



Preaching the Gospel from the Gospels

TEACHING DAY

LED BY REVD DR SIMON VIBERT – SEE WWW.SIMONVIBERT.COM FOR SLIDES

Brief biography

- ▶ Freshly back in regular pulpit ministry – what have I learned?

Preaching Basics with Gospels in mind

- ▶ **One Big Idea**
 - ▶ Exegetical theme
 - ▶ Homiletic theme

Preaching Basics with Gospels in mind

▶ **Tell the story**

▶ Metanarrative

- ▶ We make sense of the world by story – supremely through God's story

▶ The power of narrative/story

- ▶ *Through its literary form and dynamics, biblical narrative embodies in a basic and apt way the general theological view of reality held by the biblical writers. What is more, the way in which a reader reads and comes to understand a biblical narrative is congruent with the ways in which a person comes to 'read' and understand all of the ambiguities of history as governed by the will of God ... Biblical stories often generate their impact by creating an alternative world in the imagination and challenging the reader to make a decision about it. (Preaching and the Literary forms of the Bible, Thomas Long, p.69)*

Preaching Basics with Gospels in mind

- ▶ **Be a bridge-builder**
 - ▶ The ancient text
 - ▶ The modern world

We must ask God to make us Christian communicators who are determined to bridge the ravine. We must struggle to relate God's unchanging word to our ever-changing world without sacrificing truth or despising relevance.

*John Stott, *I Believe in Preaching* (UK),
Between Two Worlds (USA)*



Yesterday's sermon

- ▶ **Can you remember**
 - ▶ The Big Idea?
 - ▶ The narrative shape?
 - ▶ How the bridge was built?

tetramorph

- ▶ **Matthew** (Man)
- ▶ **Mark** (Lion)
- ▶ **Luke** (Ox)
- ▶ **John** (Eagle)



Meteora,
16th C

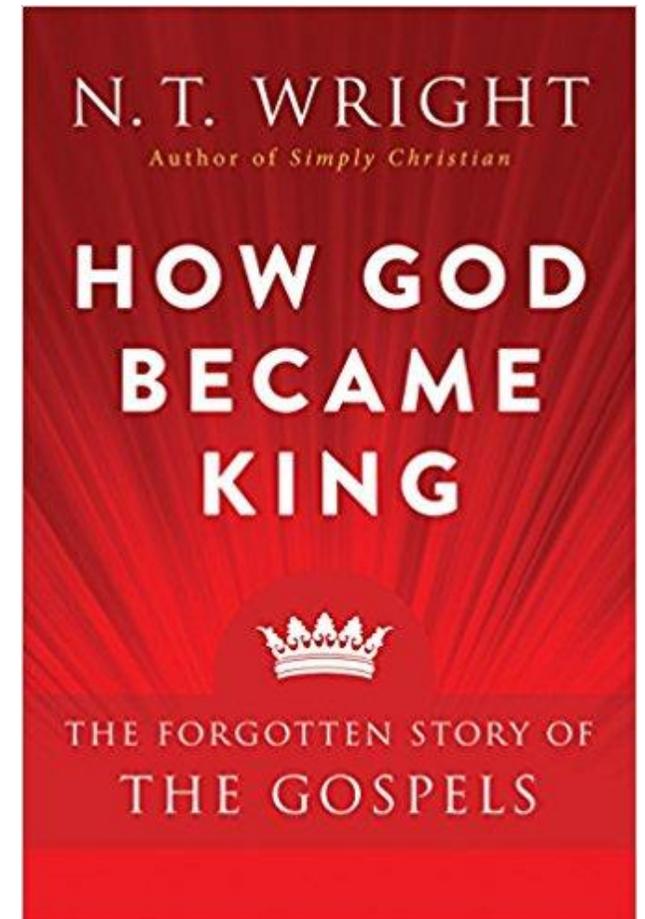


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N.T. Wright *How God Became King*

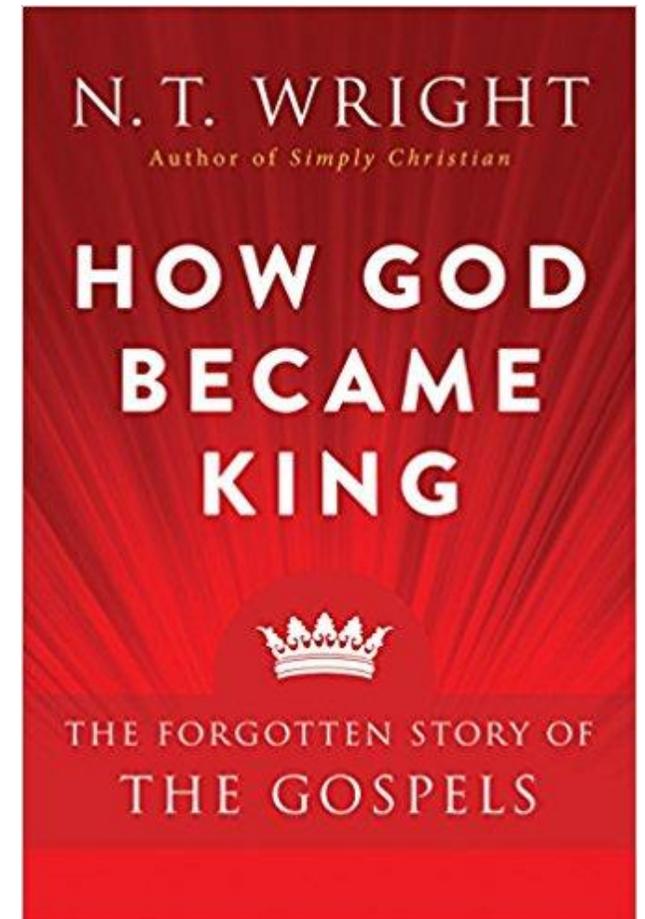
▶ **Quadraphonic Sound**

- ▶ The story of Israel
- ▶ The story of Jesus as the story of Israel's God
- ▶ The launching of God's renewed people
- ▶ The clash of the kingdoms



N.T. Wright *How God Became King*

- ▶ **Quadraphonic Sound**
- ▶ The neglected middle (not cross only; not Kingdom only)
- ▶ **Matthew** – the story of Israel climaxing in Jesus
- ▶ **Mark** – the time has arrived
- ▶ **Luke** – God's promises fulfilled first in John then in Jesus
- ▶ **John** – the restoration of creation



Matthew – Sermon on the Mount

The Overall Organization of the Sermon on the Mount

- A1 - 5:3-10. Beatitudes. Who the disciples are.
- B1 – 5:11-16. The disciples' vocation.
- C1 – 5:17-19. Conditions for implementing the vocation.
- D1 – 5:20. Introduction of antitheses (framing material)
- E1 – 5:21-47. Antithesis. The overabundant righteousness
- D2 – 5:47-48. Conclusions of the antithesis (framing material)
- D3 – 6:1. Introduction to the next unit (framing material)
- E2 – 6:2-16. The overabundant righteousness.
- D4 – 6:19-21. Conclusion of preceding unit (framing material)
- C2 – 6:22-7:12. Conditions for implementing the vocation
- B2 – 7:13-20. The disciples' vocation.
- A2 – 7:21-27. Who the disciples are

Matthew – Sermon on the Mount

▶ Rhetoric

- ▶ **Anaphora**, repetition (“Blessed are”)
- ▶ **Syllogism**, (“Blessed are, for theirs is” Therefore we conclude)
- ▶ **Antithesis**, (“you have heard that it was said...but I say to you”)
- ▶ **Metaphor**, (“If your hand causes you to sin, chop it off”)
- ▶ Rhetorical questions, (“is not life more important than food...?”)
- ▶ **Exaggeration** and **humour**, (Speck and Log)
- ▶ **Proverb**, Hebrew Mashal, (“You are the salt of the earth...”)
- ▶ **Parable**, see Matt 13:34 – concealing and revealing the truth
- ▶ **Ethos** (charisma), **pathos** (emotion) and **logos** (logic), (I/You; emotionally laden words: worry, hate, love etc.; “unless your righteousness exceeds the Pharisees”)

Matthew – Sermon on the Mount

- ▶ **Lessons for preachers**
 - ▶ Use rhetoric
 - ▶ Be dialogical
 - ▶ Understand your authority (*kerux*)
 - ▶ Provoke questions

Mark – hinge verse – 10:45

Overview of section Mark 8:22-10:52

Big transitional bit in Mark

*** Begins with a 2-stage healing 8:22-26**

He saw, but not clearly

9:24 - I believe, help my unbelief.

Ends with the healing of another blind man 10:46-52

But the disciples had not yet got that far.

By contrast the disciples kind of see, but keep getting it wrong...

- At this stage they are much more like the first blind man: they see, but only partially....

Mark – hinge verse – 10:45

The disciples DO believe **8:27-29**

But Jesus won't yet let them speak about it because they don't see it clearly yet (**v26, v30**)

But they misunderstand JESUS' role and consequently continue to HINDER his ministry **v31ff.**

3 x Jesus affirms who he is and what His role is:-

3 times it is misunderstood:

So, they fail to see what His priorities for ministry are

We need to learn that recognising the Messiah is not enough.... We need to understand that He has to go the way of the cross.....

And indeed, the way of the cross is for His disciples too.

Mark – hinge verse – 10:45

- ▶ Possible sermons
 - ▶ The text – Mark 10:45
 - ▶ An overview of the whole Gospel
 - ▶ Preaching the two healings
 - ▶ 3 affirmations and 3 rebuttals

John

- ▶ **7 days of creation** (“word... next day”)
 - ▶ John 1:18...20:29; Key text 20:30f.
- ▶ **7 sayings** - The Bread (6:35); The Light (8:12); The Gate (10:9); The Good Shepherd (10:11); The Resurrection and the Life (11:25); The Way, the Truth, the Life (14:6); The True Vine (15:1)
- ▶ **7 signs** - 1. Turning Water into Wine at Cana (2:1-11); 2. The Healing of the Nobleman's Son (4:46-54); 3. The Healing of the Palsied Man (5:1-15); 4. The Feeding of the Five Thousand (6:1-15); 5. The Storm on the Lake/Jesus Walking on the Sea; (6:15-21); 6. The healing of the Blind Man (9:1-41); 7. The Raising of Lazarus from Death (11:1-57)
- ▶ **7 major characters** - John the Baptist * The Disciples * Nicodemus* Woman of Samaria* Man born Blind * Thomas * John the Beloved
- ▶ **7 minor characters** - Royal Official * Paralyse Man * Adulterous Woman * Mary, Martha, Lazarus * Philip * Marys * Peter

Group exercise in Luke

- ▶ Exegetical; and
 - ▶ Homiletic theme
 - ▶ Ideas for bridge building
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- ▶ Luke 1:1-4
 - ▶ Luke 15
 - ▶ Luke 24:13-26

The three pages of the Sermon

▶ Matthew 18

Notes on the text

Beginning & Ending

Illustrations

Application

Emerging Structure

6 Things to do alongside preaching the Gospel

1. Critical importance of prayer (2 Cor 4) – it's a miracle
 - ▶ My conversion experience
2. Don't commend what you do not do (it comes through subliminally)
3. Support the truth with good story....
 - ▶ Reason are the pillars of the Church; the windows are what you need to bring in light Spurgeon
 - ▶ Credible testimony – yours and others; *Lives Jesus Changed*; *Longing for Paradise*
4. Earth in today world (cross the bridge)
 - ▶ Connect with their world
5. Get under the radar
 - ▶ e.g. RCL on John 3:16
6. Remember that what God is doing IN you is as important as what he is doing THROUGH you
 - ▶ Charles Simeon - “humble the sinner, exalt the saviour, promote holiness”

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