

# *The Beginning of the Gospel*

## Gospel of Mark Series – Part 1

Scripture text – Mark 1:1

### Introduction

- Our Sunday gatherings must always be \_\_\_\_\_ - centered. To help ensure that, our next series is through the Gospel of Mark. Even among the 4 Gospels, Mark stands apart for its \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- Today's message is introductory.

### Starting Wide: The 4 Gospels

- The 4 Gospels are best understood as \_\_\_\_\_ . Each contains biographical information about Jesus, but the information presented is designed to make a theological \_\_\_\_\_ about him.
- Big question: Are the 4 Gospels \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - We can trust the Gospels because they were written by \_\_\_\_\_ within the lifetimes of \_\_\_\_\_ eyewitnesses who confirmed the \_\_\_\_\_ of what was written.
  - The accuracy of Mark's Gospel was confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 2 other proofs:
  1. The basic outline of Jesus' life was attested to by \_\_\_\_\_ .
  2. Hundreds of details have been confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The bottom line is that believing in Christ is entirely \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Getting Narrower: The Gospel of Mark

- Mark's Gospel was the \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel written in the late \_\_\_\_\_ 's AD.
- Mark (the person) was born & raised in \_\_\_\_\_ . His mother was an early convert to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- As a young man, Mark was an assistant to \_\_\_\_\_ , and later to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- His writing was likely prompted by 2 things:
  1. The eyewitnesses to Jesus were \_\_\_\_\_ , so the story of his life needed to be written down for future \_\_\_\_\_ .
  2. The believers in Rome were undergoing severe \_\_\_\_\_ . Thus, Mark wanted to encourage them to remain strong in the faith.

## Narrower Still: The Opening Sentence

- This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.
- Mark only tells the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel, not the entirety of it. This explains his abrupt \_\_\_\_\_: there's much more to come.
- Mark's use of the word "gospel" would have \_\_\_\_\_ his first readers.
  - "Gospel" literally means \_\_\_\_\_ or glad tidings.
  - In 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome, the word was closely associated with the \_\_\_\_\_, who would proclaim "gospel" when there was a significant event in his life, such as his birthday or the birth of a child. The people were then expected to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The fact that Mark applied this term to the story of Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
  - And yet, Mark chose this word very \_\_\_\_\_ in order to describe a truly \_\_\_\_\_ event in world history.
- Mark also proclaimed Jesus to be the \_\_\_\_\_ (or Messiah).
  - The longing for the Christ (or Messiah) reached a fever pitch in \_\_\_\_\_ AD, when the Jews \_\_\_\_\_ against the Romans.
  - Just as the Roman army was preparing to attack \_\_\_\_\_, Mark sat down and wrote his Gospel.

## A Timeline

64 BC	Israel conquered by Rome
6-4 BC	Jesus born
30 AD	Jesus dies & resurrected
47-49	Mark travels with Paul
64	Jewish revolt against Rome
66	Nero blames Christians for fire in Rome; persecution begins
66-68	Peter martyred in Rome
68-69	Mark writes his gospel from Rome
70	Jerusalem destroyed by the Romans