

Mark 1:1-3 — “The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God!”

“Mark is a succinct, unadorned yet vivid account of the ministry, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. He presents the narrative in an appealing way, for he tells the GOOD NEWS of Jesus so simply that a child can understand it. It’s like a pool of pure water for it is far deeper than it looks.” (Walter Wessel)

Mark is “BOOK OF ACTION. It moves with “breathless activity” and it is the “Go-Gospel”. The primary focus is on the deeds and miracles of Jesus. Mark, generally, includes very little time to the teaching of Jesus but chooses to focus more on his actions. (D. Edmund Hiebert)

MARK’S OUTLINE:

1. Prologue (1:1-13)
2. Early Galilean Ministry (ch.1-3)
3. Later Galilean Ministry (ch.3-6)
4. Withdrawal from Galilee (ch.6-8)
5. Journey to Jerusalem (ch.8-10)
6. Jerusalem ministry/Passion week (ch.11-13)
7. Passion & Resurrection Narrative (ch.14-16)

ANOTHER OUTLINE OF MARK:

1. Presentation of the Suffering Servant (1:14-3:5)
2. Persecution of the Suffering Servant (3:6-8:26)
3. Preparation of the Suffering Servant (8:27-10:52)
4. Passion of the Suffering Servant (11:1-15:47)
5. Perfection of the Suffering Servant (16:1-8)

We know Mark wrote primary for the Romans — a Gentile audience (in Rome, Italy) because of the following:

1. Mark has fewest Old Testament quotes and allusions. [*He uses the OT skillfully but infrequently.*]
2. Mark interprets the Aramaic words that are found (he translates: “*Golgotha; Eloi Eloi...; Boanerges, Talithea Kum; Corban; Ephphatha*, etc. This would not be necessary to do for Jewish readers).
3. Mark explains geographical locations (he says Mt of Olives is opposite the Temple; Mk 13)
4. There is very little said about the “Jewish Law.” [contrast that with Matthew, for example]
5. Mark often explains Jewish customs (like in Mark 7 when they washed with unclean hands)

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD (I)

The beginning:

The gospel:

I. Jesus

2. Christ

3. Son of God

II. THE PREPARATION FOR JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD (2-3)

Verses 2-3 contain a string of 3 Old Testament quotes [all summarized as written by Isaiah]:

1. Exodus 23.20 - contains God's promise to send his messenger before the people on a first exodus through the wilderness (he did)
2. Malachi 3.1 - contains God's own promise to send 'his messenger' before Messiah comes to His temple!
3. Isaiah 40.3 - the messenger announces the second exodus thru the wilderness to the final era of deliverance. > prepare the way, *Jehovah is coming!*

“If Christ is going to continue His advance in our lives, then many things must be cleared away. The hills and mountains of pride and unrighteousness must be leveled. The valleys of things we lack must be filled up. Rough spots must be smoothed out until all which hinders us from reflecting God's glory is removed. Then our lives will no longer be a wilderness, but a highway upon which the King of glory may be clearly seen.” (Jonathan Edwards)

Song: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.*

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
 Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
 Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
 O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
 We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
 Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

— John Wade, 1743

Prayer:

1. Exalting Christ as GOD: *Worship* (Mark 1.1)
2. Affirming Christ as SAVIOR: *Gospel, Revival & Forgiver* (Hebrews 1.1-4)
3. Imploring Christ as HELPER: *Petition* (John 14.13)

Prayer:

- Upcoming election
- Seminary students — Mike Heissler & David Varghese
- Dorothy's evangelistic Bible study
- Sean Ransom (Philippines) — training people via zoom in: Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan

MARK**OUTLINE:****I. Sent to Serve (1-10)****II. Sent to Save (11-16)**

Mark, the shortest & simplest of the 4 gospels, gives a crisp and fast-moving account of the life of Christ.

THEME OF THE BOOK:

Jesus as the Suffering Servant.

Key Text: Mark 10:45

The author is Mark (surname was John) -- Acts 12.12, 25; 15:37 (speak of him as "John whose surname was Mark). No doubt Peter & Mark had a very close relationship since Peter later speaks of Mark as "Mark my son" (1 Pet 5.13) showing that Mark was probably converted through the ministry of Peter. In fact, in the book of Acts, when Peter was released from prison in Jerusalem, he went to the home of John Mark's mother (Acts 12.12). Later on, Mark abandoned Paul and Barnabas on the missionary journey (Acts 13.13). but later on he was a "fellow worker" in the gospel (Philemon 24) and a "useful worker to Paul for ministry" (2 Tim 4.11). It was this close association with Peter that lent apostolic authority to Mark's gospel -- since Peter was evidently Mark's primary source of information.

The early church uniformly attested that Mark wrote this gospel. Papias, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen are among the church fathers who all affirmed Markan authorship (Wikinson & Boa, 319).

Mark was directed to a Roman readership and early tradition indicates that the book originated in Rome. This may be why Mark omits a number of items that would not have been meaningful to Gentiles (e.g., the genealogy of Christ, fulfilled prophecy, references to the Law, certain Jewish customs that are found in the other 4 gospels).

GOSPEL:

- 1:1 - beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (cp. 15:39)
- 1:14ff - the beginning of Jesus' ministry (v.15 - Repent! and v.17 - Follow Me!) (cp. vv.18, 20; 2:14; 3:14)
- 1:14ff - one who repents is one who believes, one who follows, one who reproduces
- 1:40-45 - example of Jesus' compassion, power, popularity, and purpose.
- 4:26-29 - a theology of sleep
- 7:1-23 - what is the mission control center? the HEART (that which a man does ALL finds its genesis in the heart!) (**Solid material for biblical counseling!**)
- 8:27-38 - a major hinge in the book of Mark (public proclamation now turns to private preparation)
 - A CALL FOR DISCIPLES! (Mark 8:34-38) — *Yes! You Must Count the Cost!*
 - Deny Self (34)
 - Die to Self (34)
 - Follow Christ (34)
 - Sacrifice Everything (35-37)
 - Love Him (38)
- 9:42-50 - Some of the most startling & stern warnings to believers to "KILL SIN".
- 14:51-52 - eyewitness (and humbling!) account of Mark - the author of this gospel.
- 15:39 - the climax of Mark (written to Romans) -- a Roman Centurion looked upon the crucified Christ & believed in Him!

Mark calls individual disciples of Jesus to believe in this gospel, to rest in it for pardon from sin and for power for service. He tells the story of the perfect Servant of God, whose perfect and perfected service is procuring a perfect salvation. God's Son became a servant to get near people, to help them, and to lift them. That is the good news people need to hear. That "good news" gospel message is what is meant in the phrase "preach the gospel." (G Campbell Morgan)