

THE GOOD NEWS

A PROPHECY FULFILLED



Why Is The Gospel Called The Good News?

Have you ever wondered why Christians call it the "Gospel" or the "Good News"? At first glance, "Good News" might sound like a feel-good phrase, and "Gospel" can seem like an old, churchy word that's lost its meaning. But here's the cool part; both words mean the same thing, and they're not just describing any random good news. Gospel is an Old English word of good news and it points to something far bigger: the fulfillment of an ancient promise that changed history.

The Prophet Isaiah: ~700 Years Before Jesus

Interestingly, the Book of Isaiah exists as a microcosm of Scripture, containing 66 chapters that mirror the 66 books of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. In the 40th chapter of Isaiah, which corresponds to the 40th book of the Bible, which is the Gospel of Matthew, we see a prophecy take shape. This prophecy is where the phrase "good news" is first introduced.

The Opening (Chapters 1–39) – Mostly Prophetic Poetry with Some History

- **Chapters 1–35:** Largely poetic prophecy, focusing on judgment, warnings, and future hope. These chapters contain divine judgements against Israel, Judah, and the nations.
- **Chapters 36–39:** Historical narrative about King Hezekiah, his interaction with the Assyrians, and his illness. This section mirrors parts of **2 Kings 18–20**.

The Shift (Chapter 40) – Prophetic Poetry Until the End

- **Chapters 40–66:** The rest of the book is poetic prophecy, offering comfort, restoration, and messianic hope. It emphasizes:
 - The coming of the Servant (Messiah-meaning Anointed One)
 - A message of Good News
 - The restoration of Israel
 - The future glory of God's kingdom
 - God's Final Judgement

Looking Forward To The Good News

- **Isaiah 40:9** – “You who bring **good news** to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’”
- **Isaiah 41:27** – “I was the first to tell Zion, ‘Look, here they are!’ I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of **good news**.”
- **Isaiah 52:7** – “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”
- **Isaiah 61:1-2a** – “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”

The Good News Has Arrived

Luke 2:10-12 – “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’”

Luke 4:16-21 – He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. He began by saying to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Question: If Jesus declared that this prophecy was fulfilled in Him, what does that mean for how we live today?