



X. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

A. A Short Introduction

1. An understanding of the word *gospel*
 - a. One should never assume that the word *gospel* means death, burial, and resurrection. The Bible paints a different picture.
 - (1) “He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor” (Luke 4:18) = “the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek” (Isaiah 61:1)
 - (2) “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15) = “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good” (Isaiah 52:7) = “Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!” (Nahum 1:15)
 - b. Understanding that the word *gospel* means good or glad tidings unlocks other biblical statements.
 - (1) The gospel preached to Abraham (Galatians 3:8)
 - (2) The gospel preached in the wilderness
 - (3) Neither of these gospels had anything to do with the gospel identified as the gospel of the grace of God involving the death, burial, and resurrection.
2. This gospel began to be preached with John (Luke 16:16). Note: Consider the distinction as it relates to the death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31).
3. This gospel was not preached in all the world during the first coming of Christ (Matthew 24:14; compare with Colossians 1:6, 23).

B. The Preachers of the Kingdom Gospel

1. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2)
2. Jesus (Matthew 4:17; Luke 4:40-44; Luke 8:1; see Romans 15:8)
3. The twelve (Luke 9:1-2)
4. The seventy (Luke 10:1, 9)

C. The Nature of the Kingdom

1. The kingdom gospel calls for God’s will to be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13).
2. The kingdom gospel testified of an earthly rule of Jesus Christ (Matthew 20:20-23; Luke 21:27-32).
3. The kingdom gospel promised the exaltation of the apostles (Matthew 19:27-28; Luke 22:28-30).
4. The kingdom gospel warns that faithless Jews will be excluded (Matthew 8:10-12; Luke 13:28-29).



D. The Message of the Kingdom

1. At least initially, this gospel was only to be preached to Israel (Matthew 10:5-8; Matthew 15:24; Romans 15:8).
2. The message emphasized that the kingdom was at hand (Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 10:7).
3. It included a message concerning the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38; Acts 13:23-25; Acts 19:4-5).
 - a. A baptism that was preceded by repentance (Matthew 3:7-11)
 - b. A baptism that was accompanied by confession (Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:5)
 - c. A baptism that was followed by remission (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3)
 - d. This baptism led to faith in Christ (Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:3-5).
 - e. This baptism was modified or changed when God turned to the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48; Acts 16:30-33). Though the two baptisms share some similarities, John's baptism is not the baptism experienced by a new believer today.
4. It was confirmed with sign gifts (Matthew 9:35; 10:8; Luke 9:11; Mark 16:15-20).
 - a. Confirming the spoken word (Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:3-4)
 - b. Prominently given to the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:22; cp. Exodus 4:1-9; Numbers 14:11; Deuteronomy 26:8; Acts 7:36); Consider the following testimonies:
 - (1) Christ (Acts 2:22)
 - (2) Apostles (Acts 2:43; Acts 4:30; Acts 5:12; Acts 14:3)
 - (3) Paul (Romans 15:18-19; 2 Corinthians 12:12)
 - (4) Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:8-9)
 - (5) This does not mean that God never dealt with Gentiles through signs (Acts 28:1-10), but only that this was His stated purpose and general practice. Certainly, some Gentiles had the spoken word confirmed by way of signs.
 - c. To the lost (1 Corinthians 14:22); this shows another purpose of the signs—to convince the lost that the spoken word of salvation was from God.

E. The Coming of the Kingdom

1. Not yet come (John 18:36; Acts 1:6-7)
2. To be preached before the end (Matthew 24:14)
3. The result of God's final victory (Revelation 11:15; Daniel 2:44)

F. The Acceptance of the Son

1. By those who have God's word abiding in them (John 5:38)
2. By all who knew the Father (John 6:37, 45; John 8:42)
3. By those who were His sheep (John 10:24-30)
4. Given by the Father to the Son (John 17:6)