

Mark 1:14-15

Authority over Sin

1

Introduction

Mark does not include all the information of the other Gospels. He jumps right into Jesus public ministry. Galilee was the northern region of the land of Israel.

From a first-century Jewish perspective, it was regarded as the outskirts, located far from the religious center of Jerusalem. The fact that Jesus launched His ministry in full power in Galilee was a rebuke to the apostasy and corruption that existed in Jerusalem at that time.

2

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

3

Preaching the Gospel

Mark 1:14

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Much of Jesus' early ministry is bypassed by Mark but recorded for us in John 1:19-4:54. He picks up with Jesus' after John the Baptist (the King's Herald) had been placed in prison. As stated earlier, Jesus came to Galilee. He rejected the religious system of Jerusalem and went to a place that was looked down upon by the religious establishment.

4

Preaching the Gospel

Mark 1:14

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Jesus came “**preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.**” Remember that the word “gospel” was used to announce a coming king. Now the King has arrived and is declaring what the “kingdom of God” (His kingdom) is like and its expectations. This is a declaration of Jesus’ deity.

5

Preaching the Gospel

Mark 1:14

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Traveling from town to town, from synagogue to synagogue, and in the countryside, Jesus preached the truth of God’s good news about Himself and His kingdom of salvation (cf. Luke 4:14–30).

The gospel of God (a common New Testament term—Rom. 1:1; 15:16; 2 Cor. 11:7; 1 Thess. 2:2, 8–9; 1 Peter 4:17) refers to the truth that **comes from God** Himself to the world concerning the salvation from sin and judgment available only through Jesus Christ. Jesus offered His hearers a place in His eternal kingdom of salvation, the sphere of forgiveness and redemption, if they would repent of their sin and believe in Him as Lord and Savior.

6

Message of the Gospel

Mark 1:15

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

Christ’s announcement that “**the time is fulfilled**” indicated that His coming marked the turning point of salvation history. The word time here does not refer to clock time or calendar time but speaks of the fixed point in history for an event to occur. As Paul explained in Galatians 4:4, “When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son” (cf. Eph. 1:10). Jesus’ ministry took place according to God’s sovereign timetable. This was the hour for which the world had long been waiting; it was the most significant moment in earth’s history. The Savior had arrived to pay in full the penalty for sin and thus provide salvation for those who would repent and believe in Him.

7

Message of the Gospel

Mark 1:15

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

The kingdom that Jesus proclaimed ought to be understood in **three dimensions**: as a spiritual kingdom, a millennial kingdom, and an eternal kingdom. Though it is invisible and spiritual in the present, it will one day be manifest as a physical, earthly kingdom. In His first coming, the King preached the good news of salvation. He established His spiritual kingdom in the hearts of all who believe (Luke 17:21).

Christ’s kingdom is being advanced even now, as sinners come to saving faith in Him and are transferred out of the domain of darkness, and into the realm ruled by the Son of God (Col. 1:13).

8

Message of the Gospel

Mark 1:15

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

When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, as King He will establish His kingdom in a visible and temporal way here on the earth. According to Revelation 20:1–6, that kingdom will last for a thousand years. During that time, all of the millennial promises of the Old Testament will be literally fulfilled. Jesus Christ will reign as the King in Jerusalem, and the entire world will be under His rule. After the millennial kingdom, God will inaugurate the final eternal kingdom by creating a new heaven and a new earth, where the triune God will reign forever and ever (Rev. 22:1–5).

9

Message of the Gospel

Mark 1:15

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

We need to understand that there are two kingdom competing here on earth at the present time. When Adam sinned, he turned over dominion to Satan and he is the pretender prince at this present time. He wanted a kingdom but does not have the wisdom or power to rule it properly. It is fueled by hate and we see the chaos increasing as the world runs down. Satan is a cruel taskmaster enslaving his people in their sin and rebellion to God.

How does a subject of Satan escape that tyrant and enter Christ’s kingdom? Jesus’ answer is simple and straightforward: “**repent and believe in the gospel.**”

10

Message of the Gospel

Mark 1:15

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

The word “**repent**” means to turn to the opposite way. Having turned from their sin and unbelief, sinners must believe in the gospel—meaning they turn in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in Him and His finished work of redemption from sin and victory over death.

Repentance and believe must go together. To repent without believing in God’s promise of salvation through Jesus results in self-based works. To believe without repentance results in a hypocrisy and demonstrates a false belief.

11

So What ...

Many people say they believe in God yet choose to live in sin. What does this reveal about their belief and love for Jesus?

Jesus came preaching that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Today we look at the world and see God again orchestrating the time for Jesus’ return.

We all know people who have not come to repentance and belief (faith) in Jesus’ forgiveness. How will they hear if we do not speak? How will they see if we do not live differently?

Let’s attempt to share God’s Truth with someone this week!

12