

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 1

Mark wrote his Gospel to a Gentile audience, possibly Christian believers in Rome, around 65 A.D. His Gospel is the shortest (with only 16 chapters), contains less detail and moves more quickly than the other Gospels (notice how often the word "immediately" occurs in the opening chapter and throughout the Gospel). Mark deals more with the actions of Jesus and less with His sayings. He shows Jesus to be the Son of God through these actions, as He came **"to give His life as a ransom for many"** (Mark 10:45).

1. What title does Mark attribute to Jesus in the opening verse? _____
This title points out the main purpose of Mark's Gospel, and shows that Jesus was more than just a man (compare: 1:11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 14:36; 14:61; 15:39).
2. Mark quotes two Old Testament passages in the opening verses to show that Jesus did not come to start a new religion but to fulfill God's promises made in the Old Testament. What two passages does Mark quote? (Note: Check your Bible's cross references for help.)
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
3. Mark mentions several different witnesses to Jesus in this chapter. Who bears witness to Jesus in the following verses?
 - A. 1:4-8 (compare John 1:29-43): _____
 - B. 1:10: _____
 - C. 1:11: _____
 - D. 1:23-27: _____
4. Mark describes the power of Jesus dramatically in this opening chapter. We see in very practical terms the assurance Paul give us in Romans 8:31 : "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Over what forces does Jesus demonstrate His power in the following sections?
 - A. 1:21-28: _____
 - B. 1:29-31: _____
 - C. 1:40-45: _____

This continues to be demonstrated throughout the remainder of Mark's Gospel. Over what forces does Jesus demonstrate His power in these sections later in his Gospel?

A. 4:35-41: _____

B. 5:21-43: _____ and even _____

C. 6:45-52: _____

5. From the emphasis on Jesus' power over all things in this chapter, we might think that Jesus purpose was physical, rather than spiritual. In fact, many churches today use these examples to support the idea that the church should have as its primary responsibility the care of people's physical needs. This is often called the "Social Gospel." But while Jesus has a compassion for people, social care was not his purpose. Notice the real purpose of Jesus' ministry in his actions described in the following verses:

A. 1:14: _____

B. 1:21: _____

C. 1:22: _____

D. 1:38: _____

E. 1:39: _____

6. At the end of this chapter Mark describes an account where a leper comes to Jesus to be healed (1:40-45). After He heals the leper, Jesus tells 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" (1:44). Why do you think Jesus told the man not to say anything to anyone about what He had done for him? (Note: Consider what happened as a result of the man not listening to Jesus' request - see 1:45).
