

Poems, Prayers & Promises



The Beginning of the Gospel

Key idea:

The Gospel of Mark is a dynamic fast-paced book giving the story of Jesus the Messiah, God's Son, the King Who came to suffer and die to save His people.

Key text:

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Key points:

1. For background introductory information on Mark and his Gospel, see After Hours for September 6, 2022.
2. Mark 1:1 serves as a title and summary of the book as a whole.
3. Every word in Mark 1:1 points to a key idea or theme for the book as a whole:
 - The beginning - the story told in the Gospel of Mark points back to the story of the original creation in Genesis 1:1. This story is a continuation of the Old Testament story, giving the story of the new creation/re-creation of all things.
 - Gospel - the Good News.
 - In the Gentile world, the "gospel" was often related to the birth and acts of the emperor, which were seen as introducing a new situation for the world. Jesus is the King Whose birth ushers in the new creation and the fulfillment of God's promises.
 - In the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, it was referred to the coming salvation for God's people. Jesus has come to suffer and die to save His people, and He now rules all things.
 - Jesus - the central figure of the entire book is Jesus; He is the focus of the Gospel.

- Christ - the Anointed One; the Messiah. Mark will show that Jesus is the Christ, the long-awaited Son of David, sent to save and rule the people of God.
 - The Son of God - Though this phrase was used for many different things in Judaism and the Gentile world, Mark will unfold its meaning in the Gospel to be that Jesus is the unique Son of God who will sit at God's right Hand.
4. All of these terms combine to give the key theme that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, the King Who came to suffer and die to save His people.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is it important for Mark to link the story about Jesus with the story of the Old Testament? How will knowing this help me understand the actions and words of Jesus?
3. The word "Gospel" had different meanings for Gentiles and Jews. How does Mark take advantage of this to refer to the story of Jesus as the "Gospel"? How does it help him to communicate the story of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles?
4. When I hear the word "Gospel" what comes to my mind? How do I think my unbelieving friends and family hear the word "Gospel"? Are there other words, phrases, or ideas I could use to help them understand the true meaning of "the Gospel"?
5. What is meant by the title "Christ" for Jesus? What does it mean that He is the Anointed One?
6. What does Mark mean by using the phrase "Son of God" for Jesus? How do I know what Mark intends for me to understand by this phrase?
7. The Gospel of Mark is a single book, following a single narrative from beginning to end. Have I ever read the book in a single sitting, or over a couple of days? Can I set time aside to do that this week? (Note: it takes about 80 minutes to listen to an audio reading of the entire book).
8. Who can I invite to come to BRCC to hear the Gospel this Sunday?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? How will I work to share life with them this week?