



# REALITY

## **The Gospel According to Jesus**

Mark 1:1-15

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### **Mark 1:1-15**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way—

a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love;

with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Gospel according to Jesus: “The Kingdom of God has come near.”

What is the Kingdom of God?

**Kingdom Defined:** The Kingdom of God is an expression that embodied the hopes of the Jewish people that God would one day remove all evil from the world and inaugurate a new, unprecedented age of blessing, prosperity and joy.

**Spiritual:**

- Power of sin destroyed
- Enemy Satan disarmed
- All people would worship God

**Spatial:**

- World would not know poverty or hunger (Economic)
- Oppressive governments would be brought down (Political)
- World would not know famine or deprivation and all animals would get along (Environmental)

**Close Curtain**

This Age  
(Satan’s Time)

**Open Curtain**

The Age to Come  
(The Time of God’s Rule)

**Characterized by:**

Sin  
Sickness  
Demon-possession  
Evil people triumph

**Characterized by:**

The presence of the Spirit of God  
Righteousness  
Health  
Peace

The availability of the Kingdom of God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Already, Not Yet of the Kingdom of God

**Two-Part Gospel:**

Born a sinner, bound for hell  
Jesus saves, get to go to heaven

**The Whole Gospel:**

Creation: God created the world as good, I was made in God's image  
Fall: Sin entered the world through disobedience  
Redemption: Life and the availability of God's presence through Jesus  
Restoration: The renewal of all things

"We are also asking the Plan of Salvation to do something it was never intended to do. The Plan of Salvation, to put this crudely, isn't discipleship or justice or obedience. The Plan of Salvation leads to one thing and to one thing only: salvation. Justification leads to a declaration by God that we are in the right, that we are in the people of God; it doesn't lead inexorably to a life of justice or goodness or loving-kindness. If it did, all Christians would be more just and more filled with goodness and drenched in love."

- *The King Jesus Gospel*