

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 1: "Setting the Stage for Jesus"

September 9, 2018

1. Why Study Mark?
 - a. When we read the Bible, we may meet God
 - b. It likely was the first Gospel written
 - c. It has fascinating and carefully designed plot
 - d. It might contain the essence of the apostle Peter's memory and preaching
 - e. We can "walk along with" Jesus himself

2. What Do We Know About Mark?
 - a. Likely John Mark
 - b. His house was a gathering place for believers (Acts 12:12)
 - c. Mark a helper to Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:5)
 - d. Deserted them in Pamphylia (Acts 13: 13)
 - e. Paul refused to travel with him again (Acts 15: 36 – 39)
 - f. Mark went with Barnabas (cousin)
 - g. Mark regained Paul's trust (Col 4:10 and 2 Tim 4:11)

3. The Title of the Gospel: Mark 1:1

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

 - a. The Secret Identity of Jesus: He is "the Son of God"
 - b. Why not begin with His birth? Romans 5:6
 - c. The Beginning: not of a book, but of God's final work of salvation in human history
 - d. The Gospel: good news (grand public announcement) of God's work to bring the golden age to the whole world (its peoples and the whole of creation) Romans 1:17
 - e. Pax Romana
 - f. Kingdom of God vs Kingdom of the World

4. John's Appearance Mark 1: 2 – 8
 - a. Old Testament Prophecies: God's long-anticipated plan is beginning to happen Isaiah 40: 1 – 8 Malachi 2: 17 – 3:6

 - b. A Strange Man: John the Baptist as the "re-appearance" of the Great Elijah

- i. His clothing (2 Kings 1:8)
 - ii. His food
 - iii. Job of a prophet:
 - 1. Remind Israel of true King
 - 2. Call people to surrender false allegiances and return to God
 - 3. Prepare the way
 - c. A Great Revival
 - i. The great scope of the revival: all ... all
 - ii. The message of the revival
 - iii. "Repent!" (total reversal, complete change of mind)
 - iv. Baptism- death to the old way- life to a new way
 - 1. Death to the Kingdom of this world-
 - 2. Desire to Follow the Kingdom of God
 - a. Incomplete until the Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - v. "A Stronger One is coming!" (He baptize with the Holy Spirit)
5. Jesus' Arrival Mark 1: 9 – 11
- a. From Galilee
 - i. A place of "mixed" population (Jewish and Gentile)
 - ii. A place not viewed highly, either religiously or culturally
 - b. To Be Baptized
 - i. Jesus is not confessing sins (as were all others)
 - ii. Jesus is privately addressed by his Father: "You ... " .
 - iii. The skies are (violently) torn open = important revelation from God
 - iv. The Spirit of God (appearing visibly to Jesus) descends upon Jesus
 - v. Jesus' identity is confirmed (by the Father) to Jesus: "my Son, my beloved"
 - vi. Wider witness of the Christian message: Son = Jesus is "divine"
 - vii. Historical background in 2 Samuel 7:11 - 16: Beloved Son = My son = offspring (house) of David = Israel's king
 - viii. Israel's king = The one through whom God will redeem and rule the whole world
 - ix. Jesus, not Caesar, is the world's rightful savior and ruler