

## The prologue of Mark Mark 1:1-15

### The prophetic word - the coming Lord and his messenger:

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus, the anointed one, the Son of God - <sup>2</sup>as it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

- a) messenger: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
- b) prepare/way: who will prepare your way,
- a<sup>1</sup>) voice: <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness
- b<sup>1</sup>) prepare/way//make straight/paths: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

### 1. Fulfillment: The coming of the messenger

#### A. John in the wilderness:

- a) Elijah allusion: <sup>4</sup>John appeared baptizing in the wilderness
- b) His message - baptism/repentance/sins: and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- b<sup>1</sup>) The response - baptized/confession/sins: <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- a<sup>1</sup>) Elijah allusion: <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

#### B. John's message:

- a) He is greater: <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I,
- b) I am less: the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
- b<sup>1</sup>) I am less: <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water,
- a<sup>1</sup>) He is greater: but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### 2. Fulfillment: The coming of the Lord

#### A<sup>1</sup>. Jesus in the wilderness

- a) Jesus came from Galilee/John: <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- b) Jesus' baptism:
  - a) Heavens/Spirit: <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
  - b) God's affirmation/heavens: <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
- b<sup>1</sup>) Jesus' testing:
  - a<sup>1</sup>) Spirit/wilderness: <sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
  - b<sup>1</sup>) Wilderness/Satan's opposition: <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.
- a<sup>1</sup>) John/Jesus came into Galilee: <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee.

#### B<sup>1</sup>. Jesus' message

- a) good news: He was proclaiming the good news of God,
  - b) fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled,
  - c) the kingdom: and the kingdom of God
  - b<sup>1</sup>) at hand: is at hand;
  - a<sup>1</sup>) good news: repent and believe in the good news."
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- The **inclusion** in red, contains the phrase “good news” and a time element. In v. 1 it is “the beginning.” In vs. 14-15 good news is used twice and there are two time elements; “the time is fulfilled”; “is at hand.”
- **The prophetic word** is the key to this passage. It establishes the order of events. The messenger comes first; then Lord comes. In v. 1 the preposition “before” sets this up. In v. 7 John reiterates it “after me” comes the Lord.
- **#1.** and **#2.** present the fulfillment of this scheme. In **#1.** John the Baptist fulfills the promise of a messenger. In **#2** Jesus fulfills the promise of the Lord coming.
- **#1** is in stair step parallelism with **#2.** **#1** It treats John in the wilderness and then his message. **#2** treats Jesus in the wilderness and then his message.