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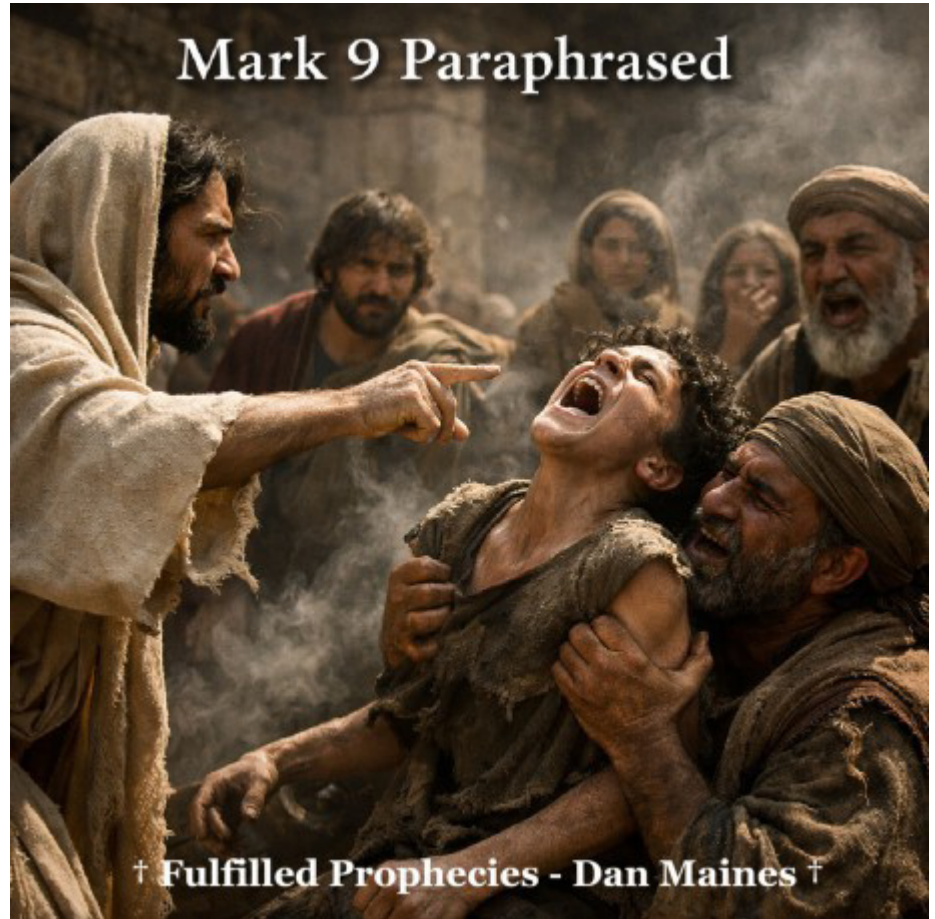
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Mark 9 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Mark 9 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Mark 9 continues revealing who Jesus is and what His kingdom was about to accomplish within that generation.

† The chapter moves from the Transfiguration to teaching about humility, stumbling blocks, and the cost of discipleship.

† Every event here points forward to the coming transformation of the covenant world that Jesus said some standing there would live to see (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Early Christians understood these warnings as events

approaching in their lifetime, and Eusebius records that believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction in AD 70.

Scripture

Mark 9:1

Jesus told them that some standing there wouldn't die before they saw God's kingdom come with power.

† Jesus placed the arrival of the kingdom power within the lifetime of His listeners (Matthew 16:28).

† That power was revealed through the resurrection, the outpouring of the Spirit, and the covenant judgment on Jerusalem (Luke 21:31-32).

† Eusebius records that the church remembered these warnings and escaped the city before the Roman siege.

Mark 9:2

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him up a high mountain where they were alone, and His appearance changed before them.

† The Transfiguration was a preview of the kingdom glory the disciples were about to witness (2 Peter 1:16-18).

† Only three disciples saw it, confirming Jesus' statement that some standing there would see the kingdom come in power.

Mark 9:3

His clothes became shining white, brighter than anything on earth could make them.

† The brightness revealed divine glory similar to prophetic visions of heavenly authority (Daniel 7:9).

† The moment confirmed that Jesus carried the glory of God.

Mark 9:4

Then Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus.

† Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the Prophets, both pointing forward to Christ (Luke 24:27).

† Their appearance showed that everything written before was leading to Him.

Mark 9:5

Peter said to Jesus, Rabbi, it's good for us to be here. Let's make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

† Peter didn't yet understand that the Law and Prophets were giving way to Christ's authority.

† The moment showed the transition from the old covenant witnesses to the Son.

Mark 9:6

He said this because he didn't know what to say since they were terrified.

† The disciples were overwhelmed by the glory they witnessed.

† Encounters with divine revelation often produced fear and awe (Isaiah 6:5).

Mark 9:7

Then a cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud saying, This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.

† The voice from heaven confirmed Jesus as the final authority above Moses and Elijah (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† God declared that the focus must now be on the Son alone.

Mark 9:8

Suddenly they looked around and saw no one with them anymore except Jesus alone.

† The disappearance of Moses and Elijah symbolized the completion of their role.

† Christ alone remained as the mediator of the covenant.

Mark 9:9

As they were coming down the mountain Jesus told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen

from the dead.

† The resurrection would reveal the full meaning of the glory they witnessed.

† Only after that event could the testimony be fully understood.

Mark 9:10

They kept the matter to themselves while discussing what rising from the dead meant.

† The disciples still struggled to understand resurrection.

† Their confusion shows how unexpected the resurrection was to them.

Mark 9:11

They asked Him why the scribes say that Elijah must come first.

† Jewish teachers expected Elijah to appear before the Messiah (Malachi 4:5).

† The disciples wanted to understand how that prophecy fit with Jesus.

Mark 9:12

Jesus said Elijah does come first and restores all things, but the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected.

† Restoration came through the preparatory ministry of John the Baptist (Luke 1:16-17).

† Yet the Messiah would first suffer rejection.

Mark 9:13

But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as the Scriptures said about him.

† Jesus identified John the Baptist as the promised Elijah (Matthew 11:14).

† His death revealed how Israel treated God's prophets.

Mark 9:14

When they returned to the other disciples they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them.

† The ministry of Jesus regularly created conflict with religious leaders.

† Their arguments reflected growing resistance to His authority.

Mark 9:15

When the crowd saw Jesus they were amazed and ran to greet Him.

† Jesus' presence immediately drew attention from the crowd.

† His authority and reputation had spread widely.

Mark 9:16

He asked them what they were arguing about.

† Jesus exposed the situation openly before addressing it.

† This revealed the issue clearly to everyone present.

Mark 9:17

One man from the crowd said he brought his son who was possessed by a spirit that made him unable to speak.

† The father came in desperation seeking help for his child.

† The story highlights Christ's compassion toward suffering.

Mark 9:18

Whenever it seized him it threw him down, he foamed at the mouth, ground his teeth, and became rigid, and the disciples couldn't cast it out.

† The disciples had cast out demons before but failed here (Mark 6:13).

† Their failure revealed their need for deeper dependence on God.

Mark 9:19

Jesus said they were a faithless generation and asked how long He must remain with them before they believed.

† The phrase faithless generation echoed prophetic rebukes of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:5).

† Jesus was addressing the unbelief surrounding Him.

Mark 9:20

They brought the boy to Him, and when the spirit saw Jesus it immediately threw the child into convulsions.

† The presence of Christ provoked a violent reaction from the spirit.

† Spiritual darkness often reacted strongly when confronted with His authority.

Mark 9:21

Jesus asked the father how long this had been happening, and he said since childhood.

† The long suffering intensified the father's desperation.

† The moment revealed the compassion of Jesus toward human pain.

Mark 9:22

The spirit often threw him into fire or water trying to destroy him, and the father pleaded with Jesus to help if He could.

† The father showed both hope and uncertainty.

† His words reflected the struggle between belief and doubt.

Mark 9:23

Jesus said everything is possible for the one who believes.

† Faith places trust in God's power rather than human strength.

† Jesus called the father to rely on Him fully.

Mark 9:24

Immediately the father cried out that he believed and asked Jesus to help his unbelief.

† This honest confession shows real faith mixed with weakness.

† Christ responded with compassion rather than rejection.

Mark 9:25

When Jesus saw the crowd growing He rebuked the spirit and commanded it to leave the boy and never return.

† Jesus exercised absolute authority over the spirit.

† The command revealed the power of God's kingdom.

Mark 9:26

The spirit cried out, shook the boy violently, and left him, and the boy appeared lifeless so many thought he was dead.

† The final resistance of the spirit showed its defeat.

† Christ's authority ultimately prevailed.

Mark 9:27

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he stood.

† The act symbolized restoration and healing.

† Jesus brought life where destruction had ruled.

Mark 9:28

After entering the house the disciples asked why they couldn't drive it out.

† The disciples still needed instruction about spiritual dependence.

† Their question opened the door for Jesus' teaching.

Mark 9:29

Jesus told them that this kind only comes out through prayer.

† Prayer demonstrates reliance on God rather than human ability.

† The lesson emphasized dependence on the Father.

Mark 9:30

They left that place and passed through Galilee, and Jesus didn't want anyone to know.

† Jesus often avoided publicity while privately teaching the disciples.

† He was preparing them for the coming events.

Mark 9:31

He taught them that the Son of Man would be delivered into human hands, killed, and after three days rise again.

† Jesus repeatedly foretold His death and resurrection (Mark

8:31).

† These events would confirm His mission.

Mark 9:32

But they didn't understand what He meant and were afraid to ask Him.

† The disciples still struggled to grasp the meaning of the cross.

† Their confusion highlights how unexpected the resurrection was.

Mark 9:33

They came to Capernaum, and Jesus asked what they had been discussing along the road.

† Jesus knew their discussion but wanted them to confront it openly.

† His question exposed their motives.

Mark 9:34

They remained silent because they had argued about who was the greatest.

† Their ambition reflected worldly expectations of power.

† Jesus would redefine greatness.

Mark 9:35

Jesus sat down and told them that whoever wants to be first must become last and servant of all.

† True greatness in God's kingdom comes through humility (Matthew 23:11).

† Jesus reversed the world's definition of leadership.

Mark 9:36

He took a child and placed the child among them and held him in His arms.

† Children represented humility and low status in that culture.

† Jesus used the child to illustrate kingdom character.

Mark 9:37

He said whoever receives one such child in His name receives Him and the One who sent Him.

† Serving the humble is equivalent to serving Christ (Matthew 25:40).

† The kingdom values compassion and humility.

Mark 9:38

John said they saw someone casting out demons in Jesus' name and tried to stop him because he wasn't part of their group.

† The disciples thought authority belonged only to them.

† Jesus corrected this narrow thinking.

Mark 9:39

Jesus told them not to stop the man because no one who performs a miracle in His name will quickly speak against Him.

† The kingdom work extended beyond the immediate circle of disciples.

† Jesus encouraged openness toward those acting in His name.

Mark 9:40

He said whoever isn't against us is for us.

† Jesus recognized those who supported His mission.

† The kingdom gathers people who align with Christ.

Mark 9:41

Even giving a cup of water to someone because they belong to Christ won't go unrewarded.

† Small acts done in Christ's name matter greatly.

† Faithfulness is measured in everyday actions.

Mark 9:42

Anyone who causes one of these little ones who believe in Him to stumble would be better off thrown into the sea with a heavy stone tied around the neck.

† Jesus gave a severe warning about leading believers into sin (Matthew 18:6).

† The responsibility for influencing others is serious.

Mark 9:43

If your hand causes you to stumble it's better to lose it than to enter judgment with it.

† Jesus used strong imagery to emphasize the seriousness of sin.

† Faithfulness requires decisive commitment.

Mark 9:44

Where their worm doesn't die and the fire isn't quenched.

† This imagery comes from Isaiah's prophecy describing judgment (Isaiah 66:24).

† Jesus applied this language to covenant judgment imagery.

Mark 9:45

If your foot causes you to stumble it's better to lose it than to face judgment with it.

† Again Jesus stressed removing anything that leads to sin.

† The kingdom requires wholehearted devotion.

Mark 9:46

Where their worm doesn't die and the fire isn't quenched.

† The prophetic language repeats the warning of judgment imagery.

† It reflects the seriousness of rejecting God's ways.

Mark 9:47

If your eye causes you to stumble it's better to remove it than to be thrown into Gehenna.

† Gehenna referred to the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem.

† It symbolized covenant judgment upon the rebellious city.

Mark 9:48

Where their worm doesn't die and the fire isn't quenched.

† Jesus again quoted Isaiah 66:24.

† The imagery describes severe covenant judgment language.

Mark 9:49

Everyone will be salted with fire.

† Fire symbolized purification and testing.

† Trials would refine believers and expose unbelief.

Mark 9:50

Salt is good, but if it loses its flavor it can't be restored. Have salt in yourselves and live in peace with one another.

† Salt represents preserving truth and purity (Matthew 5:13).

† Jesus called His followers to maintain faithfulness and unity.

Historical References

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege because they remembered Jesus' warnings.

† Josephus described the devastation around Jerusalem during the Roman war.

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles preached the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets in Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria affirmed that Christ became the final teacher after the Law prepared the way.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christ alone is the authority believers must follow.

† True greatness still comes through humility and serving others.

† Faith mixed with weakness can still reach Christ.

† Believers must avoid causing others to stumble.

† The kingdom calls us to purity, unity, and faithfulness.

Q & A Appendix

Q: When did the kingdom come with power that Jesus spoke about?

A: The kingdom power appeared through the resurrection, the

Spirit's coming, and the covenant judgment events confirming Christ's reign (Matthew 16:27-28).

Q: Why did Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus?

A: They represented the Law and the Prophets pointing to Christ as their fulfillment (Luke 24:27).

Q: Who was the Elijah Jesus said had already come?

A: Jesus identified John the Baptist as that promised Elijah (Matthew 11:14).

Q: What does Gehenna refer to?

A: Gehenna referred to the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem and symbolized covenant judgment (Jeremiah 7:31-34).

Q: What lesson did Jesus teach about greatness?

A: Greatness in the kingdom comes through humility and serving others (Matthew 23:11).

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

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Source Index

† Mark 9

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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