

# The Gospel of Mark

## Lesson 1: Mark 1:1-15

### Introduction

- Author – generally thought to be John Mark, guided by Peter’s teachings
- Recipients – Gentile, specifically Roman, readers
- Time of writing – mid-60s AD

### The Ministry of John the Baptist (vv. 1-8)

- John the Baptist was the last Old Testament prophet
- John’s birth is described in Luke 1:5-25, 57-80
- Mark references Exodus 23:20, Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3
- John’s baptism symbolized repentance and cleansing from sin
- He recognized that his ministry would be eclipsed (John 3:30)

Matt. 3:1-12  
Luke 3:1-18  
John 1:19-28

*Why did John need to prepare the way for Jesus?*

*What are some instances of God moving in the wilderness?*

*What early Christian leader only knew the baptism of John?*

### Jesus’ Baptism (vv. 9-11)

- Mark has no issue with Jesus being baptized
- Matthew offers an explanation from Jesus (Matt. 3:15)
- John explains Jesus’ baptism as well as John’s mission

Matt. 3:13-17  
Luke 3:21-22  
John 1:29-34

*What does Jesus’ baptism tell us about how He saw John’s mission?*

*Why don’t the gospels connect the adult Jesus and John as relatives?*

### Temptation and the Start of His Ministry (vv. 12-15)

- Matthew and Luke highlight the end of Jesus’ time with Satan
- Mark simply notes that Jesus was tempted for 40 days
  - We sometimes focus on the short duration on which Matthew and Luke focus instead of the prolonged time Jesus was under attack
- John’s imprisonment and death will show back up in Chapter 6
  - While it is used as an historical marker here, one should not conclude that John’s imprisonment led Jesus to head back to Galilee right away

Matt. 4:1-17  
Luke 4:1-15