

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK

FH 99 160 620



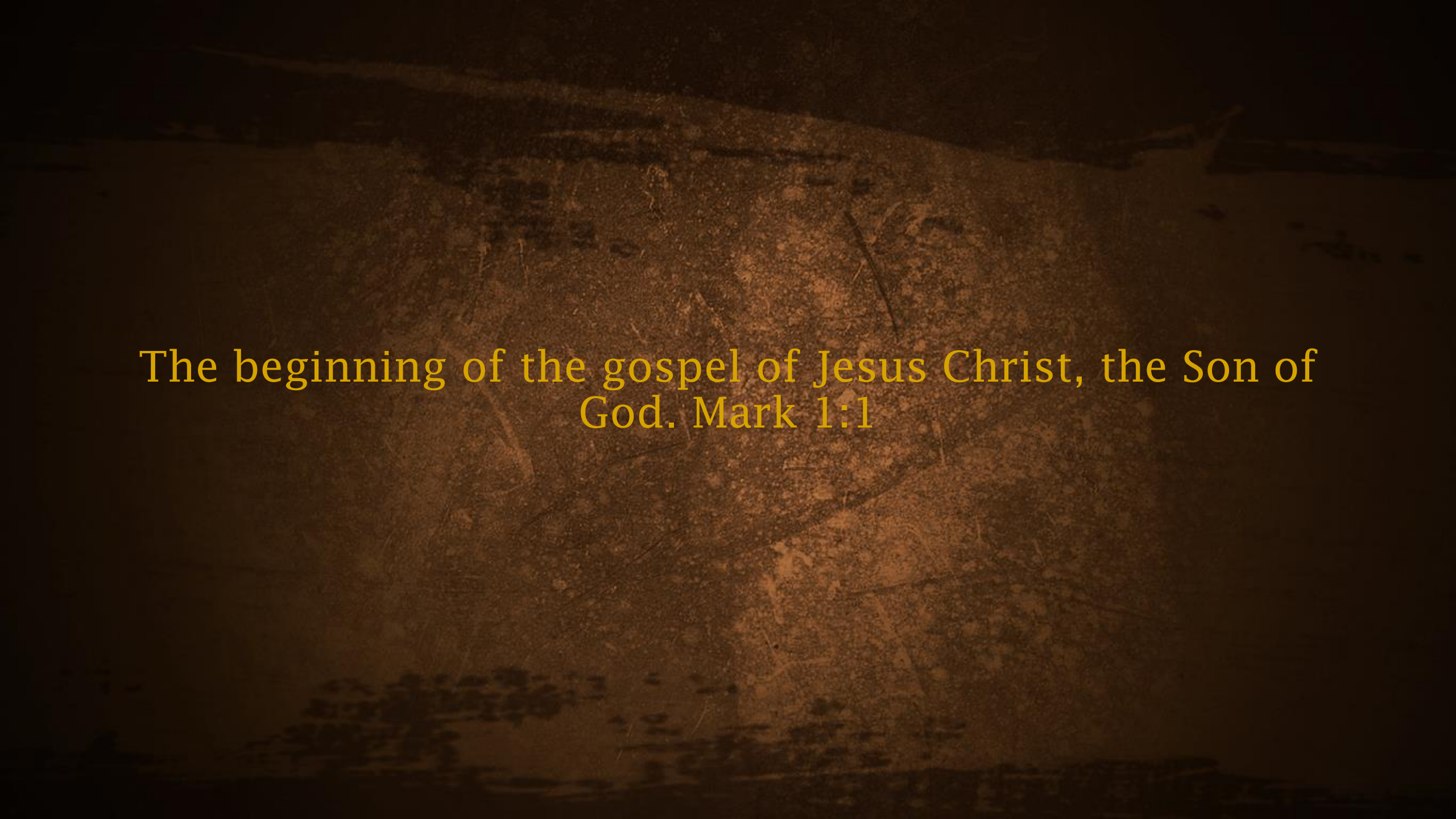
Edith Brown



50

Australia

FH 99 160 620



The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of
God. Mark 1:1

The Book of Mark is ...

1. A good news story
2. A true gospel
3. A dynamic gospel
4. A life altering gospel

1. A Good News Story

- The word gospel in the original Greek means ‘news that brings joy’
- Inscription from the ancient Greek city of Priene about the time of Jesus: **‘The beginning of the gospel of Caesar Augustus’**

Battle of Marathon



A Tired Gospel

- Is the gospel boring to you?
- Joyce A Mercer – *Children, Church and the Problem of Boredom*

When children today complain of being bored, the state of which they speak differs considerably from its earlier cousins acedia (sloth) and melancholy in terms of causality. These historically earlier cousins of boredom referenced a condition interpreted as the responsibility of the bearer. For example, a monk suffering from acedia was not the victim of dull surroundings but was a person committing a sin—the sin of disinterest and detachment from the love of spiritual practices. Melancholy, similarly, referred to a state of discontent originating from within the person bearing it. By contrast to both of these conditions, contemporary notions of boredom locate its causes outside of the person. Boredom happens because of an environment that fails to be sufficiently interesting. It is the result of an external lack or failure, rather than an internal problem for which the bearer holds responsibility.

2. A True Gospel

- Makes good news gooder
- A new kind of literature - eyewitness, biographical about the gospel
 - Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4
 - And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. Mark 15:21

In Defence ...

1. Far too early for it to be legend
 - Mark was written between 50-60AD
2. The content is too counterproductive to be legend
3. The literary form of the gospels is too detailed to be legend
 - “I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know none of them are like this. Of this [gospel] text there are only two possible views. Either this is reportage ... or else, some unknown [ancient] writer ... without known predecessors or successors, suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic, realistic narrative ...” Lewis
 - But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. Mark 4:38
 - So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. John 21:11

3. A Dynamic Gospel

- Action Packed – in present tense
 - The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
Mark 1:12

4. A Life Altering News Story

- The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1
- Priene Inscription - 'The beginning of the gospel of Caesar Augustus'

Come and see

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." John 1:43-46

Come and See

- The Message of Hope – free to a good home each week
- For Christians – read Mark without bible verses or chapter divisions – pdf online
- Christianity Explained training – Sun 26 Oct & Nov 2 (7:30-9pm@TCC)
- Church – ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Mark 8:27-29

