



GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand! The kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God are at war with each other. God's chosen King came to conquer the prince of this world – and triumphed. The ruler of this world knows that his time is short and works tirelessly to deceive all nations into worshipping him through worshipping themselves, indulging in pleasure, and denying God's existence and authority. The true and rightful King of all creation will return to judge all nations and people in the ultimate battle between the forces of good and evil, truth and lies.

The whole world stands condemned by God because of sin. Anyone who does not believe Jesus is still in their sins, will be subject to judgment, eternal condemnation, and the fires of hell. Jesus is coming back to avenge all evil. Until then, we have been given the keys to His Kingdom – making it accessible to anyone who will believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is the only way to receive eternal life and salvation from the wrath of God. It is available to everyone who will repent and put their faith in Jesus.

The Eternal Gospel

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation, deliverance, healing, and sustenance to be received by FAITH. The Gospel is the wisdom of God which conquers every scheme of the evil one and the wisdom of this world. The Gospel is the good news of how Jesus, God's Son and anointed one, took the wrath of God upon Himself to crush the head of the serpent and conquer death to share eternal life with all who will believe and set themselves apart unto Him.

*Revelation 14:6-12: Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the **eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "**Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.**" A second angel followed and said, "**Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,**" which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "**If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.**" **This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.***

The focus of the Gospel is on eternal life – life with God forever and the life of God made accessible. This is the life that Adam lost when he sold humanity into slavery to the evil one. God's promise to Eve was that one of her descendants would crush the head of the serpent forever. God's promise to Abraham was that his descendants would fill the earth, inherit the world, and be blessed. The purpose of the Laws God gave through Moses were to direct His people into righteousness so that they could attain eternal life and merit the world to come. When scribes and religious leaders approached Jesus, their questions were centered on the issue of how to attain eternal life. But Jesus came so that we might have eternal life – and life to the full measure. (See John 10:10.)

The Gospel is NOT about getting to heaven and going to the good place when you die. That is part of it but more so, the Gospel is the way God has made for us to have eternal life NOW dwelling inside of us. Jesus is LIFE. Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life and the indwelling life-power of God to strengthen us to resist the schemes of the evil one until Jesus returns to spend eternity with us in the world to come.

A Quick Synopsis of the Gospel

Throughout history, the Gospel has been perverted and distorted in various ways but the Gospel has not changed. Paul exhorted Timothy to remember the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, the anointed King of Israel.

*2 Timothy 2:8: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. **This is my gospel.***

Therefore, here is a quick synopsis of the Gospel.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit into the lineage of King David of Israel. Israel was the only nation on earth that had a covenant relationship with the one and only true God, the Creator of Heaven and earth, and they were earnestly awaiting the Messiah or King that God promised them who would establish His Kingdom and set things right in the world. They were also the only people on earth with God's Law and standard of justice and righteousness which, if upheld, led to blessing, eternal life of fellowship with God, and inheriting all creation. Unfortunately, no man on earth has ever been able to live up to this standard of purity and godliness. As a consequence, all of mankind since the first man Adam has been separated from God because of falling short of perfect obedience to God's instructions. That is, until Jesus came along.

Because Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born with the divine nature of God, His Father. He was simultaneously fully God and fully man, the exact image of His Father, and a full demonstration and incarnation of God in the flesh. Because Jesus followed the inclinations of His indwelling divine nature and not those of His flesh, He lived His life completely without sin according to the Law of God. His motives and actions always stemmed from God's perfect love, mercy, and justice so that He was completely righteous by God's standard. Additionally, God confirmed Jesus as His Son and the promised Messiah with power from Heaven by enabling Jesus to supernaturally heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, and work various other miracles, signs, and wonders.

However, instead of being accepted as a righteous man, the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, and the Lord and King of all the earth, the religious leaders of Israel and the governmental authorities of this world unanimously mocked, rejected, and sentenced Jesus to death like a criminal, acting on behalf of all people. Jesus knew all of this in advance and willingly allowed Himself to be whipped and scourged, and to shed His blood, until He was ultimately nailed to a cross and crucified until He was dead. He was buried in a tomb and thought to be thoroughly defeated. In fact, for three days, it appeared that Jesus was the world's biggest failure and that He had horribly deceived all of His followers.

But God, with resurrection power by His Spirit, raised Jesus from the dead on the third day before His body had experienced decay. Jesus walked out of the grave in an imperishable resurrection body, having conquered death. For forty days, He revealed Himself to His disciples as proof that He is, indeed, alive from the dead and the Son of God who fulfills the prophecies concerning the Messiah of Israel.

After forty days of resurrection appearances, Jesus ascended in the clouds from Jerusalem to His Father in Heaven, where He is now seated at the right hand of God, the position of all power and authority over all creation. At the appointed time, Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead, avenge all evil, abolish death, establish total dominion, restore all things, and hand the Kingdom back to His Father as He fulfills the remaining prophecies concerning Himself.

Until He returns, after Jesus ascended to Heaven, He poured out the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all of us who believe in Him so that God's divine nature now dwells in us by faith. This means that we have Christ inside of us just like Jesus had God inside of Him when He was on the earth in the flesh. With Christ in us, we are empowered to live like Jesus lived, to love like He loved, and do the things that He did while we

are still here on earth in these bodies. We are citizens of heaven and children of God, serving as His ambassadors with a message of His Kingdom, His goodness, and His love.

Therefore, we go to all nations to tell everyone everywhere that Jesus is Lord and that the way of salvation has been made for them.

Jesus' Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13)

Jesus primary message everywhere He went was, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" Like Jonah calling for Nineveh's repentance because judgment was imminent, Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was about to overthrow the kingdoms of the entire world. According to the Scriptures, all of Israel was awaiting the arrival of Messiah who would shatter the kingdoms of this world and establish the eternal Kingdom of God for His holy ones. (See Daniel 2, 7.) However, when they saw Jesus working miracles for sinners and having dinner with outcasts rather than endorsing the religious leaders, they accused Him of working for the devil. Jesus rebuked their error and misunderstanding of God's Kingdom and later that same day, sat down to share some of His primary parables about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus did not proclaim the Gospel the way Paul did. Jesus spoke in parables about His Kingdom. He did this deliberately so that only those with spiritual ears to hear would be able to understand His message and be drawn into His Kingdom. He only explained these parables to His disciples so that they would also be equipped to proclaim His Kingdom to the world.

In the parables of the soils, Jesus revealed that the Kingdom of God is not of this world but it is a matter of the heart. The seed is the Word of God that is scattered about into all kinds of soils of the hearts of mankind. Some seeds become food for the birds as the enemy snatches the word out of a person's life. Some seeds do not take root and fall away when trial or difficulty comes. Some seeds take root but are choked by the thorns of the cares of this world and the love of money. But some receive the word of God with an open heart that understands. These ones will go on to produce a harvest for God and receive eternal life.

In the parable of the wheat and tares, Jesus made plain that good and evil will continue to dwell and grow together until the time of harvest comes. He did not come to judge the nations but to save them. Jesus did not come the first time to overthrow evil because that would disrupt the righteousness He desires to see grow in the fields of this world among the nations. But when He returns, the sickle will swing and the tares will be thrown into the eternal fire.

In the parable of the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, and the net, Jesus explained that the Kingdom of God will be found by people who are not looking for it (Gentiles) in addition to those who have been searching for it for a long time (Jews) and that anyone who recognizes the value of the Kingdom of God will willingly give up everything they have to obtain it. The good news of God's Kingdom has been made available to everyone – a broad net has been cast into the sea. At the close of the age, the good from the bad will be divided and judged.

Therefore, let us fully understand the battle we are in and be strengthened with endurance until Jesus returns. Let us never compromise or water down the Gospel with worldliness or filth because upon such things the wrath of God is coming. Let us proclaim the real Jesus, descended from David, the King of Israel, and Savior of the whole world. And let us be wise in how we speak to outsiders, knowing that only those who have ears to hear will hear and know the truth and be saved.

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Scriptures are New International Translation (NIV) unless otherwise noted, emphasis added by author