

# NEW TESTAMENT 1

## UNIT THREE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### The Kingdom of God

- Kingdom usually refers to the act of ruling rather than territory.
- Something to which every faithful Jew looked forward.
- Inaugurated by the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Being established in the present age by preaching of the Gospel.
- Will be decisively established when Jesus returns.
- The rule of God over Satan, sin and death is decisively achieved by Christ's work.
- Its benefits are made available now through his word, the gospel.

## The Announcement of God's Kingdom: enter Jesus from Nazareth (Mark 1: 14-15)

- John the Baptist's imprisonment is the signal for Jesus to start his work.
- His message is described as the good news of God.
- The right and God-appointed time has come.
- God has always been in control of events, but will now, in a special way, involve himself in the affairs of men.
- In Jesus, God has come to fulfil all the Old Testament promises.
- People must turn right around – new attitude, new mind, new values.
- A self-centered view must be replaced by a God-centered view.
- God's new age draws near – people must live now as they will live then.

## Jesus' Authority Revealed (Mark 1:16-45)

- A New People (1:16-20)
  - Jesus calls his first recruits for the new people of God.
  - They were to be with Jesus and learn from him.
  - They were to have a mission.
  - They were to be first hand witnesses to Jesus through his ministry and after his resurrection.
- A New Authority (1:21-28)
  - Jesus teaches as one who has authority.
  - Jesus casts out demons.
  - This involves an attack on Satan's domain.
  - Jesus has come to defeat Satan and set his prisoners free.

- A New Liberation (1:29-34)
  - A world of chaos shows that humans no longer enjoy the blessings for which God created them.
  - Jesus' miracles are a sign of the great restoration and reversal of chaos involved in the Messiah's rule.
  - These incidents are a source of great assurance to Christians.
- A New Perspective (1:35-39)
  - Jesus frequently withdraws from the crowds to pray.
  - Jesus does not limit the field of his work.
- A New Salvation (1:40-45)
  - Jesus heals a leper in a way that the law can not.
  - The law only speaks of cleansing, not healing.
  - Jesus offers salvation in a way that the law can not.

## Conclusion

- Jesus announces the coming of God's rule.
- He will restore to his people the condition of the Garden of Eden before the Fall.
- In the meantime, all must follow and obey.