

Where did the Gospel actually begin? Where did God's Good News originate? Matthew and Luke began their accounts of Jesus' life with the stories surrounding his birth. John began before the creation of the world where the Son of God was not only present, but he also did the creating. Mark, with his focus on Good News, chose to begin in a different place. If folks are going to be open to the Good News of God, then someone is going to have to be a servant and prepare the way for Jesus to come and for his word to be heard. In many respects, the Good News always begins in this way. The real question is whether we are willing to be used as servants like John the Baptist — who is introduced in the next verse — and prepare the way for Jesus' Good News to be heard by those closest to us.

PRAYER: Father in heaven, please use my life to prepare the way for Jesus to come with his Good News into the lives of my friends, acquaintances, and family. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

TAKEAWAY

Discussion Questions—Mark 1:2-3

1. Do you see God's pattern of redemption from the Old Testament to the New Testament? (Please specify a few examples)
2. Why did Mark choose passages from the prophets Isaiah and Malachi?
3. How should the Old Testament prophecies be understood?

ANSWERS: 1) Old Testament; 2) Mark; 3) my messenger, forerunner

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones
Sunday, January 21, 2024



Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"

Week 1: Introduction of the Gospel According to Mark (1:1)

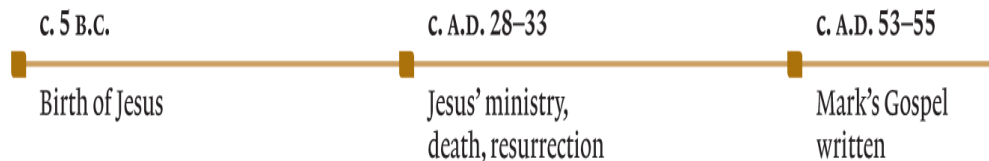
Week 2: The Proclamation of Jesus Christ, Son of God (Mark 1:1)

Week 3: The Old Testament Prophets and the Gospels (Mark 1:2-3)

Week 4: The Old Testament Prophets and the Gospels (PART 2)

Week 5: Aspects of John's Ministry (Mark 1:4-8)

Week 6: The Inauguration of Jesus' Ministry (Mark 1:14-20)



Outline

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

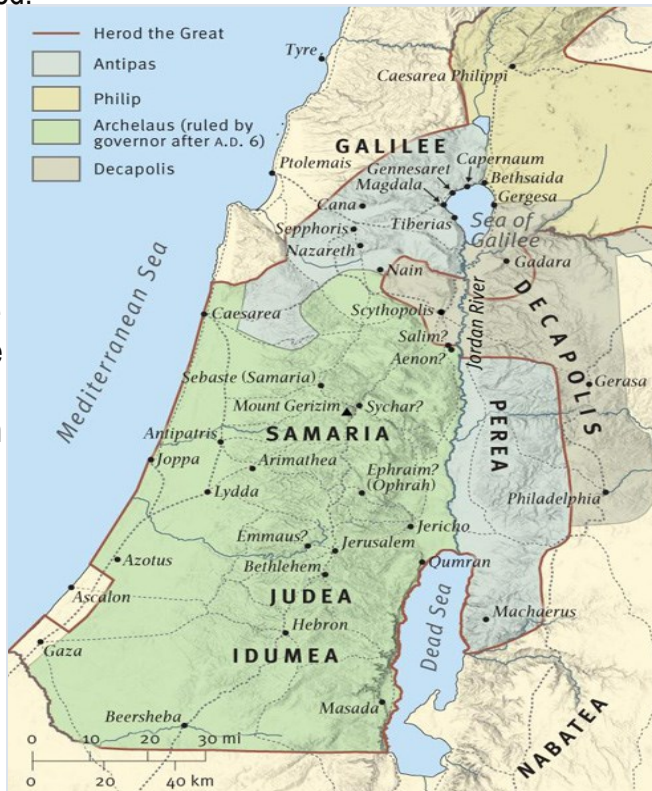
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



- 1) The first thing Mark says about the ministry of John the Baptist is that it was prophesied in the _____
(**Malachi 3:1** and **Isaiah 40:3**).
- 2) **“Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight”**:
The passage _____ quoted from (**Isaiah 40:3**) had in mind the building up of a great road for the arrival of a majestic king.
- 3) **“Behold, I send _____ before your face, who will prepare your way**, Mark quoted this passage from (**Malachi 3:1**) which predicts that a _____ will **prepare the way of the LORD**, God calls this forerunner **My messenger**.