



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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Mark 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Mark 1.

Topics.

- The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- The voice of one crying in the wilderness.
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is baptised.
- Jesus temptation.
- John is arrested and Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit.
- Jesus heals Peter's mother in law and a leper.

INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of Mark emphasises that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; Jesus announced the Kingdom of God, healed the sick, and died as a ransom for sinners. In addition to Jesus, Mark features three main groups of people, the disciples, the crowds and the religious leaders, none of whom understood Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to go to the cross the religious leaders arrested him, the disciples abandoned him and the crowds jeered him. Only when he died alone on the cross did a Roman centurion recognise that he was the Son of God. Though the book is anonymous, tradition identifies John Mark as the author (Acts 12:12) He may have based his Gospel on Peter's preaching, writing sometime in the 50s or 60s A.D.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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MARK 1:1-2

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

- **Mark 1:1-2:** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way."

This is cited from the following Old Testament verse:

- 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 (Malachi 3:1).

Matthew cites the same verse:

- This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you" (Matt. 11:10)

Luke also cites it:

- This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you" (Luke 7:27).

The fact Matthew, Mark and Luke all cite this verse clearly shows that the Jews looked forward to the coming Messiah and saviour the seed of Abraham and of David. Christians today look back to the cross for salvation but look forward to Christ's return as King of kings of Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace on earth.

The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness.

- **Mark 1:3-8:** the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight," ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I have baptised you with water, but he (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Make his paths straight means make their lives right and ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. John's baptism was not a baptism into Christ but one of repentance and forgiveness of sins to prepare for the coming of Christ.

NOTICE: John who Jesus said was the greatest of those born of women (Matt. 11:11) was not a man of great wealth and riches nor did he perform any miracles. John was the greatest of all prophets because he had the privilege of introducing the promised Messiah, the Christ and Saviour to the world.

John's preaching covered the following for things:

1. A call for the people to make their life right for the coming of the Lord.
2. Repentance, water baptism and the forgiveness of sins.
3. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (into his ministry).
4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8). The phrase, "Jesus will baptise you with the Holy Spirit" is directed at all who will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. John's baptism was a water baptism of repentance and brought forgiveness of sins. While Jesus walked on earth people believed in him because they saw him and the miracles, he did whereas after the resurrection people embrace the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ through hearing and reading the word of God. When a person's mind is illuminated to the reality of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and they respond in repentance and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all their mind and heart then that moment is called a baptism of the Holy Spirit; it is a spiritual baptism. It is called a baptism in the Holy Spirit because it translates a person from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is also referred to as a baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ it is that moment when a lost soul's mind is illuminated to the reality of the Gospel of Christ and their mind is changed from unbelief to belief in the Lord Jesus Christ who they have never seen, heard or touched and yet they are willing to surrender their lives to him even unto death. This spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit makes a person a slave to righteousness because it does the following four things:

1. It connects those baptised in the Holy Spirit to the Lord.
2. God imputes to those baptised in the Holy Spirit the gift of righteousness.
3. Those baptised in the Holy Spirit are promised eternal life.

Water baptism is the outward evidence that the inward reality that the baptism of the Holy Spirit has already taken place in the heart.

Jesus is Baptised and driven into the Wilderness.

- **Mark 1:9-12:** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

The Jordan River and Galilee: the Jordan River is a major river of Palestine it flows from north to south through the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Galilee was the region Jesus resided in and where many of his disciples came from, a great majority of his public ministry took place along the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.

MARK 1:13

Jesus Temptation.

- **Mark 1:13:** And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan (Satanas). And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Satan and the devil: Mark says Jesus was tempted by Satan (Satanas) whereas Matthew says he was tempted by the devil (diabolos) thus Satan and the devil are the same entity and both carry the same meaning, i.e., the word Satan means, adversary, the accuser and withstand and the word devil means a false accuser and slanderer. Satan and the devil are in many Scriptures personified as the arch-enemy of God and everything that is good. For further information see the following titles:

- Temptation of Jesus.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

MARK 1:14-15

John is arrested and Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.

- **Mark 1:14-15:** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

John is arrested and Jesus begins to proclaim the Gospel saying, the time is fulfilled, meaning it is the time for many of the prophecies that the Old Testament prophets spoke to be fulfilled i.e. Christ's death and resurrection etc.

The Kingdom of God is at hand means two things:

1. Jesus the King of God's Kingdom is standing right there with them and among them at that time.
2. Jesus is about to be cruelly put to death and gloriously raised on the third day.

Jesus death and resurrection put an end to the Old Covenant and introduced a totally New Covenant of grace called in this verse the Gospel of God. The New Covenant in contrast to the Old proclaims that salvation is now available to whoever will believe (i.e., the Jew

and Gentiles alike) and comes by grace, not by self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions etc. The Gospel of God declares that whoever repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and his message by faith become part of God's present spiritual global Kingdom on earth. At this present time the Kingdom of God is a spiritual Kingdom which exists by faith in the mind and heart of those who belong to Christ. This spiritual Kingdom will be literally manifested on earth when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's literal Kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace on earth. For further information see:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

MARK 1:16-20

Jesus begins to call the Apostles.

- **Mark 1:16-20:** Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon (Peter also called Cephas) and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

The Sea of Galilee is a harp-shaped lake in Samaria that is about 13 miles by 8 miles and is also called:

- Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1).
- Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1).
- Sea of Chinnereth (Num. 34:11) (Deut. 3:17) (Josh. 13:27).
- Sea of Cinneroth (Josh. 12:3).

Peter, Andrew, Zebedee, James and John: Peter was Andrew brother their father was Jona and they were all fishermen from Bethsaida. Peter's surname was Cephas, he is sometimes referred to as Simon Bar-Jona and Cephas (meaning the rock). James and John's were brothers and their father was Zebedee. Jesus surnamed James Boanerges (John wrote the letters titled 1, 2, 3 John and the book of Revelation).

MARK 1:21-22

Jesus teaches in a Synagogue.

- **Mark 1:21-22:** And they (Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James and John) went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Capernaum: was a city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in Palestine and used as the place of Jesus abode and his headquarters for much of his public ministry. Though several of Jesus disciples came from Capernaum and many miracles were performed in the city, Jesus later prophesied against it.

Jesus taught as one who had authority means the following two things:

1. He taught as one having total control and with absolute confidence and skillful mastery of the Scriptures without being intimidated or influenced by anyone.

2. He lived what he taught contrasted to the religious leaders of the synagogues the Pharisees and Scribes who Jesus called vipers, serpents and hypocrites.

MARK 1:23-28

Jesus heals a man with an Unclean Spirit.

- **Mark 1:23-28:** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are— the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Jesus has taken Peter, Andrew, James and John into a synagogue on a Sabbath day and a man with an unclean spirit interrupts Jesus while he is teaching the people in the synagogue.

Unclean: in a moral sense means unclean in thought and life and in a ceremonial sense it means that which must be abstained from according to the Levitical law.

NOTICE: it was the man that cried out not the unclean spirit, this man believed Jesus was the Holy One prophesied to come from God he most likely knew the Old Testament Scriptures that spoke of God sending his messenger to the temple who will refine and purify the Levitical priesthood as silver (Mal. 3:1-3), and the many other Scriptures that speak of the Lord.

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This man obviously knew that a Holy One was coming from God to judge the people we know this because the man says, "Have you come to destroy us," meaning to destroy the Jews or the nation of Israel, he is not referring to the unclean spirits. Jesus rebukes the man telling him to be quiet and then tells the unclean spirit to go out of him. The unclean spirit in this context could simply refer to the man's blatantly offensive and rude spirit manifested in his standing up to interrupt, confront and mock Jesus during his teachings. For further information see the following titles:

- Unclean Spirits.
- Demons.

Both titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

MARK 1:29-32

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother in Law.

- **Mark 1:29-32:** And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon (Peter) and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.

Jesus leaves the synagogue and goes to Peter and Andrew's house with James and John. Peter, Andrew, James and John all tell Jesus about Peter's sick mother in law and Jesus simply takes her hand and she stands up totally healed.

NOTICE: it is Jesus compassion and his touch that healed Peter's mother in law, there is no mention of Peter's, Andrew's, James' or John's faith being involved they simply told Jesus she was sick. It is also interesting to notice that Peter had a mother in law which means he had to be married and therefore was not a single man as many today are led to believe, but a married man with a wife.

MARK 1:33-34

Jesus heals multitudes outside Peters House.

- **Mark 1:33-34:** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

During Jesus generation the people believed mental illnesses and any other sickness they did not understand including deafness and blindness were caused by evil inferior gods possessing those who were sick. Jesus simply spoke to the people according to what they believed and showed by demonstration and miraculous healing power that the God he was proclaiming was far greater than the gods they believed in. The phrase, "Jesus would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him," could mean either of the following two things:

1. He would not let those who were wildly and mockingly shouting and screaming speak because they were disrupting the crowd.
2. He wanted to avoid attracting the wrath of the Pharisees, scribes and Roman officials as it is only the beginning of his ministry and his time had not yet come for them to crucify him.

For a clearer understanding of demons see:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

MARK 1:35-38

Jesus goes to a Desolate Place and Prays.

- **Mark 1:35-38:** And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon (Peter) and those (Andrew, James and John) who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."

After spending a day, healing multitudes, outside Peter's house Jesus rises very early in the morning and goes to a quiet place to pray. When Peter, Andrew, James and John wake they go to find him and tell him everyone is looking for him, but rather than go to those looking for him he goes to another town. Jesus is the sower of the famous Kingdom parables (Matt. 13) he is not trying to save entire towns (he doesn't have time), but is simply sowing enough seed in each place and then moving on and leaving the seed to grow in the world as it is beautifully pictured in the seven Kingdom parables of Matthew.

MARK 1:39-45

Jesus Heals a Leper.

- **Mark 1:39-45:** And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons (daimon). ⁴⁰And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." ⁴¹Moved with pity, he stretched out

his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." ⁴²And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁴⁵But he (the healed leper) went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

NOTICE: the leper believed Jesus could heal him but wasn't sure if he would so he humbly kneels and asked Jesus to heal him and Jesus out of compassion for the man is moved to heal him. Since the man did not know if Jesus would heal him it was the Lord's compassion and not the man's own faith that healed the leper.

Tell no-one of this healing: (v44) Jesus sternly told the healed leper to tell no one that Jesus had healed him this is most likely because the crowds once they heard that Jesus had the power to heal flocked to him by the hundreds, some verses say that Jesus and the apostles seldom had any leisure time or even time to eat and sleep. Thus, the reason (at the moment anyway) Jesus does not want people knowing he can heal. Jesus knew that miracles attracted the crowds primarily because sick people wanted to be healed, and not because they were sinners in need of salvation, he did not want to spend all his time healing people as he needed to proclaim the Gospel in synagogues, cities and towns and to have time to teach his twelve apostles the Gospel and only had a short time to do it in that is why he often told people not to tell others of their healing (see v45). His primary ministry was not to heal, but to teach the apostles the Gospel. Healing does not give people eternal life which is far more important to God than temporary healing, Jesus miracles were signs to prove he was sent from God and the Son of God and Saviour of the world, but not the ministry that God had sent him to do.

Show yourself to the priest: (v44) under the law there were laws for leprosy to protect those who were free from the disease of leprosy. A leper had to go to the priest's and have their disease checked and if the disease was gone the priest would declare them healed and cleansed. The leper and the people would then know that it was safe for the leper to mingle once again with their family, friends and those in the city.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
