

reality seen in the preparation

mark 1

So we have been examining who Jesus is, and what He has to say. This week we are going to drop back a little and examine the preparation behind all of this...

1 Preparation Documents Believability | Verse 1 "The beginning of the good news"

Two things right off:

"good news" This is all about something that is infinitely good to hear about

"of Jesus Christ the Son of God" του ευαγγελιου ιησου χριστου υιου του θεου

All of this is in the genitive case in the Greek. It's all about being descriptive and attributing possession

Origin and background and preparation are important to God.

Verse 2 "As it is written in the prophets" Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3

This action biography by Mark about Jesus, helps us to establish confidence...

Isaiah and Malachi were heavy weights within the Jewish prophetic system

"my messenger... prepare... voice... prepare" Well, who is this messenger, voice, preparer?

Verse 4 "John came baptizing" It's John, Jesus' cousin (Luke 1:36) Go figure!

John was of pure priestly decent... both from his father Zacharias and mother Elisabeth (Luke 1:5)

"Baptizing in the wilderness" (What is all of that about?)

Well, for sure this has to be a Jewish baptism... because the church wouldn't begin for three and a half more years at Pentecost

Edershem writes: "Those who contracted Levitical defilement were to immerse before sacrifice" (Talmudic Law) | Exodus 19:10,14 instructs to wash clothes

So the standard became... baptism required for:

1. Persons defiled. This was a way to seek purification... show sincerity by getting baptized
2. Those outside of the nation, strangers who seek admission (circumcision, baptism, sacrifices)

So John baptized... and the people lined up!

"baptizing in the wilderness" Why? They needed to get away from the temple which had become somewhat corrupted. (John 2:15)

"repentance for remission" αφεισις / αφηγημι send away... release from bondage or imprisonment

"sins" αμαρτια: α not μερος part Therefore to be without a share... to miss out... miss the mark

So this was John's message... and Israel's problem

Verse 5 "Then all the land of Judea"

Don't you just love this... people, lots of people are always interested in something legit spiritually

And the message is: Be courageous, authentic, different... and watch what happens.

"went out to him" (John didn't make this easy for them, and they still "went out to him")

"all baptized" (apparently everyone was on board)

"river" ποτομος Lots of water

"confessing their sins" ομολογειω confess εξομολογειω out confess, out of the heart, freely, openly

Verse 6 "Now John was clothed" Legitimate preparation doesn't resist simplicity or mobility!

Verses 7, 8 "And he preached" Finally here comes the message:

"There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Disciples didn't 'do shoes', only slaves... and John said he wasn't good enough to even do that!

2 Preparation Supports Authenticity | Verse 9 "It came to pass in those days" (It was inevitable... this purpose)

"Jesus came from Nazareth" Greek for ραχβ shoot or sprout (Isaiah 11:1 "branch")

"out of Galilee" Isaiah (9:1-7)

Verse 10-11 "You are my beloved Son" (Amazing Affirmation... as each member of the Trinity shows up)

3 Preparation Won't Secure Us Against Difficulty | Verse 12 "immediately" (No time to celebrate)

Who drove Jesus into the wilderness?