

- I) **V1-3 INTRO: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**
- II) **We recently concluded a study in the Book of Revelation**
In that book we received a prophetic outline of events leading to the return of Jesus
- III) **After concluding the book, I began praying about what we should study next**
I decided on Mark because I believe it is the right time to look at a gospel
I haven't taught Mark since 2003, so I believe it's time to do so once again
- IV) **As we begin, I will give some basic information to help us understand this gospel**
- V) **Mark, the writer of the book, was not one of the original apostles**
- VI) **He most likely came to Jesus through Peter's ministry**
In 1 Pe 5:13 Peter referred to him as his son which would speak of a son in the faith
- VII) **This settled his credibility because his gospel was likely dictated to him by Peter**
- VIII) **Mark became a traveling companion of Paul and Barnabas, his cousin (Ac 4:36; 9:27)**
Mark went with Paul and Barnabas on Paul's first missionary journey
- IX) **It would seem that Mark was not mature enough for such a ministry**
He deserted them, returning to Jerusalem: This caused a great problem for Paul
- X) **Paul later refused to take him on a subsequent missionary journey**
Paul wanted to visit cities that he had won converts, to check on their spiritual health
Ac 15:37-40 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.
- XI) **Mark eventually became an example of a man who was mentored into maturity**
Barnabas disciplined him and encouraged his growth in the Lord

XII) This should provide encouragement to any who have stumbled at the cost of service

Ps 37:23-24 The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.

XIII) When he says they will never fall, he is speaking of being cast away, or thrown away

Though a righteous person may fail, they are not discarded by God

I) Instead, the Lord upholds them by the hand

It is not by his own power that he is recovered, but because even when he fails, he is held up by God's invisible hand, and God will not let him sink into complete ruin

Phil 1:6 I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

II) Paul ultimately reconciled with Mark and later spoke well of him

2 Ti 4:11 Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

III) Mark was reconciled with Paul and was restored to ministry

This is because God is never surprised at our failures, and is grace filled toward us

IV) We may fail, but we do not remain in failure

Pr 24:16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again, but the wicked stumble into calamity.

V) Finally, it is believed that the gospel was written between 55-65 AD

This is because the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, and its destruction isn't mentioned

VI) Each gospel was written with a purpose

Matthew was written to Jewish readers to present Jesus as Messiah

Luke was written for Gentile (Greeks) to present Jesus as the Perfect

Man

John was written as an apologetic against a heresy called Gnosticism

VII) Mark was written to Romans to present Jesus as the perfect submitted servant

In Roman culture, this would make Jesus an example of the ideal Roman citizen

Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many

VIII) V1-3 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God

**Mark begins by giving us a sense of the transition of the word Gospel
As we will see, gospel speaks of good news and refers to the Kingdom
of God**

IX) Here, Mark makes it clear that gospel also refers to a written record

**He uses the word to share the main facts of Jesus' life and His work
We use the word to both describe the message of salvation as well as
the Book**

X) V1 The gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God

**Mark immediately points us to the fact that Jesus is not simply a
prophet or good man**

XI) He begins by boldly proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God

**I) This reminds us of Peter's words to Jesus and his personal confession of faith
in Him**

**Jesus asked His men Who do men say that I the Son of God am
Mt 16:16 (Peter replied) You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!**

II) This event was a critical moment in Peter's life

**It would be something that he would have instilled in Mark as he shared
with him**

III) How do we know that Jesus is the Son of God

**Mark refers to what is written in the Jewish prophets concerning
Messiah**

IV) V2-3 As it is written in the Prophets

**The Romans did not necessarily have great knowledge of OT scriptures
In Mark's gospel, he quotes scripture to reveal that Jesus fulfilled
prophecy**

V) The OT prophets wrote concerning the Messiah who was to come

**Hundreds of years before the fact the prophets were moved by the Spirit
to write of Him**

**2 Pe 1:21 for prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of
God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**

**VI) In his first letter Peter made it clear that the prophets were writing to future
generations**

1 Pe 1:12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they

were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into

VII) Mark's gospel is inseparably intertwined with the Prophets of the OT
This is because he desires to demonstrate that the Messiah of the OT is Jesus Christ

In the life and ministry of Jesus, no less than 300 specific OT prophecies were fulfilled

VIII) This element of prophecy is found in no other religious book in the world

IX) This is because only the True God is able to declare what will happen in the future

Is 46:9-10 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

Is 48:5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, lest you should say My idol has done them, and my carved image and my molded image have commanded them

X) Mark makes it clear that what he is about to declare is found in ancient writings

He begins by quoting two prophets: Malachi and Isaiah

I) V2-3 As it is written in the Prophets: Behold I send My messenger before Your face who

II) Mark's quotation is a combined reference of two OT books
It speaks of Messiah and His messenger

III) His first reference is from the Book of Malachi, the last book of the OT (430 BC)
Mal. 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, says the LORD of hosts.

IV) God says that before the Messiah comes, a messenger is to prepare the way for Him

V) V3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness
This prophecy combines the Messenger, the Message, and the Messiah

VI) It is taken from the book of Isaiah (740-680 BC)
Is 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the

Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God

**VII) Jesus said that the one referred to as the messenger was John the Baptist
Mt 11:10 (John is the one) of whom it is written Behold, I send My
messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You**

**VIII) V2-3 The ministry of John was to prepare the way of the Lord
He was sent to preach repentance in order to prepare people for Jesus'
appearance**

**IX) The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord make
His paths**

**This is a picture of a waterless desert, without roads and filled with
obstacles**

**X) This is what it is like to be without a relationship with the Lord
Life is filled with obstacles and spiritual dryness**

**XI) When you receive forgiveness of your sins, and Christ is your savior you can
be satisfied**

**Ps 107:35 He changes a wilderness into a pool of water and a dry land
into springs of water**

**XII) When kings went on journeys through wilderness, the way was to be prepared
for them**

**Workers were sent before him to clear, level and build a road for his
travel**

**XIII) John was sent to prepare the way for Messiah by preaching repentance
His preaching encouraged people to give Jesus a fitting reception**

**I) People were to prepare to meet Messiah by cleaning the debris of sin from
their lives**

**They were to, by confessing and repenting, open a direct path for Him to
enter in**

Make His paths straight! Clear out the sin and clutter so He can enter in

**II) V4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of
repentance**

**III) John was unique: Jesus said he was not only a prophet, but was more than a
prophet**

This is because he was both a prophet and a subject of prophecy

IV) Mark abruptly introduces John but doesn't give much information

V) By looking at various scriptures we can get an idea of who this great man was

VI) John was a miracle child, born to an aged couple named Zacharias and Elizabeth

Lu 1:36 tells us his mother was Mary's cousin and John was 6 months older than Jesus

This means that John was also a cousin to Jesus

VII) By briefly looking at various scriptures, we can get a picture of this great man

Lu 1:5-6 tells us that his mother and father were of priestly descent

This would mean that John was also qualified to be recognized as a priest

VIII) This meant that John had a godly heritage, and this gave him a great advantage

IX) Lu 1:15 said that he would be great in the sight of the Lord

This is something that Jesus spoke of

Lu 11:11 (Jesus said) I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist...

X) His desire was to please God, which made him great in God's sight

To be great in the sight of God, we must establish our priorities correctly

Dt 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength

XI) Lu 1:15 Said that he did not drink wine or strong drink

John was separated to God, and did not cater to the desires of his flesh

XII) One commentator said that John sustained his character by avoiding the use of alcohol

QUOTE: I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

XIII) Lu 1:15 tells us He was filled with the Holy Spirit: Empowered and led by God: Ac 1:8

I) This was the fruit of abstaining from indulging his fleshly desires

His sinful flesh was under the control of God's Spirit: He did what pleased God

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit

Gal. 5:16 Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature

- II) Lu 1:16 says that He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God
- III) This is actually the closing words of the book of Malachi (4:6)
John was sent to call the people of Israel to repentance and to turn to God
- IV) He was courageous, obedient to his call, and very direct
- V) V4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance
He was an evangelist and called people back to God
- VI) John was the first prophet in 300 years to come and speak to Israel
As he preached, he gave the invitation for them to be baptized
- VII) There in the wilderness, in the eastern border of Israel, John baptized people
His baptism was a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins
- VIII) This was a baptism that was the result of repentance, leading to sins forgiveness
- IX) John's baptism did not produce repentance, but the baptism was the result of repenting
Repentance is a changed of mind, a turning from sin, and a righteous life of faith in God
- X) The old way of life is recognized as dead and gone, and a new life begins
It is revealed by an obvious change of direction
1 Th 1:9 They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
- XI) According to Lu 1:17, John's mission was to make ready a people prepared for the Lord
His ministry purpose was not for personal popularity and fame
Popularity and fame eventually came to him, but so did his own death
- XII) He was sent with the purpose of preparing people to be ready to meet the Lord:
- XIII) V5 Then all the land of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him and were
This represents southern area of Israel, including residents of Jerusalem

- XIV) They came to the Jordan and were baptized there
- I) There is a place that many go to be baptized called Qasr el Yahud
It is around 30 miles NE of Jerusalem
Jn 3:23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized
- II) V5 They confessed their sins (not to John) but before the people who were there
Mk 2:7 Who can forgive sins but God alone?
Their receiving baptism was an open confession of their need for cleansing
- III) V6 John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist and he ate
Briefly, the way he dressed and what he ate identified him as a prophet
- IV) His clothing reminded the people of Elijah whom they expected before Messiah
2 Ki 1:8 He had a garment of hair and had a leather belt around his waist. The king said That was Elijah the Tishbite
This may refer to the length of his hair and beard, but most likely spoke of his cloak
- V) Clothed with camel's hair is how prophets might dress
Zech 13:4 And it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear *a robe of coarse hair* to deceive.
- VI) His leather belt was modest in value, in contrast to the belts the rich would wear
They might wear a belt of linen or cotton, embroidered with silver and gold
His was of untanned leather
- VII) His diet reflected his voluntarily self-less life
It is possible that he ate *actual* locusts because they were kosher (Lev 11:22)
Some believe he ate the locust bean, a pod from the carob tree or locust tree
- VIII) This was a picture of the message he brought: humility and rejection of the world
- IX) V7 And he preached saying There comes One after me who is mightier than I whose
The message he preached was simple: Messiah is about to make His

appearance

- X) What he said is what should be said by every genuine preacher of the gospel
He pointed to the greatness of Jesus and his own unimportance
Look to Jesus, not to me! Do not enter into competition over who I am
- XI) Later, this carnal competition actually took place
Jn 3:26 They came to John and said to him Rabbi, He who was with you
beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing and all are
coming to Him!
I) John wanted to make sure that people came to Jesus, and not to him
He was only the messenger, preparing the way for the Messiah
- II) When his disciples became jealous on his behalf, he immediately corrected
them
Jn 3:28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said I am not the Christ,
but I have been sent before Him!
Jn 3:30 (John said) He must increase but I must decrease!
- III) This reminds me of something that Paul later was to deal with
The Corinthian church began arguing about who were the greatest
messengers
1 Co 3:5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? *Only servants*,
through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.
- IV) He was not worthy of even stooping down and unloosing Jesus' sandal straps
This connected with Romans: slaves untied their masters sandals and
carried them
This emphasized how lowly John saw himself, compared to Jesus
- V) V8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
He speaks to those who have been baptized and those who are present
My baptism is of repentance, that I might help to prepare you to meet
Jesus
- VI) I can only baptize the outer man, but it is Jesus who baptizes the inner man
Is 44:3 I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry
ground; I will pour My spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring
- VII) I baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
- VIII) Jesus will give you living water to drink, and fill you with His power
Jn 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and
said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever
believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within

him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

IX) This promise is still in available and is one that is the key to spiritual victory and living