

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 2007: Mark's Gospel: Introducing the Messiah: Mark 1:1-13

Two Biographies: Martin Luther.....Says about it(on the back).....So we would expect...  
The other about Jesus... his introduction says:

### **The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

So we would expect.....Mark ....to tell us how...

this Jesus showed Himself to be.....the Christ....the Son....AND then explain how....is good news

***AND that's exactly what John Mark does.....***

- **He is not concerned** with details of his birth.....family....childhood
- **He simply** wants us to see the facts.....that prove....that this remarkable person...**Jesus** from...
- **Is in fact**.....**THE MESSIAH>>>>>THE SON OF GOD**

And so straight away.....from verse 2 to 13....he gives his readers ....**solid supportive evidence**

**For** his amazing claim.....about this man Jesus

- **And for his readers**.....in the world of the first century.....Both Jews and Gentiles

It was an even more amazing claim.....than we can appreciate

For that term Christ.....Was not a surname.....**But a title** well known to every Jew

- **It literally meant**.....the one anointed as King.....**Chosen** by God to restore His people

*The Jews had clung to one hope for hundreds of years. That God had promised them  
a powerful king who would someday restore their glorious status  
as God's most favoured nation. This heroic figure came to be called, The Messiah.*

So when Mark began by saying.....this Jesus is that Promised Messiah

People were anxious to know why Mark would even think that

**And Mark answers** by claiming that this Jesus.....is the 'YOU' that Isaiah the Prophet spoke about

.v2—3 *It is written in Isaiah the prophet:*

*"I will send my messenger ahead of **YOU**, who will prepare your way"—*

*"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

.....**the reason** we know that Jesus is the YOU.....Isaiah wrote about

Is because we saw the messenger who went ahead of Him → His name was John

Now of course..... those original readers had an advantage over us

→ **they lived when both John and Jesus were around**

Many had seen one or both.....**The majority** would have heard

**They lived at the time when this momentous piece of history.....was taking place**

- **When Mark spoke of John**.....most of them knew who he meant

**They perhaps** knew someone who had.....**Or they** themselves had been to that spot in the Jordan

*(Barrow Creek and Peter Falconio;;;And it was exciting to think.....)*

As they read Mark's words.....they would have visualised John

**"Yes he did dress** like an old testament Prophet.....**Why** some even thought he was Elijah

**And he did** do his preaching way out in the desert

**And he did call** us to spiritually prepare our hearts for.....**And to** show that by being baptized

- **And perhaps** we can imagine.....many of them having....light bulb exp
- **And thinking** in their hearts.....**You are so right Mark**
- He really did do what **Isaiah** said the messenger would do

And...from what we've heard.....He did talk about one who would come

One so mighty that even John felt tiny before Him"

**Well that one....says Mark ...was indeed the Messiah...the Christ**  
**And He is this Jesus....you would have heard of.....who came from Nazareth in....**

And we know that this Jesus was the one John pointed to  
Because of what happened at His baptism

LOOK AT: ..v9—11

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love: with you I am well pleased.’”*

• **Now we read those words.....say...well that’s pretty good**  
A Jew....in the time of John Mark.....would read these words....and say.....

**That is remarkable**

**You see....**that account is full of meaningful prophecies from the OT.....**that** we don’t even notice  
**But the Jews who witnessed it.....**and the Jews who read about it....would have seen it...beacon.  
They saw meanings ....that we have to hunt the Scriptures for..but they had in their memory banks

**Heavens being torn open.....meant for them...**

**access between God and humans is now possible.....**It permits the Spirit to descend  
They would have been conscious of Isaiah 64:1  
“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down”

**The Spirit descending was a sign of the anointing.....**  
**that the Messiah (anointed one) would receive**

Isaiah 42:1 says “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.”

**And the voice of God saying:**

**“You are my Son, whom I love; with you am I well pleased”**

Would have immediately reminded them of Isaiah 42:1

But also of Psalm 2:7

I will proclaim the degree of the Lord:  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
Today I have become your Father

**Look at all this and see.....says Mark....that this Jesus.....**Whose life you will now read about  
**Is the Christ**

**But He is also the Son of God.....**come into this world to defeat Satan and the powers of evil

• **That’s why ...Mark mentions here....that the Spirit leads Him into the desert**

**There for 40 days** Satan tries His best to defeat the Son of God...come to earth  
but He is unsuccessful

....**through the rest of the story**....Mark will show the demons as terrified of  
as doing everything He tells them to.....as acknowledging that Jesus was the Messiah  
**But this section...**simply ends.....**with the picture of Jesus.....**safe from the wild animals  
.. lovingly ministered to by the angels

**This is the One that** we will see more of....as we progress through Mark’s

But already we sense the majesty.....**of the One who became flesh .....and....**

**It’s no wonder that Mark calls it “good news”...Good news about a King come to earth**

**To be our Saviour**Good news that Mark himself heard....from the Apostle Peter.....And now he  
shares it with us.....This week how will we share it with others??

