

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**  
**THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS**  
**MARK, CHAPTERS 1-3**

March 8, 15, 22, 29  
Session 1

# MARK CHAPTERS 1-3

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



# SETTING THE CONTEXT

## EXPECTATIONS OF A MESSIAH-DELIVERER (APOCALYPTIC)

### Isaiah 11:1f.

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD...

## **Assumption of Moses 10** **(written during Jesus' lifetime)**

And God will exalt you,  
And He will cause you to approach to the heaven  
of the stars,  
In the place of their habitation.  
And you will look from on high and see your  
enemies in Ge(henna)  
And you shall recognize them and rejoice,  
And you shall give thanks and confess thy Creator.

## IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

**Inscription from Priene, in Asia Minor  
9 B.C, during reign of Caesar Augustus**

“The birthday of this god was the beginning of the gospel (good news) that came upon the world because of him”

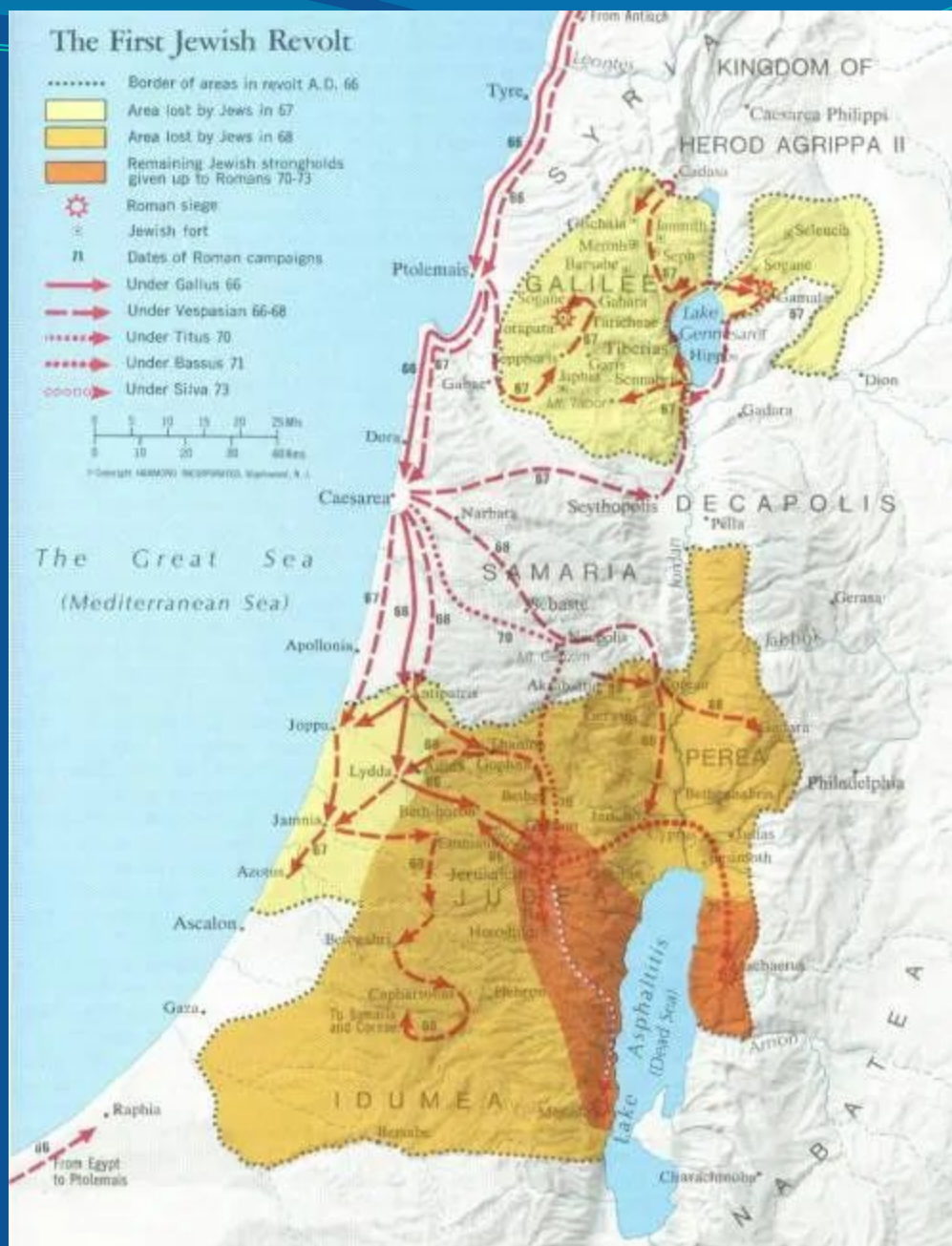
## Philo of Alexandria, "Embassy to Gaius," 143ff. (39 C.E.)

"For let us consider a man who in all his **virtues**, his **almighty power** and nobility of character far transcended human nature. For from the moment he entered into a position of care and concern for all our human affairs, he began to bring honor and veneration upon himself and on all who followed after him. To the uttermost parts of the earth, struggling in endless war, he **brought peace** and so is rightly deemed the averter of evil. He **calmed the storms** which were breaking down from every side. He **healed the diseases** of all the world. He not only **loosed the chains of bondage** that were pressing down on all the world but smashed them asunder. This is he who **reclaimed freedom** for all, changed disorder into order, and brought peace and harmony for all. He is the guardian of peace, who has not decided to keep his honors for himself but has **showered his grace** on each and all, and has become the first and greatest benefactor, the single pilot of the ship of humanity, and brought it safely to shore. And so the whole world justly deems him worthy to receive **heavenly honors** and to **worship** him everywhere, for in him truly there is **hope** and **salvation** for those who go out and those who come in."



# Jewish War 66-70

## Destruction of the Temple 70 CE



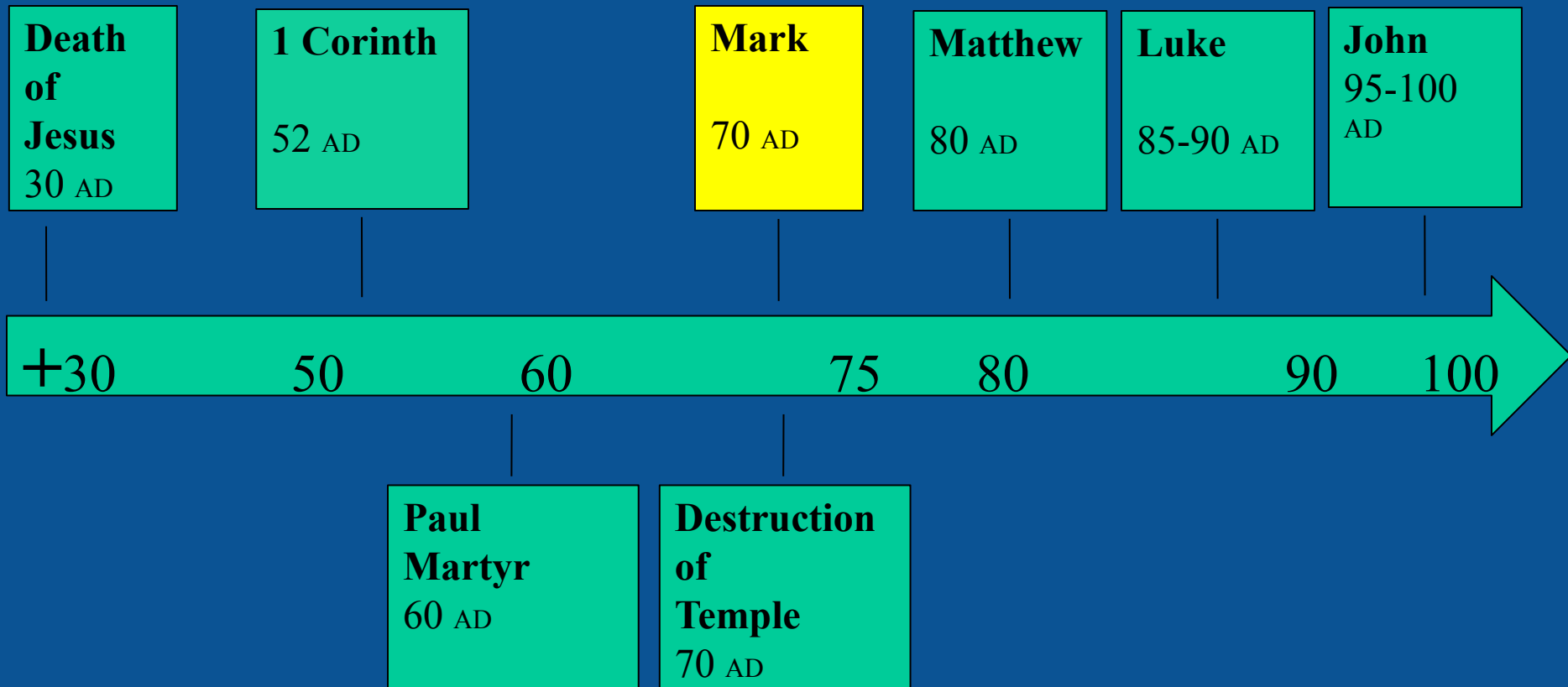
## Josephus, Jewish War (7.1-4) (describing events of 70 C.E.)

1. (1) Now, as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be objects of their fury (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other such work to be done) Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, but should leave as many of the towers standing as were of the greatest eminency; that is, Phasaelus, and Hippicus, and Mariamne, and so much of the wall as enclosed the city on the west side. (2) This wall was spared, in order to afford a camp for such as were to lie in garrison; as were the towers also spared, in order to demonstrate to posterity what kind of city it was, and how well fortified, which the Roman valor had subdued; (3) *but for all the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.* (4) This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind.



Thessalonians,  
Philippians  
Corinthians, Galatians,  
Philemon  
Romans  
**Before 60 AD**

# “Mark” ... A new Writing Appears



# HOW SHALL WE HEAR?

**Aristotle** (*The Art of Rhetoric, Poetics*) 350 BC

How does persuasion (trust, belief) work?

<b>Ethos</b>	<b>Logos</b>	<b>Pathos</b>
Character/ author	Words/ text/ argument	Passion/ emotion/ hearer

**Enlightenment:** Testing the Tradition in History, Literature, and Story (17<sup>th</sup> century....)

**Study of the Gospels** (Careful reading; new manuscripts)

4 Gospels, One story (Tatian's Harmony, 2<sup>nd</sup> century;)

4 Gospels, 4 Stories

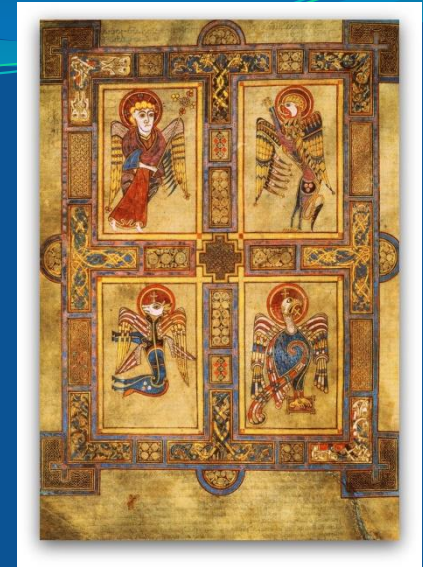
# The Four Gospels:

Mark (70 A.D.)

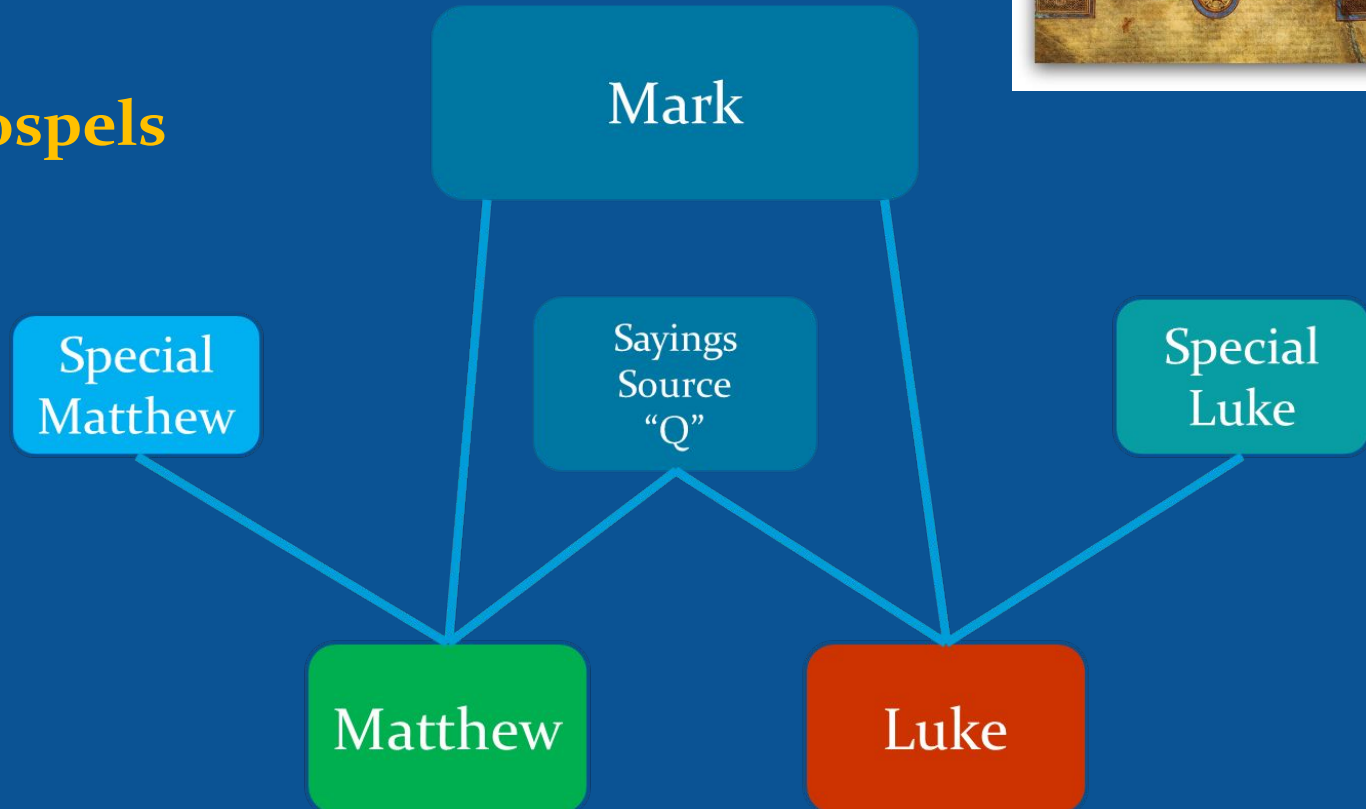
Matthew (ca. 80 A.D.)

Luke (ca. 80-90 A.D.)

John (ca. 95 A.D.)



## Synoptic Gospels



# TRANSFORMING HEARING AND READING

## Noting and Evaluating Details of the Narrative

### Making Outlines

### Gospel comparison

Eusebius of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)  
Gospel Canon Tables

CANON I: The Four Gospels

CANON II: In Matthew, Mark and Luke

CANON III: In Matthew, Luke and John

CANON IV: In Matthew, Mark and John

CANON V: In Matthew and Luke

CANON VI: In Matthew and Mark

CANON VII: In Matthew and John

CANON VIII: In Luke and Mark

CANON IX: In Luke and John

CANON X: In Matthew Only

CANON X: In Mark Only

CANON X: In Luke Only

CANON X: In John Only

NAU **Matthew 3:13**

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all

righteousness." Then he permitted Him. <sup>16</sup>

After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

NAU **Mark 1:9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; <sup>11</sup> and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

NAU **Luke 3:21** Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

NAU **John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' <sup>31</sup> "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." <sup>32</sup> John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup> "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

## Baptism of Jesus





**I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-13)**

“Beginning”... in the wilderness; John the Baptist, Jesus’ Baptism; Temptation

**II. JESUS’ MINISTRY IN GALILEE (and beyond) (1:14-8:21)**

Transitional Summary: “Kingdom of God is at hand” 1:14 - 15

**A. Jesus Son of God: Authority in Word and Deed 1:16-3:6**

Call of Disciples, Healings, Teaching, Conflict Stories

Transitional Summary: Multitudes follow from everywhere 3:7 - 12

**B. Jesus Son of God: Rejected by his own people 3:13-6:6**

Parables (ch. 4); Miracles (ch. 4-5); Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

Transitional Summary: Teaching among the Villages 6:6b

**C. Jesus Son of God: Misunderstood by his own disciples 6:7 - 8:21**

Mission of the 12

Feeding 5000 (6:30-44)-----Feeding 4000 (8:1-10)

Crossing Sea (6:45-52)-----Crossing Sea (8:11-20)

Transitional Summary: Do you not understand? (8:21)

**III. JESUS ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM (8:22-1:52)**

Jesus the Messiah who Suffers - Discipleship in light of the Passion

GIVING OF SIGHT STORY 8:22-26

PETER’S CONFESSION 8:27-30

A. Passion Prediction # 1 8:31  
 Misunderstanding 8:32-33  
 Teaching on Discipleship 8:34-9:1

B. Transfiguration 9:2-8  
 Disciples puzzled 9:9-13  
 Teaching to Disciples 9:14-29

C. Passion Prediction # 2 9:30-31  
 Misunderstanding 9:32-34  
 Teaching on Discipleship 9:35-37

Collection of Teaching Materials: First, last; Last, First 9:38-10:31

D. Passion Prediction # 3 10:33-34  
 Misunderstanding 10:35-41  
 Teaching on Discipleship 10:42-45

GIVING OF SIGHT STORY 10:46-52 8:22-

**IV. JESUS IN JERUSALEM<sup>26</sup> (11:1-16:8)**

Ministry before the Passion (ch. 11-13)

Triumphal Entry; Cleansing of the Temple; Conflicts with Leaders

Apocalyptic Discourse: Watch! (ch. 13)

Passion Narrative (14:1-15:47)

Resurrection (16:1-8)



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## OUTLINE OF MARK

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### I. Outside Jerusalem (1:1—8:21)

#### A. Opening (1:1-39)

1. The Title (1:1)
2. Departure of the Way (1:2-8)
3. Jesus' Baptism: The Opening of the Heavens (1:9-11)
4. Testing (1:12-13)
5. The Kingdom Is at Hand (1:14-15)
6. The Call of the Disciples (1:16-20)
7. The Battle Is Joined (1:21-28)
8. Healings (1:29-39)

#### B. Transgression of the Boundaries (1:40—3:6)

1. Cleansing a Leper (1:40-45)
2. Healing a Paralytic (2:1-12)
3. Summoning a Tax Collector (2:13-17)
4. Eating with Sinners (2:15-17)
5. New Skins for New Wine (2:18-22)
6. Cleansing on the Sabbath (2:23-28)
7. A Sabbath Healing (3:1-6)

#### C. Insiders and Outsiders (3:7-35)

1. The Crowds (3:7-12)
2. The Commissioning of the Twelve (3:13-19)
3. Family Troubles (3:20-21)
4. A Question of Possession (3:22-30)
5. True Family (3:31-35)

#### D. Promising Instruction (4:1-36)

1. The Sower and the Soils (4:1-20)
2. The Purpose of Secrecy (4:21-25)
3. The Patient Farmer (4:26-29)
4. The Mustard Seed (4:30-32)
5. Secret Instruction (4:33-34)

#### E. Spectacles (4:35—5:43)

1. Calming the Storm (4:35-41)
2. The Gadarene Demoniae (5:1-20)
3. The Healing of Two Women (5:21-43)

#### F. Varied Responses (5:1-29)

1. Rejection at Nazareth (5:1-6)
2. The Sending of the Twelve (5:7-15)
3. The Death of John the Baptist (5:14-29)

#### G. The Provider (6:30—8:21)

1. The Feeding of 5000 (6:30-44)
2. Disciples as Sex (6:45-52)
3. Popular Support (6:33-56)
4. Pharisees: Clean and Unclean (7:1-23)
5. A Gentile Woman: Crumbs from the Table (7:24-30)
6. The Dead Hear; the Deaf Speak (7:31-37)
7. Bread for the Gentiles: Feeding 4000 (8:1-10)
8. Demand for a Sign (8:11-13)
9. The Disciples: Unseeing Eyes (8:14-21)

### II. Toward Jerusalem: The Way of the Cross (8:22—10:52)

1. Gradual Enlightenment (8:22-26)
2. The Confession of Peter (8:27-30)
3. First Prediction: Rejection and Vindication (8:31-33)
4. Taking up the Cross (8:34—9:1)
5. A Group of Glory: Transfiguration (8:2-8)
6. Private Instructions (8:8-13)
7. The Healing of a Possessed Child (9:14-29)
8. Second Prediction (9:30-32)
9. Who Is the Greatest? (9:33-37)
10. For Us and Against Us (9:38-41)
11. Warnings about Offense (9:42-50)
12. Care for the Weak: Marriage and Family (10:1-16)
13. The Rich Man (10:17-22)
14. Dangers of Wealth/Promises of Sacrifice (10:23-31)
15. Third Prediction (10:32-34)
16. Dispute about Status and the One who serves (10:35-45)
17. Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)

### III. Jerusalem (11:1—16:8)

#### A. Jerusalem and the Final Encounter (11:1—12:44)

1. Royal Entry (11:1-10)
2. The Cleansing of the Temple (11:11-20)
3. The Question of Authority (11:27-33)
4. Peasants of the Wicked Tenants (12:1-12)
5. Taxes to Caesar (12:13-17)
6. The Question of Resurrection (12:18-27)
7. The Question of True Sacrifice (12:28-34)
8. David's Son (12:35-37)
9. Beware of Scribes (12:38-40)
10. The Widow's Penny (12:41-44)

#### B. A Glimpse of the Future (13:1-37)

1. The Destruction of the Temple (13:1-2)
2. The Birth pangs (13:3-20)
3. The Coming of the Man (13:24-31)
4. Stay Awake! (13:32-37)

#### C. The Passion of Jesus (14:1—15:47)

1. The Setting (14:1-2)
2. Anointing for Burial: "In Memory of Her" (14:3-9)
3. Betrayal (14:10-11)
4. Preparations for Passover (14:12-16)
5. The Last Supper (14:17-25)
6. Predictions (14:26-31)
7. Gethsemane (14:32-42)
8. The Arrest (14:43-50)
9. The Flight of a Young Man (14:51-52)
10. Two Trials (14:53-72)
11. The Trial before Pilate (15:1-15)
12. The Mockery of the King (15:16-20)
13. The Crucifixion (15:21-27)
14. Mockers (15:29-32)
15. A Last Word (15:33-34)
16. A Final Misunderstanding (15:35-37)
17. Portents (15:38-39)
18. Burial (15:40-47)

#### D. The Empty Tomb (16:1-8)

Mark 1:1

Beginning of the “Good News”

How shall we translate? What shall we read?

KJV 1610 the beginning of the gospel.... NAS 1910 the beginning of the gospel.... RSV 1947 the beginning of the gospel.... NET 1996 the beginning of the gospel....	NIV 1973 the beginning of the good news... NRSV 1991 the beginning of the good news....
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Only NIV reads “the beginning of the good news of Jesus  
--**the Messiah**

“other ancient authorities lack ***the Son of God***”

Mark 1:2-3:

As it is written? In Isaiah? Who is coming? What is in the wilderness?

Mark 1:2-3

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Malachi 3:1

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Mark 1:4, 15: The preaching of John and of Jesus  
What is the “Gospel” About?

Proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.....(John)

Proclaiming the good news of God...kingdom has come near...repent and believe in the good news (Jesus)

Jesus preached about the coming of the kingdom of God; early Christians preached about Jesus

Repentance, turning about, conversion; “as a turning away ... Mostly of the positive side of repentance, as the beginning of a new relationship with God”

Mark 1:10 What did Jesus See? (the original Greek word in Mark here means to “split” or “tear asunder” (Matthew and Luke later both read rather to “open” )

KJV 1610 he saw the heavens opened	NIV 1973 he saw heaven being torn open
NAS 1910 he saw the heavens opening	NRSV 1991 he saw the heavens torn apart
RSV 1947 he saw the heavens opened	NET 1996 he saw the heavens splitting apart

Cf. Mark 15:38: and the curtain of the temple was torn in two (KJV, NAS, RSV, NIV, NRSV, NET)

# MARK'S SPECIAL STORY

## **Beginnings and Endings**

Begins with a Fanfare...Ends with a wimper

1:1: good news...a voice crying out.....16:8:and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid

## **Urgency and Movement:**

Plunges directly into the story of Jesus' baptism and ministry  
“immediately” (14 times in first 3 chapters)

## **Hiddenness or Secrecy**

“See that you say nothing to anyone”

## **Disciples**

Misunderstanding seems to grow as the story progresses

## **Overwhelming presence of Jesus' Passion**

3:6: the Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him