

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

4, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ is LORD, i.e. Mediator of the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven & Creator, i.e. Uncreated God

Part 4E

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Introduction: Chapter 4 of Mark concludes with Jesus' mastery over the wind and the sea as Creator, i.e. Uncreated God, attesting His saving power—only God is Creator and Savior and is to be worshipped!

Note: the preaching/teaching excerpts and the episodes of chapter 4 are connected with chapter 3 continuing "on that day" (cf. Matthew 13:1) elaborating and contradicting the Beelzebub blasphemy by Jesus' self-attesting Kingdom parables, i.e. not the kingdom of Satan and by His self-attesting Creator powers, i.e. He rebukes storms like He rebukes the devil and the demons, etc.

4:1-34, Jesus' didactic parables are used to reveal and conceal by His mysteries about the Kingdom of Heaven/God.

**Jesus Christ, i.e. Messiah=Anointed Savior, is the Mediator of the New Covenant which identifies and includes His Kingdom to be the Church, so that the Kingdom parables are about the New Covenant Church as fulfilling and reconciling the Old Covenant promises and types by new and better promises of the New Covenant...*

4:25-41, Jesus' divine powers are used to rebuke and calm by His mastery over the realm of creation.

**Jesus' mastery over the realm of creation is distinguished from His mediating the grace of salvation, cf. 4:39:*

- Jesus Christ by His divine nature being the Son of God shares universal sovereignty with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, so that the divine nature of the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity shares uncreated eternity while the human nature of the person of Jesus came into time and space history at the incarnation...
- Jesus as the only Mediator between God and men only operates His means of saving grace by the Holy Spirit through His Kingdom the Church and not through His sovereign powers over creation...
- The theological distinction between Jesus' mediatorial kingship and His divine universal sovereignty is often missed and causes entanglement with questions about Biblical authority and Christian ethics in social and political philosophy. However, Jesus does not mediate His saving grace through social or political institutions and programs although the Triune God is Sovereign Judge over all creation and history.

vv. 35-36, Once again a boat and little boats are mentioned for serving Jesus' needs as commonly used by humans, (cf. 1:19-20, 3:9, 4:1)...

- A lesson about thoughtful preparation, little boat prepared for Jesus' safety, cf. 39, not contradictory to trusting Providence, Jesus taken in a boat "as He was", cf. 4:36...

vv. 37-38, A sudden, intense, life-threatening storm hits the boats on the water, but Jesus remained asleep until awakened by his fearful Apostles...

- A "great windstorm"=mega-squall [Gk.--> there was being a great storm of wind], there is nothing in the text to suggest this storm was supernatural in origin. Remember several of the Apostles were seasoned fishermen and mariners and the other boats belonged to local seafarers.
- The waves were swamping the boat. Deaths at sea were not unlike today's deaths on the highway...
- Jesus' humanity is witnessed by His physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual exhaustion, i.e. in a deep sleep as the storm rages...in the back of the boat with His head cushioned...
- The Apostles' fears of a harsh death are real, "Master, do you not care that we are destroyed?" It seems they did not anticipate Jesus overruling the storm, but somehow expected Him to protect them...

vv. 39-41, Jesus demonstrates the Divine Creator-powers of His word over the wind and the sea...

- Jesus is described as being thoroughly aroused, not in a sleepy-head fog...
- Jesus uses His audible words as witness of His mastery over the realm of creation, "Peace, be still!", Gk.--> be quiet/silenced, be muzzled!--which suggest unique creative powers that address the essence and activity/ nature and behavior over the created things, i.e. sea & wind, e.g. Jonah and the great fish, Daniel among the lions...
- The instantaneous cessation of the wind and the extensive calm of the sea attest Jesus' claim to be Creator-God, i.e. the storm did not move past them but was completely dissolved...

- Jesus speaks as Savior to also over-power the dread-fear(v. 40)

[δ ε ι λ ός/deilos, from δ ε ο / deos (*dread*); *timid*, that is, (by implication) *faithless*: - fearful.]

that had weakened the Apostles' assurance-faith (v. 41)

[ε φ ο β η θ η σ α ν - φ ο β έ ω /phobeo^ν, to *frighten*, that is, (passively) to *be alarmed*; by analogy to *be in awe* of, that is, *revere*: - be (+ sore) afraid, fear (exceedingly), reverence.]...

- Saving faith is Biblically confirmed to believe in the heart and confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is the Self-revealing and Self-attesting Creator-God and Incarnate Savior, the unique God-Man, i.e. the Son of God and Son of Man.

The mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven/God and the mastery over the realm of creation effect worship in awe of Jesus beyond what we can fully understand with deepening desire-questions, "Who can this be, that even the wind and sea obey Him!"

