



PRECEPT
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English Standard Version

Mark

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND
SON OF MAN

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THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Greek Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

BROOKS, JAMES A.

The New American Commentary: Mark

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, Volume 23, 1991

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



LESSON ONE Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheet of Mark 1
“Mark at a Glance”
“Israel in the Time of Christ”
Cross-references
Word study

Have you ever wondered what it was like to walk with Jesus? Where did Jesus go? How did Jesus interact with the people?

DAY ONE

Welcome to the Gospel of Mark.

Although we are not going to do a comparative study of the Gospels and our focus will be Mark, we think it might help you to better appreciate the Gospel of Mark if you take this first hour of study to see how the other Gospels begin and then compare them with what Mark wrote. We believe you’ll enjoy it and find it an interesting way to start.

Since this is God’s Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher, you should develop the habit of beginning each day’s study seeking God’s understanding. Also, because this is God’s Word, you must handle it rightly. Second Timothy 2:15 says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

As you study Mark, be sure not to read commentaries until instructed to in the lesson. We want you to first have the joy of discovering truth for yourself!



c. Summarize what is in Luke 1:26-56.

d. Now read Luke 1:57-80. What are the main points in these verses?

3. The Gospel of John is next. This is rich—different. Don't be in a hurry.

a. Read John 1:1-18. Who are these verses about and how is He described in verses 1-4, 14, 17-18?



b. Who is the main character in Mark 1:1-8, and what is his message?

c. What happened in verses 9-11? What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

That's it for today! However, before you put away your workbook, think about what Mark covers in the first eleven verses of his gospel! Mark is movin'—and for the rest of the week we are going to move with him through Mark 1. It's quite a chapter. In fact, you may want to read it aloud before you call it a day!

DAY TWO

1. Your assignment today is to begin observing Mark 1. Notice we said “begin”; observation is a process. Usually, the more you read the text the more you see! Don't be in a hurry—God is speaking. These words are God-breathed, spirit and life! Treasure them.

When studying a book, observation always comes first. So you begin by asking the 5 Ws and H of the text: *who, what, when, where, why, and how* and see what the text says. Answering these questions is a process—one insight upon another, precept upon precept.

We'll begin by focusing on the gospel, Jesus, and where the events of chapter 1 take place.

Read Mark chapter 1 and color and/or mark with a symbol (whichever you prefer) the following. Using colors makes your markings easy to see.

a. *gospel*.* “Gospel” means good news; this is “what” Mark is about.



- b. *Jesus Christ*,* including pronouns and synonyms such as “Son.” This is the most important “who” since Mark is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c. *Holy Spirit*,* including pronouns
- d. everything that tells you “where” something occurred,* including significant places such as a synagogue or a desolate place, which helps you get the setting of the event.

*Indicates words with suggested markings on the back cover of your workbook.

- 2. Now that you have marked these four things, read the text again. This time look for every bold verse number. This indicates a new paragraph. Mark 1 has a lot of paragraphs.
 - a. Using a pencil, draw a line in the margin of your Observation Worksheet where each paragraph begins. Then, using words from the text, summarize in as few words as possible what is covered in each paragraph and who is involved. A pencil is a good choice—you can erase and rewrite anything you want to change.
 - b. If you see any other predominant key repeated words, feel free to mark them in a distinctive way. A key word is an important, repeated word that helps you unlock the subject or meaning of the text. The writer uses them to accomplish his purpose in writing.
 - c. You didn’t mark those “wheres” just to mark them! In the Appendix, you will find a map, “Israel in the Time of Christ.” Find the location of the event of each paragraph and also write it in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.

Well done! You now have a broad view of Mark 1. We’ll continue digging deeper into the text tomorrow.

DAY THREE

- 1. Today we want to take an even closer look at Mark 1 and do some further marking. So after prayer, read Mark 1:1-14, and in a distinctive way or color, mark references to *John the Baptist* (1:4) including pronouns.

The purpose of marking a key repeated word or repeated references to a person is to make sure you learn all the text tells you about them. Looking at what you marked and then making a list of what you learned helps you get everything God wants you to get—to know!



In light of this, when you finish marking John the Baptist, list below what the text tells you about him.

You've already recorded his message on Day One.

2. Read Mark 1:2. In the Greek, “as it is written” is in the perfect tense which indicates a past completed action that has results continuing into the present.¹ What does the phrase “as it is written” mean in this context?
 - a. What is Mark doing in Mark 1:2-3 and how?
 - b. How does Isaiah 40:1-3 relate to Mark 1:1-3?

¹If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)* there's a section in the Appendix that explains Tense, Mood, and Voice of Greek Verbs.



- c. Although here Mark only mentions one prophet by name, Isaiah, let's look at what the last Old Testament prophet Malachi wrote. It may shed additional light on Mark's "quote"—reference to—Isaiah 40:3.

Read Malachi 3:1. Two individuals are mentioned by the LORD of hosts in verse 1: the Lord and His messenger. List what you observe about these two and how they fit with Mark 1:2-3.

3. From all you've observed in Mark 1 about John, answer the following questions:
 - a. Why is John referred to as "the Baptist"?
 - b. What did the people do when they were baptized by John?
4. Let's take a few minutes to see what we learn from the use of "baptize" in Mark 1:1-11.
 - a. Mark every reference to baptizing. Then list below what you learn from the use of the word.



- b. Look up the Greek word translated “baptize” and write down what you learn about the word—its meaning and its use.

5. Just so you don’t miss it, review the contrast in Mark 1:8.
6. Since you may hear confusing and contradicting teachings about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, you need to discover for yourself what the whole counsel of God’s Word teaches.

Look at the places you marked “Spirit” in Mark 1:8-13 and record your insights below.

7. Now read the following verses from Luke and list below what each text says about the Holy Spirit.

- a. Luke 3:21-22

- b. Luke 4:1-2



c. Luke 4:14-19

DAY
FOUR

We trust you are remembering to pray as you begin each day's study.

1. Let's begin the day by taking a closer look at Mark 1:14-15. Read all the questions before you answer them so your answers don't overlap.
 - a. Who are the characters in these verses, and what do you learn about them?

- b. As you read these verses, is there anything that makes them seem especially significant? If so, what? Why?

- c. Remember, good observation seeks answers to the 5 Ws and H. "The time is fulfilled" is a reference to a specific time: "the time," a "when"! You want to mark significant "when" references; even marking time indicators such as *then*, *after*, and others that indicate a timing or order of events can keep you from misinterpreting scripture.



So in light of the importance of “when,” take a few minutes and read Mark 1:1-15. Mark references to time* in verses 9, 13, and 14.

After you mark them, list below what you learn.

- d. According to Mark 1:14-15, what time has been fulfilled and what is the right response? You should already have the answer from your observations. If you don’t, pray and go back to the text and see if you missed anything.
-
2. The question that remains is: what is the kingdom of God? If you had no other explanation, what would you assume it is from the text?
 - a. Kingdom—what is a kingdom?
 - b. Whose kingdom?
 - c. So how would you define the kingdom of God?
 - d. (You’ve already seen this, but just for emphasis . . .) What were those who heard the “gospel of God” to do?



5. Read Mark 1:21-28 and look for any important *who, what, when, where, why,* and *hows*. Mark *teaching* and *authority* each distinctively. Summarize below what you learn about them.

6. Now did you notice all those references to unclean spirits? Do you think these *evil spirits** are something to mark?

7. What do you learn from marking unclean spirits? List your insights below.

8. Do you think unclean spirits have any relationship to the individual mentioned in Mark 1:13? If so, mark him the same way.

9. Where did the news about Jesus spread to and why? If that happened in your area, would it make the local news?



10. Finally for today, let's put two paragraphs together and dig a little deeper into Mark 1:29-34. Read and mark the text. Note the main events.

Think about all you've learned about Jesus. If He called you to follow Him, would you be willing to leave the equivalent of your nets, your father—and follow Him? To become a “fisher of men” wherever He took or sent you? Even if others forbade you to talk of Him?

Why don't you take a minute to pray about all the truths you've discovered for yourself just by studying God's Word this way.

DAY FIVE

1. Welcome to a new day, beloved of God. Begin in prayer and then read Mark 1:35-39 where Jesus begins a new day. See how He begins His day.
 - a. Mark any key words. One that we mark whenever we find it is references to *prayer*,* talking to God about everything and anything. Write down where Jesus prayed.
 - b. Mark *demons* the same way you mark *unclean spirits*. What do you learn?
2. You've marked references to synagogues several times in Mark 1. Now is a good time to look at each place you marked synagogue. Then summarize below what you learn.



3. Now use your Bible study tools to see what else you can learn about synagogues. You might look at what is written in the Appendix of the *New Inductive Study Bible* in the article “Major Events in Israel’s History” (See “From 931 B.C. Until the Birth of Christ”) or go online. Record pertinent insights here.

4. Now let’s look at the final verses of Mark chapter 1, verses 40-45. Mark key words. What event happened in this passage? Where did Jesus go and why?

5. Finally, in the Appendix you will find the chart “Mark at a Glance.” Record in as few words as possible the theme of Mark chapter 1.

Since there is so much information in this first chapter, you are going to have to choose something that will be memorable and at the same time give a broad overview of its content. The process may be a little laborious in this first chapter, but working through it will be good review!

By the way, you might want to record it in pencil in case you come up with something better.



6. You've diligently observed the text. You know what it says. Now what can you learn from others? Appreciate and check out your commentaries.

We are truly excited that you are doing this study. May God use every aspect of it to help you know, understand, and live by His eternal Word.

“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” (Matthew 4:4).



MARK 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

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

5 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.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

7 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.

8 “I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”



- 12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.
- 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,
- 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
- 16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.
- 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”
- 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.
- 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.
- 21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching.
- 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.
- 23 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.”
- 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”
- 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.



- 27 And 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.”
- 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.
- 29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
- 30 Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.
- 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.
- 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door.
- 34 And 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.
- 35 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.
- 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him,
- 37 and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.”
- 38 And 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.”
- 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.
- 40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.”
- 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.”



- 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.
- 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once,
- 44 and 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.”
- 45 But he 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.



MARK AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

Author:

1

2

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Purpose:

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Date:

7

8

Key Words:

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