



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 6

“The Message of the Messiah”

3-14-21

Introduction: The Identity & Authority of Jesus

- In His baptism, the Lord Jesus was both identified Himself with sinners (in His true humanity) and distinguished from them (in His divinity), demonstrating that He alone was qualified to be the promised Redeemer. In His temptation, Jesus was shown to be the true and better Adam and the ideal Israelite as He remained faithful to the Lord, overcoming the Tempter in the wilderness.

Key Point: With His true identity established, the Lord Jesus began His public ministry with the _____ proclamation that the promised redemption of God was at hand.

The Message of the Lord

Mark 1:14-15—¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

- As the conclusion to Mark’s prologue, this statement serves as a _____ of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

(1) A particular _____ →

(2) A specific _____ →

(3) A clear _____ →

⇒ Jesus’ message was *prophetic*, declaring that “the time is fulfilled.” Messiah, the long-promised Redeemer, had now come to His people in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

⇒ Jesus’ message was *preparatory*, calling Israel to recognize that the long-awaited kingdom was “at hand.”

“the kingdom of God” — This is a clear reference to the Messianic kingdom and future rule of God promised in the OT.

“Since He gave no explanation of the meaning of the kingdom in His early proclamation, it seems reasonable to conclude that Jesus assumed His audience knew the meaning of this term. This is well founded in the view of the OT prophetic teaching about God’s future reign, which will bring about righteousness to all aspects of human experience, including the inward spiritual transformation as well as peace and justice in the sociopolitical realm.”

—Robert Saucy, *The Presence of the Kingdom & the Life of the Church*

“at hand”—ἐγγιζω (*engizō*)— This term indicates “the nearness” of the kingdom rather than it’s arrival (Matt. 21:1).

“The perfect tense points to the fact that the kingdom had drawn near and was then in a condition of nearness...[it] was here in a very real sense in that the king was here and it was Messiah’s work to bring the kingdom.”

—Stanley Toussaint, *Behold the King*

⇒ Jesus’ message was *practical*, calling Israel to repent in order that they might be spiritually prepared to receive the holistic redemption that the OT expected of the Messianic kingdom.

“Jesus preached the coming of a new era or season of God’s rule, marked by the nearness of *the kingdom of God*. Jesus’ very presence brought the kingdom near. He proclaimed that those who wished to participate in God’s kingdom must repent and believe the *good news* that he was spreading (1:15). There was this continuity between John’s message and this new message, for without repentance and faith one cannot embrace the good news of Jesus.”

—Victor Babajide Cole, *Africa Bible Commentary*

Key Point: As the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus could proclaim to Israel that they must _____ their need for redemption in order that they might receive Him and His kingdom.

The Kingdom of God in Scripture

- In the most basic sense, the kingdom of God should be understood as the _____ of God over His creation.

“...there is an eternal aspect as well as a temporal aspect; it has a universal nature as well as a local nature; or there is an immediate sense of the kingdom in which God rules directly, and a mediated sense of the kingdom in which God rules indirectly through appointed representatives.”

—Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come*

(1) The Universal (_____) Kingdom →

Psa. 145:13—Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

1 Chron. 29:11—Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

(2) The Mediatorial (_____) Kingdom →

⇒ Although it is God Almighty who is King forever, He determined from the beginning to administer His rule through various ages or dispensations:

- (1) Innocence—*God's Kingdom Established on Earth*
- (2) Conscience—*Administration of the Kingdom Through Conscience*
- (3) Human Government—*Administration of the Kingdom Through Government*
- (4) Promise—*The Kingdom Program Developed Through Abraham*
- (5) Law—*The Kingdom Program Administered Through Israel & the Messianic Kingdom Predicted*
- (6) Grace—*The Messianic Kingdom Postponed but It's Power Previewed*
- (7) The Millennium—*The Messianic Kingdom Established*

“The Bible’s storyline shows how the *kingdom created* goes to the *kingdom fallen*, which then leads to the *kingdom restored*. This storyline is centered and anchored in Jesus the Messiah.” —Michael Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*

- **The OT prophets anticipated the future establishment of God’s kingdom on earth under the rule of Messiah where _____ and the _____ would receive the blessings of God’s covenant promises.**
 - ⇒ Israel will have their sins forgiven (Jer. 31:31-34) and will be cleansed from defilement by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Ezek. 36:26-27). They will be established in the land and ruled over by Messiah (Ezek. 37:24-28). Messiah, the Servant of the Lord, will bring God’s salvation to all the nations (Isa. 49:5-6).
 - ⇒ This is the kingdom that was proclaimed by Jesus in the gospels and is referred to throughout the NT.

“[It is important] to see Jesus and the NT authors affirming and expecting a literal fulfillment of the OT promises as understood by the OT authors and audiences. This includes...the national and physical blessings for ethnic Israel along with blessings for the gentiles.”
—Michael Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*
- **The Lord Jesus did not establish the promised Messianic kingdom during His earthly ministry but He displayed its _____ through His personal presence.**
 - ⇒ Jesus’ teachings about the kingdom point towards its future establishment.

Luke 19:11—As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.

Luke 21:31—So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
 - ⇒ The power of the kingdom was demonstrated through Jesus’ authority as King in His teaching (Mark 1:22), His healing of the sick (Mark 1:31), and in His casting out of demons (Mark 1:34).

Key Point: In His first coming, the Lord Jesus came not to establish His kingdom, but to accomplish the _____ upon which His kingdom would be established at His second coming.

Concluding Thoughts

- **For believers, the teachings concerning the kingdom must be understood in terms of our _____ to the king!**

Col. 1:13-14—¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- **The Bible’s teaching about the kingdom of God is intended to fill us with _____ for the future!**

1 Cor. 15:50-51, 57-58—⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

To Reign With Christ in the Millennium

Rev. 2:26-27—²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

To Experience Consummate Blessing in His Presence

Rev. 22:3-4—³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.