

Introduction

In lesson three, we looked at the problem of sin and how sin separated man from God. During the history of the Israelite's, we saw sin continue to separate man from God. Israel continually rejected God and His covenant.

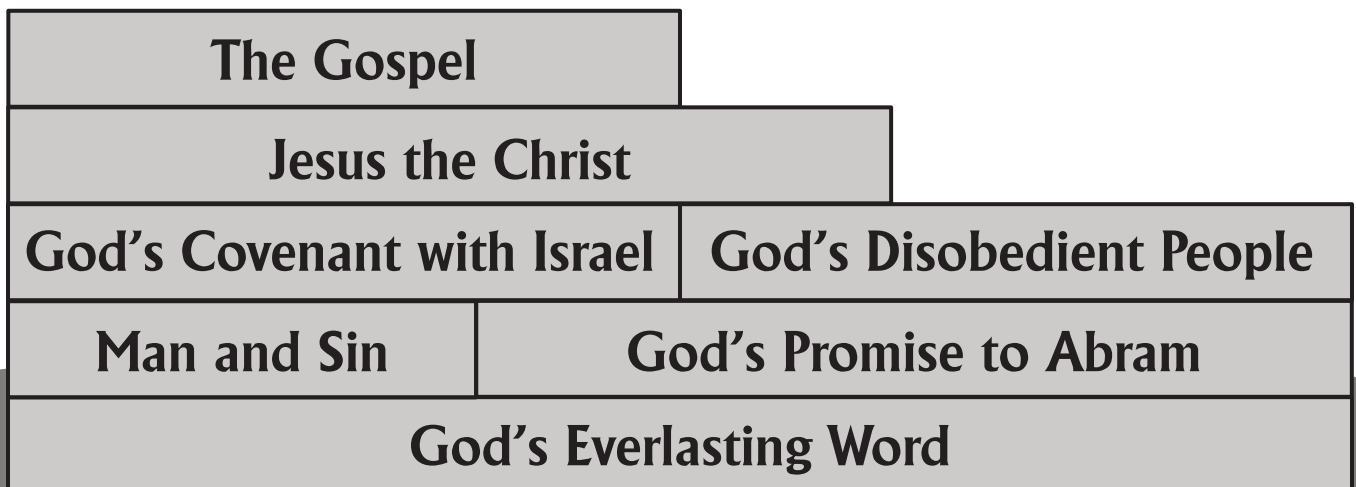
Thankfully, *“when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”* (Galatians 4:4-5) God sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. Through Jesus Christ, mankind could be redeemed and reconciled to the heavenly Father.

This message of salvation needed to be declared to the lost world, beginning with the Jewish people. In this lesson, *“The Gospel,”* we will consider the good news of salvation declared by Jesus Christ and His apostles.

NOTES

The Gospel, Foretold in Prophecy

- A. God’s promise to Abraham (covered in lesson two) foretold the good news of blessings through Jesus Christ. (Genesis 22:15-18)
- B. Isaiah foretold the good news being proclaimed to the people of the world.
 - 1. Isaiah prophesied a day when *“Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field.”* (Isaiah 29:17-19)
 - 2. Isaiah prophesied of the proclamation of salvation. (Isaiah 52:7)
 - 3. Isaiah prophesied of the one who would be anointed to *“preach the good tidings to the poor.”* (Isaiah 61:1-2)



World Filled with Sin

NOTES

The Gospel, Proclaimed by Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel. (Luke 4:17-21)
 - 1. Jesus, while in the synagogue in Nazareth, read from Isaiah 61:1-2.
 - 2. After reading the text, Jesus said, *“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”* (vs 21)
 - 3. Jesus was anointed to...
 - a. *“preach the gospel to the poor.”*
 - b. *“heal the brokenhearted...”*
 - c. *“proclaim liberty to the captives...”*
 - d. recover the sight to the blind.
 - e. *“set at liberty those who are oppressed...”*
 - f. *“proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...”*
- B. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom.
 - 1. The gospel of Mark begins, *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”* (Mark 1:1). Mark continues by talking about the role of John the baptizer and his message of repentance. (Mark 1:4; cf. Matthew 3:12)
 - 2. Later in Mark, chapter one, Mark wrote, *“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’”* (Mark 1:14-15)
 - 3. Matthew 4:23 reads, *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”* (cf. Matthew 9:35)
 - 4. Jesus preached the gospel to the poor. (Matthew 11:1-5)

The Gospel Message

- A. The gospel is the message of redemption.
 - 1. Zacharias, the father of John the baptizer said the Lord *“had visited and redeemed His people.”* (Luke 1:67-75)
 - 2. Anna bore witness of Jesus to *“all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”* (Luke 2:38)
 - 3. The men on the road to Emmaus told Jesus they were hoping for the one who would *“redeem Israel.”* (Luke 24:21)

4. The apostle Paul taught we are *“justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 3:21-26)
- B. The gospel is the message of forgiveness.
1. Jesus told His apostles they would preach *“repentance and remission of sins”* in His name to all nations. (Luke 24:46-49)
 2. The apostle Paul taught we have *“the forgiveness of sins”* through the blood of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 1:12-14)
- C. The gospel is the message of salvation.
1. As seen earlier, Zacharias prophesied, saying the Lord God of Israel *“has raised up a horn of salvation.”* (Luke 1:68-69)
 2. The apostle Peter told the people that salvation is found only in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:8-12)
- D. The gospel is the message of the freedom from sin.
1. Jesus told the Jews if they would abide in His word, then they would *“know the truth, and the truth”* would make them free. (John 8:31-36)
 2. The apostle Paul taught that when a person obeys *“from the heart that form of doctrine”* they are *“set free from sin.”* (Romans 6:15-23)

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The Gospel, Delivered to Jew and Gentile

- A. During the limited commission, the initial message of the coming kingdom was proclaimed only to the *“lost sheep of the house of Israel.”* (Matthew 10:5-10)
- B. After the death of Jesus, the gospel message was preached to everyone.
1. Seen in the prophecies of Isaiah. (Isaiah 49:6)
 2. Prophesied by Simeon. (Luke 2:27-32)
 3. Commanded by Jesus. (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; cf. Mark 16:15-16)
 4. Fulfilled by the apostles. (Acts 10:44-48; 13:44-48; cf. Ephesus 3:8-13)

Conclusion

God’s plan for the salvation of man began before the foundation of the world. The apostle Peter wrote, *“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”* (cf. 1 Peter 1:20-21) The power of salvation exists within the good news of Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross of Calvary. The apostle Paul wrote, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of*

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God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

Our charge is to continue spreading the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world lost in sin. We must teach the world of Jesus Christ, knowing that salvation is found only in Him and in His wonderful word.

In our next lesson, *The Apostles*, we will look at who Jesus chose to carry His message to the world.◀