



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 5 - Day 5 - The Gospel

Approaching God

Read Romans 1:16-17 - *I am not ashamed of the **GOSPEL**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the **GOSPEL** a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last.*

In 1 Peter, we've been listening to the apostle give reasons why not to be afraid of our faith, but rather "to be ready to give a reason for the hope that we have" in the gospel. In the passage above Paul also says the gospel is nothing to be ashamed of, for it is in fact a message that comes with the power of God bringing people to salvation. Start today by thinking about how this gospel message has come into your life, and how it has been powerful to bring you to salvation. Then ask God that it would continue to have power in and through your life today.

Theme Study: The Gospel - εὐαγγέλιον "euangelion"

For people that have gone to church for awhile, the word **GOSPEL** (or *euangelion* in the greek) is certainly not new. In fact, in Christian circles the word "gospel" gets attached to everything. We want "gospel" community, "gospel-centered" preaching, parenting, marriages, mission! The list goes on and on. But understanding its biblical usage is key to keeping this word from from being over-appropriated and losing its beauty. Since Peter's letter has much to say about the power of the gospel and its implications in our lives, today is a good day to pause and to consider the word **GOSPEL** and what the biblical authors meant when they used in scripture.

The word "Gospel" in 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:12 - It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the **good news** to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

- *Here, Peter views the preaching of the gospel as a pinnacle event for the believers spread out through Asia Minor, and all those who would constitute the early church. It's reception, and power to transform becomes the entire basis for the rest of the epistle. In fact, the very next verse, Peter declares - "Therefore prepare for action!"*

1 Peter 1:23,25 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...And this word is the **good news** that was preached to you.

- *Here we see this good news becoming the indwelling word which brings about spiritual growth and lasting fruitfulness in the believer's life.*

The word "gospel" is also used in 1 Peter 4:6 & 17 to reference the importance of not rejecting the gospel and the consequences that come when we dismiss the "good news" of Christ's kingdom.

Watch: The Bible Project Video on The Gospel - 4 mins 30 seconds

[Click Here to Start the Video](#)

“Gospel” is one of the most common words in a Christian’s vocabulary. But what does it mean in the original languages of the Bible? In this video, we’ll discover that “gospel” is a royal announcement about Jesus, who is the crucified and risen King of the world who overcame death with his love.

Read: Gospel

What does Gospel mean?

If you’ve spent any time around a Christian community, you know that the word “gospel” is commonly used as a shorthand term for the core message of Christian faith. However, the exact meaning of *gospel* varies from church to church, based on the larger tradition or denomination. For some, *gospel* refers to the message that Jesus died for the sins of humanity. For others, it may refer to the general idea that God loves us or that we will spend eternity with him. So if we’re looking for clarity, the best way forward is to go back to the original source of this word in the biblical story.



A Royal Announcement

The biblical words for gospel refer to a message of good news. But it’s not just any news. The word is used most often to refer to important events regarding rulers and their kingdoms. When King David wins a battle, this is good news because it means he is still reigning on his throne. When King Solomon is made king over Israel, a “good news” announcement is spread throughout the land. In other words, *gospel* is a royal term reporting good news about the ruler in charge. And while this news has deep personal consequences for the people who hear it, it is no private, religious matter. Nor is it simply advice. The *gospel* that Solomon is now king is a very public announcement with huge personal implications for everyone living under his rule.

A Royal Rescue

As the story of the Old Testament develops, it becomes clear that the kings who rule over Israel are as corrupt and violent as the rulers of any other nation. This is a problem because God had promised Israel’s ancestors that through this nation all other nations would find God’s blessing. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the prophet announced the good news that Israel’s divine King, the Creator of all things, was going to come to earth and be crowned the new king of Israel (check out **Isaiah 40-55**). But first, Israel’s corrupt kings had to be dealt with, which we see in the exile of the Israelites to Babylon (check out the story in **1-2 Kings**). While it may look like the evil kings of Israel or Babylon are running the world, there is still good news: Israel’s God is the true King of the world, and he’s coming one day to restore hope to God’s people. (see **Isaiah 40:1-11 and 52:1-10**).

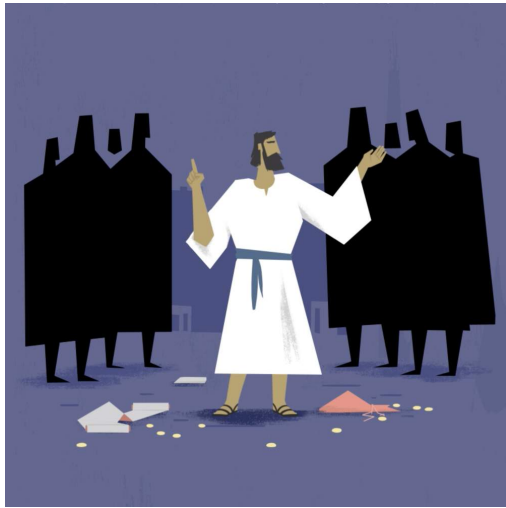
The Royal Announcement

When Jesus of Nazareth appeared on the scene, he went around announcing the good news

about God's Kingdom (**Mark 1:14-15**). He was proclaiming that the promised royal arrival of Israel's God, foretold by the prophet Isaiah, was coming to pass. But Jesus' claim was even more grand. He claimed he was the one who would bring God's reign into reality, here on earth as it is in heaven. He communicated this through his actions (announcing God's forgiveness, as in **Mark ch. 2**), and through his words (pronouncing God's blessing upon Israelites who follow him, as in Matthew chs. 5-7). Jesus said that he was acting with divine power, casting out the influences of evil from Israel. "If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you!" (**Matthew 12:22-28**)

An Inverted Gospel

Jesus was announcing the promised arrival of Israel's God to become king of Israel and all nations, but the way that he asserted his rule was surprising to the people around him. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, the city where David once reigned, he did not use violent force to inaugurate his kingdom. Instead he rode into the city, weeping over its corruption and fate (see



Luke 19:41-44), and then he marched into the temple, the throne-room of the God of Israel. There he acted as if he was the true king of Jerusalem, disrupting the sacrificial system and declaring that Israel's rulers were a bunch of thugs who were leading the people toward destruction. This event resulted in his arrest a few days later as a traitor who claimed to be the king of Israel. He was unfairly tried on false charges, and the Roman governor allowed him to be crucified. However, the accounts of Jesus' death make it quite clear that his execution was in fact the beginning of his exaltation to become the divine king. He is given a robe, a crown, and a scepter as soldiers bow down to him. In their eyes it's a cruel joke, but in reality they were watching the *gospel* happen before their eyes. Jesus was being lifted up as the cosmic king of the world on his wooden throne where he died because of the sins of his enemies.

The cross is the royal announcement that God's purpose was to rescue his world by dying for it, by allowing our sins to overwhelm him unto death. But because God's love is more powerful than our evil, he overcame it with his resurrection life, which he now offers to anyone who turns and puts their trust in his royal love.

A Message With Power

The Christian gospel is the announcement that Jesus is the divine king of the world who lived, died, and was raised to be the ruler we so desperately need. And if a new king is in charge, this means that a new way of life is in order. This is why there are four accounts of Jesus' story told in the Bible, and altogether these are called "The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John." These books tell the royal news of Jesus' enthronement, and they also contain his teachings about "life in the kingdom." They are meant to serve as guides for his followers who today want to live as if the risen Jesus is the real cosmic king. And this gospel that tells the surprising story of God's self-giving love in Jesus has the power to change people. It is good news that is truly worth sharing.