



Introduction*

The Gospel of Mark emphasizes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus announced the Kingdom of God, healed the sick, and died as a ransom for sinners. In addition to Jesus, Mark features three main groups of people: the disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders, none of whom understood Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to go to the cross, the religious leaders arrested him, the disciples abandoned him, and the crowds jeered him. Only when he died alone on the cross did a Roman centurion recognize that he was the Son of God.

“Prepare the Way” Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus, anointed child of God.

² Just as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: “Look! I send my messenger before your face, the one who will prepare your way. ³ A voice is crying out in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of the lord! Make his paths level!’” ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of transformation for release from sins. ⁵ All the land of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem were coming out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, renouncing their sins. ⁶ John was wearing camel’s hair and a belt made of hide around his waist and was eating insects and wild honey. ⁷ He was proclaiming, “One more powerful than me is following me! Even after bowing down, I am not worthy to free the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the holy spirit!”

What is the “beginning” that Mark speaks of?

What is the “gospel”?

What is the “anointed”?

What is the “child of God”?

* Ryken, L. (Ed.). (2011). The ESV and the English Bible legacy. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. The ESV Preface, Explanation of Features, introductions to each book of the Bible: Mark

What is significant about the gospel opening with a declaration of “look”?

What is “the way” Mark speaks of?

What is the significance of John’s location, attire, and diet?

What is “baptism”?

What is a “baptism of transformation” and “release from sins”?

What is the “holy spirit” and what does it mean to be baptized in this spirit?