

B. The message also shapes our approach.

i. Is the focus on sin and the sinner?

ii. Or on Jesus the King?

iii. Suddenly God's message of reconciliation and good works don't seem worlds apart anymore. Rather the works begin to serve the purpose of the message—to reconcile people with God and restore them to His shalom.



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Why might Isaiah 52:7 be the most Gospel saturated verse in the OT? What is the Gospel message which it proclaims?
- In Psalm 97:1-2 why is the earth glad and are the [peoples of] the distant shores rejoicing? Where are we in that description?
- Do people today long for justice and peace? Why might this point us to an entry point for the Gospel? ...to the relevance of the Gospel?
- How does the proclamation of Christ's reign and the kind of King He is still address the issue of sin, even though indirectly?
- How does understanding the message of the Gospel as an announcement of Christ's reconciling reign also
- For a deep dive into what living as a reconciling ambassador might look like check out Rosario Butterfield's book: *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*.

Gospel Clarity: What is the Gospel and Why Do We Need It?

Jerry Cisar — January 28, 2024

Text: Isaiah 52:7

Introduction

"If we have misplaced hopes, we will have misplaced fears. When we seek the wrong kingdom, we will fear the wrong apocalypse." Russell Moore

I. What is the Gospel?

A. This may be the most Gospel infused verse in the Bible.

i. "Your God reigns!"

ii. The Gospel is the announcement that God is king.

a) Psalm 97:1-2

b) Is "Jesus is King" good news?

B. The Gospel is Not Just Any Good News

i. "Gospel means good news" misconception.

a) Gospel (*euangelion*) is a prefix (*eu*) meaning "good" and A root (*angelia*) meaning "proclamation" or "announcement." Hence "good proclamation."

b) That's how the word was formed, not its definition.

ii. In the 1st century, a short definition of *euangelion* would be: *the proclamation of a new ruler who will bring about a changed way of life or society.*

- iii. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most relevant thing to the longings of the world today... to the longings of the young, the disenfranchised, the declining middle class, the educated and the uneducated alike.

The Gospel is the proclamation of Jesus' birth, life, and enthronement, including how he ascended to power (the cross and resurrection), his speeches and decrees (e.g. the Sermon on the Mount), his acts which bring fulfillment to the longings of the world for justice and peace (healing the sick, feeding the hungry, bearing our sins, cleansing us, transforming us).

Succinctly we can say: The Gospel is the proclamation that the rule of God has been restored to the world in Jesus *the* King. It includes the story of how it came about through His coming, life, teaching, death, resurrection, and ascension.

- iv. Short Gospel Summaries
 - a) "Your God reigns"
 - b) Acts 2:36 "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."
 - c) Acts 5:42 They did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.
 - d) Acts 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.
 - e) Acts 8:12 Philip preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus [the] Christ.

II. Why is it Good?

- A. *Because He is a good King.*
 - i. The Gospel counter's the serpent's lie.
 - a) Genesis 3:1-6
 - b) Is God good or is God withholding?

- ii. Genesis 1-3 pictures God as a king.

B. *Because we make lousy kings.*

- i. "Repentance is the first word of the Gospel."
 - a) Matt. 3:1-2
 - b) Matt. 4:17
 - c) Since the fall is rooted in rejecting God as king, the first human step in response to the Gospel is "repentance."
 - Repentance is when we stop rejecting God as King.
 - Repentance is a change, not only in how we think, but also how we live.
- ii. We capture a sense of both repentance and the fact that we make lousy kings in Prov. 3:5-6.

III. Gospel Ambassadors of Reconciliation

- A. *The Gospel Shines Your Shoes.*
 - i. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- ii. "I want to share Jesus with people who don't know Him, but I don't even know where to begin"?