

## Mark -- Good News of Jesus, the Suffering Savior

### Introduction - Mark 1:1

1. "Gospel" -- A New Kind of Book.
2. Mark -- The First Gospel
  - A. Author -- The Book is anonymous, but from early on it has been attributed to Mark -- the John Mark of Acts 12:12, 12:25, 13:5, 15:36-39, Col. 4:10, Philemon 24, 1 Pet. 5:13, 2 Tim. 4:11
  - B. Date -- most put this after the death of Peter in AD 64 and before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. This is our best guess.
  - C. Destination and Place of Writing -- both are likely Rome.
  - D. Purpose
    - 1) To make the Gospel accessible to Gentiles (a missiological aim)
    - 2) To encourage those facing persecutions, particularly the beleaguered Christians in Rome.
    - 3) To explain and defend the faith -- particularly the nature of Christ being fully man and fully divine (as well as how Jesus fulfilled and superseded the Messianic expectation of the Jews)
    - 4) To explain the significance of the cross (almost half the book is devoted to the last week of Christ's life-- the passion week), and Christ's death is foretold in 3:6.
3. Theme Verse -- Mark 1:1
  - A. Gospel (Evangel / Good News, from euangelizomai - to evangelize)
    - The "Gospel" is connected by the "as" in vs. 2 to the quotation in vs. 2-3. The intimation there as well as in 1:14-15 is that the "Gospel" is a fulfillment of something foretold in the Old Testament. [See also, Rom. 1:1-4, 1 Cor. 15:1-4, Gal. 3:8, 1 Pt. 1:25 and Ps. 40:9, 68:11, 96:2, Is. 40:9, 41:27, 52:7, 61:1]

REVIEW / DISCUSSION: Discuss findings from the homework skim through of Mark. Do the themes match up with our fourfold purpose? Other important themes?

### B. The Identity of Jesus -- *Christ, the Son of God*

#### 1) Christ = Messiah = Anointed One

A messianic expectation was already present in Jesus day (Luke 1). An expectation of deliverance from enemies and the Messiah as King-Deliverer was current.

2) Son of God, this title has OT precedence. Psalm 2 & 2 Sam. 7 join the title Son and Christ together as we see here in Mark 1. Son was a title given to David's heir, it was also used of Israel, as being God's Son (Hos. 11:1). But Mark shows that for Jesus, this means even more than the idea of Messianic Ruler.

DISCUSSION: How was Jesus less and more than what the Jews of His day were expecting in a Messiah? How might Mark 1:2-3 help us see what aspect of the Messiah's ministry that Jesus was going to focus on in his first advent? Jot down your observations.

3) The identity of Jesus certainly is key to what makes the Gospel good. And the identity of Jesus is a key theme of Mark.

The words Christ and Son (of God, or of the Highest), as a title for Jesus, appear in a uniquely important way in Mark. Jesus rarely calls himself these titles, preferring instead Son of Man which appears 14 times at least of Jesus in Mark.

<b>Christ</b> (or *Son of David)	<b>Son of God</b>
1:1 (by Mark)	1:1 (by Mark)
8:29 (by Peter)	1:11 (by God)
[10:47-48]* (by a blind man)	3:11 (by a demon)
14:61 (by the high priest)	5:7 (by demons)
15:32 (in derision at the cross)	9:7 (by God)
	14:61 (by the high priest)
	15:39 (by the centurion)

DISCUSSION: What can we see from this arrangement? What stands out?

#### 4. Key Themes in Mark

##### A. Identity of Jesus

1) See questions about Jesus: 1:27, 2:7, 4:41, 6:2-3, 8:29, 10:18, 14:61.

2) See also statements of amazement about Jesus: 1:27-28, 2:12, 4:41, 5:42, 6:2-3, 6:14, 7:37, 10:24-26, 10:32, 12:17.

3) Notice the bewilderment and lack of understanding displayed by the disciples throughout the book 6:52, 7:18, 8:17-18, 8:21, 9:10, 9:32, 10:24-26.

4) Finally see how Jesus continually asks people to keep quiet about who He is: 1:34, 1:43-45, 3:10-12, 5:43, 7:24, 7:36-37, 8:26, 8:30, 9:9.

B. Mission of Jesus 1:38, 2:17, 10:45.

C. Importance of Faith: 1:15, 2:5, 4:40, 5:34, 5:36, 9:24, 9:42, 10:52, 11:22-24, 11:31, 13:13, 15:32.

D. Inevitability of Persecution 1:12-13, 3:21, 3:31-35, 8:34-38, 10:30-34, 10:45, 13:8-13.

HOMEWORK: Skim through Mark if you haven't done so and look at the themes above. Also try to find a general movement of the book, an outline of sorts. Also, read chapter 1:1-20.