

PREFACE

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

Introduction

1. If you're new to studying the Bible, or if you've been studying it for years... it's helpful to see + to be reminded of the Big Picture of what the Bible is all about...
 1. What the Bible is All About — that's a good title for a book
 2. In fact, it was the title of one of the books required in Bible College
 3. It's author, Henrietta Mears
 1. Whom Billy Graham called (at the exclusion of his mother) the greatest female influence on his life & one of the greatest Christians he ever knew.
 2. She says this about the Bible: **(PP)** *The Old Testament is an account of a nation (the Hebrew nation). The New Testament is an account of a Man (the Son of Man). The nation was founded and nurtured of God in order to bring the Man into the world (Genesis 12:1-3). God Himself became a man so that we might know what to think of when we think of God (John 1:14; 14:9). His appearance on the earth is the central event of all history. The Old Testament sets the stage for it. The New Testament describes it.*
 4. I love that! — The OT sets the stage & the NT describes God Himself becoming man so that we might know what to think of when we think of God & His appearance on earth is the central event of all history.
2. The NT begins w/ 4 accounts of the life of Jesus, these accounts aren't biographies, but they're the Gospels of Jesus...
 1. What's the difference?
 1. A biography can be simply an account of someone's life written by someone else.
 2. But, the Gospels are very selective.
 1. At the time that the Gospels were written, writing materials were precious.
 2. There were space limitations; the entirety of it had to fit on a scroll.
 3. John 21:25 says of Jesus' deeds, *"If they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written"* (NKJV).
 2. **(PP)** *The Gospels were written with this thought in mind: "I can tell about only a few of Jesus' deeds and sayings. Which will give the clearest picture of who he was? Which are the best ones?" To put it simply, the Gospels are a collection of Jesus' Greatest Hits.*
3. We're beginning a journey through Mark's Gospel
 1. Mark's Gospel shows Jesus as the One who came to serve humanity & give His life so that we could live
 1. Mk. 10:44-45 **(PP)** *and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 2. And Mark is unique among the other Gospel account
 1. Luke — the physician — wrote primarily to GK's & focused on the tender-hearted ministry of Jesus.
 1. Hones in on His humanity.
 2. In Luke 1-3 — given great description about all the details surrounding his birth & lineage.
 2. Matthew — who at one time was a tax collecting Jew — his primary audience was the Jews

1. Opens with a genealogy
2. Proving that Jesus really is the KING of the Jews — rightful heir to the throne of David.
3. John — one of the disciples of Jesus — opens w/ a statement about eternity
 1. His purpose was prove to the whole world that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31).
 2. Each account in JN, evidences Jesus as God who became flesh & dwelt among us.
2. Mark wrote for the Romans
 1. He moves quickly through the life of Jesus...
 2. It begins as an announcement & straight to the point of who Jesus is.
 3. **(PP)** *The Gospel of Mark is fast moving and hard-hitting! By the far the shortest of the four Gospels, it is noted as much for what it omits as what it includes. In Mark there is no genealogy of Jesus, no miraculous birth narrative with Bethlehem & shepherds, no childhood at Nazareth or visit to the temple, no Sermon on the Mount, & few parables. Mark recorded, in rapid-fire succession, specific events from the life of Jesus to prove to a Roman audience that He is the Christ, the Son of God, who served, suffered, died, & rose again...*
4. A little bit about Mark — who can go by his Hebrew name (1st name) John Mark (see Acts 12:12, 25)
 1. Not an apostle
 1. He was probably born 10-15 years after Jesus was born
 2. Probably in his late teens when all the key events in the gospels were happening
 3. The Gospel of Mark is believed to be the testimony of the Apostle Peter
 1. Peter led Mark to Christ
 2. Discipled him in Christ
 3. Told Mark the story from his perspective
 4. Peter refers to Mark as his son (see 1 Peter 5:13)
 2. He was the cousin of Barnabas—a key leader in the church
 1. Barnabas was the traveling companion of Paul the apostle in the early stages of the church
 2. They took John Mark with them (Acts 12:25)
 3. He was on that 1st missionary trip in Acts 13
 4. Something happened mid-journey to cause Mark to leave Paul & Barnabas (Acts 15:36-39)
 1. Paul & Barnabas had a conflict and split ways
 2. Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance
 3. Mark eventually went to Rome where Peter was & wrote the words of the gospel of Mark
 4. Paul & John Mark did reconcile (2 Timothy 4:11)
 3. The early church gathered at his mother's house — great story in Acts 12 of when Peter was in jail; the early church was in Mark's mom's house
 4. Mark is a young guy when Jesus was on earth ... and his life was radically changed by JESUS... & Mark + family became an active + vibrant member of the Christian community...
 1. This kind of honest life transformation is what the Gospels are all about
 2. **(PP)** *The Gospel writers are die-hard advocates of Jesus, but they didn't start that way. They came by it honestly. When they tell you that his sacrifice changed them to their core, they're not being manipulative; they're being authentic. The Gospels repeatedly demonstrate that when neutral people met Jesus, he shattered their preconceptions and transformed their lives.*

5. That's the goal of the Gospel of Mark — Mark wants to jolt his readers into an understanding of who Jesus is.
 1. The goal of the book & of our study through it... is not observation... examination... information... but to engage w/ & to follow Jesus.
 2. It's my hope through our time in Mark, that we see Jesus in fresh & formative ways.
 1. I can't do that for us as a pastor/preacher/teacher.
 2. Not even Mark can do it.
 3. But the Spirit of God through open/willing hearts, can.
 3. Let's continually pray throughout our time in Mark, for God to work in us & let's follow Him
6. Now, this morning we'll look at the 1st 15 verses of chapter 1
 1. They set the stage for book — act as sort of the prologue to the Gospel...
 2. Disclaimer — you could preach at least 3 to 4 sermons from all that we'll cover this morning
 3. But, we'll focus on the main focus of this section — and in v1 we see 3 big themes of the book.

MARK 1.1-15:

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

1. the Good News about Jesus

1. In some translations this opens with the description... this is the Gospel of Jesus
2. Gospel... which literally means “good story” ... Good News ...
3. If it's taken w/ only that kind of understanding... well, then there are a countless number of things that are presented to us — with the promise of GOOD NEWS about _____ / product, person, experience.
 1. Like a sales pitch or an advertisement campaign
 2. Like when Steve Jobs, who was masterful at this... introduces the iPhone. **VIDEO**
 3. Is that what this is? Here's the GOOD NEWS... a NEW leader to follow... no, no, no... so much more than that... What do you mean?
4. **(PP)** *The word we translate “gospel” is, in Greek, evangelion. Mark borrowed the word from those who used it when proclaiming milestones in the emperor's life. The emperor's accomplishments were treated as royal holidays, with heralds proclaiming the good news throughout the empire. This proclamation of royal good news, usually tied to a national day off, was known as an evangelion. Mark's use of that word would startle a first-century audience. If there were an evangelion about Jesus, it meant he had to be royalty—a king. In fact, this is exactly what Mark intends to imply: Jesus is King, and so much more.*
5. Can you catch what Mark is doing here? He doesn't just open up His gospel w/ a description, but a declaration — Here's JESUS — the GOOD NEWS about HIM...
6. What's the declaration/proclamation? — he's the Messiah!

2. the Messiah

1. God promised the Jews a Messiah who'd restore their glorious status as God's favored nation.
 1. As a king, he would descend from the lineage of Israel's best & strongest king, David; & would establish a kingdom that would last forever.
 2. As a prophet, he would speak on God's behalf as powerfully as Moses did.

2. The Messiah was one who would
 1. Defeat God's enemies
 2. Restore the land of Israel to the Jews
 3. Restore the Jews to God
 4. Restore the Temple // the presence of God w/ the ppl
3. Here's the ANNOUNCEMENT about this ROYAL one...
 1. Jesus is the MESSIAH
 2. Jesus is the Son of God
3. the Son of God
 1. What does this mean?
 2. **(PP)** David Guzik: *Some people think when Jesus is called **the Son of God** it is a way of saying He is not God, but something less than God. But in those days, to be called the "son of" something meant you were totally identified with that thing or person, and their identity was your identity. When Jesus called Himself the Son of God, and when others called Him that, it was understood as a clear claim to His deity.*
 3. To be the Son of God is to be of the same nature as God — to in fact, be God.
 1. Some ppl... believe that Jesus never claimed this... but those around Jesus... those who were even opposed to Jesus... they understood Him to be making this claim
 2. **(PP)** **John 10.30** *The Father and I are one.* **31** *Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. 32 Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?" 33 They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."*
 4. Mark is very clear about Jesus' declaration + demonstration to be the Son of God through what he records in his Gospel:
 1. Jesus forgiving sins (MK 2:5-12)
 2. Jesus' ability to control the forces of nature (MK 4:35-41)
 3. Jesus' ability to overcome disease, demons, & death (MK 5:1-43)
 5. We'll see in our chapter today this affirmed by the voice of the Father from heaven at Jesus' baptism (1:11)
 1. But also at the Transfiguration of Jesus (9:2-10)
 2. And, ultimately the Resurrection of Jesus (16:1-8).
4. Packed into this very 1st verse — Mark PROCLAIMS 3 powerful truths that the Gospel of Mark will unpack
 1. this is the Good News about Jesus — ROYAL announcement — He is the King...
 2. Jesus is the MESSIAH
 3. Jesus is the SON of God
5. Then, in v2-11 he gives 3 witnesses to the Good News of the Messiah — Jesus — the Son of God

Three Witnesses to the Good News of the Messiah — Jesus — the Son of God

1. The Prophets v2-3 *It began 2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written: "Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. 3 He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!'"*

1. V2-3 are referring to none other, than John the Baptist... Jesus cousin, who we'll read about a bit more in v4-8

2. But, the point here is that Jesus' life, his ministry, his position as the Messiah & the Son of God were attested to long before Jesus was ever born
3. The story of Jesus... as Henrietta Mears said, *His appearance on the earth is the central event of all history. The Old Testament sets the stage for it. The New Testament describes it.*
 1. One scholar, J. Barton Payne, has found as many as 574 OT verses that somehow point to/describe or reference the coming Messiah.
 2. Alfred Edersheim found 456 OT verses referring to the Messiah or His times.
 3. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry.
 4. Let me show you a list I found... online... — **VIDEO**
 1. This list is an attempt to list the types and prophecies given in the Old & New Testaments that Jesus has fulfilled. It is not complete. The more you read God's Word, the more you see.
 2. Types:
 1. Like Jesus being the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb
 2. The rock that produced water for Israel points toward Jesus & the living water He gives
 3. Prophecy:
 1. Moses promised another prophet like him would come. Jesus is that prophet.
 2. Isaiah — The Suffering Servant will be so abused He will not look human. Jesus was beaten, whipped, crucified, and pierced by a spear.
4. The evidence of prophecy concerning Jesus is overwhelming.
 1. Perhaps you've heard of Professor Peter Stoner of Westmont College, along with the support of 12 different classes examined 8 prophecies concerning Jesus.
 2. They conservatively estimated that the chance of 1 man fulfilling 8 prophecies was one in 10^{17} .
 3. To illustrate how large the number 10^{17} is (a figure with 17 zeros), the professor gave this illustration:
 1. If you mark 1 of 10 tickets, & place all the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw 1, his chance of getting the right ticket is 1 in 10.
 2. (**PHOTO**) Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas.
 1. They'll cover all of the state 2ft deep.
 2. Now mark 1 of these silver dollars & stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state.
 3. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the 1 silver dollar that has the special mark on it.
 4. What chance would he have of getting the right one?
 5. Just the same chance that the prophets would've had of writing these 8 prophecies & having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time.
5. The Gospel of Mark makes this **BOLD PRONOUNCEMENT**
 1. This is the **GOOD NEWS** of JESUS
 2. The Messiah ... the Son of God
 3. Mark shows us that the **PROPHETS** back this up... they are his 1st witness...
 4. Then we see witness #2

2. The Forerunner (John the Baptist) v4-8

1. 4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. 5 All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. 6 His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey 7 John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

2. So much could be said about John, but true to Mark's fast paced & hard-hitting form, Mark gives us what we need to know about this forerunner of Jesus

1. John comes on the scene like an OT prophet

1. So ppl from Jerusalem to Judea flock to the wilderness to hear him preach

2. He was bold... he was brash...

3. He blasted both Herod & the religious leaders ... & also had strong words for the ppl — Repent

2. John's appearance...

1. He wore coarse camel hair, leather belt around his waist...

2. **(PP)** *John's clothes were much like the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8) in order to distinguish him from the religious leaders, whose flowing robes reflected their great pride in their position. John's striking appearance reinforced his striking message. Elijah had also been considered a messenger preparing the way for God (see Malachi 3:1). His diet, locusts and wild honey, was common for survival in wilderness regions.*

3. What a scene

1. This wild man... out in the wilderness... John was in the rugged/desolate area along the western shore the Dead Sea... preaching to ppl that they were in a spiritual wilderness far worse than the place he was in...

2. Calling ppl to confess their sins & to repent— more than just acknowledging their sin — but agreeing w/ God's verdict of sin & expressing the desire to be rid of sin & to live for God.

3. And he's baptizing them... they weren't getting baptized as Christians do, but as Jews of that day did, as a way to use a ceremony to demonstrate what was going on in their hearts.

4. They wanted to be clean!

3. For John to be on the scene — it was a big deal

1. There hadn't been a prophet like this that spoke to Israel for 100's of yrs.

2. And although much could have been made about John's ministry

1. Could've had merch being made

2. YouTube Channel + Reels of him eating locusts & dunking ppl...

3. For all his greatness, John said, **7** *"Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals.*

1. To untie the straps of someone else's sandal was the lowest task of the lowest slave.

2. In fact, they even had rules in place which prohibited many servants from ever having to lower themselves to such a menial task.
3. But John said he wasn't worthy of the honor of loosing Jesus' sandal.
4. **(PP)** *This gives us a picture of how Jesus is the culmination of God's plan. Great prophets came before. Elijah was revered by all. John was the greatest of all. But they could not hold a candle to Jesus. There is no one more important than him. He is the central figure.*
5. Henrietta had it right — *Jesus appearance on the earth is the central event of all history. The Old Testament sets the stage for it. The New Testament describes it.*
4. John, as the forerunner of Jesus, is this 2nd witness of the DECLARATION of Mark's Gospel
 1. That this is the Good News about Jesus — ROYAL announcement
 2. Jesus is the MESSIAH
 3. Jesus is the SON of God
5. And that's why John says, **8** *I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!*"
 1. John's baptism — his ministry — was all preparatory.
 2. When Jesus comes... the entire person is transformed by the Spirit's power.
 1. Jesus brings both forgiveness + the power to live for Him.
 2. We need more than repentance to save us, we need the indwelling of the power of the Holy Spirit.
 3. **(PP)** *Each person who trudged back to the shore after John's baptism would've been drenched head to toe, the marks of water baptism dripping off their bodies. Jesus' intention, though, is to have the Spirit of God dripping off our lives. He comes to live within us, but also to gift and empower us for God's work on earth today. He lives inside us, but also wills to flow through us to others.*
6. Mark gives us 2 witnesses to the reality that Jesus is the MESSIAH... the Son of God
 1. The Prophets
 2. The ForeRunner — John the Baptist
 3. Finally, the we see the greatest witness of all — The Father & the Sprit...
3. The Father & the Spirit **v9** *One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."*
 1. This is truly an amazing scene...
 1. Jesus arrives in the midst of John preaching to the masses
 2. And Jesus is baptized... why?
 1. Jesus is at the beginning of his public ministry... here is affirmed/recognized by His forerunner.
 2. Jesus is supporting/approving/validating who John is & what He's doing — preparing the way
 3. Though not a sinner, Jesus is identifying w/ sinners
 1. Matthew tells us that John was hesitant to baptize Jesus, but Jesus replied that it was proper to "fulfill all righteousness"
 2. Meaning, Jesus provides to all who come to Him an exchange of their sin for His righteousness — 2 For 5.21 — *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for*

our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

3. And I never really noticed this... how Mark describes what happens...
 1. You see I always pictured the baptism of Jesus... kind of like this photo... **(PHOTO)**
 2. Not that I think of it in cartoon...
 1. But that as Jesus was baptized — maybe the sun came out...
 2. And a small/beautiful dove — hovered over Jesus...
 3. But, Mark says — the heavens **SPLIT** apart — the ancient GK for this phrase is strong. It has the idea that sky was torn in two, “being rent asunder, a sudden event.”
 1. A much bigger deal than NYE in Time’s Square
 2. FireWorks at Disney
 4. For Mark to describe the heavens this way, splitting or cracking open above Jesus, is a way to say God is speaking & acting in this moment + event — in a **BIG** way — it’s like the gap between heaven/earth is opening up...
4. The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus — descending on him like a dove, Mark writes, & an actual — audible voice — *You are my dearly loved Son, you bring me great joy!*
4. Jesus — by the prophets of old, by the wild forerunner in the wilderness, by the **FATHER** & the **SPIRIT** — is **AFFIRMED, VALIDATED, PRONOUNCED, DECLARED, CERTIFIED** to be the **ONE** of whom a **ROYAL** announcement is made — this is the **MESSIAH**... this is **GOD** in the flesh!
5. And then look at how Mark closes out his introduction to this Gospel...

12 *The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, 13 where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.*

1. Matthew & Luke detail 3 specific temptations Jesus suffered in these days & how Jesus resisted Satan each time by standing on the Word of God.
2. Mark tells us that all of the 40 days was a time of testing, Jesus is amidst wild animals & angels attended Him...
3. Again... as I said earlier this morning... you could preach at least 3 to 4 sermons from all that we’ve covered this morning... but something to note...
4. As one author has said: **(PP)** *From Jesus’ temptation we can learn that following our Lord could bring dangerous and intense spiritual battles. It warns us that we won’t always feel good; there will be times of deprivation, loneliness, and hostility. It also shows that our spiritual victories may not always be visible to the watching world. Above all, it shows that we must use the power of God to face temptation, and not try to withstand it in our own strength.*
5. Again, there’s a whole message in that, but here’s Mark's point — Jesus is validated/then tested... & now... v14

14 *Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. 15 “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”*

1. Now, you wouldn’t pick it up upon a simple reading...but, there is a 1yr time gap between the events of v13 & 14
2. Next week, we’ll unpack these verses in much greater depth...
3. But, here’s what Mark is doing as we close this opening section of the Gospel of Mark...
 1. He’s giving a summary ... He’s giving focus ... He’s giving central message of Jesus’ message...

2. If you ask the most ppl/believers, “What’s Jesus’ main message?” odds are you’ll get a response such as:
 1. “Believe in me & be saved,”
 2. Or “Love God & love your neighbor.”
3. Those are things Jesus taught, but the Gospels assert that his core message was:
 1. The time that God has promised is NOW — The Kingdom of God is near
 2. Repent of your sins & believe the Good News
4. What does this mean?
4. The time that God has promised is NOW — The Kingdom of God is near
 1. This was explosive language filled with tons of meaning & implications in those days.
 2. Because of many OT prophecies, the concept was familiar to them.
 3. The people were waiting for
 1. The King, the one who would come from David (2 Samuel 7:8-17).
 2. A ruler who would bring everlasting peace & the knowledge of God to the entire world (Isa 11:1-9)
 1. He’d replace all the false shepherds & religious leaders (Jeremiah 23:1-8).
 2. He’d take all the weak/injured & rule rightly in Jerusalem (Micah 4:6-7).
 3. He’d bring complete peace so that military power would no longer be needed (Zec 9:9-11).
 4. Now, Jesus comes & says the time promised has come! Understandably, this brought great excitement.
5. Life Application Bible Notes:
 1. **(PP)** *The problem arose, however, in the misunderstanding of the nature of this Kingdom. The Kingdom of God began when God entered history as a human being. But the Kingdom of God will not be fully realized until all evil in the world has been judged and removed.*
 1. We studied that all last year... in the book of Revelation
 2. We know that the kingdom of God will be fully realized...
 2. **(PP)** *Christ came to earth first as a Suffering Servant; he will come again as King and Judge to rule victoriously over all the earth. The Kingdom was as near as people’s willingness to make Jesus king over their lives.*
6. Pastor Nate Holdridge of CC Monterrey:
 1. **(PP)** *Of course, we know the end of the story. He did not ascend to Jerusalem. He did not usher in worldwide peace. The lion did not lie down with the lamb. Instead, Jesus was rejected by Israel and Rome. They crucified him. But it turns out this was all part of God’s plan, and Jesus was resurrected. He then departed earth and the Spirit was poured out on all his disciples. They went out to tell the world that belief in Jesus and his work on the cross would get them entrance into God’s forgiveness, family, and kingdom.*
 2. **(PP)** *And, one day, all the promises they waited for will come to pass. King Jesus will visibly rule forever and ever. But that does not mean the kingdom is only going to come in the future. We are to pray for his kingdom to come, but it also already has come (Matthew 6:10). He can rule inside you. He can rule inside me.*
 3. The Kingdom of God is near... it’s starts now as you surrender to Him.

7. And so, what is the response that Jesus calls us to?
5. Repent of your sins & believe the Good News
 1. Repentance isn't something you do before you come to God... but describes how you come to God
 1. We can't come into the Kingdom (rule/reign) of God in our lives w/out leaving our life of self & sin.
 2. If you are in Pensacola, and I tell you to come to Gulf Breeze, I don't really need to say "Leave Pensacola and come to Gulf Breeze." To come to Gulf Breeze is to leave Pensacola, and if I haven't left Pensacola, I certainly can't come to Gulf Breeze.
 2. Jesus isn't speaking about moral renewal.
 1. But, about trusting God, taking Him at His word, & living a relationship of dependence on Him.
 2. The word "Believe" speaks of a relationship of trust & dependence.
 3. In his commentary David Guzik quotes: *"There are many people who believe the Gospel, but they do not believe in it. It was an appeal not only to accept it as an intellectually accurate statement; but to rest in it, to repose in it. It was a call to let the heart find ease in it."* (Morgan)

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

1. This is message of the Gospel of Mark... this is the Good News about
 1. Jesus — His ROYAL announcement — He is the King...
 2. Jesus is the MESSIAH
 3. Jesus is the SON of God
2. Jesus — by the prophets of old, by the wild forerunner in the wilderness, by the FATHER & the SPIRIT — is AFFIRMED, VALIDATED, PRONOUNCED, DECLARED, CERTIFIED to be the ONE of whom a ROYAL announcement is made — this is the MESSIAH... this is GOD in the flesh!
3. Jesus was validated/tested & His message for us all today is:
 1. The time that God has promised is NOW — The Kingdom of God is near
 2. Repent of your sins & believe the Good News
4. Let's celebrate & rest in the Good News of Jesus through communion.