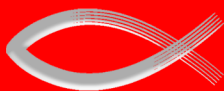


εὐαγγέλιον



GOSPEL



GOOD NEWS

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euangelion

Pronunciation:

(yoo-ang-ghel-ee-on)

Definition:

a message of good news

Usage:

good news of a king's arrival

(Greek literature)



BEGINNING

In the beginning of time, God created nature and people as an expression of His wisdom, power, and beauty. By creating the earth, God designed a place where He and mankind could dwell together. God loves people from every nation and has created them to know Him through a personal relationship.



FALL

Adam was the first man God created. He enjoyed much freedom in a beautiful garden but was not permitted to gather food from one specific tree. Adam rebelled against this restriction because he resented God's authority to decide moral and spiritual boundaries. As a result of this disobedience, the earth was cursed to show how offensive it is to rebel against God. Our beautiful earth is now a fractured earth. We see this in the harshness of nature and the cruelty of man.



PROMISE

But God has not abandoned the earth. Many centuries ago, He promised a man named Abraham that his family would grow into a nation that would bring hope to all people. It was through this nation that God began to restore the broken world by teaching people how to live in His presence. He covered their failures through the bloodshed of animal sacrifices. But millions of sacrifices over hundreds of years revealed that man's heart could only be changed by a greater sacrifice.



MISSION

Two thousand years ago, God sent His Son to live on earth as a man. His name was JESUS, which means “Savior.” As He travelled through villages and towns, crowds were drawn by His compassion and awed by His miracles. His words produced hope because people knew that God was speaking through Him. Jesus, who is also called CHRIST, came to establish an eternal kingdom that is greater than all the power and wealth of this world. Even though He perfectly loved God and man, Jesus was crucified by His enemies because He claimed to be the Son of God.



LIBERATION

God permitted this great evil because it was His eternal plan to choose a time and place to transfer the guilt of history onto His innocent Son. This is the beautiful mystery of the cross – Christ was judged so that we could be pardoned. Three days after Jesus died, God affirmed the greatness of His Son by raising Him from the grave. Because sin was judged and Christ was raised, God has set us free from the fear of death.



SPIRIT

Soon after He rose from the grave, Jesus returned to the right hand of God, where He is now completing His global mission. The moment we place our faith in Christ, He sends His Spirit to live within us. The Holy Spirit gives us a desire to love God and be led by God. He helps us grow in our understanding of God. He gives comfort by reminding us of God's great love for us. We will face many hardships on this earth, but because the Spirit of God lives in us, we are never alone.



RENEWAL

At the end of time, God will create a new earth that is free from the curse of sin. We are not satisfied with this world because we long for that world. It is on the new earth that God and man will live together in uninterrupted joy. God's eternal love for people is the good news of history. God is the gospel.



RESPONSE

The first people who followed Christ were fishermen who spent their days casting nets into the sea. Jesus said that telling the gospel is like casting hope to a suffering and sinful world. In the early years of the church, people would express their faith in Christ by drawing a simple outline of a fish. No hand was too poor or too guilty to draw the fish. Christ promised a new start to everyone who came to Him. True peace can enter your heart today. Believe the gospel. Turn to God. Follow Jesus.



DRAWTHEFISH.ORG

REFERENCES

The statements in this booklet are based upon the claims of Scripture. Supporting Bible verses are printed on the following pages, which correspond to the previous sections.

BEGINNING

GENESIS 1

(1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

PSALM 19

(1) The heavens declare the glory of God...

ACTS 17

(24) The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... (26) From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

(27) God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him...

FALL

GENESIS 2

(15) The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (16) And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; (17) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

ROMANS 5

(12) ...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin...

ROMANS 8

(20) For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it [God], in hope (21) that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage...and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

PROMISE

GENESIS 12

(1) The Lord...said to [Abraham]... (2) “I will make you into a great nation... (3) ...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

HEBREWS 10

(4) It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins... (11) Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

EZEKIEL 36

(25) ...I will cleanse you from all your impurities...
(26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh... (28) Then...you will be my people, and I will be your God.

MISSION

ISAIAH 9

(6) For to us a child is born...a son...and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God... (7) Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end...

MATTHEW 1

(20) ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

MATTHEW 4

(23) Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching...the good news of the kingdom...

MISSION

(CONT.)

ACTS 10

(37) You know what has happened throughout the province... (38) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

JOHN 5

(18) For this reason they tried all the more to kill him...he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

JOHN 19

(14) ...“Here is your king,” Pilate said... (15) But they shouted, “Take him away!...Crucify him!”... (16) ...So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. (17) Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place... called Golgotha... (18) There they crucified him...

LIBERATION

GALATIANS 3

(10) For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”... (13) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

HEBREWS 2

(14) Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— (15) and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

ACTS 2

(23) This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. (24) But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

LIBERATION

(CONT.)

HEBREWS 1

(3) ...After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

HEBREWS 7

(25) ...he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

SPIRIT

JOHN 14

(16) “...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of truth...”

ROMANS 8

(11) ...he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

ROMANS 8

(14) For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (15) The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption... And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” (16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

RENEWAL

REVELATION 21

(1) Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... (3) ...“God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them... (4) ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (5) He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”...

RESPONSE

JOHN 6

(35) Then Jesus declared... (37) ...“whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

ROMANS 5

(1) ...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTS 3

(19) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

LUKE 5

(8) ...Simon Peter...said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”... (10) ...Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” (11) So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard W. Smith is a teaching pastor at Hope Point Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is the author of *Chasing What Matters: Finishing Without Regret*.

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