## Mark Precept Upon Precept

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Mark

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND
SON OF MAN
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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE
How to Study Your Bible

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Greek Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.
The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

MATHEWS, KENNETH A.
The New American Commentary

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software
Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.
LESSON ONE
Chapter One

The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheet of Mark 1
“Mark at a Glance”
“Israel in the Time of Christ”
Cross-references

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.”
(Mark 1:15)

Welcome to the Gospel of Mark.

Although we are not going to do a comparative study of the Gospels and our focus will be Mark, we think it might help you to better appreciate the Gospel of Mark if you take this first hour of study to see how the other Gospels begin and then compare them with what Mark wrote. We believe you’ll enjoy it and find it an interesting way to start.

Since this is God’s Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher, you will want to develop the habit of beginning each day’s study seeking God’s understanding. Also, because this is God’s Word, you will want to handle it accurately. Second Timothy 2:15 says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

As you study Mark, be sure not to read commentaries until instructed to in the lesson. We want you to first have the joy of discovering truth for yourself!
1. Read Matthew 1:1-25.
      1) How does Matthew begin his gospel account? What is covered in this segment?

         2) What do you learn specifically in verse 1 about Jesus?

   b. Now read Matthew 1:18-25. What is covered in this segment?

   a. Read Luke 1:1-4. What do you learn from these verses about this gospel account?

   b. Now read Luke 1:5-25. What do these verses cover?

d. Now read Luke 1:57-80. What are the main points in these verses?

3. The Gospel of John is next. This is rich—different. Don’t be in a hurry.
   a. Read John 1:1-18. Who is described in these verses and how?
   b. Now read John 1:19-34. Who is the main character in this segment and what do you learn about him?
c. In John 1:35-51, who takes center stage and what do you learn about him? Just get the broad scope and write down any terms that apply to or identify this person.

4. Now dear student, we are ready to go to the Gospel of Mark. In the Appendix of your workbook you will find Observation Worksheets of the Gospel of Mark. Get out Mark 1.

a. Read Mark 1:1-8. How does Mark start? What’s the first thing you learn from verse 1?

b. Who is the main character in Mark 1:1-8, and what is his message?

c. What happens in verses 9-11? What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?
That’s it for today! However, before you put away your workbook, think about what Mark covers in the first eleven verses of his gospel! Mark is movin’—and for the rest of the week we are going to move with him through Mark 1. It’s quite a chapter. In fact, you may want to read it aloud before you call it a day!

1. Your assignment today is to begin observing Mark 1. Notice we said “begin”; observation is a process. Usually, the more you read the text the more you see! Don’t be in a hurry—God is speaking. These words are God-breathed, spirit and life! Treasure them.

When studying a book, observation always comes first. So you begin by asking the 5 Ws and H of the text: who, what, when, where, why, and how and see what the text says. Answering these questions is a process—one insight upon another, precept upon precept.

We’ll begin by focusing on the gospel, Jesus, and where the events of chapter 1 take place.

Read Mark chapter 1 and color and/or mark with a symbol (whichever you prefer) the following. Using colors makes your markings easy to see.

a. gospel.* “Gospel” means good news; this is “what” Mark is about.

b. Jesus Christ,* including pronouns and synonyms such as “Son.” This is the most important “who” since Mark is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

c. Holy Spirit,* including pronouns

d. everything that tells you where something occurred,* including significant places such as a synagogue or a secluded place, which helps you get the setting of the event.

*Indicates words with suggested markings on the back cover of your workbook.

2. Now that you have marked these four things, read the text again. This time look for every bold verse number. This indicates a new paragraph. Mark 1 has a lot of paragraphs.

a. Using a pencil, draw a line in the margin of your Observation Worksheet where each paragraph begins. Then, using words from the text, summarize in as few words as possible what is covered in each paragraph and who is
involved. A pencil is a good choice—you can erase and rewrite anything you want to change.

b. If you see any other predominant key repeated words, feel free to mark them in a distinctive way. A key word is an important, repeated word that helps you unlock the subject or meaning of the text. The writer uses them to accomplish his purpose in writing.

c. You didn’t mark those “wheres” just to mark them! In the Appendix, you will find a map, “Israel in the Time of Christ.” Find the location of the event of each paragraph and also write it in the margin of your Observation Worksheet. Be as brief as possible.

Well done! You now have a broad view of Mark 1. We’ll continue digging deeper into the text tomorrow.

DAY THREE

1. Today we want to take an even closer look at Mark 1 and do some further marking. So after prayer, read Mark 1:1-14, and in a distinctive way or color, mark references to John the Baptist (1:4) including pronouns.

The purpose of marking a key repeated word or repeated references to a person is to make sure you learn all the text tells you about them. Looking at what you marked and then making a list of what you learned helps you get everything God wants you to get—to know!

In light of this, when you finish marking John the Baptist, list below what the text tells you about him.

You’ve already recorded his message on Day One.
2. Read Mark 1:2. “As it is written” is in the perfect tense in the Greek which indicates a past completed action that has results continuing into the present. So how would you interpret the phrase “as it is written” in this context?

   a. What is Mark doing in Mark 1:2-3 and how?

   b. How does Isaiah 40:1-9 relate to Mark 1:1-3?

   c. Although here Mark only mentions one prophet by name, Isaiah, let’s look at what the last Old Testament prophet Malachi wrote. It may shed additional light on Mark’s “quote”—reference to—Isaiah 40:3.

      Read Malachi 3:1. Two individuals are mentioned in verse 1: the Lord and His messenger. List what you observe about these two and how they might fit with Mark 1:2-3.

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1If you have a New Inductive Study Bible (NISB) there’s a section in the Appendix that explains Tense, Mood, and Voice of Greek Verbs.
d. Now since we are already in Malachi, let’s read the final two verses breathed by God through His prophet. Malachi 4:5-6 are the final two verses in the Old Testament in our Bibles. Record what you observe about Elijah. Then read the verses again aloud. Store them in your mind so the Spirit can bring them to your remembrance later in your study of Mark.

3. From all you’ve observed in Mark 1 about John, answer the following questions:

   a. Why was John referred to as “the Baptist”?
   
   b. What did the people do when they were baptized by John?

4. Let’s take a few minutes to see what we learn from the use of “baptize” in Mark 1:1-11.

   a. Mark every reference to baptizing. Then list below what you learn from the use of the word.
b. Look up the Greek word for “baptize” and write down what you learn about the word, its meaning, and its use.

5. Just so you don’t miss it, review the contrast in Mark 1:8.

6. Since sometimes you may hear confusing and contradicting teachings about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, you need to discover for yourself what the whole counsel of God’s Word teaches.

The best way to do this is to mark every reference to the Holy Spirit when you study Scripture and then list what God says about the subject. Just get the facts down, whether you understand them or not. Because Scripture interprets Scripture, eventually you’ll understand.

Mark Spirit* in Mark 1:8-13 and record your insights below.
7. Now read the following verses from Luke and list below what you learn from marking the references to the Holy Spirit.


8. Let’s take a closer look at Mark 1:14-15. Read all the questions before you answer them so your answers don’t overlap,

a. Who are the characters in these verses, and what do you learn about them?

b. As you read these verses, is there anything that makes them seem especially significant? If so, what? Why?
c. Remember, good observation seeks answers to the 5 Ws and H. “The time is fulfilled” is a reference to a specific time: “the time,” a “when”! You want to mark significant “when” references; even marking time indicators such as then, after, and others that indicate a timing or order of events can keep you from misinterpreting scripture.

So in light of the importance of “when,” take a few minutes and read Mark 1:1-15. Use a green circle to mark references to time in verses 9, 13, and 14.

After you mark them, list below what you learn.

d. According to Mark 1:14-15, what time has been fulfilled and what is the right response? You should already have the answer from your observations. If you don’t, pray and go back to the text and see if you missed anything.

9. The question that remains is: what is the kingdom of God? If you had no other explanation, what would you assume it is from the words:

a. Kingdom—what is a kingdom?

b. Whose kingdom?

c. So how would you define the kingdom of God?

d. And what were those who heard the “gospel of God” to do?
And where are you, Beloved, in relation to the kingdom of God? How do you know? Think about it, talk to God about it . . . maybe write out a prayer.

**DAY FOUR**

We trust you are remembering to pray as you begin each day’s study.

1. Read Mark 1:16-20.

   a. Who are the people mentioned in this segment, and what does the text tell you about them?

   b. Where is this happening?

   c. Did you notice any important repeated word or words you want to mark? If so, write them down and mark them. Then summarize what you learn.
2. Read Mark 1:21-28 and look for any important who, what, when, where, why, and hows. Mark teaching and authority each distinctively. Summarize below what you learn about them.

3. Now did you notice all those references to unclean spirits? Think these evil spirits* are something to mark?

4. What do you learn from marking unclean spirits? List your insights below.

5. Do you think unclean spirits have any relationship to the individual mentioned in Mark 1:13? If so, mark him the same way.

6. Where did the news about Jesus spread to and why? If that happened in your area, would it make the local news?
7. Finally for today, let’s put two paragraphs together and dig a little deeper into Mark 1:29-34. Read and mark the text. Note the main events.

Think about all you’ve learned about Jesus. If He called you to follow Him, would you be willing to leave the equivalent of “your nets” . . . your father . . . and follow Him? To become a “fisher of men” wherever He took or sent you? Even if others forbade you to talk of Him?

Why don’t you take a minute to pray about all the truths you’ve discovered for yourself just by studying God’s Word this way.

**DAY FIVE**

1. Welcome to a new day, beloved of God. Begin in prayer and then read Mark 1:35-39 where Jesus begins a new day. See how He begins His day.

   a. Mark any key words. One that we mark whenever we find it is references to prayer,* talking to God about everything and anything. Write down where Jesus prayed.

   b. Mark references to demons the same way you mark evil spirits. What do you learn?

2. You’ve seen references to synagogues several times in Mark 1. Now is a good time to look at each place you marked synagogue. Then summarize below what you learn.
3. Now use your Bible study tools to see what else you can learn about synagogues. You might look at what is written in the Appendix of the *New Inductive Study Bible* in the article “Major Events in Israel’s History” (See “From 931 B.C. Until the Birth of Christ”) or go online. Record pertinent insights here.

4. Now let’s look at the final verses of Mark chapter 1, verses 40-45. Mark key words. What event happens in this passage? Where does Jesus go and why?

5. Finally, in the Appendix you will find the chart “Mark at a Glance.” Record in as few words as possible the theme of Mark chapter 1.

Since there is so much information in this first chapter, you are going to have to choose something that will be memorable and at the same time give a broad overview of its content. The process may be a little laborious in this first chapter, but working through it will be good review!

By the way, you might want to record it with a pencil in case you come up with something better.
6. You’ve diligently observed the text. You know what it says. Now what can you learn from others? Appreciate and check out your commentaries.

"We are truly excited that you are going to do this study. May God use every aspect of it to help you know, understand, and live by His eternal Word.

"‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD’” (Matthew 4:4)."
THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
   "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
   who will prepare your way;"

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
   'Make ready the way of the Lord,
   make His paths straight.'"

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.

8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;

11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

12 Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.
13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,

15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.

17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

21 They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach.

22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

26 Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”
28 Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

29 And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 Now Simon’s mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her.

31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.

32 When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.

33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

36 Simon and his companions searched for Him;

37 they found Him, and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.”

38 He said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.”

39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

40 And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

43 And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,

44 and He said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”
45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.
# MARK AT A GLANCE

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