

THIRTY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS  
MARK 1:14-15, MATT 4:12-17 | JESUS AND THE KINGDOM GOSPEL

## PREACHING THE GOSPEL (MARK 1:14)

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- What does the text say?
  - “of God” – NASB & other modern versions
  - “of the Kingdom of God” –KJV
- What is the Gospel?
  - “Jesus Christ is the Gospel”
  - The Bible is the Gospel
  - The Saving Gospel must include the completed work of propitiation: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- By necessity, the “Gospel of the Kingdom of God” is different than the Saving Gospel.
  - Compare Matt. 7:21-23 with Romans 10:9-10.
  - Reconcile the Rich Young Ruler and the conclusion (Luke 18:29-30) with the Saving Gospel.
  - If you make the mistake of “mixing gospels” you will also mix requirements and benefits.

## THE FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 9:1-2 (MATTHEW 4:12-16)

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- The territory:
  - The Land of Zebulon and Naphtali
  - By the way of the sea...Galilee of the Gentiles: *Via Maris...circuit of the nations*
    - *Via Maris* = “Way of the Sea”
    - *Galilee* = Circuit
    - *Gentiles* = *Ethnos* = *Nations*
  - The Via Maris was the most important highway in the ancient world and had a crossroads in the Jezreel Valley near Megiddo.
  - A common error is to teach that “Jesus began his ministry among gentiles.”
    - James Montgomery Boice, “What Matthew is concerned about and emphasizes—this is what governs his selection, at least of this early

material—is that Jesus began his work in *Galilee*, which he identifies by a quotation from Isaiah 9:1–2 as “Galilee of the Gentiles.” In other words, Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and King, began his ministry in a predominantly Gentile area and did so in fulfillment of an important Old Testament prophecy.”<sup>1</sup>

- The darkness and the dawn. (Isaiah 9:1-7)
  - The Assyrians, under Tiglath-Pileser, had desolated the land of Zebulon and Naphtali in 732 BC. Through Isaiah, God had promised a brighter day (Isaiah 9:1-7).
  - Jesus’ 16-month ministry in this region was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy, “Upon them a Light dawned.”
  - The full promise included Isaiah 9:1-7, and included a multiplication of the nation, an abundance of harvest, and the end of war (Isaiah 9:3-5). This portion of the promise is yet to be fulfilled, but will be, in full reality.
  - The means of this promise will be “a child born to us” upon whose shoulders the government will rest, which will be called the “throne of David.”
  - The promise will be fulfilled by “the zeal of the Lord of hosts.”

## THE PREACHING OF JESUS (MATTHEW 4:17, MARK 1:15)

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- The sermon: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
  - Strong’s Word #1448 ἐγγίζω [eggizo /eng-id-zo/].
    - Meaning: 1 to bring near, to join one thing to another. 2 to draw or come near to, to approach.<sup>2</sup>
    - The Greek word for “hand” is not in the sentence.
    - Other occurrences: Matthew 21:1, 34; James 5:8, 1 Peter 4:7
- The doctrinal position that still holds to the fulfillment of the literal promises of the Kingdom of God is called *premillennialism*.
  - *Amillennialism* does not believe in an earthly Kingdom.
  - *Postmillennialism* believes in a spiritual Kingdom on earth, which will usher in the *Second Coming*.
  - *Premillennialism* believes in an earthly Kingdom, yet future.
- Jesus so consistently taught the message of a coming earthly Kingdom that He was eventually crucified with charges of insurrection: Jesus, King of the Jews.

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<sup>1</sup> Boice, James Montgomery. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.