



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## MARK 1:4-13

### LESSON: JESUS' BAPTISM — March 5, 2023

#### INTRODUCTION:

So, John Mark wrote this Gospel of Mark.

- Mark went with Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey, Mark leaves in the middle of the mission (Acts 13:13). And this led Paul to not take him on the next mission, so Paul and Barnabas disagreed sharply, meaning they had words. And Barnabas takes Mark under his wing, forgives him and go in a different direction from Paul (Acts 15:37-39).
- Some commentators claim that Peter furnished much of the material for this Gospel, or that Mark made notes of Peter's preaching, and later used the notes to write this Gospel, for he had neither heard the Lord, nor been His disciple, but Peter's disciple.
- He wrote to the Christians in Rome to present three things about Christ: His person, His work, and His teachings. He wanted them to know that Jesus Christ alone is the Son of the Living God. He showed in his Gospel how Jesus demonstrated His Divinity by overcoming many things: diseases, demons, and even death. Mark also showed how Jesus obeyed His Father and chose to die for sinful humanity on a cruel cross.

**1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;—** Three things we see in this verse: **1.)** The Gospel concerns \*Jesus Christ. **2.)** He is the Son of God. **3.)** The Gospel began long ago, long before the birth of Jesus' coming into the earth realm, and even the ministry of John the Baptist.

#### \*TERMS:

**JESUS:** "*Savior*", He will save. The Hebrew form is Joshua (yasha) meaning Jehovah is salvation; He is the Savior.

**CHRIST:** The words 'Christ' (christos) and "Messiah" are the same word. "*Messiah*" is the Hebrew word and Christ is the Greek word. Both words refer to the same person and mean the same thing, "The Anointed One."

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- Who are the characters in this lesson? Where was John preaching? What kind of hair was on his clothing?
  - What did he eat? What was John's main task? (3 words). How did he do that? (2 words) What was his main message? (1 word).
  - What is the purpose for Water Baptism? (identification)

**1:2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**

- There has always been someone brought forth to prepare our way in life. In our lesson, God foretold the coming of the Gospel through the prophets of old. It's already written from God and given to...
- **The Prophet Malachi** writes "*Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare thy way before me*" **Malachi 3:1**. God's Message is given to His Messengers many times to prepare the way for His Son's appearance.

**1:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

- **The Prophet Isaiah** said "*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God*" **Isalah 40:3**.
- And now, **John the Baptist** did for his cousin Jesus Christ. He cried in the wilderness; prepared the way; prepared a straight smooth road for the way of the Lord, (sent to straighten every part of their hearts to be right, through repentance). And "...in the desert a highway for our God" where trials and sufferings would occur.



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## I. THE PREPARER MARK 1:4-8

**1:4** John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

John the Baptist was in the wilderness crying out and preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Who was coming? The Messiah.

- **"Baptism"** (baptizein) means to *dip, to immerse, to submerge, to place into* (John did this into water). This is our outward expression of our confession of faith in Jesus Christ that identifies us to Him.
- **"Repentance"** is to change one's mind and heart, turning from life without God to a life with God.
- **"Remission of sin"** is the result in forgiveness of sin.
- So, **"Water"** signifies death and burial for the termination of the repentant person.
- This was John the Baptist's only ministry, and call—baptizing people, and preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins which meant: confess your sins so God can pardon or forgive your sins. This means you're taking a stand to become identified with a life of repentance and righteousness.
  - **Matthew 3:2** says Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
  - Repentance comes before baptism. **Matthew 18:21-22** (NIV) says *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked Lord how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times." Jesus answered, "I tell you seven times, but seventy-seven times."* Today we still sin knowingly and unknowingly.

**1:5** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. All the people of Judea and Jerusalem came to where John was to be baptized (submerged) in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

The last prophecy to Judah before the Messiah's coming was the coming of Elijah before the Messiah's Second coming. So, **Malachi 4:5** speaks of this, *"Behold I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."* They really thought it was Elijah. But **Malachi 3:1** says *Behold I will send my messenger, and he prepare thy way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he shall come saith the Lord of hosts."*

In **John 1:25** those sent by the Pharisees wanted to know why he was baptizing. Where did he get this authority? This shocked the Pharisees to see or hear of a baptism for the remission of sins, for John was baptizing Jews. The sect of Judaism (the Jewish religion) practiced baptism for purification, but normally only non-Jews (Gentiles) were baptized when they converted to Judaism. So, why was he baptizing God's chosen people?

John's preaching was to turn people's minds and hearts toward the Messiah. It has to be a choice to seek Jesus, and the Word drew them.

**1:6** And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;— John's clothing was unusual; his lifestyle was unusual—camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist; eating locust and wild honey.

**1:7** And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

- In **John 1:26**, John lets the Pharisees know that he baptized with water which was a symbolic act of repentance. But there was one standing among them whom they knew not, and will fully forgive



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sins—a role only the Son of God—the Messiah could fill. What John began, Jesus finished. What John prepared, Jesus fulfilled.

So, this scripture conveyed that John didn't want to be the center of attention, not wanting people to idolize himself. He just stayed humble wearing camel's hair, eating locust and wild honey. The Messiah's presence would be mightier than himself.

**1:8 I Indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.** What John was doing was only a sign of preparing them for what Christ will do with the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life and resurrection.

**John's water baptism** meant two things:

1. It symbolizes obedience, repentance and preparation.
2. It symbolized separation from and dedication to.
3. It symbolized outer cleansing.
4. It symbolizes the death and burial and resurrection Jesus Christ.

**Jesus' Spirit's baptism** meant:

1. Jesus baptizes the person in the Spirit of Christ. Whereas the person was carnal and materialistically minded, he now becomes spiritually minded (Rom.8:5-7). This begins our spiritual relationship with Christ. This refers to the spiritual rebirth of the regenerate receiving the baptism of the Spirit. **1Corth.12:13** states *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."*
- To be Baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be baptized into Christ. **Galatians 3:27** says *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Romans 6:3-6* says *3"Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; 6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. He dips, immerses, and places the person in the Spirit."*

Not only is the Spirit of God placed in us, but He surrounds and envelops us till we are immersed in Him. John immersed one in water and Jesus was to immerse one in the Spirit; one is physical and the other spiritual; one is external and one is internal. One is out, the other is inner.

It is not water baptism that "saved us" or brought spiritual *"rebirth and renewal,"* but it is the drenching, washing, and indwelling *"baptism"* of the Holy Spirit that brings spiritual *"rebirth and renewal,"*

When a person accepts Christ as Saviour, he is placed into the Body of Christ, and the Spirit of God is placed in him. The Holy Spirit supernaturally shifts; enters the life of the believer and becomes the permanent presence in the believer, without measure. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit upon all believers, empowering them to live in and teach the message of Salvation.

## II. THE PREPARED MARK 1:9-13

**1:9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Gallilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.** We don't know anything about Jesus' youthful days after being 12yrs old. Now, Jesus suddenly appears. The one John had been preaching about; the one mightier than him; the one he's not even

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worthy enough to stoop down and untie the straps of his sandals, has certainly come. Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee has come!

Jesus began preparation for His ministry: first, by being baptized by John the Baptist.

- Jesus acknowledges His commitment to His mission to bring the message of salvation to all people.

**1:10** And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:— Jesus is baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist, and shows us an illustration of The Trinity to be in one place, and in communion together.

- Verse 11 *"The voice from heaven"*—**The Father**.
- Verse 10 *"Straightway coming out of the water"*—**Jesus, the Son**.
- And, *"the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him"*—**The Holy Spirit**.

**1:11** And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son. In whom I am well pleased.

Jesus demonstrates that He truly was God's Son. God says *You are my beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased*. His voice spoke it. He approved and endorsed Jesus as His Son equipping Him for the prepared mission.

This officially began His public ministry.

- a. He identified with our humanness and sin, but stay sinless.
- b. Give and be our example we were to follow.

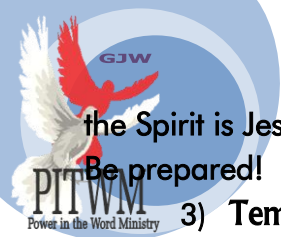
The heavens opened // This suggests access between God and man is now possible and the Spirit to descend.  
The Spirit in the form of a dove descended // The Messiah, the Anointed One is anointed.  
The Voice from heaven // The Father is pleased combining His Kingship and Servanthood.

**1:12** And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. Jesus is immediately *"driven"* (*compelled with great force*) by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. After a mountaintop experience with God, it is wise to get alone with Him. Psalm 73:28 says *"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."* Why? - Because temptation comes...

- 1) **Temptation** follows a person's decision to trust – We TRUST, and not doubt (**Prov.3:5-6**).
- 2) **Temptation** is used by the devil– So, RESIST, STAND FIRM, don't give way, and accept anything that comes your way (lies). *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* **John 8:32**.

What the devil wanted to use for bad, the Spirit of God uses our trials and allows temptations as stepping stones, not stumbling stones. They are opportunities to make us stronger, and we are more able to do greater things for God. Every opportunity we have is an appointment arranged by God! Paul says in **Romans 5:3-4** *"We glory in tribulations (trials, temptations)...knowing that tribulations worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope (hope is belief and trust in the loyalty of God)."*

**1:13** And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. So, in the wilderness, there are wild beasts, and a discomfiting desert terrain, and Jesus goes on a 40 day fast (no food or water). His human body is tempted. That's Satan's job, but,



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the Spirit is Jesus' guide and counselor. The desert experience demonstrated to others that Jesus was ready to be prepared!

- 3) **Temptation** is a wilderness experience –But we are to **ENDURE HARDSHIP**, not be comfortable. (**2Tim.2:3-4**).
- 4) **Temptation** is of Satan – Choose **PERSEVERANCE**, and don't fall by wavering (**James 1:2-4**).
- 5) **Temptation** is met by God's help – "*When we are weak, then I am strong*" **1 Cor.12:10b**. We are **STRENGTHEN** in Him.

## SUMMARY:

John had prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. **4**It was in the wilderness that John the Baptist came baptizing and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **5**and the people of all of Judea and all of Jerusalem went out to see Him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. And his preaching was to turn people's minds toward the Savior. **6**John's clothing was unusual, for his clothes were made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist; and he ate locust and wild honey. **7**But, he preached, proclaiming that there was one that will come after him who will be mightier than him. He conveyed that he was not even worthy enough to stoop down and untie the straps of that person's sandals. **8**John lets them know that He baptized them with water, but the one that's coming will baptize them with the Holy Spirit (**1:4-8**).

**9**Now the one John had been preaching about: the one mightier than him; the one he's not even worthy enough to stoop down and untie the straps of that person's sandals has certainly come. Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee has come to be baptized of John in the Jordan. **10**And when Jesus appears, God shows us the illustration of the Trinity to be in one place and in communion together. "*The voice from heaven*"—**The Father**. "*Straightway coming out of the water*"—**Jesus, the Son**. And, "*the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him*"—**The Holy Spirit**. **11**To demonstrate that He truly was God's Son and that God was well pleased, God said so; His voice spoke it. He approved and endorsed Jesus as His Son, equipping Him for the prepared mission. **12**Jesus is immediately "*driven*" (compelled with great force) by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. What the devil wanted to use for bad, the Spirit of God uses our trials and allow temptations as stepping stones, not stumbling stones. They are opportunities to make us stronger and more able to do greater things for God. **13**Jesus would be in the wilderness for 40 days, tempted of Satan. In the wilderness there are wild beasts and a discomfiting desert terrain. Jesus goes on a 40 day fast (no food or water). Temptation is a wilderness experience –We are to **ENDURE HARDSHIP**, not be comfortable (**1:9-13**).