

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23).

Gospel. Have you ever heard someone say, “This is the gospel truth?” Have you ever considered that when The Word (Jesus) walked on this earth, He “went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the **gospel** of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” Matthew 9:35. Even the poor had the **gospel** preached unto them (Matthew 11:15). The disciples preached the **gospel** (Acts 14:7, 14). And the gospel was even preached to the Gentiles that they (us) would also believe (Acts 15:7).

We often think of the **gospel** as the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. But consider its meaning in the Blue Letter Bible lexicon where the Greek word is euaggelion, Strong’s #2098 where it states as follows:

(From the root Strong’s #2097): a) the glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up, and subsequently also of Jesus the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom. After the death of Christ, the term comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God b) the glad tidings of salvation through Christ) the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ) the gospel) as the messianic rank of Jesus was proved by his words, his deeds, and his death, the narrative of the sayings, deeds, and death of Jesus Christ came to be called the gospel or glad tidings.

The word gospel first appears in Matthew 4:23! Here is the key: when we employ hermeneutical principles and take the word gospel back to its first usage, then we have to roll back to the Old Testament where the word “good tidings” (gospel) is used. Here the Hebrew word is bâśar (*baw-sar'*) and refers to a,

“primitive root; properly to be fresh, that is, full (rosy, figuratively cheerful); to announce (glad news): - messenger, preach, publish, shew forth, (bear, bring, carry, preach, good, tell good) tidings.”

According to the Thesaurus, Good tidings represents important news or developments, something we need to receive and understand. And what I understand is the Christ has made a way for us to get back into the garden.

Below are a few scripture illustrations.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! (Isaiah 40:9)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! (Isaiah 52:7)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (Isaiah 61:1) Salvation is good news or good tidings. Understand, however, that the salvation the freedom that Jesus brought was not just for the moment but it was a way for us to have eternal life with Him. Zechariah, along with other scriptural passages, i.e. Isaiah, spells it out clearly for us.

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited” (Zechariah 14:9-11).

When good news is brought, what do we do? Like the father whose son was lost, came to his senses and returned home, a feast was prepared, he was given a robe and a ring was placed on his finger. Why? Because a son that was lost was now found. More importantly, a family was reunited. God has already made a way for The Family to be reunited, to get back to the place where God first placed Adam and gave him a piece of land, a paradise where he could build a house and a family. The gospel of the kingdom is still being preached: Don't miss these good tidings. They are for everyone who will listen, believe and obey.

Moreover, we must recognize that Christ was and still is our only way whereby all nations can be rightly restored to an intimate relationship with Him (John 14:6). Wikipedia puts it like this:¹

¹ *This is an excerpt from Wikipedia. Wikipedia goes on to state that, The context of the Gospel also, crucially, includes the final destiny of man. This part of the context is necessary and urgent, because the Bible explains, there will be a Judgement day, and, in the words of Jesus, the standard which will be required of every person is to "Be perfect"(Matthew 5:48)]. The Law of God requires judgement and punishment of*

*In Christianity, the **Good News** (Greek: εὐαγγέλιον euangélion; Old English: gospel) is the message of Jesus, the Christ or Messiah— God's ruler promised by the Scriptures — specifically, the coming Kingdom of God, his death on the cross and resurrection to restore people's relationship with God, the descent of the Holy Spirit on believers as the helper, the resulting promise and hope of being saved for any who believe and follow Jesus, and through this, a healing of the brokenness of the entire created universe.*

The Christian message of good news is described in the four gospels. It relates to the saving acts of God due to the work of Jesus on the cross and resurrection from the dead which bring reconciliation ("atonement") between people and God.

The context of the Gospel is the imperfection of man in contrast to the perfection of God. The Christian Testament as a whole shows this contrast, by showing that in the beginning God created all things perfect, but that sin was introduced into man's now imperfect nature, as a natural consequence of humanity's rebellion against God, disobeying a clearly stated command of God.

The Challenge: Read through the Wikipedia excerpt. Send your comments or concerns to TheElder @ Elder66@me.com.

unrighteousness, and the Bible clearly states that no-one is righteous. Because a holy, perfect and just God cannot deny his own nature by simply ignoring or excusing the sins of people who have rebelled against his holy law, all people are in a desperate situation. Having shown man's problem, the Christian Testament goes on to explain the solution: the Good News.