

Good News

Luke 2:8-11 HCSB In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. (9) Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. (10) But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: (11) today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy" the angel said. "Good news" indeed! As Peter pointed out:

- **Acts 10:43 HCSB** All the prophets testify about Him that through His name everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins."

The two words "good news" are translated from the single Greek word "evangelion" (Strong's #2098). It can mean "a reward for good tidings", or the "good tidings" themselves. So evangelion implies not only the "good news", but also all its concomitant results.

Another word that is often used for "evangelion" is "gospel" from the old English "god spel" which is simply the anglo-saxon way of saying "good news".

Over the years, our understanding of the nature of this gospel has changed. Ask the average adherent to modern American, cultural Christianity to define the Gospel and he will simply reply "salvation which is possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ." To the extent of his definition, he is correct.

However, we need to go back and reexamine how the Lord Himself and His apostles presented the "good news." Is the good news simply that we can escape the consequences of our sins because Jesus died on a cross?

The good news is about the establishment of a kingdom.

- **Matthew 4:23 HCSB** Jesus was going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
- **Matthew 9:35 HCSB** Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.
- **Matthew 24:14 HCSB** This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come.

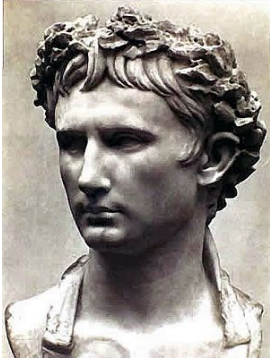
It is about a righteous God/King. The good news being preached was that God was willing to establish a kingdom on earth and that Jesus, as the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God, God of very God, was to be its founder.

- **Mark 1:1 HCSB** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- **Mark 1:14 HCSB** After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God:
- **Romans 1:9 HCSB** For God, whom I serve with my spirit in *telling the good news about His Son*, is my witness that I constantly mention you,

You see, the noun "evangelion" was originally defined as the announcement of victory after battle. It also came to describe the birth or rise to power of a new king.

For instance, an inscription from Priene in Asia Minor, probably written around 9 B.C. describes the Emperor Augustus as the savior who will bring peace and hails his

birthday as “the beginning of the glad tidings (*evangelion*) that have come to men through him.”



So the authors of the New Covenant were deliberately pitting Jesus of Nazareth against the current emperor worship. In the minds of their readers, they were comparing and contrasting the human Roman Caesar who CLAIMED to be divine to the Galilean carpenter who had PROVEN his divinity by rising from the dead.

So when we compare the pagan use of *evangelion* and the LXX's use of *evangelizomai* we discover a striking parallel of a king worshipped by his people.

The gospel and its confession that Jesus is Lord directly and deliberately confronts the claim that any other human may have on our loyalties. It declares that in the death and resurrection Jesus is enthroned as the King of kings. All Caesars, kings, pharaohs, emperors or presidents must bow before the crucified and risen Jesus.

Other than worshipping this risen Lord, there is no greater task than the spread of His good news. All other work, all other tasks, all other undertakings should support this endeavor.

- [Acts 20:24 HCSB](#) But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.
- [Romans 1:16 HCSB](#) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

It is to be preached throughout the world.

- [Matthew 26:13 HCSB](#) I assure you: Wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.
- [Matthew 28:19 HCSB](#) Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

It is to be preached throughout time. In two eschatological or prophetic passages, the Messiah predicted that one of the signs of “ach'arit ha yamim” or the “end of days” would be the ability, through the tool of public persecution, to proclaim the good news of this imminent kingdom to the whole world.

- [Matthew 24:14 HCSB](#) This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come.
- [Mark 13:9-10 HCSB](#) "But you, be on your guard! They will hand you over to sanhedrins, and you will be flogged in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of Me, as a witness to them. (10) And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Some are uniquely gifted and set aside to preach this good news.

- [Acts 15:7 HCSB](#) After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them: "Brothers, you are aware that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the gospel message and believe.
- [Romans 1:1 HCSB](#) Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and singled out for God's good news--

However, all of us are required to pass it on. All of us are heralds.

- **Matthew 28:18-20 HCSB** Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **Romans 10:13-16 HCSB** For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** (14) But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? (15) And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: **How welcome are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things!** (16) But all did not obey the gospel. For Isaiah says, **Lord, who has believed our message?**

The good news requires a decision. It requires us to repent.

- **Mark 1:14-15 HCSB** After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: (15) "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!"
- **Acts 10:43 HCSB** All the prophets testify about Him that through His name everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins."
- **Romans 2:15-16 HCSB** They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences testify in support of this, and their competing thoughts either accuse or excuse them (16) on the day when God judges what people have kept secret, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.

Of what do we need to repent? To understand the nature of the Gospel as the proclamation of the establishment of a kingdom, we must understand that Yahweh Melek is ALREADY our king. We are rebels. We are traitors. He is our rightful King and we must repent of our treasonous ways and seek His merciful forgiveness.

The good news is the fact that He is WILLING to forgive – but we must change our ways and establish our fealty, our loyalty, our allegiance to Him. We preach Christ, not merely as Savior but as Divine King. We have no rights that come before His claim. We do not own ourselves. Our bodies are not our own. We either fully submit to His claims in unconditional surrender or we remain firmly in the rebel camp.

Preached in this manner, the Gospel is distinctly unpopular. It will be preached at great cost.

- **Mark 8:34-35 HCSB** Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, "If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. (35) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it.
- **Mark 13:9 HCSB** "But you, be on your guard! They will hand you over to sanhedrins, and you will be flogged in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of Me, as a witness to them.
- **Romans 11:28 HCSB** Regarding the gospel, they are enemies for your advantage, but regarding election, they are loved because of their forefathers,

But the Holy Spirit will help us as we seek to communicate this message and overcome our fears.

- **Mark 13:11 HCSB** So when they arrest you and hand you over, don't worry beforehand what you will say. On the contrary, whatever is given to you in that hour-- say it. For it isn't you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will grant us grace to preach the good news boldly.

- **Romans 15:15-16 HCSB** Nevertheless, to remind you, I have written to you more boldly on some points because of the grace given me by God.

And the King is willing to reward those who give Him their allegiance.

Family, substance and livelihood – plus eternal life.

- **Mark 10:28-30 HCSB** Peter began to tell Him, "Look, we have left everything and followed You." (29) "I assure you," Jesus said, "there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children, or fields because of Me and the gospel, (30) who will not receive 100 times more, now at this time--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions--and eternal life in the age to come.

Everlasting fame and glory – plus eternal life.

- **Mark 14:9 HCSB** I assure you: *Wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.*"
- **Romans 2:6-7 HCSB** He **will repay each one according to his works:** (7) eternal life to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;