

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Christianity's Foundation Mark 1:1-8

I. Context

- A. Isaiah 39: Israel will go into exile
- B. Isaiah 40: Comfort will come...a return from that exile will come
 - 1. Warfare will be ended and sin will be pardoned: Vs. 2
 - 2. Messenger will prepare the way for the Lord: Vs. 3
 - 3. Valleys will be lifted up, Mtns. Brought low: Vs. 4
 - 4. The Glory of the Lord will be revealed: Vs. 5
 - 5. Word of the Lord will stand: Vs. 6-8
 - 6. Herald this "Good news" (Gospel): Vs. 9
 - 7. Reward will be with God (Reward is God): Vs. 10
 - 8. God will tend his flock like a shepherd...He will gather lambs: Vs. 11
- C. This is the back drop to Mark...when Mark opens with "Gospel" he is saying this is what Isaiah prophesied is coming true in Christ...He is that Reward...the one for whom the Messenger was preparing...the Lord Himself

II. The Gospel is the answer to your deepest need

- A. Gospel = Good news
- B. Jesus = Greek for Joshua = Savior...Jesus is Savior....greater Joshua, leading out of wilderness into greater Land of Promise (God Himself)
- C. Christ = Messiah or Anointed
- D. Son of God = God revealed to man...God in the flesh
- E. Verse one could reads literally: *"The beginning of the good news concerning the Savior Messiah, God Himself"*
- F. This is the lens by which the author writes his entire account...this is what he wants us to see
- G. God sending this tells us (a) we need a Savior and (b) our captivity is serious enough to require God Himself to rescue us...so serious we can not do it alone
- H. God graciously acts to bring us out of our own captivity to our sin and into the Land of Freedom= God

III. The Gospel is a gracious move of God toward you, not a willful step of you towards God

- A. Verses 2-3 are prophecies spoken of hundreds of years previous concerning two things
 - 1. The Messenger that would "Prepare the way of the Lord" – Second Elijah – John the Baptist
 - 2. The Lord is Jesus, the Christ, the promised Messiah
- B. This is all done hundreds of years in advance of Christ's entrance to the scene...God is moving in order to bring you into fellowship with Himself...He takes the steps in initiating the process to bring you in from exile

IV. The Gospel points us to what is Mighty

A. John the Baptist baptizes a baptism of repentance of sins

1. He is the Second and promised Elijah
2. Preparing the way for the Lord
3. "Queing" up people mindful of their sins that they would have their sins forgiven in the ministry of Christ that was coming

B. John the Baptist, the greatest man to have ever lived according to Jesus, says that Christ is greater than he is and that John the Baptist's baptism was one symbolic of a greater baptism that was coming in the Spirit's baptism that would be initiated by the work of Christ

Questions

1. Discuss how the first verse of Mark tells us why the Gospel addresses our deepest need.
2. How does it deepen your understanding of the Gospel by seeing that God is "preparing the way" long before Christ even comes on the scene?
3. How is it we preach a Gospel of "Grace" yet functionally use it as "works"? (i.e. seeing God is graciously moving towards us, how can we grow in faithfulness driven by grace not works)
4. John the Baptist is baptizing a baptism of repentance of sin. How does repentance play into the life of the Christian?
5. Why is Baptism important?
6. How is it that the Gospel points us to what is mightier?
7. The author of Mark is having everything point to Christ...what do you think your friends, family members, church members would say your life points to? Are there areas of repentance here? Are there evidences of grace that God should receive praise?