



The Kingdom of God (Part 3)

GOOD NEWS

Mark 1:14-15 and Matthew 4:23

Sometimes the best part of a football game is the player introductions and the ceremony leading up to it. In Knoxville the band forms a “T” that the players run through. The Titans run through a helmet after T-Rex comes out on a chariot or flies down from the scoreboard. My favorite is a fly over by military jets, or an eagle soaring down after the national anthem is sung.

The pomp and circumstances created communicate that something big and important is about to happen. The hype generates excitement and creates an environment where everyone believes there is nothing in the entire world more important in than what is about to happen. Pay attention!

The Old Testament story ends around 400 B.C. with the nation of Israel in disarray. The ten northern tribes are nonexistent (Israel), and the two southern tribes (Judah) are in captivity. God is silent. There are no prophets speaking for Him. There is only hope. Hope that God is going to break into history, send a Messiah, and reestablish the greatness of His people. When God does break in to history, when His Messiah does come, there will be nothing in the entire world more important. The Messiah’s entrance into the world will be life changing. And a grand event deserves a grand entrance; and an even grander announcement!

Instead of bursting on the scene, God sends His Messiah, His Son, into the world through a young, poor girl who lived on the wrong side of the tracks. Instead of His birth being announced to the masses, or even to people in authority who could spread the word, it was announced to humble shepherds who held low social standing. Instead of people who had been anticipating the arrival of the Messiah traveling to see Him, wise men, who were more pagan than believers, traveled for months maybe even years, to bring Him gifts. Instead of a loud entrance, it was a quite entrance in a manger, in a cave, used as a stable.

Those humble beginnings might be explainable and understandable—after all, what could a baby do? But surely, once Jesus matured, when He was ready to announce who He was, His announcement would be spectacular. Right? Wrong! Listen to these words:

“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time

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