

# Word Study: Gospel



The gospel is the good news proclamation that the crucified and risen Jesus is king. We become citizens of God's kingdom by trusting in Jesus alone.

בשר / 'bisser' בשרה / 'besorah'	εὐαγγέλιον / 'euangelion'	gospel
Old Testament Hebrew words for a national announcement or royal news.	Greek compound word - "Eu" means good and "angelion" means announcement.	English translation of the Greek word "euangelion" meaning good news

## Old Testament Context

In the Old Testament, "good news" is an announcement related to royalty and their kingdoms. It's often connected with the victory of a king or the enthronement of a king over his kingdom. When David wins a battle, it is good news (bisser) because David is still king (2 Sam 18:31). When Solomon is made king, a good news (bisser) announcement is spread throughout the land (1 Kgs 1:42).

God promised that a faithful king would rise from the line of David (2 Samuel 7). This king would rule an eternal kingdom and fulfill God's promise to bless the nations. The prophets spoke of the coming king as both a suffering servant (Isa 52-53) and a triumphant heavenly deliverer (Dan 7). The Israelites were waiting for that person to bring the kingdom of God. When that time came, it would surely be good news.

## The Messenger

In Jesus' earthly ministry, he came announcing the good news (euangelion) that God's kingdom is here (Mark 1:14-15). But the kingdom Jesus described is not the powerful, militaristic kingdom the Jews expected. Instead, Jesus describes the kingdom as a heavenly kingdom, one of love and peace where the greatest people are those who love their enemies and serve the poor.

## The King

Jesus was not only the messenger who brought the good news of the kingdom, he also claimed to be the king (John 18:28-19:16). In his ultimate act of sacrificial love for his enemies, Jesus was crucified. It's in his death that Jesus demonstrated his loving, kingly rule by being exalted not on a throne, but on a cross. Jesus rose from the dead and now reigns as king, inviting all people to become citizens of the kingdom of God by putting their trust in him.

## The Commission

When Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection, he commissioned them to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel (euangelion) to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). All followers of Jesus are now the messengers of the good news of the kingdom. We are to proclaim the gospel and invite others into the kingdom.

The crucified and risen Jesus is king. This is the gospel, the good news that we are called to believe, to allow to transform our hearts, and to proclaim to the world.