

The Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:1 - 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. NASB

“ 1 The beginning of the gospel” – Mark here undertakes to write down the story of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. This he calls **“the beginning of the gospel.”** The word **“gospel”** is [2098 *euaggelion* in Greek, yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on] and actually means **good news**, so Mark is saying, the beginning of the **good news of Jesus Christ**. And it is good news indeed! In fact it is the best news that we could hear, because in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is revealed **salvation** from **sin** and **death**. That old bitter **enemy** that we have of **death** has been **conquered** by **Jesus Christ**. In the Gospel we see the **love of God** for fallen humanity revealed through the Person and the Work of Jesus, as God rescues us from our sins by sending Jesus His Son to be a sacrifice for us, and die in our place.

For thousands of years the **world** was in **ruin**. Death and suffering had plagued mankind with no apparent way to be recused from the terrible plight that our sins had brought upon us. For **God** had **warned Adam** and **Eve** our first parents, **“in the day that you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, no shall surely die,”** Gen 2:17. And since that time, after God put them out of the garden of Eden for sinning against Him, we have been sinning and we have been dying. People have been in a terrible plight under the penalty of sin, which is death and the terrible suffering that accompanies it, and **God sent Jesus** to **save the world** from this plight, and this is the **good news** of the **Gospel**. This is what Mark will write down for us. In this Gospel account we will see the amazing **man**, the **Son of God, Jesus Christ**. A man with amazing powers like no other man who could heal the sick, open the eyes of the blind, calm a violent storm and even raise the dead. Yes indeed the man Jesus, the promised Messiah has come, the time is fulfilled, and John Mark has given us an account of His life, death and resurrection.

But **how does Jesus save the world**, and what is this great story of the life of Jesus we call the good news of the Gospel?

“1 of Jesus Christ,” - The name **Jesus Christ** actually give us some very important information about who Jesus is and what He does. The name **Jesus** is the Hebrew name **Joshua** and it means **“the Lord Saves.”** His name actually represents what God sent Him to do, to save the world. And this is exactly what Jesus has come and done, by giving His life for us on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. In Jesus the Lord saves the world by reconciling us to Himself through

Jesus. Because we have alienated ourselves from God because of our sin and rebellion against Him, it is necessary for someone **other than ourselves** to come and **die in our place**, as a **sacrifice for us**, and this is why God sent Jesus. And He is the “Christ” of God. This word **Christ** is not Jesus’ last name. No it is actually a title which means the “**anointed One**,” or the “**Messiah**” or “**chosen One**,” by God. You see Jesus is that long awaited Jewish Messiah that the prophets had spoken of for hundreds of years that God would send to save His people. Jesus is that One who the prophets said would come as a great Priest-King and rule the earth and bring God’s people everlasting peace and prosperity, a kingdom of peace that shall be established and then will never end. The Old Testament **Levitical Priesthood** and its rites and ceremonies pointed forward to the **Priestly** ministry of the **Messiah**, and its **Davidic Kingly** rule pointed forward to His rightful place as the ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev 1:5). These together prophesied that the “**Christ**” would come and be that **Savior King**. So when the Scripture calls Him **Jesus Christ**, it is a title of great meaning and significance. It is saying that He is the chosen Messiah King and Savior of God’s people who **fulfills** all that **God promised** concerning His Person and Work. Isaiah speaks of this Christ the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - 6 For a **child will be born to us, a son will be given to us**; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace**. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. NASB

We often sing of the Gospel at Christmas, this is what we celebrate, the arrival of this great Savior King Jesus, who came as little baby and grew into this King who would save the world, first by dying as a **Lamb** and **Suffering Servant**, then will be a **Conquering King** when He comes again.

This is “**the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**” And Mark adds..

“**1 the Son of God.**” – Now here is an amazing thing indeed, **Jesus** is the **Son of God!** And we know from having read the Gospel of Matthew and Luke, that Jesus was **born** of a **virgin**. Mary having become **pregnant** by the **Holy Spirit** bore the very Son of God! Luke speaks clearly about this...

Luke 1:26-36 - 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, 27 to a **virgin** engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the **virgin's name was Mary**. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The

Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, **you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."** 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,** and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason **the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.** NASB

That offspring that she bore is in fact the very Son of God, both God and man, Jesus is the **"God-Man,"** fully God and fully man. He is the unique and sinless person who **alone** can save us from our sins. This He must do by dying as the very Lamb of God, the sacrifice of God who takes away our sins by the shedding of His blood.

Now this is the **announcement** of the **Gospel** which Mark proclaims. Jesus has in fact died for sins, but **receiving** His salvation is something we do by **faith**. And so God calls us to believe, or trust in Jesus, for salvation from our sins. To believe that He is the Christ, the anointed One, the Savior, indeed our own personal Savior. This is in fact how we are saved from sin and death and alienation from God, by recognizing that we have sinned and repenting of or turning from our sins to Jesus to save us. And this is good news indeed, because having our sins forgiven, death no longer has power over us, but Jesus gives us eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him for salvation. This was His promise to us.

John 3:16 - 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.** NASB

John 5:24 - 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life,** and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. NASB

Let us consider then if we have believed this good news about Jesus that Mark is announcing. If you haven't fully trusted Christ for salvation today, I would ask you what prevents you? Jesus is offering eternal life if you trust Him as Savior for salvation, and follow Him as King. Won't you entrust your life into His hands? Indeed this gracious Son of God will receive you and grant you mercy if you come to Him. And if indeed you already have, let us today rejoice that Jesus the Christ and Savior-King has come and ransomed us from our sins and given us eternal life!