

Slide content for Mark 1:1-13 “In the Beginning, God” (5/1/22)

Outline:

About the author of this gospel account:

Acts 15:³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

Col. 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark the cousin of Barnabas** (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, **welcome him**),

Philemon ²⁴ and so do **Mark**, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, **my fellow workers**.

2Tim 4:10 Luke alone is with me. **Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.**

1) So it begins (1:1)

Before Jesus went to the cross and rose again, what would his hearers understand “the gospel” to refer to?

Isa. 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings **good news**,
who publishes **peace**, who brings **good news of happiness**,
who publishes **salvation**,
who says **to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**
8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye **they see**
the return of the LORD to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 **The LORD has bared his holy arm**
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Nah. 1:14 The LORD has given commandment about you:

“No more shall your name be perpetuated;
from the house of your gods I will cut off
the carved image and the metal image.

I will make your grave, for you are vile.”

15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him

who brings good news,
who publishes peace!

Keep your feasts, O Judah;

fulfill your vows,

for never again shall the worthless pass through you;
he is utterly cut off.

Joshua Chatraw, “The good news is not a series of abstract beliefs or an ideology or a list of rules to follow to be ‘good’ people. While other religious ‘solutions’ claim to offer salvation through obedience to a great prophet or spiritual guru, the Christian story hinges on an *event*. The good news is a *person*. God himself entered our world as a man, offering forgiveness that transforms the broken and turns rebels into sons and daughters. To pay for sin and to mend the wounded, he bore on the cross the cost of rebellion. To defeat evil, he absorbed the worst of the malevolent powers of this world. While we ran away, Jesus came running to us with the Father's love. The good news is grace.”

2) The forerunner foretold (1:2-3)

Is. 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

Is. 40:3 A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

...

- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

3) Preparing the way (1:4-8)

2 Kings 1:8 They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 4:5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Titus 3:⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

4) The significance of Jesus’s baptism (1:9-11)

Matt. 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶

For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

5) The significance of Jesus's desert temptation (1:12-13)

Tim Keller, "In Genesis: The Spirit moves over the face of the waters, God speaks the world into being, humanity is created, and history is launched. What's the very next thing that happens? Satan tempts the first human beings, Adam and Eve, in the garden of Eden. Now here in Mark: the Spirit, the water, God speaks, a new humanity, history is altered, and immediately the pattern continues with Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness." (*King's Cross*, 11)

Ex 4:²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

Hosea 11:1 God also says of his people, "Out of Egypt I called my son..."

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

Donald Macleod: "Every year the world — and the church — experiences Christmas, that curious amalgam of paganism, commercialism, and Christianity which Western civilization has invented to tide it over the darkest days of the winter. Christmas is a lost opportunity, a time when the world invites the Church to speak and she blushes, smiles, and mutters a few banalities with which the world is already perfectly familiar from its own stock of clichés and nursery rhymes. [No. Christmas is not a tacky or nostalgic birthday party for a mythical or tribal deity, but as Macleod says,] [Christmas is] ...**the perforation of history by One from eternity . . . the intrusion and eruption of the Eternal into the existence of man.**"