

GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MARK

CHAPTER 1: 1-8

{Some of the following headings are taken from JC Ryle's commentary}

1.

"Let us observe, in these verses, ***what a full declaration we have of the dignity of our Lord Jesus Christ's person.*** The very first sentence speaks of Him as "the Son of God."

These words, "the Son of God," conveyed far more to Jewish minds than they do to ours. They were nothing less than an assertion of our Lord's divinity. They were a declaration that Jesus was Himself very God, and "equal with God." (John 5:18.)

<p><i>Mar 1:1</i> <i>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;</i></p>
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Note:

Islam and Christianity can never be regarded as similar religions because of this verse.

The following are quotes from the Koran on this subject.

“The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, was no more than God’s apostle . . . God is but one God. GOD FORBID THAT HE SHOULD HAVE A SON!” (4:171)

Those who say: “The Lord of Mercy has begotten a son, preach a monstrous falsehood, at which the very heavens might crack . . .” (19:88)

”God forbid that He Himself should beget a son!” (19:29)

“Praise be to God who has never begotten a son; who has no partner in His Kingdom . . .” (17:111)

“God has begotten a son. ‘God forbid! Self-sufficient is He.’ (10:68)

“If the Lord of Mercy had a son, I would be the first to worship him.” (43:72-81)

Note:

What the Lord himself said in John’s Gospel.

Joh 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Joh 1:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Joh 10:36 *Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*

Joh 11:4 *When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*

Joh 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Mar 1:1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*

Q. What does the word Gospel mean?

Simply "Good News"

Or:

"Glad tidings"

2.

Let us observe, in the second place, **how the beginning of the Gospel was a fulfillment of Scripture.** John the Baptist began his ministry, "as it is written in the prophets."

Mar 1:2 *As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*

Mar 1:3 *The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

Q. From what scriptures are these quotes taken?

Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isa 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Note:

In theses opening verses proof for the Divinity of Christ.

Read Luke 1: 67-80

{Zacharias speaking by the Holy Ghost of his son John}

With special reference to verse 76

3.

Let us observe, in the third place, **how great were the effects which the ministry of John the Baptist produced for a time on the Jewish nation.** We are told that, "People from Jerusalem and from all over Judea traveled out into the wilderness to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River."

*Mar 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
Mar 1:5 And there went out unto him **all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.***

Q. What about the popularity of John?

Many today put so much emphasis into the importance of being effective and popular.

Listen to what Ryle says.

"We ought to remark here how little dependence is to be placed on what is called "popularity." If ever there was one who was a popular minister for a season, John the Baptist was that man. Yet of all the crowds who came to his baptism, and heard his preaching, how few, it may be feared, were converted! Some, we may hope, like Andrew, were guided by John to Christ. But the vast majority, in all probability, died in their sins."

4.

Consider the message of John

What was his message?

Mar 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5.

Consider the separation of John.

Verse 6

Mar 1:6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

Too many in the Church today want to be in the world and to some degree be of it as well.

John's ministry was marked by its stark contrast to the lifestyle that was true of many of his day.

6.

Let us observe, in the last place, ***what clear doctrine characterized John the Baptist's preaching.***

He exalted CHRIST--"There comes one mightier than I after me." Verse 7

He spoke plainly of the HOLY SPIRIT--"He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Verse 8

Mar 1:7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.
Mar 1:8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Ryle

"The principal work of every faithful minister of the Gospel, is to set the Lord Jesus fully before His people, and to show them His fullness and His power to save."

Ryle

Let us ask ourselves, as we leave the passage,

1. How much we know by practical experience of the truths which John preached?
2. What do we think of Christ?

3. Have we felt our need of Him, and fled to Him for peace?
4. Is He king over our hearts, and all things to our souls?
5. What do we think of the Holy Spirit?
6. Has He wrought a saving work in our hearts?
7. Has He renewed and changed them?
8. Has He made us partakers of the Divine nature?

Life or death depend on our answer to these questions.

"And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." (Rom. 8:9.)