John the Baptist and before Jesus. It is not something that Jesus created for it was long before his birth. As can be seen from the angel which flew in midheaven, the gospel or shall be an important part of that messenger's message. Notice also the other part of the angel's message: *Fear God...worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.*

Jeremiah the prophet was instructed to, "**harness himself up**" and send a message to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon; sending it through

their ambassadors who had come to Jerusalem to see king Zedekiah of Judah. It was a message from GOD-OF-THE-ANGEL-ARMIES, THE God of Israel, to tell their masters:

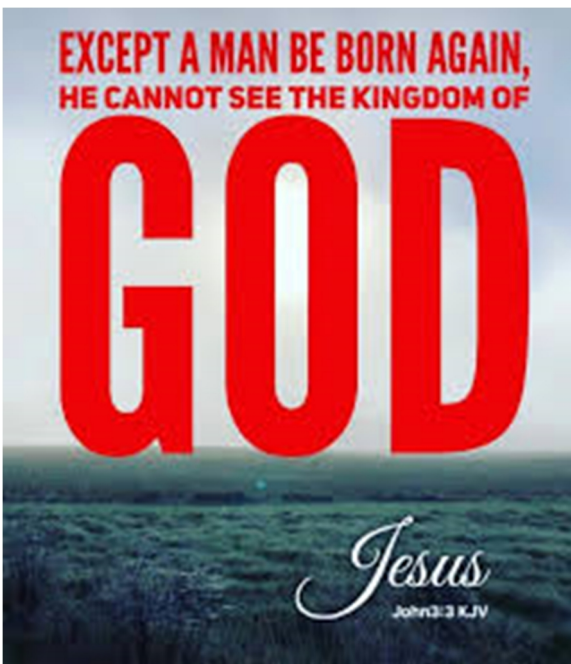
I have made the earth, the men and the beasts which are on the face of the earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and I will give it to the one who is pleasing in My sight. (Jer 27:5 NASB)

The LORD reminded Isaiah of the same things:

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone, (Isaiah 44:24 NASB)

These two issues raised by the angel flying in midheaven in Revelation are paramount importance:

The "eternal gospel" which Jesus said must be preached in all the world for a witness to all natio . (Matt. 24:1) Then the end will come. The gospel of the kingdom is that important. So important that Jesus instructed the disciples to proclaim that gospel of the kingdom of God and that believes it and responds by being baptized will be save



There was a ruler of the Jews (probably a member of the Sanhedrin) who wanted to have a conversation with Jesus b decided it would be safer for him to come by night. He recognized Jesus as a Rabbi, a teacher come from God. He had heard about the miraculous things that Jesus had been doing. Truly God is with you he said to Jesus. Notice, as Jesus proclair the "gospel of the kingdom" to Nicodemus.

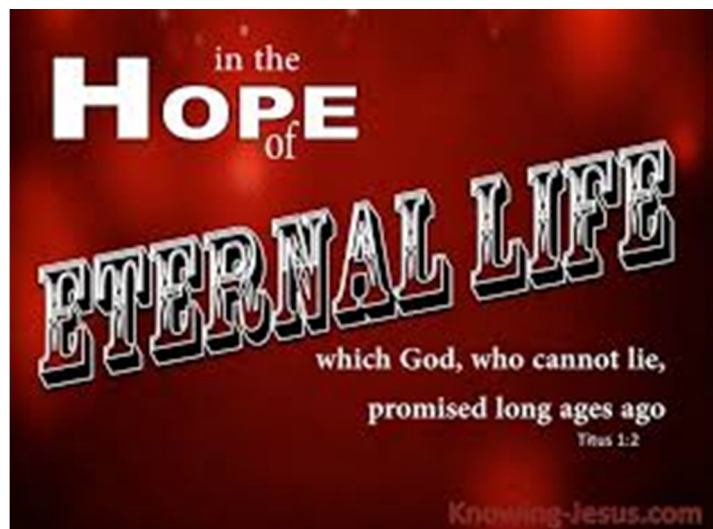
"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NASB)

Jesus talks to Nicodemus about "eternal life" and the "kingdom of God". About how he could have eternal life and live in the kingdom of God. This is the man who Jesus told those words that most everyone knows:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, the whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB)

Yes. Jesus presented to Nicodemus the "gospel of the kingdom of God. He talked to him about everlasting life which God promised "long ages ago."

In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, (Titus 1:2-3 NASB)



That proclamation being: *according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted"*. (1 Tim 1:11 NASB) The Acts of the Apostles signs off with *Paul living in his own rented quarters for two years and preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Acts 28: 30-31) The gospel of the kingdom must be important to us. As a matter of fact, Je instructed us to seek the kingdom of God first. (Matt. 6:3) and to busy ourselves with its proclamation to the end