

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Lord of the Rings Movie Preview

- A. In 2000 previews for the upcoming movie came out
- B. For those who knew the books, it created excitement as it showed key moments from the book.
- C. For those who had never read the book, it served as an introduction to help them begin to get excited about it and to help them understand it a bit.
- D. A good preview can't tell the whole story, but it can help us get ready for the movie.
- E. Mark 1:1 is a preview of the whole book
- F. Today we begin a long series going through Mark's Gospel with a look at this "preview" verse.
- G. NOTE: AfterHours for last week goes over background information on the author and date of Mark.

II. The Gospel of Mark: A Preview

- A. The beginning
The **beginning** of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1
 - 1. This is the start of the book & the first gospel written
 - 2. But it points back to Genesis 1:1
The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

- a. The most famous beginning - the creation account in Genesis
 - b. Like John 1, this is an echo that points back to that.
3. This lets us know two key things about this story:
- a. It is a continuation of the Old Testament
It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" — Mark 1:2
 - 1. The next verse quotes the OT!
 - 2. Mark may not quote the OT directly but it is the foundation of all he says
 - b. The beginning in Genesis is of creation, and this book is going to be about the beginning of the new creation, the re-creation of all things.
"For Mark the introduction of Jesus is no less momentous than the creation of the world, for in Jesus a new creation is at hand." (James R. Edwards, Pillar Commentary)
4. This book is a continuation of the story of God's work in the Old Testament, beginning at creation and moving through the history of Israel.

- B. The beginning of the Gospel
The beginning of the **gospel**... Mark 1:1
 - 1. This book is called a "Gospel" but this first happened in the 2nd century
 - 2. The word Gospel literally means "Good News"
 - 3. In the Roman world, the Good News was often related to the birth and acts of the emperor, which were seen as introducing a new situation for the world.

.. since the birthday of the god Augustus was the beginning of the good news [εὐαγγέλιον] for the world that came by reason of him...

- a. Very similar to the wording of Mark 1:1
- b. Mark is consciously saying the real beginning of the true Good News was not the coming of Augustus but rather the coming of the True King, Jesus.

4. The word “Gospel” was also important for the prophet Isaiah, who used it to refer to the coming salvation for God’s people

You who bring **good tidings** to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring **good tidings** to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” Isaiah 40:9

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring **good news**, who proclaim peace, who bring **good tidings**, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, Is 61:1

- a. For Isaiah, the proclamation of the Gospel is the announcement of salvation for God’s people
- b. The exiled people of God were told that their King was coming to save them - and this was good news!
- c. This is why Mark immediately quotes Isaiah
It is written in Isaiah the prophet... Mark 1:2

5. This book will be about the Gospel - the Good News of God’s saving work for His people.

C. The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus

The beginning of the gospel about **Jesus**... Mark 1:1

1. The Gospel is centered on Jesus - about Him

- a. Greek could be saying the Gospel that Jesus preached or the one about Jesus
- b. Jesus did certainly preach the Gospel of the kingdom

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. Mark 1:14

- c. But the real focus is that the Gospel is about Jesus - it is centered on His Person and work.

2. This story will be about Jesus.

D. The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus [the] Christ

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus **Christ**... Mark 1:1

1. This Jesus Who is the center of this book is the Christ, the Messiah.

- a. Christ is not Jesus’ last name - it is a title and office.
- b. Christ = Messiah (Χριστός = **ἁΐψῃ**); Anointed One

2. The Christ is the Anointed One, the Son of David
The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his **Anointed One**. Psalm 2:2

- a. God promised that a Coming Son of David would save God’s people
- b. Unfortunately by the time of Jesus this term had become very political and misunderstood by many.

c. As a result, Jesus does not use the term often Himself, preferring the title “Son of Man”

3. However, a key moment in the book is Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ/Messiah
Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “**You are the Christ.**” Mark 8:27–29

- a. This is a key hinge for the whole book
- b. The book is pressing this question - “Who do you say that I am?”
- c. From this point forward the term is used 6x

4. This book will show that Jesus is the Christ, the long-awaited Son of David, sent to save and rule the people of God.

E. The beginning ... the Son of God

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

1. This Jesus Who is the center of this book is the Son of God.
2. ‘Son of God’ did not always mean “Deity” - it was used in a variety of ways in the OT
 - a. It was used on angels (Job 1:6; 2:1) and powerful humans (Psalm 82:6)
 - b. It was used of Israel as God’s Chosen
“When **Israel** was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called **my son.**” Hosea 11:1

c. It was also used for the Davidic King, especially the Messiah/Christ

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” Psalm 2:7

3. One of the main themes of this book is to define what is meant by saying Jesus is the Son of God.
4. The book will also show that the Christ is the unique Son of God who will sit at God’s right Hand
Again the high priest asked him, “Are you **the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?**”⁶² “**I am,**” said Jesus. “And you will see **the Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:61–62
 - a. At this key moment, the terms Christ, Son of God, and Son of Man are seen to refer to the same Person
 - b. That Person is the Only Begotten Son of God, the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises, who will rule over all creation.

III. Applying the Word

A. Who do I say Jesus is?

1. Mark is introducing us to Jesus, the central Person in his book
2. The whole Gospel is answering this question.
3. The whole Gospel is also asking me how I answer this question.
“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Mark 8:29
 - a. Jesus asked this of Peter and the other disciples

- b. He is also asking it of me - Who do I say He is?
4. Many different answers are given by people
 - a. Jesus is a great teacher
 - b. Jesus is a great moral example
 - c. Jesus was a good man who was misunderstood and put to death against His wishes
 5. Mark's answer is the truth - Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, the King Who came to suffer and die to save His people.
 6. Do I believe this?
 - a. If not, don't answer out of peer pressure; join us for this study!
 - b. Join the disciples as they grapple with this question - then you will be able to give an informed answer

B. The King's Table

1. Jesus is the King and He provides a Table for His people
2. But this King came to conquer by dying!
3. So at this Table we remember His sacrifice - and give thanks for by it we are saved!

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

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

The Beginning of the Gospel

Mark 1:1

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Gospel; Jesus; Deity of Christ; salvation and deliverance