

THE GOSPEL UNMASKED (Mark 1:14)

On Sundays many church pastors and teachers will use verses from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. While it might be easily *applied* to the church of today, many will take verses out of context and teach something about the church rather than the original intent. There are two reasons why this happens.

1. Failure to understand that these four books were written specifically for the nation of Israel and in relation to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry for them and them alone.
2. Most bible believers, teachers and preachers fail to study and understand the O. T. and ignore it. Then, most teachers, preachers, and bible believers fail to study and understand the book of the Revelation, thus the concentration of teaching and preaching is in the 25% that is left.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 3:3 In these verses we see the arrival of John the Baptist and his ministry of preaching the Gospel of The Kingdom. To *repent* was his message, meaning to change their mind from sin to the Lord. His baptism was symbolic and was a preparation for Israel for the Kingdom.

John 1:31 John stated why he was baptizing with water. Israel's repentance and baptism would allow the Messiah to be manifested to them. Those that repented and were baptized later believed on Jesus.

John 1:23; Isaiah 40:3 When asked by the religious crowd who he was John just stated the truth as was prophesied over 700 years before and the Pharisees knew well the O. T. prophet Isaiah.

Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:9-14 The scriptures perfectly validate John's ministry; that of him being Christ's for runner and also him being the “*spirit of Elijah.*”

JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 4:17; 6:10 As soon as Jesus began His earthly ministry He preached the same Gospel message of the Kingdom as John did. Jesus also taught His disciples to pray for the Kingdom.

Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24 Scripture is pretty plain. Jesus came to win over Israel and to set up His Kingdom. He did not preach the Gospel of “whosoever will” and didn't want His people to either!

O.T. ON REPENTANCE AND THE KINGDOM

Ezekiel 18:30-32; Malachi 3:7; Zechariah 1:3 The call to repent for Israel did not originate with John the Baptist but was a clarion call through the history of the nation of Israel.

Psalms 22:27-28; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44 The message of the Kingdom was not new to the Jewish people either. Many of the O. T. prophets wrote of the coming Kingdom and its promise from God.

Matthew 4:17 The thing that John preached that was new was the phrase “*the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” The time of John and Jesus was the very time the Kingdom was being offered to Israel.

ISRAEL'S KINGDOM FUTURE

Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 61:6; Exodus 29:4 In the Kingdom, Israel will function as a nation of priests. Since they are to be priests, the cleansing/ baptism preached by John is symbolic of O. T. priesthood.

Zechariah 8:20-23; Isaiah 60:2-5 Israel will also evangelize the world during the Kingdom. Whereas Israel has been hated by all nations since its inception, they will one day be recognized as a blessing to all nations.

These important facts and more all regarding the nation of Israel are what is found in the four Gospels of the N. T.