

Dr. Ron Lyles
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THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL

1. The Anticipation of the Messenger (1:2-3)

Malachi 3:1 (Exo. 23:20) and Isaiah 40:3

The theme is that a **messenger** will prepare for the coming of **the Lord**

2. The Appearance of the Messenger (1:4-8)

John appears suddenly, one like Elijah (1 Kgs 17:1; Mal 4:5)

John's dress and diet were appropriate to the desert environment

John's preaching included two components:

- A **baptism of repentance** for the **forgiveness** of sins
eis meaning for, at, as the result of, with respect to, on the basis of;
the same word found in Acts 2:38 and Matt. 12:41
baptisma denotes the meaning of the act rather than the act itself
- **Preparing the way** for another person to follow him
John had an influential ministry in his own right but was a forerunner/messenger
Contrast between the two baptisms of water and Spirit

3. Prepare the Way for the Lord (1:9-13)

- The Baptism of Jesus by John
 1. Why was Jesus baptized?
 2. Who saw the heavens opened and the Spirit/dove descend?
 3. What was the significance of what God said? (Ps 2:7; Isa 42:1)
- The Testing of Jesus by the Spirit or Temptation of Jesus by Satan
 1. The traditional location was the Judean plateau west of Jericho
 2. The shortest account (Matt 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

4. The Lord (Jesus) Proclaims the Kingdom of God (1:14-20)

About a year elapsed between verses 13 and 14 (John 1:43—3:36)

The kingdom of God or the rule of God is near

Repent (like John) and believe the good news (gospel)

Jesus is in Capernaum, his Galilean base of ministry

At the beginning, this call of others looks beyond the ministry of Jesus

Dr. Ron Lyles
July 1, 2020

AN INTRODUCTON TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

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

WHAT?

The gospel (little g) is the *euangellion* “good news.” It is the good news of God’s promised rule (Kingdom of God) coming near in the appearance and ministry of the person of Jesus (1:14-15).

- Christ is Greek *Christos* that translates Hebrew *Mashiach*, the anointed one
- The Son of God is the full assertion of the deity of Jesus.

The Gospel (capital G) is a term that refers to the new literary form that Mark (and the others) created. It is biographical in nature though not a biography.

WHO?

1. This Gospel is technically anonymous (like the other three).
2. The identification of Mark as the writer in the earliest Christian sources
3. Mark in NT (Acts 12:25; 13:5,13; 15:36-41; Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13)
4. The association of Mark with Simon Peter

WHERE AND WHEN?

Probably Rome, the center of the Roman Empire

The establishment of the Christian movement in Rome

Shortly after the death of Peter during the persecution of Nero, AD 65-70

WHY?

1. To Preserve the ministry of Jesus and the meaning of his death/Resurrection
2. To Present the Kingdom of God in both its present and future dimensions
3. To Provide a paradigm for Discipleship, how to follow Jesus