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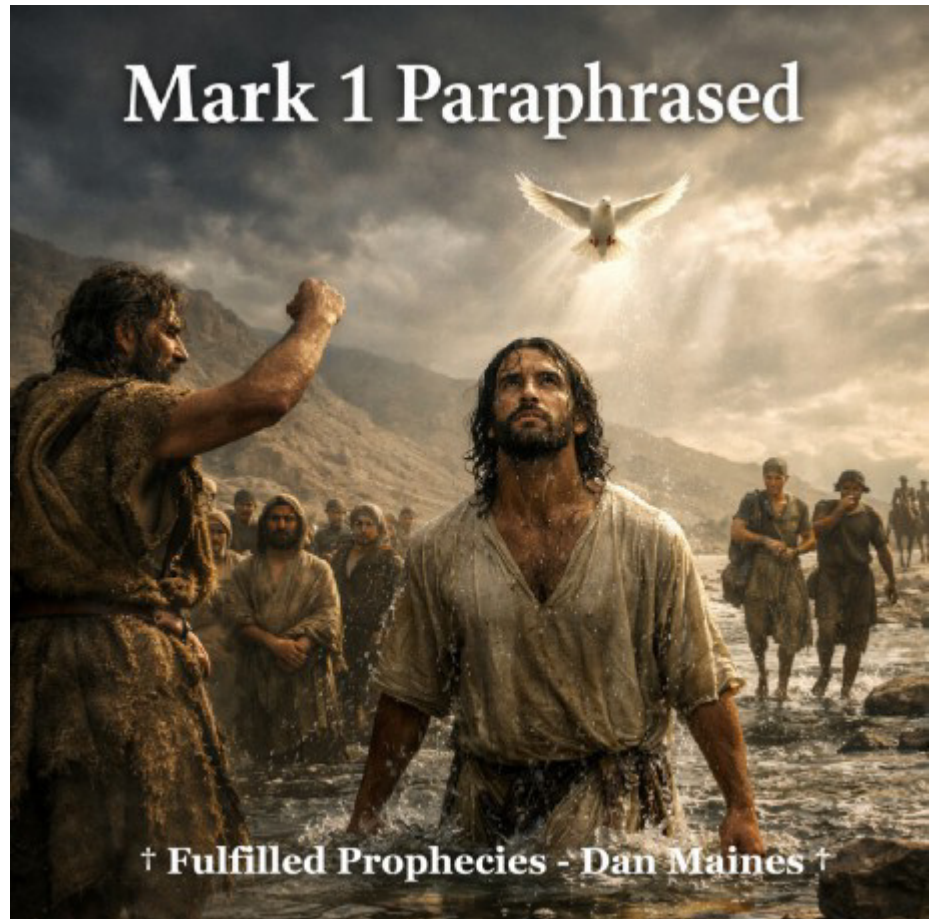
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Mark 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Mark 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Mark begins his account by announcing that the promised Messiah has arrived and the message of salvation is beginning to unfold.

† This chapter introduces John the Baptist preparing Israel, the baptism and testing of Jesus, and the start of Christ's public ministry.

† Everything recorded here shows the fulfillment of God's prophetic promises reaching their appointed time.

Mark 1:1

This is where the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, begins.

† Mark immediately identifies Jesus as the promised Messiah sent by God (Daniel 9:25-27).

† The good news is the announcement that God's kingdom had arrived through Christ (Isaiah 52:7).

† The entire Gospel will unfold from this declaration.

Mark 1:2

Long ago the prophets wrote that God would send a messenger ahead to prepare the path before the Lord appeared.

† This points to the prophecy about a messenger preparing the people for the Messiah (Malachi 3:1).

† That messenger was John the Baptist who came to awaken Israel to repentance.

† His appearance confirmed that the prophetic timeline was unfolding.

Mark 1:3

A voice was calling out in the wilderness telling people to prepare the Lord's road and clear the path for his coming.

† This prophecy comes from Isaiah describing the forerunner announcing the Lord's arrival (Isaiah 40:3).

† John fulfilled this by calling the nation to turn back to God.

† Preparing the way meant removing spiritual obstacles and returning to obedience.

Mark 1:4

John appeared in the wilderness calling people to turn away from their sins and be baptized as a sign that they wanted forgiveness.

† His baptism symbolized repentance and readiness for the coming kingdom.

† Israel had drifted far from covenant faithfulness and needed to return to God.

† The message echoed the warnings of earlier prophets who called the nation to repentance (Jeremiah 3:12-13).

Mark 1:5

People from all Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to him, confessing their sins and being immersed in the Jordan River.

† Large crowds responded because many sensed the seriousness of the moment.

† Confession showed the people recognized their need for cleansing before God.

† The Jordan River also reminded Israel of their earlier entry into the land under Joshua.

Mark 1:6

John wore clothing made from camel hair with a leather belt around his waist and he lived on locusts and wild honey.

† His appearance resembled the lifestyle of ancient prophets who lived simply.

† This also reminded people of Elijah who had a similar description (2 Kings 1:8).

† John's lifestyle emphasized that his mission was spiritual rather than political.

Mark 1:7

He preached saying that someone far greater was coming after him and that he wasn't worthy to bend down and untie that person's sandals.

† John made it clear that his role was only to prepare the way for the Messiah.

† Untying sandals was a servant's task showing John's humility before Christ.

† His ministry pointed people toward the one who was coming.

Mark 1:8

John said that he baptized people with water but the one coming after him would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

† Water baptism symbolized repentance but the Messiah would bring spiritual transformation.

† The promise of the Spirit pointed forward to the blessings of the new covenant (Joel 2:28-29).

† Christ's work would bring something far greater than symbolic cleansing.

Mark 1:9

During those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

† Jesus didn't come for forgiveness but to identify with the people he came to save.

† His baptism marked the beginning of his public ministry.

† This moment publicly revealed the Messiah to Israel.

Mark 1:10

As Jesus came up out of the water he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

† The opening of heaven symbolized divine approval.

† The Spirit resting upon Jesus fulfilled prophecy about the Messiah being empowered by God (Isaiah 11:2).

† This moment confirmed that Jesus was chosen for the mission ahead.

Mark 1:11

A voice from heaven declared that Jesus was God's beloved Son and that he brought great pleasure to the Father.

† The Father publicly affirmed the identity of Jesus as the Son of God.

† The language echoes royal language describing God's

chosen king (Psalm 2:7).

† This declaration confirmed Christ's authority and mission.

Mark 1:12

Immediately the Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness.

† The wilderness was historically a place of testing and preparation for God's people.

† Jesus entered the wilderness where Israel had once failed.

† This period prepared him for the challenges of ministry.

Mark 1:13

He remained there forty days being tempted by Satan while surrounded by wild animals and angels cared for him.

† The forty days reflect Israel's forty years of testing in the wilderness.

† Unlike Israel Jesus remained faithful under temptation.

† His victory showed authority over the adversary.

Mark 1:14

After John was arrested Jesus went into Galilee announcing the good news about God's kingdom.

† John's arrest marked the transition from the forerunner to the Messiah's ministry.

† Jesus continued proclaiming the message about the kingdom of God.

† The focus shifted from preparation to fulfillment.

Mark 1:15

He said the appointed time had arrived and God's kingdom had come near, calling people to repent and believe the good news.

† The appointed time refers to the fulfillment of God's prophetic timetable (Daniel 9:24-27).

† The kingdom being near meant God's rule was breaking into history through Christ.

† Repentance and faith were the proper response to this

message.

Mark 1:16

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and Andrew throwing nets into the water because they were fishermen.

† Jesus often called ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary work.

† Fishermen were familiar with patience and persistence.

† These men would soon become leaders in spreading the Gospel.

Mark 1:17

Jesus told them to follow him and promised that he would teach them to gather people instead of fish.

† Following Christ meant committing their lives to his mission.

† Fishing for people referred to bringing others into the kingdom.

† Their calling marked the beginning of the apostolic mission.

Mark 1:18

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

† Their quick response shows the authority of Jesus' call.

† They were willing to leave their livelihood behind.

† This moment illustrates the cost of discipleship.

Mark 1:19

Going a little farther he saw James and John the sons of Zebedee repairing their nets in a boat.

† Jesus continued gathering the men who would become his closest followers.

† These disciples would later become key witnesses of Christ.

† Their calling strengthened the testimony of the Gospel message.

Mark 1:20

He called them and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus.

† Following Christ required leaving behind familiar security.

† Their response showed commitment to the kingdom mission.

† Obedience to Christ came before personal comfort.

Mark 1:21

They entered Capernaum and on the Sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and began teaching.

† Synagogues were central places for teaching within Jewish communities.

† Jesus used these gatherings to reveal truth about the kingdom.

† His teaching quickly drew attention.

Mark 1:22

The people were amazed because he taught with authority unlike the scribes.

† The scribes relied on tradition and interpretation.

† Jesus spoke with direct authority because he was the source of truth.

† His teaching revealed the difference between divine authority and human tradition.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the strong expectation among Jews during the first century that a deliverer would arise.

† Irenaeus wrote that the Gospel accounts confirmed the arrival of the promised Messiah foretold by the prophets.

† Eusebius preserved early church testimony that the apostles faithfully recorded the works of Christ.

How It Applies To Us Today

† The call to repentance and faith remains the entrance into God's kingdom.

† Jesus' authority over sickness and evil reminds us that nothing stands beyond his power.

† Following Christ still requires leaving behind whatever competes with his calling.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Mark begin the Gospel so quickly?

A Mark focused on announcing the arrival of the Messiah because the prophetic timeline had reached fulfillment (Daniel 9:25-27).

Q Why was John the Baptist necessary?

A John fulfilled the prophecy of the messenger who prepared Israel for the coming of the Lord (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3).

Q Why did Jesus silence demons who recognized him?

A Jesus controlled the timing and method of revealing his identity so that false testimony wouldn't mislead the people (Mark 1:25).

Q What does the calling of fishermen teach about discipleship?

A It shows that following Christ requires leaving behind personal security and trusting his mission (Mark 1:17-20).

Q Why did Jesus emphasize preaching over miracles?

A His primary mission was proclaiming the kingdom of God while miracles confirmed the truth of his message (Mark 1:38).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Mark 1

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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