

THE HERALD OF THE COMING KING

--MARK 1:1-8--

INTRODUCTION:

We are going to begin a journey through the book of Mark. Church history is unanimous that the author of the second gospel is a man by the name of John Mark. When Mark was still a young man, he accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but in Perga he deserted them and returned home. Because of this Paul did not want to take him on the second missionary journey which caused a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, which caused them to part ways. Mark later was reconciled with Paul. Mark became a disciple and companion of Peter. It is believed that Mark wrote his Gospel from the preaching of Peter on the events in Christ's life. It was written in Rome where he was with Peter until his death and it was written for the believers in Rome, especially the Gentile believers. Mark's theme is given to us in the first sentence of his book.

I. THE GOOD NEWS (Mark 1:1)

- Mark's opening verse is his _____ for the entire gospel.
- Mark is relating to us the beginning of the _____ of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Mark does not stop there but goes on to tell us that Jesus, the Messiah is the _____ of God.

II. THE GOOD NEWS PROPHESED (Mark 1:2-3)

- Mark begins his good news by taking us to Old Testament, to the _____ made concerning the coming Messiah, the promised King. (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3)
- Both these prophecies foretold that before the Messiah would come, God would send a _____ or a forerunner.
- Mark quotes the words of the prophets, "*Behold, I send My _____ ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way; The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.'*" (Mark 1:2-3, NASB95)

III. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE HERALD (Mark 1:4-6)

- After giving us the prophecies of the _____ coming to announce the coming King, Mark introduces us to the herald.
- John the Baptist appears in the wilderness and began to preach after ___ years of silence since the last Old Testament prophet.
- John the Baptist's ministry focus was a _____ of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.
- John's baptism marked the outward profession of inward repentance; it did not generate _____ but was the result of repentance. (Acts 19:4)
- The people of all Judea and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to the wilderness to see this _____ that had appeared and was announcing the coming Messiah.
- Having described John's ministry, Mark goes on and _____ John for us.

IV. THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KING (Mark 1:7-8)

- The last two verses of our passage this morning is the _____ of John's ministry. (John 3:30)
- Because he understood and embraced his role, he told the crowd, "*After me _____ is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.*" (Mark 1:7, NASB95)
- John continues to show how much mightier the coming King is than him by stating, "*I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy _____.*" (Mark 1:8, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

Jesus promised the disciples in the upper room that He would send the Holy Spirit them. That promise was first fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Since that time, every believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation and indwelt by the Holy Spirit for the rest of their life and forever. Paul describes that baptizing of the Holy Spirit in Titus 3:4-7 when he writes, "*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but*

according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4–7, NASB95) Maybe you are here this morning and you have never had this washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. This can only come through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. This supernatural power to baptize us with the Holy Spirit distinguishes the ministry of the new King from any other. John the Baptist was not able to give the Holy Spirit. Only God can do that, and the coming King announced by John is God in human flesh, and He will baptize repentant sinners with the saving power of the Spirit’s regenerative and renewing work.

John’s message summarizes the heart of the gospel, bringing us back to Mark’s use of the term in verse 1. The gospel is the good news—the glad tidings of a coming new King who is bringing in a new kingdom. This King is the long-awaited Messiah foretold by the Old Testament prophets; He is God Himself. His kingdom is a kingdom of forgiveness, blessing, and salvation. It comes to those who repent. And those who do will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This gospel is the culmination of all past redemptive history and the beginning to all future glory. Are you a part of this kingdom? John the Baptist, the faithful forerunner and herald, had come to announce the arrival of this long-awaited King.