

Mark 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Analysis

This verse summarizes Jesus' core message and contains four essential gospel elements. "The time is fulfilled" (πεπλήρωται ὁ καιρός, peplērōtai ho kairos) declares that God's appointed time (kairos—the opportune moment, not merely chronological time) has arrived. The perfect tense indicates completed action with ongoing results—redemptive history has reached its decisive moment in Jesus' coming. "The kingdom of God is at hand" (ἡγγικεν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ, ēngiken hē basileia tou theou) means God's reign has drawn near, is immediately present. The kingdom isn't merely future but inaugurated in Christ's person and ministry—God's rule breaking into the present evil age. "Repent" (μετανοεῖτε, metanoeite) means radical reorientation of mind and life, not merely feeling sorry but turning from sin to God. The present imperative indicates continuous action—ongoing repentance characterizes kingdom citizens. "Believe the gospel" (πιστεύετε ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ, pisteuete en tō euangeliō) commands trust in the good news about Jesus. Faith isn't intellectual assent but wholehearted trust in Christ's person and work. Reformed theology emphasizes that repentance and faith are two sides of one coin—turning from sin (repentance) and turning to Christ (faith) occur simultaneously, enabled by the Spirit's regenerating work.

Historical Context

This proclamation followed Jesus' baptism, wilderness temptation, and John the Baptist's imprisonment (Mark 1:14). Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee, the northern region of Palestine. The phrase "kingdom of God" echoed Old Testament

prophecies of God establishing His reign over all nations (Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14). First-century Jews anticipated this kingdom's coming through military-political overthrow of Rome and restoration of Davidic monarchy. Jesus radically redefined kingdom expectations—God's reign comes not through violent revolution but through Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. The kingdom is "already but not yet"—inaugurated in Christ's first coming but consummated at His return. Early Christians understood that they lived between kingdom inauguration and consummation, experiencing kingdom blessings (forgiveness, Spirit, new life) while awaiting kingdom fullness (resurrection, new creation, visible reign). This tension shapes Christian existence—enjoying present kingdom realities while longing for future completion. The call to "repent and believe" became the apostolic preaching pattern (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 20:21), establishing faith and repentance as essential responses to the gospel.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the kingdom as 'already but not yet' shape your expectations for experiencing God's power and presence in this age?
2. What does it mean that repentance and faith aren't one-time decisions but ongoing postures that characterize Christian life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγων ὅτι Πεπλήρωται ὁ καιρὸς καὶ ἡγγικεν ἡ
And saying G3754 is fulfilled G3588 The time And is at hand G3588
G2532 G3004 G4137 G2540 G2532 G1448 G3588

βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ· μετανοεῖτε καὶ πιστεύετε ἐν τῷ
the kingdom G3588 of God repent ye And believe G1722 G3588
G932 G2316 G3340 G2532 G4100

εὐαγγελίω
the gospel
G2098

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 3:2 (Kingdom): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:17 (Kingdom): From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Acts 20:21 (Faith): Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:10 (Parallel theme): That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Matthew 10:7 (Kingdom): And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Galatians 4:4 (References God): But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Luke 10:11 (Kingdom): Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 10:9 (Kingdom): And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 24:47 (Repentance): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

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