

# Mk 1:1-8

## I. Prologue v.1 - Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God

A. Beginning- where does it go from here?

B. Gospel- good news, cf. Isa 52

Gospel?

Nature of Gospel

Jesus never wrote anything

4 different versions- 3 very similar

Written approx 30-35 years after Jesus

Timeline of NT

Jesus lived, acted, taught, died and rose- events recorded in Gospels

The apostles were filled with the Spirit and preached kerygma- events recorded in Acts

Epistles written to deal with these dynamics of early churches

Gospels written after most epistles- to people who were already saved and familiar with much about Jesus and the Christian life

Different Gospels with different emphases written for different communities with different needs

Not intended to be biographies in the modern sense

No birth narrative or physical description

Not as interested in precise times or dates or chronology

'Gospel' not a type of literature

Literally good news- but not originally the news itself

But the climactic event(s) which were life changing- for the purpose of action, imitation on the part of the readers- not just written to inform or entertain, but to motivate and to change

C. Jesus Christ- Messiah

D. Son of God

## II. OT Quote 2-3

A. Introductory formula- Just as It is Written in Isaiah the Prophet

1. It is written in Isaiah the prophet

2. Combination of two quotes, why only mentioned one?

B. Malachi quote- Mal 3:1 – Behold I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way

1. Promise of preparatory one- last step but one

2. Lord will come to temple

3. context, word of judgment

C. Isaiah quote- Isa 40:3 – A voice crying in the wilderness- 'prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths'

1. Turning point of Isaiah

2. Word of comfort and hope/salvation/fulfillment

3. Word of exhortation to get ready for promised fulfillment

D. Judgment and hope mixed together

### III. John Baptizing 4-8

- A. Baptism- John was baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins
  - 1. Significance of Baptism
    - a. OT washing
    - b. Ezek 36 washing
    - c. Initiation rite for Jewish converts
    - d. Scandal in applying to Jews- radical departure- repentance was for gentiles. God's people are to be created on new grounds/basis, not earthly descent
  - 2. Repentance and forgiveness
    - a. Not something that brings forgiveness
    - b. But acknowledging self as a sinner, i.e. not ready for end, submitting to prepare for coming King.
- B. Location, Desert/Jordan/Border/Exodus
  - 1. Not Jewish political power base
  - 2. OT Significance of desert and crossing Jordan
- C. People's response
  - 1. Judea and Jerusalem (power base) went out- And all of the region of Judea and all the Jerusalemites went out to him
  - 2. Confessed and baptized- and were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins
    - a. Mt. and Lk. tell that J the B commanded these things- prepare for coming age- getting ready for the day of Lord
    - b. Confess = agree with God
- D. John's clothing- John was dressed in camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and eating locust and wild honey
  - 1. 2 Kgs 1:8
  - 2. Elijah, cf. Mal ch 4
  - 3. explains fearful response of crowds
  - 4. On diet, "His diet represents the attempt to live...on 'food that grows by itself' (i.e., living off the land)" France p. 69
- E. John's message- And he preached, saying, 'The one stronger than me is coming after me, I am not worthy to bend down and untie the straps of his sandals. I am baptizing you in/with water, but He will baptize you in/with the Holy Spirit.'
  - 1. the coming one is coming- at the brink, get ready
  - 2. he is more powerful
  - 3. he is more worthy
  - 4. I baptize with/in water
  - 5. he will baptize with/in Spirit- judgment **and** salvation