

Parson to Person

Galatians 1

(Introduction – Part 4)

The Gospel of Grace vs. The Gospel of the Kingdom

~Repeated from Last Week~

“Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead) ...But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:1, 11–12).

Having elaborated on The Gospel of Grace, this week I want to dig a little deeper into The Gospel of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God, while broadly referring to the universal/eternal rule of God, should not be understood as the only thing communicated within the title and definition. The Kingdom of God is the eternal/universal rule of God, but also a reference to the coming earthly Kingdom, wherein Jesus will rule with a rod of iron. During the Kingdom Age, Satan will be bound and the curse will be restrained; the promised land will be restored to the redeemed of Israel, and for 1000 years, all the then-immortal redeemed will reign over mortal men and women who will be welcomed into that period of history (see Psalm 2; Revelation 2:27, 19:11–15; 20:1–6). So much more can be written...

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The Gospel of the Kingdom is the proclamation of the “good news” of both the eternal/spiritual rule of God and the coming earthly reign of Christ—the 1000 years. However, the overall Bible emphasis, described throughout the Old Testament/Old Covenant, is that future earthly 1000-

year Kingdom. Note that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth even as it is in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10).

Inheritance in and of the Kingdom

All believers, from Adam to the last Christ-trusting soul, will be the recipients of the Kingdom—both the spiritual/eternal and the physical. Those who inherit the Kingdom are the recipients of The Gospel of Grace!

Week before last, I mentioned that those who do not respond to the Gospel of Grace will forfeit the blessings associated with the Gospel of the Kingdom (see Matthew 8:11–12, Luke 13:28–30). Moreover, I mentioned that one may preach and/or believe in the Gospel of the Kingdom while rejecting the Gospel of Grace—and thus forfeit the blessings associated with that Kingdom. However, those who respond to the Gospel of Grace will, as a by-product, benefit from all the blessings of the eternal and coming Kingdom.

The Promised Land and Promised Kingdom

As noted in Genesis, God gave a specific piece of land to his descendants—by covenant (Genesis 15:18). Moreover, the Land was given them within the framework of an everlasting covenant God Himself promised not to break—even if it meant He must supernaturally bring about His desired end (see Psalm 37:29; Ezekiel 36:16–37, etc.).

The coming Kingdom includes a promise to King David that his son (the Messiah) would rule in Israel—and that he himself would be raised to rule with Him during the post-disciplinary restoration promised (see Psalm 110:1; 132:11, Ezekiel 37:24).

The promise of a restored Israel ruled by their Messiah is interwoven throughout the Old Covenant and revisited in the pages of the New Testament books.

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' birth saying, *"For unto us a Child is [to be] born, unto us a Son [will be] is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder"* (Isaiah 9:6a).

At the birth of Jesus, Luke recorded the words of an angel, saying, *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10–11).

John the revelator wrote that out of Israel a king would be born to reign. He recorded his vision citing, *"She [a picture of Israel] bore a male Child [Jesus] who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne"* (Revelation 12:5)—and that Child was Jesus, the King!

The Messiah—Jesus

Jesus was virgin-born in Israel/of Israel, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died vicariously in our place for our sins through His sacrificial death on the cross, was buried, and physically resurrected from the dead after three days and three nights. He then visibly ascended into heaven and is interceding for us and for the people of Israel.

Jesus will return in glory and establish His earthly rule. He mentioned this Himself, saying, *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory"* (Matthew 25:31).

Coming Soon

The coming earthly Kingdom of Jesus is the fulfillment of many promises made to the Jewish people—who will be healed of their current blindness and revived to enjoy its blessings. It is the anticipated Kingdom the Old Testament saints looked for but died before receiving—*"These all died in faith, not having received the promises..."* (Hebrews 11:13a).

The saints from Adam to the last believing saint in the Old Covenant—along with the Tribulation martyrs—will be resurrected at the Second Coming in order to reign with Jesus. We will return with Him to inherit the Kingdom and reign under His rule during the 1000 years. We will enjoy all of the blessings of the New Heaven and New Earth following—where we'll forever be with the Lord.

So Much to Cover

For additional study—should you like, please read the following: Psalm 2; 110; Isaiah 16:5; Jeremiah 31; 33:14–18; Ezekiel 36; Matthew 4:23; 24:14, and Romans 9–11. Also read, Hosea 6:1–3, Isaiah 26:12–21, Daniel 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, and Revelation 20:4–6. Oh well, just read the whole bible. That would be better... LOL

During the service today I plan to read Ezekiel 36:11 through Ezekiel 37—but you never know what will happen when I'm teaching.

Love you all,
Pastor Paul

“I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it, says the LORD” (Ezekiel 37:12b–14).