

# INTRODUCTION: THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

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GROW UNIVERSITY: EVANGELISM 101

*\_Read Romans 1:16-17*

## What Does "Gospel" Mean?

<sup>e u a n g e l i o n</sup> <sup>b e s s o r a h</sup>  
**εὐαγγέλιον (Greek) / בְּשׂוּרָה (Hebrew):** a "good announcement", "good message."

Occurrences in the NT:

<sup>e u a n g e l i o n</sup> <sup>e u a n g e l i z o</sup> <sup>e u a n g e l i s t a s</sup>  
Noun (εὐαγγέλιον) - 76 || Verb (εὐαγγελίζω) - 54 || Personified (εὐαγγελιστάς) - 3

OT definition: "a declaration of good news in battle."

## "Spot that εὐαγγέλιον, OT Edition:"

*\_Read 2 Samuel 4:10; 2 Samuel 18:19-20, 22, 25, 27; 2 Kings 7:9*

The gospel isn't about what you need to do, but the good news of what God has done in THE Great War of world history.

*\_Read Matthew 4:23; Matthew 9:35; Matthew 24:14; Mark 1:1 & 14; Luke 4:43; Luke 8:1; Luke 16:16; Acts 8:12*

## Nature of the Kingdom:

Two key ways to parse out what the Kingdom of God is:

- 1.) "The rule and reign of God." (Psalm 93:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:15)
- 2.) "God's people, in God's place, under God's rule." (Matthew 13:31-32; Isaiah 53:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:27; Daniel 2:34)

## Expectations and Hopes of Israel:

The NT opens with Israel wearily waiting for God's kingdom to arrive (cf. Mal 3:1-4; 4:1-6).

**Israel's picture of the Messiah:** *A geopolitical / military leader who would defeat God's enemies (Rome) and deliver them rest and flourishing in the promised land.*

Isaiah predicted the two sides of victory that Israel longed to see (Is 52:10):

- 1.) Defeat of God's enemies.

2.) Deliverance of God's people.

### **Gospel Victory and The Timing of Kingdom Fulfillment:**

- A.) A greater enemy than they ever dreamed,
- B.) A greater deliverance than they could ever have imagined, and
- C.) A timeline they never expected.

### **Defeat of God's enemies**

Inauguration (Christ's first coming): In his first advent, Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom by

- Inflicting God's judgment on God's spiritual enemies (cf. Mt 12:28-29; Mk 1:27, John 12:31) and...
- Extending God's mercy to God's human enemies (cf. Luke 23:34).

Continuation (Church age): The church is not at war with people, but with Satan and other evil spirits (cf. Eph 6:11-12). Followers of Christ extend God's mercy to God's human enemies as a piece of Christ's defeat of his spiritual enemies (2 Cor 5:20). The unity of the church is the exclamation point to the defeat of Satan (Eph. 3:9-10)

Consummation (New Heavens/New Earth): When Christ returns he will defeat God's spiritual and human enemies (Rev 19:13-15; 20:20).

### **Deliverance of God's People**

Inauguration (Christ's first coming). His twofold strategy at the cross was

- Breaking the power of Satan over human beings (cf. Eph 1:20ff.; Col 2:15; 1 Jn 3:8)
- Setting people free from sin and death (cf. Eph 4:8; Col. 1:14-15; Heb 2:14-15).

Continuation (Church age). The Holy Spirit has been given to the people of God in power to produce witnesses for His glory. By His power, we participate in the proclamation and application of gospel victory to those who are enslaved (Acts 1:6-8, 26:18, Mt. 24:14)

Consummation (New Heavens/New Earth): God's people will fully experience all the promised blessings of the kingdom (Rev 5:9-10; 11:15).