

The Gospel

I. Introduction & Definition

- A. Gospel: Middle English, from Old English *gōdspel* (*gōd* = good + *spell* = tale).
- often capitalized: the message concerning Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.
 - capitalized: one of the first four New Testament books telling of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; also: a similar apocryphal book.
- B. εὐαγγέλιον ^{#2098}: *gospel, good news*. (εὖ adv. *well* + ἀγγέλλω *to announce*) Used 77x in the NT.
- εὐαγγελίζω ^{#2097}: *to bring good news, to proclaim glad tidings*. Used 54x in the NT.
 - εὐαγγελιστής ^{#2099}: *a bringer of good tidings, evangelist*. Used 3x in the NT.
 - Other terms: ἀγγέλλω ^{#32}, ἄγγελος ^{#32}, ἀγγελία ^{#31}.
- C. בָּשָׂר ^{#1319}: *to bear news, good news* & בְּשָׂרָה ^{#1309}: *news, good news, tidings*.

II. Descriptions of the Gospel (εὐαγγέλιον ^{#2098})

- A. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Lk. 16:16).
- B. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1). The Gospel of His Son (Rom. 1:9). The Gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:19; 1st Cor. 9:12; 2nd Cor. 2:12; 9:13; 10:14; Gal. 1:7; Phil. 1:27; 1st Thess. 3:2). The Gospel of our Lord Jesus (2nd Thess. 1:8).
- C. The Gospel of God (Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:1; 15:16; 2nd Cor. 11:7; 1st Thess. 2:2,8,9; 1st Pet. 4:17).
- D. The Gospel of Peace (Acts 10:36; Eph. 6:15).
- E. The Gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24).
- F. My Gospel (Rom. 2:16; 16:25; 2nd Tim. 2:8). Our Gospel (2nd Cor. 4:3; 1st Thess. 1:5; 2nd Thess. 2:14).
- G. The Gospel of your Salvation (Eph. 1:13).
- H. The Glorious Gospel of the blessed God (1st Tim. 1:11).

III. Subjects of Evangelizing (εὐαγγελίζω ^{#2097})

- A. The Kingdom of God (Lk. 4:43; 8:1; 16:16).
- B. Jesus the Christ (Acts 5:42). Jesus (Acts 8:35). The Lord Jesus (Acts 11:20). Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 17:18). His Son (Gal. 1:16).
- C. The Word (Acts 8:4; 1st Cor. 15:2; 1st Pet. 1:25 (*rhma*)). The Word of the Lord (Acts 15:35).
- D. The Promise Made to the Fathers (Acts 13:32).
- E. Good things (Rom. 10:15).
- F. The Faith (Gal. 1:23).
- G. Peace (Eph. 2:17).
- H. The unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8).
- I. An eternal Gospel (Rev. 14:6).

IV. The Old Testament Gospel

- A. God preached the Gospel to Abraham (Gal. 3:8).
- προεναγγερίζομαι ^{#4283}: *to announce glad tidings beforehand*.
 - Gospel messages prior to the completed work of Jesus Christ consisted of redemption promises of increasingly developed clarity.
 - The Seed of the Woman (Gen. 3:15) was the Protevangelium.
 - The God of Shem (Gen. 9:26) increased the clarity.
 - The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3) confirmed to Isaac (Gen. 26:3,4) and Jacob (Gen. 28:13-15) increased the clarity. (The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex. 3:6))
 - The scepter of Judah (Gen. 49:10), and the line of David (2nd Sam. 7:12-16) increased the clarity.
 - The virgin birth (Isa. 7:14) in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2) increased the clarity.
- B. The Old Testament demonstrates that—when viewed subjectively—good news is often relative to the attitude of the recipient (1st Sam. 4:17; 31:9; 2nd Sam. 4:10; 18:19,20,26,31).

- C. The Old Testament also demonstrates that the “most good” good news in the entire world is the good news of Salvation (1st Chr. 16:23 || Ps. 96:2; Ps. 40:9; Isa. 40:9; 41:27; 52:7; 60:6; 61:1; Nah. 1:15).
1. This good news is worthy of the Lord’s world-wide praise (1st Chr. 16:23 || Ps. 96:2).
 2. The good news is worthy of the Father’s heavenly praise (Ps. 40:9; cf. 22:22,25).
 3. Israel will be the world’s evangelist nation during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Isa. 40:9). During the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth, the Gentiles will bring their wealth and return with the Gospel (Isa. 60:6).
 4. The good news is possible because of the one and only messenger who accomplished what no one else could do (Isa. 41:27). He came with good news and proclaimed it publicly (Isa. 61:1; Lk. 4:16-21).
 5. From the perspective of Israel, salvation and the reign of God on earth are one and the same (Isa. 52:7). (Note: from the perspective of the Church, salvation and the heavenly position of the Bride are one and the same, 2nd Tim. 2:10).
- V. The Dispensation of Israel: Age of the Incarnation was announced through angelic evangelism (Lk. 1:19; 2:10). The Dispensation of Israel: Age of Tribulation will likewise feature angelic evangelism (Rev. 14:6).
- VI. The Gospel of the Kingdom
- A. John the Baptizer and the Lord Jesus Christ preached the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 3:2; 4:23; 9:35; Lk. 3:18; 4:43; 8:1; 16:16; 20:1). The Twelve were likewise commissioned to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom (Lk. 9:2,6).
 - B. The Gospel of the Kingdom during the Dispensation of Israel: Age of the Incarnation was 1st Advent fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecies (Matt. 11:5; Lk. 4:18; 7:22; Isa. 61:1).
 - C. The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached during the Dispensation of Israel: Age of Tribulation (Matt. 24:14). Every nation will be covered in this world-wide evangelism (Mark 13:10).
- VII. Applications of the Gospel during the Dispensation of the Church.
- A. The ministry of the Gospel is a sacrificial ministry (Mark 8:35; 10:29).
 - B. The ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a simple ministry for believers, and does not require any “cleverness” of speech (1st Cor. 1:17). The Gospel requires believers to be living examples of the verbal message (1st Thess. 1:5; 2:8).
 - C. The ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a family ministry in which the evangelist becomes the spiritual father of the one being saved (1st Cor. 4:15; Philem. 10). This evangelistic labor is followed by edification labor (Gal. 4:20).
 - D. Believers need to conduct their lives in such a way as to not cause a hindrance to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 9:12).
 - E. Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ ought to be supported by born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 9:14).
 - F. The ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the Dispensation of the Church is a ministry to Jews & Gentiles alike (Acts 8:12*,25,35,40; 15:7; Eph. 3:6,8).
 - G. The ministry of the Gospel to Jewish people is a ministry of identifying Jesus as the Jewish Messiah (Acts 5:42).
 - H. The ministry of the Gospel should spread and multiply through persecution (Acts 8:4).
 - I. The ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the Dispensation of the Church is a ministry which places a priority on making disciples (μαθητεύω #3100) (Acts 14:21; Matt. 28:19).
 - J. The ministry of the Word of God during the Dispensation of the Church is a ministry of teaching and evangelizing (Acts 15:35).

* Note that this is no longer the Gospel of the Kingdom, but the Gospel “concerning” or “about” (περι) the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ. This is an important transition from the Dispensation of Israel: Age of the Incarnation to the Dispensation of the Church: Age of the Apostles.

- K. During the Dispensation of the Church some believers are especially gifted with the spiritual gift of Evangelist (εὐαγγελιστής) (Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2nd Tim. 4:5).
- L. Believers should be eager to preach the Gospel, and not ashamed of the Gospel (Rom. 1:15,16).
- M. Readiness to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the all-important footgear for the Armor of God in the Dispensation of the Church (Eph. 6:15).
- N. The ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a priestly ministry for believers in the Dispensation of the Church (Rom. 15:16).
 - 1. The ministry of the Gospel is a mandatory ministry for every believer (1st Cor. 9:16,17).
 - 2. The ministry of the Gospel becomes a voluntary ministry when the grace orientation of the evangelist goes above and beyond any compulsion of the Lord's (1st Cor. 9:15,18-24).
- O. The content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1st Cor. 15:1-4).
 - 1. He died according to the Scriptures (v.3).
 - 2. He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (v.4).
- P. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached to the dead, that they might receive life (1st Pet. 4:6).
- Q. The primary activity of Satan in this dispensation is to veil the minds of the perishing, unbelieving ones so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel (2nd Cor. 4:3,4).
 - 1. The Gospel is veiled to the perishing ones. τοῖς ἀπολλυμένοις cf. 1st Cor. 1:18; 2nd Cor. 2:15; 2nd Thess. 2:10.
 - 2. The perishing are parallel to the unbelieving. ἄπιστος ^{#571}: *unfaithful, unbelieving*.
- R. The preaching of any “different” gospel preaches another Jesus through a different spirit (2nd Cor. 11:4). Such false gospels are the objects of God's cursing (Gal. 1:6-9).
- S. Believers in the Dispensation of the Church are expected to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:27). Worthiness of the Gospel equals unity in faith.
- T. The confession of the Gospel of Christ motivates believers to pray and support one another (2nd Cor. 9:13-15).
- U. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a trust given to believers in the Dispensation of the Church (1st Thess. 2:4; Gal. 2:7; 1st Cor. 9:17; 1st Tim. 1:11).