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The Gospel and the Kingdom of God

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Mark 1:1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

This seems to be the title of the book. The word (euaggelion) *gospel* is used 99 times in the New Testament, and only six of them are in Mark's gospel and they don't describe what evangelicals would call the gospel in the sense of the plan of salvation.

It's actually hard to get a precise definition of the gospel from the synoptic gospels. Interestingly the word *gospel* is in the three synoptic gospels (Matthew Mark and Luke), but not in the gospel of John where we go to get what we usually call "the gospel." In Revelation 14:6-7 an *angel* describes the gospel as *Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.*



So the gospel in Revelation 14 is...

1. *Fear God, and give Him glory, because ... of His judgment*
2. *Worship Him because He created everything.*

The word "gospel" is a combination of "good" and "message" usually thought of as "glad tidings" or "good news."

After Christ's death and resurrection, the gospel is equated with the plan of salvation. But in the synoptic gospels it seems to have a broader meaning. Matthew, Mark and Luke connect it to **the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand**. So the word "gospel" seems to refer to a message of good revelation from God, the specific content of that message would vary with the context.

Notice also that Mark begins his gospel declaring the deity of Christ with the phrase, *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*.

Application:

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan of salvation. But in the synoptic gospels it is more than that. And in Revelation 14 it includes the worship of God as creator and the fear of God and judgment. **The gospel is the Kingdom of God brought about through the revelation of Jesus Christ.** And His Kingdom is not of this world. We should present the gospel to unbelievers as the plan of salvation but we should then also tell them about the Kingdom of God, which was revealed in Christ and then His apostles. **It seems to me from our music and our preaching we are more interested in the plan of salvation than we are in the kingdom of God.**