

I was given the subject today "To Preach the Gospel." That is a very big subject. The phrase "to preach the Gospel" is quite generally translated in the Greek from euangellion which literally means "to proclaim the good news." We find it a good many times in the NT. We do not find the phrase so often in the OT. However, this is not a NT truth. If it were why do I speak of it today since my specialty is the OT. Actually we find in the NT clear evidence that the proclaiming of the good news, the preaching of the gospel is by no means a new thing in NT times.

Thus we look at 1 Pet. 3:18 and we find Peter spoke of the fact (v. 19 rather) that He preached to the spirits in prison. That was the NIV. The KJV renders it "By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison." That's the same word that is used also in Lk. 7:21. There we find that Jesus (7:22) said, Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the dead are raised and good news is preached to the poor. That phrase the NIV translates "the good news is preached" the KJV renders "the gospel." It is of course the same word in the Greek. Then again in Gal. 7:7 he speaks of his proclaiming the Gospel to Abraham. KJV has "he preached the gospel to Abraham."

I had these references correct which I left on a piece of paper at home and in the last few minutes I tried to find them. Gal. 3:7-8

The fact that I have mentioned the difference between the NIV and the KJV calls attention to the fact that our English often does not give a precise idea. You cannot expect to translate any language exactly--any passage exactly from one language into another. Of course that is why we lay great stress here on the original Heb. and Greek. This is God's Word and we want to know exactly what it says and exactly what the truth is that it presents.

These three passages bring out clearly that the proclaiming of the good news, vital as it is today, vital as it ever has been since the center of good news occurred i.e. the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary, when He died for our sins. But this is only part of the good news. Presenting the good news is something God has wanted His people to do all thru the ages.

This morning I thought I would call particular attention to one ch. in the OT. In that ch. we will find a description, or summary, of certain aspects of the presentation of the good news particularly as it occurs in these days. The passage I want to call your attention to is in the OT. This passage is Isa. 24.

I mentioned that the NIV in my opinion is far better for us to use today than the KJV because the KJV uses the English language in a way that nobody can truly understand today. I shouldn't say nobody, but the man who spends years reading Elizabethan plays, letters written by people 400 years ago ~~hxxx~~ and all the material from that day, he will have an idea of what words meant in those days. But a great many words have changed their meaning slightly. Therefore when you read in a good modern translation like the NIV, you get an idea