

Series: The Gospel of Mark  
"The Gospel" # 1  
12-11-16 Sun AM

The purpose of the book is stated in this first verse. Let me share a few background remarks about John Mark:

1. John Mark was the cousin of Barnabas and Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on his first missionary journey.
2. John Mark deserted Paul and then Paul refused to take him on another missionary trip. The issue sparked a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and Barnabas took John Mark to Cyprus.
3. John Mark later joined Paul again and became a valued member of Paul's team.
4. Most believe John Mark was mentored in the faith by Peter who stated that John Mark was his spiritual son in 1 Peter 5:13. Peter's influence helped Mark overcome his weaknesses and immaturity as a young man.

Let me share a few remarks about Mark's gospel in relation to the other gospels:

1. **Matthew** was written to a Jewish audience presenting Jesus as Israel's long awaited Messiah and king. **Mark** was written for Gentile believers of Rome and presents Jesus as the suffering servant to come to die for the sins of many. **Luke** writes to a broader Gentile audience and presents Jesus as the Son of Man. **John** presents Jesus as God and we should believe in Him.
2. **Mark** moves quickly through Christ's ministry [immediately is used 17 times in the gospel]. Mark omits the account of Christ's birth and begins with his baptism.

**TT-** Let's breakdown this first verse.

The gospel is the greatest story ever told because it is about the greatest person who ever lived.

### **I. The Gospel (v. 1a).**

The word "**beginning**" is a reminder that what follows is not the end of the story. The history of Jesus is still being written because he has not taken his throne and established his promised kingdom.

Mark begins to tell the story of his arrival, his death, His burial and resurrection, then his resurrection and ascension, and coronation in heaven. Then Mark would tell the story of his return and kingdom.

Only Mark used the word "**gospel**" to introduce the earthly ministry of Jesus.

We use the word to refer to the first four books of the NT, but it is not how the biblical writers used the term. The gospel is not a reference to a book, but a reference to the message of salvation.

The word means "good news" or "glad tidings" of salvation. The word is used to speak of the salvation of God's people through the messianic king.

## **II. The Gospel of Jesus Christ (v. 1b).**

Jewish readers immediately understood that this is an explicit reference to the promised Savior of Israel.

**"Jesus"** is His human name and Greek form of the name Joshua or Hebrew "Yeshua." Yeshua means "Yahweh is salvation."

This gospel speaks of the Messiah through whom this promised salvation would come.

**"Christ"** means Messiah or anointed One. Christ is a royal title not a name. This speaks of glorious tidings of the King of Kings coming to take his rightful throne.

So Mark's readers understood the gospel to be a royal announcement of one who would usher in a new order of salvation, peace, and blessing. This would be the good news of a divine king.

## **III. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (v. 1c).**

**"Son of God"** speaks of his lineage and right to rule. He is god - co-eternal, co-equal and co-existent with the Father.

Mark introduces his readers to the true divine king not Caesar as a god.

In chapters 1-8 Mark told of His words and works. In chapter 9-16 he focuses on Jesus' death and resurrection. Through his words, works, death, and resurrection, Jesus proved himself to be the promised Messianic King, the Savior of the world.

Tonight we look at the arrival of the king.

**Question-** Have you confessed your sins and believed totally in the cross of Christ to get you to heaven?