

# The Gospel of Mark

Joshua's Notes

November 29, 2023

## Introduction

Mark is a very succinct, quick, gospel. He focuses on Jesus as a worker, the deeds of Jesus. That's the significance of this book. Mark was not part of the 12 disciples. He was a young boy during the life and ministry of Jesus. The early church of Jerusalem met in Mark's home. He accompanied the apostle Paul and Barnabas on the first part of their missionary outreach. Mark later became a sort of assistant to the apostle Peter. And most of these events were an eyewitness testimony of Peter, because Mark was so young during the time.

## 1 Chapter 1

### 1.1 Verse 1

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
(Mark 1:1)

This gospel of which we are concerned, is the only everlasting good news. Without Jesus, our mentality becomes very materialistic, happiness becomes the end. There would be no meaning to life, and everyone tries to be happy, so they will end up doing bad stuff.

### 1.2 Verse 2-3

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
Who will prepare your way,  
<sup>3</sup>The voice crying in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
Make his paths straight,"

(Mark 1:2)

Mark is referring to the prophecy given by Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 1:1–3)

This is one of many Old Testament prophecies that actually has a dual fulfillment in that this prophecy relates to the first coming of Jesus, and also the second coming of Christ. And that is many case with many Old Testament prophecies. Mark is pointing out the fact that Isaiah prophesied of one who would come and prepare the way. And we're told who that is.

### 1.3 Verse 4-5

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

(Mark 1:4–5)

This is a huge move of God, because people were gathering, for one purpose: to confess their sins. It's not easy to get people to get together to talk about their sin, even more so repenting of it. It's a miracle! What does it mean to repent though? Repent means to have a change of mind, to change your actions based on your change of mind. What is this move of God going to do? How does repentance prepare the way of the Lord? We have to go to another gospel account to answer this question.

#### 1.3.1 Why is repenting important?

<sup>29</sup>When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

(Luke 7:29–30)

The power of repentance is that it opens our hearts to hear God, and respond to him in a positive manner. If there is a hardness of heart that refuses to repent, the Word of God just kind of bounces off us. The people who received Jesus and understood him, they prepared by repenting.

## 1.4 Verse 6

<sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

(Mark 1:6)

Elijah wore much of the same clothes. But more interesting than that is that, in Luke, when the angel prophesied to Zechariah about John the baptist, that John would go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah. But John never performed a miracle, yet the Bible tells us he goes forth in the spirit and power of Elijah, which is shown in his clothing.

## 1.5 Verse 7

<sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying,

"After me comes he who is mightier than I,  
the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop  
down and untie."

(Mark 1:7)

To the Jew particular statement elevated Jesus and humbled John. The teachers in Judaism used to say that a teacher could ask pretty much anything of his student except to help him off with his shoes. That was supposed to be beneath any student. John comes along and to speak of the greatness of the one who comes after and says I am not worthy to take off his shoes. He further goes on to contrast his ministry and continues with verse 8.

## 1.6 Verse 8

<sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

(Mark 1:8)