

Handout: Mark Lesson 2

Part I: The Preparation for the Mystery and Public Ministry of Jesus (Mk 1:1-13)

The three events that are the preparation for Jesus' teaching ministry:

1. The appearance of St. John the Baptist in the Judean wilderness as the forerunner of the Christ according to the promise of the Old Testament prophets (1:2-8).
2. The baptism of Jesus and the first revelation of the Most Holy Trinity (1:9-11).
3. The temptation of Jesus, the "second Adam," by Satan (1:12-13).

1:1 [The] beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Greek word *euangelion* (yoo-ang-ghel-ee-on) is the root of the English word "evangelize" and literally means "good news." It is rendered in Old English as "god-spel" or "gospel." The Greek word *Christos* means "anointed" and is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah = *mashiah* (mah-she-ah), "anointed one." St. Mark also identifies Jesus as the "Son of God." Scripture used the title for one who enjoyed a special relationship with the Almighty:

- Angels/heavenly messengers, in Greek *angelos*, are called "sons of God" (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7).
- The covenant people were understood to be sons and daughters of God individually (Wis 2:13, 18; 5:5; Hos 11:1; Jer 31:20) and collectively for the sonship of the children of Israel (Ex 4:22; Is 1:2; Jer 3:19; Hos 2:1).
- The Davidic heir who, according to the Davidic covenant, was given the title "son of God" at his enthronement (2 Sam 7:14; 1 Chr 17:13; Is 9:5; Ps 2:7; 89:27; 110:3).

In the New Testament the title "Son of God" takes on a meaning not previously conveyed in the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus is the ideal king of Israel (2 Sam 7:14; Ps 2:7; 89:26-29) of the chosen people of God (Ex 4:22; Is 63:16; Hos 11:1). In the New Testament, the title expresses Jesus' unique relationship with God as the Father's "only begotten Son" (Jn 1:18).

Mark 1:2-3 quotes Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3. It is a combined passage that is quoted in all three Synoptic Gospels (see Mt 3:3, Lk 3:3, and Jn 1:23).

The Gospel of Mark, like the other Synoptic Gospels, presents the first revelation of the Most Holy Trinity to mankind at Jesus' baptism (Mk 1:9-11):

1. God the Holy Spirit descends from heaven.
2. He rests upon Jesus who is God the Son.
3. The divine voice of God the Father is heard from heaven announcing His pleasure in God the Son.

God's plan for Jesus continues to unfold in the Temptation (Mk 1:12-13):

- The Holy Spirit drives Jesus into the desert
- Satan tempts Jesus
- Jesus defeats Satan's temptations
- Angels minister to Him in the midst of wild beasts, showing Jesus' authority over heaven and earth (beasts only in Mark's Gospel)

Part II: The Mystery of Jesus (Mk 1:14-8:26):

1. The beginning of the Galilean ministry and call of the first disciples (Mk 1:14-20)
2. Cure of a demoniac and other healings (Mk 1:21-45) --to be continued

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