



HEBRON

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Dr. Landon Dowden

## THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 1:1-20

### Initial Questions:

- Why is it called the Gospel of Mark?
- Who is Mark?
- To whom did Mark write?
  - Akin: Mark recorded, in rapid-fire succession, specific events from the life and ministry of Jesus to prove to a Roman audience that He is the Christ, the Son of God, who served, suffered, died, and rose again as the Suffering Servant of the Lord depicted by the prophet Isaiah.
- When did Mark write?
- Some Basic Presuppositions Concerning Our Gospels (Danny Akin):
  - Gospels are historical and not mythological accounts. What they record really did happen.
  - They will vary because they are written by four different men. However, because they were inspired by God, all they wrote will be true.
  - Gospels are more than thematic biographical studies. They are not biographies in the modern sense. They are historical theologies of the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - Portions may be summarized and not given as exhaustive accounts.
  - Gospels are more concerned about Christ's death than His life (more than one-fourth of each deals with the final week of His life).
    - Stein: Mark is a Passion Narrative with an extended introduction.

**Passage in a Sentence:** So that all might repent and believe, Mark provides the initial details about the ministry of Jesus to proclaim Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

### The Beginning

- By "beginning," Mark does not mean Genesis, nor does he mean the beginning of Jesus' life on earth. By "beginning of the gospel of Jesus," he means how the ministry of Jesus on earth was officially begun.
- Garland: This passage is not about John, the nature or mode of baptism, meeting God, or fighting off Satan. Mark introduces us here to Jesus, the central character in all that follows. Our interpretation must stay centered on Him and what His coming means.

**So, what is it that Mark wants us to see about Jesus at the beginning of his gospel?**

**I. We need to understand the tidings of and titles for Jesus (1:1).**

- a. The beginning of the gospel - TIDINGS
  - i. Rees: The gospel is neither a discussion nor a debate. It is an announcement.
- b. TITLES:
  - i. Christ
  - ii. Son of God

**II. We need to hear the testimony about Jesus (1:2-11).**

- a. Mark (1:1)
- b. The prophets (1:2-3)
- c. John (1:4-8)
- d. The Holy Spirit (1:10)
- e. The Father (1:11)
- f. Demons (1:24, 34; 3:11)
- g. Roman Centurion (15:39)

**III. We need to see the temptation and triumph of Jesus (1:12-13).**

- a. Jesus was faithful where Israel and Adam both failed.
- b. His going to the wilderness was not punishment but recovering what was lost.

**IV. We need to know the timing of the ministry of Jesus (1:14-15).**

- a. Akin: We must proclaim the right message.
  - i. The time is fulfilled.
  - ii. The kingdom of God has come near.
  - iii. Repent!
  - iv. Believe in the gospel.
- b. The call from Christ to repent and believe is not just an invitation to be considered but a command to be obeyed.

**V. We need to experience the transforming call of Jesus (1:16-20).**

- a. His call
  - i. Follow me.
  - ii. I will make
- b. Their response (which is a big part of Mark's gospel)
  - i. Immediately
  - ii. They left...and followed him.
- c. Our response

Because you are the Christ, the Son of God – Take my life and let it be; consecrated, Lord, to thee.