

## **The Gospel Story And the Kingdom of God**

**Introduction:** The word “*gospel*” means “story” or “God’s story.” The four Gospels are in reality the story of a King and his kingdom. Each tells the story from a different perspective.

**Apply:** Western thought- we tend to analysis them and turn the Gospels into an instruction manual for successful living. The danger is it can put you under condemnation very quickly. Better to let each Gospel tell you its story and make its point.

**The Synoptics-** The three Gospels-Matthew Mark and Luke are called the “synoptics” because they tell the Story of Jesus differently, but uniquely the same (synoptic means to “see the same”)

**Matthew=** the theme is “fulfilled.” Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Covenant promises of a coming Messiah. For example, Matthew’s story begins with a genealogy that starts with Abraham, thus Jesus is the son of Israel, its Messiah

**Mark=** the theme is that Jesus the wonder/worker has come, He is the Servant/king coming to redeem all men. Mark has no genealogy, but rather begins with John the Baptizer

**Luke=**his genealogy begins with Adam, showing Jesus is the Savior of the world. He is for all men, not just Jews.

**John=** the fourth gospel, presents Jesus as the Eternal Word, God’s final word to mankind. He is the Word made flesh. His story begins in eternity past, from “the beginning.”

### **The four Gospels together tells us the story of Jesus:**

#### **I.** They tell us *one* story.

The story is that all of Creation is coming to a climax in the advent of the Kingdom of God.

They are announcing that a new era has come, a radical event has happened in the coming of King Jesus. Things will never be the same again!

#### **II.** They tell *us the rest* of the story-

The Old covenant is being fulfilled in the New. Israel the old has failed, but is being fulfilled in the new people of God- the Church. All the Gospels see the Kingdom of God as coming out of the Old Covenant. The whole bible is not many stories but is a unit, one big story, the old covenant being fulfilled in the new.

#### **III.** They tell us a *salvation* story- a Redeemer King has come to rescue mankind and establish His kingdom.

**Explain:** The story begins in Eden’s Garden where God creates man in His image. Adam was a king ruling the Garden. See **Genesis 1:28**

**Illustration:** God’s one word to Adam= “You are a King, rule and have dominion.”  
Satan’s one word to Adam= “you are not a King, you are a God”

**Apply:** the Gospel story is that God's King, Jesus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, (see **Romans 5: 12-19**) who climbed up on a Cross and made it His throne and defeated Satan's rule. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam is ruling and his throne is a Cross! Jesus has come and salvation for all mankind is possible to all who will receive His offer of grace and forgiveness.

#### IV. The Old Covenant *Exodus* story.

**Explain:** Israel's story is that God has delivered Israel out Egyptian bondage. That story is a continual theme in the Gospels-the King will deliver his people. Our Exodus is the Cross event- the death, burial, resurrection & ascension of King Jesus has provided our "exodus" from sin's bondage. In this sense, salvation is a deliverance from the bondage of sin.

#### **The Gospels & the Kingdom of God**

Salvation to the Jews was that a good and powerful King (like David) will win over a bad King. The lesson of the exile is God's judgment on a bad King (pharaoh) ruling over them. The fulfillment story is that our good King Jesus has sacrificed his life for our deliverance.

**Illustration:** In the book of **Daniel**, he has a vision where he sees the day when God will place His king (the Son of Man) on His throne to establish an everlasting Kingdom, ruling over the kingdom's of man. God's great King and His kingdom is coming.

**Note:** The Jews always saw this king and His Kingdom as physical, their concept of a Messiah as a Warrior King. See **Isiah 9:6, 7**

**Illustration:** John the Baptist offered Israel a *Lamb/King*, the Jews were expecting a *Lion/king*! Jesus was their Savior/king to deliver Israel, but the Jews only saw Rome and wanted to be delivered from Rome

#### V. The Gospel story is that "*messiah*" is here.

Jesus is Israel (prince of God) fulfilled. Just as the tribe of Israel was God's chosen Son, even so in a greater sense Jesus is Israel, God's promised Son. Jesus is not only the Son of David, He is the greater David.

VI. The Gospels tell us that the new people of God (indwelt by the Israel/Jesus) can do what Israel was meant to do. The Church's calling is to establish the rule of the King in every Nation.

#### **Summary and Action steps:**

1. The King has come and brings his Kingdom with Him.

This means “Kingdom Come” is already here. Where Jesus “is” his rule, power, and presence can be realized. The “already” and “not yet” has begun in the death, burial and resurrection of King Jesus.

2. The Kingdom is here NOW, and is in you-child of God.  
The Kingdom is within every born again child of God. Christ in you is the hope of Glory.
3. Kingdom rule is available to all who are indwelt with the Spirit of the King. Kingdom subjects have “dominion.” We are not ruled by circumstances, but by Kingdom power and presence. Jesus has given us his authority (see **Matthew 28:18**)
4. God’s Story (Gospel) says that like Adam of old, you have a role to play in the drama. You are to go out and “name the animals.” You have “Kingdom come” authority to do the will of God, to subdue the Earth and spread God’s image throughout the nations.
5. You must believe it, apply it, and bring “Kingdom come” to your life.