



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#61)
They shouldn't have been surprised!

God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...

2 Peter 1:3a (ISV)

Regarding the Good News, he has given us:

- ✓ The Old Testament – God's preparation for the Good News.
- ✓ The Gospels – Jesus' accomplishment of the Good News.
- ✓ The book of Acts – The proclamation of the Good News.
- ✓ The epistles – The significance of the Good News.
- ✓ The book of Revelation – The final goal of the Good News.

As long as the apostles were alive, people needed only the Old Testament message and the apostle's testimony about Jesus. Today, we have a record of the apostle's testimony in the New Testament.

CERTAIN DETAILS ABOUT JESUS' COMING WERE NOT REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE.

The prophets carefully researched and investigated this salvation. ... So they tried to find out what time or situation the Spirit of Christ kept referring to whenever he predicted Christ's sufferings and the glory that would follow.

WHEN JESUS CAME, THESE QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED.

1 Peter 1:10a, 11 (GW)

BUT ENOUGH COULD BE KNOWN TO LEAVE PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY LEGITIMATE EXCUSE.

[Jesus] said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27 (NIV)

PEOPLE may have false expectations or closed minds; or they may be too lazy to think...

These people have become close-minded and hard of hearing. They have shut their eyes...

Acts 28:27a (GW)

We have a great deal to say about this, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand.

Hebrews 5:11 (CSB)

✨ But what GOD says remains firm and established. ✨

... and the Scripture cannot be broken...

John 10:35b (CSB)

"But the word of the Lord will last forever."

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:25 (NLT)

REGARDING JESUS' COMING, THE "PROBLEM" FOR MANY WAS THIS: WHAT SCRIPTURE SAID WOULD HAPPEN WASN'T WHAT THEY WANTED.

EXAMPLE "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus.
John 18:36a (CSB)

WE WANT A KING TO DELIVER US FROM THE ROMANS!

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

John 6:15 (NIV)

IF WE DON'T STOP THIS PRETEND "KING," IT WILL CREATE POLITICAL INSTABILITY!

"If we let [Jesus] go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

John 11:48 (CSB)

EVEN THE APOSTLES HAD FALSE EXPECTATIONS!

BEFORE:
I'M GOING TO SUFFER AND DIE, AND THEN COME BACK TO LIFE!

From that time on Jesus began to inform his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem. There he would have to suffer a lot because of the leaders, chief priests, and scribes. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be brought back to life.

SUFFER AND DIE? NO WAY!!

Peter took him aside and objected to this. He said, "Heaven forbid, Lord! This must never happen to you!"

Matthew 16:21-22 (GW)

AFTER:
DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT WOULD BE THIS WAY!!

Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

Luke 24:26 (NIV)

EVEN TODAY, PEOPLE HAVE TO DECIDE...

1) To *ignore what the Bible says* and *reject* the Good News, or ...

But some rejected his message and publicly spoke against the Way, ...

Acts 19:9a (NLT)

These people have become close-minded...

Acts 28:27a (GW)

But the Jewish leaders were jealous, so they gathered some worthless fellows from the streets to form a mob and start a riot.

Acts 17:5a (NLT)

2) To *examine the Bible* and *accept* what it says about the Good News.

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

**THE BIBLE
(= OLD TESTAMENT)
POINTS TO**

JESUS AS THE "MESSIAH"
(OR "CHRIST")!

**IT ALSO
POINTS TO**

CHANGES THAT WOULD OCCUR
WHEN THE "MESSIAH" CAME!

CHANGES?
YES!

NOT: A MATTER OF JESUS GOING AROUND...

- ✓ Telling people that he was starting a new "religion,"
- ✓ Demanding that they do things his way, and
- ✓ Threatening people with hell, if they don't follow him.

RATHER: A MATTER OF GOD DOING WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO...

- ✓ Things he told the Jews hundreds of years before Jesus came!

(Since the Old Testament points to these things)...

NONE OF THIS SHOULD HAVE SURPRISED THE JEWS!

- ⇒ **JESUS told the people to:**
 - ✓ Be faithful to God, and
 - ✓ Pay attention to the message of the Old Testament.
- ⇒ **His message was:**
 - ✓ Change from God was at hand, and
 - ✓ What the Bible said would happen was happening!

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:15 (NIV)

[Unlike the religious leaders, he spoke with authority!]

The people were amazed at his teachings. Unlike their scribes, he taught them with authority.

Mark 1:22 (GW)

CHANGE FROM GOD? YES!!

GOD TOLD ISRAEL THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE
A NEW COVENANT THAT HAD A NEW EMPHASIS!

THE ORIGINAL COVENANT ("The Law of Moses"):

- It showed the people how to live, but it couldn't change their hearts.
- The people were constantly inclined to sin, and they broke the covenant over and over again.
- Finally, God told them that he was going replace that covenant with a new one.

THE NEW COVENANT

- It would change their hearts, so they would not be inclined to sin.
- This is the covenant that Jesus put into effect, and it's mentioned several times in the Old Testament.

EXAMPLE #1 – JEREMIAH DESCRIBES THE COVENANT.

God told Israel he was going to replace the Old Covenant ("Old Testament") with a New one....

A NEW
COVENANT

"The day will come," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:31-32 (NLT)

NOT LIKE THE
OLD ONE
(WHICH THEY
CONSTANTLY
BROKE)

... a New one that would change the people's hearts.

CHANGED
HEARTS
AND MINDS

"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the Lord. "I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins."

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NLT)

AN INTERNAL
GOD-FOCUS
(THEY WOULD NOT
NEED OTHERS TO
REMINDE THEM!)

SINS ACTUALLY
FORGIVEN!

This passage is quoted in the book of Hebrews.

JESUS PUT THIS NEW COVENANT INTO EFFECT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

"This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you."
 Luke 22:20b (CSB)

HIS BLOOD, THE SOURCE OF FORGIVENESS

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the **new covenant** between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which graciously forgives ...
 Hebrews 12:24a (NLT)

Unlike the previous covenant, people are not born *physically* into this one. They must be born *spiritually* into it.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
 John 1:12-13 (NIV)

EXAMPLE #2 – EZEKIEL DESCRIBES THE CHANGES.

God told Israel he would give them new hearts – which would result in an inclination to obey God.

CLEANSSED FROM SIN

I will sprinkle clean **water** on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

A NEW HEART AND SPIRIT

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.

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT: A WILLINGNESS TO OBEY

And I will put my **Spirit** in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
 Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NIV)

JESUS CALLED IT "BEING BORN AGAIN"!

We need our sins washed away and a new spirit that desires to follow God.

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."
 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of **water** and the **Spirit**. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."
 John 3:3, 5-6 (NIV)

THIS IS WHAT GOD DOES UNDER THE NEW COVENANT!

It occurs to *individuals* who look to God for the necessary *heart* changes, so they can live by the truth (John 3:19-21).

SINCE GOD TOLD ISRAEL THAT THESE THINGS WOULD HAPPEN, THEY SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THEM!

This is why Jesus rebuked Nicodemus for not understanding the things he told him!

"You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'
 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"
 John 3:7, 10 (NIV)

Nicodemus was one of Israel's leading Bible teachers of the day. Like the others, he was highly influenced by the traditions and teachings of previous teachers.
 [Unlike most others, he was willing to change!]

TODAY, ALL SAVED PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE NEW COVENANT.

A COVENANT THAT GUARANTEES CHANGES IN ONE'S LIFE.

CHANGES SUCH AS...

- ⇒ A RENEWED MIND.
- ⇒ THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.
- ⇒ OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART.
- ⇒ FAITHFULNESS TO THE BIBLE.
- ⇒ A TURNING FROM SIN.
- ⇒ A FOCUS ON GOD'S KINGDOM AND ITS VALUES.

YOUR MISSION!

EXAMINE YOUR LIFE FOR THESE CHANGES. NEVER STOP PURSUING THEM WITH THE POWER THAT COMES FROM GOD!

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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