



Momentous Announcement
Mark 1:14-15
August 9, 2020

The most momentous announcement ever is that God has established his royal reign, sovereignty, and kingly rule among us (Mark 1:14-15). He did this through Jesus.

God accredited Jesus by miraculous signs. He was filled with the Spirit and power and so went around doing good and healing people oppressed by the Devil, who was the overlord of the earth at the time (Acts 2:22; 10:38; 1 John 3:8; 5:19).

Sadly, though, the Lord's people did not recognize Jesus as the rightful king and so turned him over to the Romans to be executed by crucifixion. Though a sign over his head read, "King of the Jews," such a humiliating death made it difficult to think he really was a king. In fact, however, his death was a part of God's plan and a fulfillment of Scripture (Acts 2:23; 3:18).

Then, on the third day, God raised him from the dead! He vindicated him, set his seal of approval on him, and showed him to be the King. Paul wrote, "He was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Peter said, "Let all the house of Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The apostles not only continued to announce the kingdom as Jesus did but also announced Jesus as the King (Acts 8:12; 28:31). In fact, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 2:42).

That God has established his kingdom through Jesus is truly good news (Mark 1:14-15). At long last we have a wonderful leader and Lord! He has faced the Tyrant who was deceiving and destroying us, and he dethroned him (John 12:31-32). He is a merciful king who will forgive us for ignoring him and going in our own way (Acts 10:43; 26:13). His commandments, instructions, and guidance will free us from the worst effects of the Tyrant, if we trust him and follow him. He gives us his personal presence and power to help us live as faithful subjects in his kingdom (Acts 3:25-26). He places us in the community of the king where we learn to live and love as his people. What's more, his kingdom is open to anybody and everybody who will submit to his kingship.

The coming of the king into our world is momentous news, but it also urgent news that demands a response of total loyalty (Matthew 6:33; 10:37; 13:44-46). Jesus did enough to demonstrate the superiority of his kingdom, and one day he will destroy the Tyrant completely so that his own reign will be unrivaled (1 Corinthians 15:20-28). But he wants us to decide now whether we will submit to his kingship. He commands us to repent—change our hearts and lives (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14-15). We must stop ignoring him and trying to rule our own lives. We must humble ourselves and give up any claims to status we may feel we have. Trust the king. Be born again of water and the Spirit so you can enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3-5).

This is the way God works. Humans peddle religion, but Jesus made a momentous announcement, and it is the power of God for salvation. *This* is how God calls people. *This* is how God draws people to himself. *This* is how the Spirit of God convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. *This* is how God saves people from destruction.

This momentous announcement is still what our society, bent on destruction, desperately needs to hear. But it must be communicated by people who have heard it themselves and responded with total loyalty to the King. Are you in?