

Mark: Chapter 1

I. Preparations for the Christ (v.1-13)

A. The beginning of the gospel

1. “beginning” - ἀρχή
 - a) Mark is an expert narrator, fast-paced style
 - b) Mark collected these accounts from Peter
 - c) This is Mark’s emphatic titular sentence
2. “gospel” - εὐαγγέλιον, same root as εὐαγγελίζω
 - a) Good news - euphoria, angel; Septuagint (Isaiah 40:9; 52:7)
 - b) Message of salvation in the New Testament
 - c) Jesus does not just proclaim good news, but He is good news (Matthew 5:17; 1 John 2:2)
3. “Jesus Christ” - Ἰησοῦς Χριστός
 - a) Jesus Ἰησοῦς Greek form of Hebrew Joshua יְהוֹשֻׁעַ - Jehovah is salvation
 - b) Messiah χριστός from root χρίω (anoint)
 - c) Exodus 28:41; Exodus 40:9; 1 Samuel 15:1; Psalm 105:15
4. “Son of God” - υἱός θεός
 - a) Relationship to God the Father - source of anointing
 - b) Stated by Mark at the beginning - Mark 15:39

B. The herald of the King

1. Old Testament prophecy
 - a) Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3
 - b) “messenger before Me,” “way of the LORD” - Jesus is God
 - c) John’s role as a herald
2. John’s appearance
 - a) Preaching a baptism of repentance - Psalm 51:17
 - b) All the people of Jerusalem
 - c) John’s clothing and diet (2 Kings 1:8; Leviticus 11:22; Mal 4:5-6)
3. John’s humility
 - a) Cultural significance of untying straps of sandals
 - b) Matthew 11:11 - high yet low position of John
 - c) Jesus’s superior baptism

C. The baptism of the Christ

1. Jesus’ baptism
 - a) Purpose of it - Matthew 3:15
 - b) Obedience to God’s predestined plan of death, burial, and resurrection (Mark 11:28-33; Romans 6:3-4)

- c) Identification with fallen humanity (1 Corinthians 12:13; Hebrews 2:14-18)
 - 2. Confirmation of the Trinity
 - a) God affirms the authority of Jesus as the Son of God
 - b) Infinite depth of the love in the trinitarian relationship (John 3:16)
 - D. The temptation of the Christ
 - 1. Battle with Satan
 - a) Destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b; Mark 3:27)
 - b) Reminiscent of Israel's wanderings and temptation of Adam and Eve (Romans 5:17)
 - c) Unique description of wild animals
 - 2. Victory without sin
 - a) Hebrews 4:15
 - b) Matthew 4 - using the Word
- II. Jesus's Message and Authority (v.14-28)
- A. The message of the Christ
 - 1. "The time is fulfilled"
 - a) Jesus' arrival - prophets speaking of the One to come (Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:5; Micah 5:2)
 - 2. "the kingdom of God is at hand"
 - a) Luke 17:20-21 present resides in the hearts of men
 - b) Later will be a literal, earthly kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6; 21)
 - c) Different from a political kingdom that many of the Jews expected
 - 3. "repent and believe in the gospel"
 - a) Repentance without belief leads to despair; belief without repentance is not true, saving faith (Matthew 3:8; James 2:14-26)
 - b) Both occur at the same time (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Matthew 11:28-29; Isaiah 55:6-7; Luke 24:46-47)
 - c) Obedience that follows is distinct from the decision itself (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - B. The authority of the Christ
 - 1. Calling the disciples
 - a) Understanding (partially) the value of the Messiah (John 1:37-42)
 - b) Fishers of men
 - c) Immediate response
 - d) Leaving riches behind
 - 2. Teaching in the synagogue
 - a) Scribes often based authority on other rabbis

- b) Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1) and spoke with authority (John 7:16-17)
 - c) Textbook says this, research proposes that, experience teaches this; Jesus said, “I say...” (Matthew 5: 18, 22, 26, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44)
 - 3. Casting out the unclean spirit
 - a) Unclean spirits interchangeable with demon (Mark 5:2)
 - b) Demon is aware of impending doom (Matthew 8:29; Luke 8:31)
 - c) Identifies Jesus as the Holy One of God
 - d) Silencing of the demon (not because of content or timing/location)
 - demon obeys Jesus
- III. Jesus’s Ministry (v.29-45)
- A. The compassion of the Christ
 - 1. Simon’s mother-in-law
 - a) High fever (Luke 4:38)
 - b) No period of “improvement” but instantaneous healing
 - c) Beautiful image of proper response of a disciple
 - 2. All who were ill and those who were demon-possessed
 - a) The came that evening at sundown hinting at hardness of heart of Pharisees - 24 chapters of Sabbath laws
 - b) Jesus humbly submitting to the Father’s will, serving the people, fulfilling the law, and God testifying to his identity in the hearts of man (Matthew 16:17).
 - 3. The leper
 - a) Leprosy (Leviticus 13-14; 13:3, 8, 14, 15, 22, 27, 36, 44, 45)
 - b) Leper approaches (Leviticus 5:3), demonstrating humble faith - imploring and kneeling
 - c) Jesus was moved with pity (other translations compassion)
 - d) The evidence Moses commanded (Leviticus 14:1-32)
 - e) Consequences of disobedience - obedience over “praise” (John 14:15)
 - B. The focus of the Christ
 - 1. Seclusion and prayer
 - a) Timing and place - importance Jesus placed on prayer
 - b) Prayer and dependence after incredible healing ministry
 - 2. Preaching
 - a) Not miraculous healings (which are temporary), but preaching
 - b) Miracles serve to authenticate His message
- IV. Homework - Interview someone about what they repented of when they believed in the gospel, or what they are repenting of as they continue to believe

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