

29 November 2015

## The gospel of the kingdom preached by Christ (the Gospel Pt 1)

### Introduction to the gospel of the kingdom.

i) The Old Testament foretold that Messiah would rule with a rod of iron (Ps.2: ) upon the literal throne of David and upon his kingdom, whose name shall be called "Wonderful, The mighty God" (Is.9: 6, 7).

ii) The Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah) came and preached the kingdom of heaven (KOH), and the kingdom of God (KOG).

iii) The KOH and the KOG (our contents only touches the surface of this profound doctrine).

#### a) **The kingdom of heaven.**

\* The KOH suffereth violence, it is **physical and earthly** (Matt.11: 12).

\* The preaching of the KOH began with John the Baptist until Jesus' death.

\* The KOH was preached by John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus exclusively to the **nation of Israel**, the seed of Abraham (Matt.3: 1 & 2, and Matt.4: 17).

\* The Lord Jesus was **the** king, He was to rule upon the throne of His father David (Lk.1: 32).

\* When the Jewish leaders rejected and "crucified the Lord of glory" (1Cor.2: 8) He did not sit on His throne, and the KOH was deferred until His second coming (Matt,25: 31).

#### b) **The kingdom of God.**

\* The KOG is not meat and drink (physical), it is **spiritual** (Rom.14: 17, Lk.17: 21 & 1Cor.15: 50), therefore "Ye must be born again" (Jn.3: 7), "a man must be born...of the Spirit" to "enter into the kingdom of God (Jn.3: 5).

\* The preaching of the KOG began at John the Baptist (Lk.16: 16).

\* The Lord Jesus preached the KOG exclusively to the **nation of Israel** (Matt.10: 5).

\* The KOG continued after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord and the nation of Israel were again offered the KOG by the apostles, and they rejected it (Acts 7: 51). BETTER VERSE

\* Then Paul was given the gospel of Christ crucified "according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Rom.16: 25).

\* Paul preached to the Jew first the KOG through his gospel, and as a nation they again put it from them (Acts 13: 46 & 28: 28). And so Paul offered the KOG through his gospel to the Gentiles to provoke the Jew to jealousy (Rom.11: 11).

Therefore, the KOG and the KOH are different: The KOH is physical and earthly, and the KOG is spiritual.

We now turn to the topic of this study which is the gospel of the kingdom as preached by the Lord.

### Introduction to this study.

\* Following our study of the word "doctrine", from where we established the necessity of teaching doctrine, we now provide the first teaching on the doctrine of "the gospel".

### Our three points for this study from the scriptures will include.

1. The Lord Jesus preached the good news of the KOH being at hand.
2. The Lord Jesus preached the gospel of the KOG being received by faith & repentance.
3. The gospel of the kingdom (of heaven & of God) was offered to the Jewish nation.

### Meaning of key words and their occurrences.

\* The word "gospel" means good news. When we compare scripture with scripture we see that Jesus provides a meaning of "good tidings" when He refers to the words of Isaiah that said "preach good tidings" (Is.61: 1) and He says "preach the gospel" in Lk.4: 18. Hence from within the context of the scriptures "the gospel" is a message of good tidings from God.

Therefore the gospel is a message from God that conveys good tidings, or good news.

\* The word "gospel" occurs 101 times in 95 verses, and "gospels" 3 times, and all in the New Testament. In the four Gospels the words occurs 17 times, in the book of Acts 6 times, in Paul's epistles 75 times, Hebrews once, 1Peter 4 times, and in the book of Revelation once.

### Our three points in more detail.

1. Jesus Christ preached the good news of the kingdom of heaven being at hand.

Supporting verse.

Mt 4:17 "Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Context & setting of our verse.

\* Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness and is tempted by the devil (verses 1–10). Then the angels came and ministered unto Him (verse 11). Jesus then departs into Galilee because He hears that John has been cast into prison (verse 12). Then we have our verse; "From that time Jesus began to preach, and say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Other scriptural support.

Mt 9:35, Mk 1:14, Lk.1: 31.

Scriptural examples.

\* God told the nation of Israel that a son will be given "and his name shall be called Wonderful... The Prince of peace (Is.9: 6) "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom...for ever" (verse 7).

Application of verse (Matt.4: 17) today.

\* There is no doctrinal application of this point to the church today as a mandate to go and preach the gospel of the KOH, because His kingdom is **not** at hand, nor are we in a time when Christ is reigning on earth. Therefore this verse is only applicable to us today to enable a believer to recognise that when he hears the gospel of the KOH he know he is listening to error.

Illustration.

\* The Roman Catholic church believe they have replaced Israel and their Pope is the king who rules over the kingdom of heaven (physical).

Learning from our Illustration.

\* 1.2 billion people can't all be wrong, can they?

Challenge & or encouragement,

\* Yes they can be wrong! The KOH is **not** here today, because the Lord Jesus is not physically ruling in Jerusalem on David's throne. Since the Jewish leaders rejected and crucified their king, the kingdom of heaven has been postponed until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to claim His rightful place on the throne. Anyone who proclaims the gospel of the KOH, or asserts that they rule in the place of Israel's future king are teaching error according to the scriptures (Matt.22: 29).

## 2. The gospel of the kingdom of God was received by faith and repentance.

Supporting verse.

Mk 1:15 "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Context & setting of our verse.

\* Verse one begins "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus...As written in the prophets". This indicates that the word "gospel" takes on a more general meaning of good news as "written in the prophets". Verse 4 indicates that John the Baptist preached "the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins". As mentioned in our earlier point (i) John's gospel was also concerning the "kingdom of heaven" (Matt.3: 2), and (ii) he was the forerunner to the Lord (verse 7). Two verses later Jesus is reported to have "come from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan." The Spirit of God descended upon him in verse 10, and then the Father spoke from "heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (verse 11). And then the Spirit of God drove him into the wilderness where he was "tempted of Satan" for forty days, and then the angels came and ministered unto him (verse 13). Next we have our verse:

\* Out of interest: When Jesus and John the Baptist preached the kingdom of heaven, which is physical, they only called on the hearers to repent (Matt.3: 2 and Mk.1: 15), but when Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God (which is spiritual and therefore unseen), He included faith as in our verse from Mark.

Application of our verse (Mk.1:15) today.

\* Christ preached the gospel of the KOG, and the hearers were required to believe and repent. Today we preach the gospel of Christ crucified that requires belief (Eph.2: 8) for a person to receive the righteousness of Christ (Rom.4: 24). But when a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified they are in the KOG, hence Paul included the KOG in his preaching (Acts 20: 25). Therefore, when a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified today they are in the body of Christ and the KOG (2Thes.1: 5).

Illustration.

\* Roman Catholics believe “The good news of the kingdom of God was the starting point and the center of our Lord's whole public life. He was sent to announce this kingdom, to induce men by means of his miracles to believe in his gospel, and to unite all the faithful in this new kingdom.”

Learning from our Illustration.

\* When we read the quote from the Roman Catholics we find they are not referring to the KOG that Paul preached, but rather the physical KOH that Christ preached. Hence, they twist the good news of the KOG to be physical, when it is spiritual.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Be not deceived by Rome or any other counterfeit Christian organisation that bring their own private interpretation to the scriptures (2Pet.1: 20). Let us remember that the KOG is spiritual it is NOT a physical, earthly kingdom. Today the KOG is made a reality **only** for those who receive the gospel of the grace of God, the good news of Christ **crucified**.

### 3. The gospel of the kingdom (of heaven & of God) was offered to the Jewish nation.

Supporting verse.

Lk.20: 1 “And it came to pass, [that] on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon [him] with the elders”.

Context & setting of our verse.

\* Christ was preaching the gospel to the people in the temple. And our verse says that those people were the chief priests, scribes and elders, who are all Jews. Therefore we make our point that the gospel of the KOH and the KOG was offered to the Jewish nation.

Application of verse (Lk.20: 1) today.

\* If this point was applicable today then the gospel of the kingdom would be preached to Jews.

Illustration.

\* The Jehovah's Witness worship in halls that they call “Kingdom Halls”. In 2011 there were 7.1 million Jehovah's Witnesses who preach and believe incorrectly the KOH & KOG as Christ preached them, they do not see the difference between them.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* 7.1 million people can't all be wrong, can they?

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Yes they can be wrong!

\* Ask yourself: am I Jewish?

Answer: my wife Karen would say “yes”, whereas I would answer “no”. Therefore, the gospel we believe unto salvation today is preached to the Jew and Gentile, and so cannot be the KOH and KOG as Jesus preached, because His audience was **exclusively** the Jewish nation (Matt.10: 5, 6).

Summary of our three points.

1. The Lord Jesus preached the good news of the KOH being at hand.
2. The Lord Jesus preached the gospel of the KOG being received by faith & repentance.
3. The gospel of the kingdom (of heaven & of God) was offered to the Jewish nation.