



The MBC Weekly

January 12, 2022

The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!

In the ancient world, new kings were introduced by a forerunner; or, a herald. Perhaps you remember, from the Old Testament, that Samuel first introduced; and, then anointed King Saul; and, later King David. Every culture & country has its traditions for heralding in a new leader. In our country, where the baton of leadership is usually passed peacefully from one president to another, it's typical for 2 men to reside over the swearing-in of the new president— one is the Chief Justice; and, the other is the outgoing president. Together, they testify that the man being sworn in is the legitimate successor. It's our country's way of heralding a new leader. And, that's how Mark is inspired, by God's Holy Spirit, to open his Gospel: *"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way. A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!' John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were flocking to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins"*

The Need For A Credible Herald

Mark knew that if he was writing a gospel about the arrival of a new king, to the Romans, that there would need to be some kind of authoritative, credible herald to announce his arrival. That's the way it was in the culture of the Roman world. No Roman King or Caesar ever just showed up and said: *"Hello! Attention everyone! I'm the new King here!"* No, he always had a forerunner; and, an entourage who went before him; and, prepared the way so all the people would be ready for his coming. So, Mark, to be consistent with the Gentile approach, goes to the Old Testament to find the prophecies that gave authenticity to King Jesus' herald; and, then he informs his readers that John the Baptizer is that forerunner; and, that's why John heralds or proclaims these words: *"Someone more powerful than I will come after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals"* (1:7). He was preparing the way for King Jesus!

(Mark 1:1-5). Unlike Matthew & Luke, who begin their Gospels with the family roots & genealogies of Jesus, Mark picks it up at the actual beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Now, most of you probably know the definition of the "Gospel", right? What does it mean? It means "good news" right? So, Mark is writing about the "good news" of Jesus Christ from, *"The beginning..."* he says. And, Mark says the Good News begins in the Old Testament: *"As it is written IN ISAIAH the prophet..."* v.2. And, then he quotes from Isaiah, chapter 40, which is similarly recorded in the last book of the Old Testament, *"'See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire—see, He is coming,' says the Lord of Hosts"* (Malachi 3:1). And, from Malachi's prophecy 'til the arrival of Jesus Christ, Israel had waited 400 years for Messiah's coming! They had waited, I want to point out, for God's "messenger" (little "m") to herald; or, announce the coming of the LORD; or, the King, the "Messenger" (capital "M") of the covenant! So, Mark's focus, at least at the start of his gospel, was more on the forerunner; or, the herald, than the King; and, there's a good reason for that because Mark is writing to Gentiles. Specifically, he is writing to the Romans, who occupied the land of Israel at that time.

"Greeting Team"

For Sunday, January 16

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! **NOTE:** Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM: Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Terry Embke Monday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

Are Gatherings Of 6-12 People That Meet With The Goal Of Knowing & Experiencing God, In Community, At A Deeper & More Intimate Level Than Can Be Accomplished Alone

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry @ MBC

Announcements

1. Bible "Read-It-Through" Available at the Welcome Desk for FREE! Pick one up & get reading!
2. A Great Read: "Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth" by Thaddeus J. Williams