

THE GOSPEL OF MARK PART 1

JESUS CHRIST THE "GOD MAN."

INTRO:

- Written from Rome either just before Paul's death or just after.
- Perhaps the first gospel to be written.
- His audience was assumed to be Gentile. This is thought of because there are only 3 quoted from the old testament.
 - 2 being in the first 3 verses of chapter 1. The other chp. 15:28
- Mark uses many Latin words and phrases without translating or explaining them and always translates Jewish names or terms.
- Each writer of the 4 gospels start their narrative in a different starting pint. Matthew with the ancestry and birth of Jesus the Messiah, Mark with John the Baptist and his mission, Luke with the birth of John Baptist and John with the pre-incarnate Word of God Who is God.
- This gospel is only the beginning, like Luke, who says about his gospel when writing in Acts 1:1, "of all that Jesus began to do and teach."
- Marks gospel is one of directness and briefness, almost blunt.
- Mark moves directly to John the Baptist, passing over the birth of Christ, His childhood, any genealogy of Jesus, nothing of Bethlehem, Joseph or Mary.
- Mark seems to bring to us the gospel of Jesus Christ in what often appears to be flashes.
 - In these verses we have, the subject of his gospel, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.
 - The prophecy of a coming forerunner who will prepare the way for the coming dignitary.
 - Then the introduction of this wild and sold out forerunner.
 - And then the introduction of this Dignitary, this King which the forerunner is sent to prepare a way for.
 - And finally we see this King has come and has resistance from an arch enemy. There is war. There is encouragement and there is victory.
 - This all in 13 verses.
- So we can see from the opening verse that the supreme subject of Marks book is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, what He says and Who He is.
- The gospel is the glad tidings of Jesus Christ.
- Gospel is used a total of 6X in Mark, 3 X in this first chapter; see vs 14 & 15 to understand His Gospel.
- As we study this gospel we must remember to watch for the revelation of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, His gospel.
- But remember, Jesus is the gospel, the gospel is Jesus.
- Primarily watch Him not those around Him.

WHO WAS MARK?

- This was John-Mark. John being Jewish, and Mark Gentile.
- His mother was the hostess of the early disciples and one of the churches or meeting places in Jerusalem.
- His mother was a believer before him.
- She was the sister of Barnabas thus making her son Mark his nephew. Acts. 12:12
- 13 years after the death of Jesus Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, and then 3 years later he sets out with them as their helper in their great missionary work.
- Here Paul and Barnabas have sharp contention due to John Mark leaving the work and they separate. Acts 15:37-39
- 13 years later again and after Paul and Barnabas have parted due to the disagreement regarding John-Mark we find Mark with Paul in Rome sharing with him his fellowship, perils, and encouragement.
- We see Mark and Luke with Paul in the letter to the Colossians. 4:10.
- He seems to have spent some time after this with Peter in Babylon. 1 Peter 5:13
- And he is called by Peter his son. 1 Peter 5:13
- And then lastly we see him one more time being asked by the aged Paul to join him in Rome, for encouragement and love, for he is being profitable to Paul and the ministry. 2 Tim. 4:11
- According to church tradition, Mark supposedly carried the gospel to Egypt and there in Alexandria died a martyrs death by being drug around on the ground with a cord wrapped around his neck.

READ MARK 1:1-13

JESUS ACCORDING TO MARK:

- We see from the opening verse that this gospel written by Mark was not his gospel, but the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- A gospel of Jesus and by Jesus. His gospel and He has only one.
- This is the message, the purpose of the book. "Behold Jesus Christ the Son of God. He has authority! Hear Him.
- In this title His humanity and His Divinity meet.
- Mark portrays Jesus as the "God Man" servant of God! The voice and the heart of God.
- He is introduced as "Jesus;" Jehoshua, the Savior of mankind, that is Jehovah saves.
- Christ; the anointed One, the Messiah, anointed by God to fulfill the purposes of the Godhead.
- In the first name/title we have the deity, humanity, and atonement. And in the second we have the anointed of God, to Israel its Messiah.

- He is the "Son of God." That is Son of God by nature.
- The title "Son" is made with emphasis and points to His character or nature. He is Jesus Christ the Son of God by nature. The God nature.
- By virtue He possess co-eternally the same, exact same nature as God the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 - (Heb. 1:3) who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person.
 - AMPC. He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-lying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of [God's] nature,
- All of God and yet all of man. He is in His person, nature and character all God, yet man.
- Having the same nature as the other two Persons of the Godhead.
- Each having the same fullness, nature being One, yet with different expressions.
- Jesus is the Son by eternal nature, that is Who He is, God the Son, we are sons of God by adoption.
- This is what Mark wants us to see.

VS. 2

- "As it is written in the prophets.
- Some newer translations say "Isaiah" but as we notice verse two is not from Isaiah, but from **Malachi 3:1**
- Then verse 3 quotes from **Isaiah 40:3**
- Here are quotes from two prophets, not one.
- Both of these 2 quotations declare Jesus to be God.
 - In Mal. John is to prepare the way before "ME!" God.
 - In Isaiah, it is said that John's preaching would prepare the way of the LORD! That is Jehovah the great I Am...
- To Prepare: to furnish, equip, prepare and make ready for welcome.
- Crying: To cry aloud, to shout, to speak with a high and strong voice. To cry out with purpose with a manifestation of feeling coming from the heart.
- The content of John's voice was the voice of God. John was His mouth piece. And behind John's voice, his preaching was the infinite longing and passionate heart of God.

VS 3

- John's mission was to prepare the way, make straight His paths straight.
- Prepare: A different word than that in verse 2, here the word used is stronger more descriptive.
- It means to send out ahead of the arriving dignitary persons to level the roads and make them passable and in the context of Mark it means to prepare the minds and hearts of men to give the Messiah a fit reception and thus secure His blessing.

- Road then were not as they are now.
 - When royalty were on their journey men were sent on ahead clearing, filling, leveling straightening making the roads passable and proclaiming the coming of the dignitary.
 - So it is in our way, the Spirit is sent on ahead to make a way for Jesus to enter... a thorough repentance, and continued sanctification.
- **It is an imperative.** To be obeyed continuously, a fixed habit, a constant attitude of a habitual welcome. So John moved quick and shot straight.

JOHN'S MESSAGE/APPLICATION:

- God's voice always comes to our wilderness that is where we lived before coming to Christ. Before we obey his voice in repentance.
- Darkness and void of purpose, void of direction, without joy.
- John's message is to prepare the way of the Lord, fill the valleys, level the mountains, make straight the crookedness, and make the rough places smooth.
- Make way for JESUS!
- Oh the gospel of Jesus is the evangel of good tidings, tidings of great joy!
- What is this good news?
 - Call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins. (Mt. 1:21)
 - I have come to seek and save that which is lost. (Luke 19:10)
 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)
 - For Christ also has suffered for sins once, the just for the unjust, that He may bring us to God! (1Peter 3:18)
- What does it mean in my life to make straight His paths?
 - Matt. 5:29, 30 AMPC, ²⁹ If your right eye serves as a trap to ensnare you *or* is an occasion for you to stumble *and* sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be cast into hell.
 - ³⁰ And if your right hand serves as a trap to ensnare you *or* is an occasion for you to stumble *and* sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better that you lose one of your members than that your entire body should be cast into hell
- Prepare for Him. Respond to the Spirit of Christ.