

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

During the month of August, we will study the following three special lessons on the Gospel (to euaggelion) during the first service.

- August 5th The Gospel Kingdom (Matt.4:23-25)
- August 12th Al Rosenblum: A Special Study
- August 19th The Mystery of the Gospel (Eph.6:19-20)
- August 26th A Different Gospel (Gal.1:6-12)

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Format of Jesus' Ministry (Matt.4:23) three categories: didasko, kerusso and therapeuo (healing).
- Fame of Jesus' Ministry (Matt.4:24) three categories of healing.
- Followers of Jesus' Ministry (Matt.4:25) six regions.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom (tes basileia).

1. Preaching, teaching, and healing were messianic signs of the kingdom of God ministry of Jesus as the Christ to Israel (Matt.4:23-25; 9:35-38).

In His first sermon in His home synagogue, Jesus taught from Isa.61:1-2 (Luke 4:16-21). “And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:21)

Later in His ministry, He did a similar thing in the Temple while preaching the gospel (Luke 20:1-8). The Chief priests and scribes and elders of Israel ask Him, “tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?” (Luke 20:2) [Jesus referred them to John The Baptist (JB)]

During one of the instances of His casting out demons, the Pharisees charged Jesus with doing it by the power of Satan (Matt.12:22-29) His response: “If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (12:28)(Matt.5:20; 23:13) (Matt.4:8; 2 Cor.4:4; John 8:44)

Peter at Pentecost: “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by **God** with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know – this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of **God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And **God** raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” (Acts 2:22-24)

2. John the Baptist and Jesus and His disciples preached the gospel of the kingdom prior to the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:4-7; Eph.2:16-18).

“And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15, 38; Matt.11:2-6; Luke 4:40-43; 9:2; 17:20-21; 21:31).

“The Law and the prophets were proclaimed **until John; since then** the gospel of the kingdom is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.” (Luke 16:16)

3. **At the time of the first advent of Jesus Christ, there was a pivot of spiritual mature believers known as PROSDECHOMENOI (Lookers for the coming of Christ).**

Simeon: “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (Luke 2:25)

Anna: “And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38)

Joseph: “And behold, a man named **Joseph**, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 23:51)

Other members of the PROSDECHOMENOI were the 12 disciples of Jesus, JB and his disciples, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, Nicodemus, and many others.

WHO were they LOOKING to come to Israel? “And when the fulness of the time came, **God sent forth His son**, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Gal.4:4-5)

4. **The prophetic gospel of the kingdom of Christ was preached until John the Baptist and Jesus Christ (Luke 16:16; Matt.11:1-6/ Isa.35:5-6).**

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believe in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” (1Cor.15:1-5) (Rom.1:1-4; 2 Sam.7:12-16) [Eternal clause] (Heb.9:28)

“And the **Scripture**, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you.’” (Gal.3:8; Gen.12:3)

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day (first advent of Jesus Christ), and he saw it and was glad.” (John 8:56)

5. **With the historical coming and leaving of Jesus Christ, the shift went from the prophetic gospel of the kingdom to the historical gospel of Jesus Christ (John 18:36; 1 Tim.1:15; Luke 17:20-21; Acts 20:28; Col.1:13-14, 18).**

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘and to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to one, ‘And to your seed,’ that is, Christ.” (Gal.3:16) [seed of woman] Eve, Seth, Shem, Abraham, David, and back to the seed of woman [Mary].

“For God, Whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you.” (**Rom.1:9**; 14:17; 1 Cor.4:20)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (**Rom.1:16**; 1 Cor.1:17-18; 1 Thess.1:5; 2 Thess.1:8; 2 Tim.1:9-11)

“And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he preached Jesus to him.” (**Acts 8:35**; 26:22-23; Rev.14:6) [“An Eternal Gospel”].