

## **“God’s Messenger”**

Mark 1:1-8

### **THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL. v.1**

**1. “Gospel” means good news or glad tidings.** We use the word ‘gospel’ in 2 ways...

- There are gospel books in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John).
- There is a gospel ‘message’ we believe and share with others. I.e., “sharing the gospel”

**2. Mark links “the gospel” with a name: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

- The good news has to do with a man: Jesus.
- The good news has to do with an ‘anointed’ man: Christ. aka. “the Messiah”
- The good news has to do with a divine man: the Son of God.

**3. The word “gospel” was not first used by Christians.**

- In the ancient world, “gospel” meant “an historical event which introduced a new situation for the world.”
- Among Romans it was used in association with emperor worship.

### **PROPHESED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. v.2-3**

- The ‘beginning’ of the gospel of Jesus Christ is rooted in the OT.

**1. Malachi 3:1:** *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me....*

**2. Isaiah 40:3:** *A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”*

- This messenger’s ministry would be in the wilderness and would be a ministry of proclamation: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD. Make His paths straight.’ → Get ready for the LORD!
- Isaiah 40 symbolically pictures the LORD leading the Jews out of captivity in Babylon.

→ Application: READ Isaiah ch. 40-43 through the lens of both God’s promise and power to deliver you from sin.

### **JOHN IS THE “MESSENGER”. v.4-6**

**1. John appeared, baptizing and proclaiming in the wilderness. v.4** Ref. Luke 1:36; Genesis 15:6

- Baptizing and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- Better understanding: ‘a baptism arising out of repentance’ or ‘a baptism from repentance’.

**2. God was working revival in many people in the surrounding areas. v.5**

- All the country of Judea and Jerusalem were going out to the wilderness to be baptized by John.
- They were being baptized and confessing their sins. (Lit. to confess publicly, to avow openly their sin)

**3. John lived a ‘wilderness’ lifestyle and ministry. v.6** Ref. Proverbs 1:23; 28:13

- John’s clothes were made of camel hair. He wore a leather belt.
- His diet consisted of locusts and wild honey. → Why is Mark telling us this?
  1. His clothing and lifestyle echo Elijah the prophet. 2 Kings 1:8; Jesus says explicitly in 9:9-13.
  2. They show John’s character and his radical commitment to follow God. Ref. Luke 7:24-35.

→ Walking in God’s ways takes courage, self-denial, sacrifice, and going without.

→ The way for Jesus is prepared by starting with sin. Confession, repentance. See Luke 3:18-20 in its context.

### **ANOTHER ONE IS COMING.... v.7-8**

**1. One coming after me will be greater. v.7**

- He has more might. He is more worthy. ‘I am not even worthy to untie the strap of his sandals’

**2. One coming after me will have a greater ministry. v.8**

- ‘I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit’

### 2 Closing applications:

**1. Historical context:** Mark was likely written during or just after Nero’s brutal persecution of Christians.

**2. Consider God’s record of working in the wilderness. Ref. Isaiah 42:1-4**

- a theme in Mark’s prologue. vs. 3,4,12,13

What does the Old Testament say about the Holy Spirit? Consider these verses...

Numbers 11:29 –

Psalms 143:10 –

Proverbs 1:23 –

Isaiah 11:1-2 –

Isaiah 32:15 –

Isaiah 42:1-4 –

Isaiah 44:3-4

Isaiah 59:20-21 –

Isaiah 61:1-3 –

Ezekiel 36:26-27 –

Ezekiel 37:1-14 –

Joel 2:28-29 –

(Discipleship Classes begin next week... come grow in God's Word and His ways.)