

Title: The King Has Come

Passage: Mark 1:1-8

Introduction:

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- Question: What comes to your mind with the word “gospel”?
- Mark was the first person to use the word in regards to Jesus

Canon

- those books selected to be in the Holy Bible.

Compare: Noncanonical gospels

- over 40 writings that were similar to the canonical ones (12 available to us - ex: gospel of Judas)

Canon selection criteria:

1. Apostle origin/authorship

- Had to have been written by an apostle (those who had eye witness account of what happened)
- Here: Mark was a disciple of Peter

2. Historical reliability

- Historical evidence that can be relied upon.
- If written by apostle, was written within 120 years of Jesus time on earth
- The four Canonical Gospels were written within that time frame.

3. Content of book

- What is in each book?
- Are the stories within consistent with other Biblical writings?

4. Recognition by early churches

- Did early church recognize and affirm the book?
- There were many opposition writers wanting to distract or derail the church

5. Agreement among believers of the above criteria applied to a given book to be included in the Canon

Timeframe

- Within 120 years of Jesus time on earth, the church had recognized essentially the books in the Bible

Passage: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Overview:

I. Proclamation of a new king

- II. Preparation for the new king
- III. Application

I. Proclamation of a new king

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Word of "gospel"

- Among Romans, meant "joyful tidings" (usually associated with cult of the emperor's birthday; when a new emperor born, then shared of the news)
- Old Testament: News of war triumph

1 Samuel 31:9

So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people.

2 Samuel 4:10

when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news.

- Jewish context: salvation of the Messianic king

Isaiah 40:9-10

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- Jesus: Yahweh saves
- Christ: Greek word for "Messiah"
- Among Romans, viewed conqueror as divine so spread the birth of one as news
- Mark's contrast: the true "gospel" is Jesus Christ, who is divine.

II. Preparation for the new king

Mark 1:2-3

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,""

Combination of three passages:

Exodus 23:20

"Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

- I send my messenger = the One speaking is God Himself
- Come to his temple = Jesus came to temple

Isaiah 40:3

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

Mark 1:4

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Repentance

- Meaning = a radical transformation of your lifestyle
- "Metanonia" = same root word with "metamorphosis"

Baptism

- outward profession of inward repentance
- Act of baptism does not itself produce forgiveness of sins but rather is an outward symbol that one has believed in Jesus as their Savior

Mark 1:5-8

And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Baptize you with the Holy Spirit

- it is the work of the Holy Spirit working within hearts that can lead people to recognition of their need for a Savior.

III. Application

If not a follower of Jesus

Dive deeper and filter everything you hear about Jesus

- Why? Eternity hangs in the balance.
- Are you ready to see Jesus?
- Are you ready to pass judgment? The only way is perfection.
 - Bad news: you are under His wrath with any sin
 - Good news: your sin has been paid through Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

If doubting your faith in Jesus

Take your doubts to God. This is not blind faith but ask hard questions to consider why you believe what you believe.

Acts 17:11

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

If a follower of Jesus:

- Trust in God. God works all things for His purposes. Don't doubt His control.
- Tell others of the good news of Jesus. Prepare the way for the King!

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."