

Proof #1 - Jesus Fulfills OT Prophecy
Mark 1:2-3

I. The One Functional Point of Mark's Gospel

A. The Point of Mark's Gospel

1. Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God
 - a. He is the Savior - The one who delivers from peril or threat
 - b. He is the Christ - He is the uniquely chosen and empowered
 - c. He is the Son of God - God come in human form to rescue His people from the peril presented by sin
2. **You can trust Him.**
 - a. **You should trust Him**
 - b. **Even with your life**

B. The Proof Mark Offers

1. The Gospel
 - a. The gospel of Mark offers more examples of Jesus' activities than it does of His teaching, though it is not without teaching
 - b. **Mark's intent is to offer concrete proof that Jesus is all He claims to be**
2. Mark opens His gospel with nine proofs that are repeated in different ways throughout the rest of the gospel.
 - a. We reviewed the nine proofs last week
 - b. Starting today we will consider each proof individually
 - c. **We're taking this course of action with the same goal Mark had, the same God the gospel-inspiring Spirit has: to turn our eyes upon Jesus in faith and trust Him with every area of our hearts and lives.**

II. Proof #1 - Jesus fulfills OT Prophecy

A. Mark introduces the proof by citing prophecy

1. The first proof Mark offers that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and worthy of your heart and life and faith and obedience and devotion and worship is this: Jesus fulfills OT prophecy
2. Mark introduces the proof by citing two (out of more than 300) OT prophecies
 - a. **Mark 1:2-3 (ESV) ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"**
 - b. Two verses, one from Malachi 3 and the other from Isaiah 40
 - (1) The first verse introduces a preparatory messenger
 - (2) The second verse introduces a present messiah
 - c. Fulfillment
 - (1) Mark 1:4 "And John appeared
 - (2) Mark 1:9 In those days Jesus came
3. Mark quotes the OT prophecy and the act of fulfillment as proof Jesus is

the Christ, the Son of God.

B. Clarifying Questions Regarding This Proof

1. What is prophecy that it should provide a proof?
 - a. Predictive prophecy
 - (1) The announcement by God, in accordance with His sovereignty, omniscience, and omnipotence of His will and intent for things that have not come to pass in time that He will bring to pass in time.
 - (2) God's foretelling of future events that He will bring to pass.
 - (3) **Isaiah 46:9-10 (ESV)** *⁹remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'*
 - (4) When God reveals His mind, His heart, and His will about future events (events that had not yet happened at the time God reveals them), we call that prophecy.
 - (5) **2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)** *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Roughly 1/4 - 1/3 of the entire Bible is related to predictive prophecy (predictions which at the time of their utterance were still future). [Herbert Lockyer, *All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible*]
2. What are messianic prophecies?
 - a. Messianic prophecies are those revelations of God's will for the future that specifically relate to the Messiah, the Christ, the uniquely chosen and empowered savior, whom we know to be Jesus, the Son of God.
 - b. **Genesis 3:15 (ESV)** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*
3. What makes prophecies proof?
 - a. "The literal fulfillment of a prophecy is the seal of its divine origin."
 - b. "Prophecies of centuries concerning the final sufferings of Christ were fulfilled during the 24 hours leading up to His crucifixion. According to the law of compound probabilities, the chance that they all happened together by accident is 1 in 537,000,000.
 - c. Three canon by which all prophecy can be tested
 - (1) It must be such an unveiling of the future that no mere human foresight or wisdom could have guessed it.
 - (2) The prediction must deal in sufficient details to exclude shrewd guesswork.

- (3) There must be such lapse of time between the prophecy and the fulfilment as precludes the agency of the prophet himself in effecting or affecting the result. (The prophet can't make his own prophecy happen.)
 - d. "... a prayerful, diligent study of prophecy ought to lead us into a fuller comprehension of the divine mind and will, and a richer devotion to Him whose glory in the culmination of all prophecy—the Lord Jesus Christ."
4. What spiritual benefit do we receive from this proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
- a. The certainty that the coming of Christ did not put God into catch-up mode and the outworking of His will in our lives won't catch Him off guard either.
 - (1) The first predictive messianic prophecy in the Bible (Gen 3:15) reflects God's pre-creation determination (Eph 1:4)
 - (2) God's determination for His people, that they should manifestly glorify Him in their lives and with the outcome of their lives is as certain as the coming of Christ into the world
 - (a) **Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)** *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
 - (b) Though this promise is specific to Israel under a specific condition, it can have a broader application to all the people of God, Abraham's children who trust God in faith.
 - (3) God knows the future He has planned for His people and He will enact His plan just as He purposes.
 - (4) That God fulfilled His prophecies regarding Christ means He will fulfill His prophecies related to you as well!
 - b. You can expect what was revealed about Jesus in prophecy to be true of Jesus in time.
 - (1) **Genesis 3:15 (ESV)** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*
 - (a) Christ crushed Satan in His death and resurrection
 - (b) Christ will continue to crush Satan under the heel of His faithful servants
 - (c) **Romans 16:20 (ESV)** *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*
 - (2) **Isaiah 53:4-6 (ESV)** ⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.* ⁵ *But he was pierced for our*

transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- (a) It is Christ, not ourselves, who has paid the penalty for sin.
 - (b) If God has laid on Christ the iniquity of us all, there is no need for us to carry (or to carry on in) sin.
 - (c) You can expect what was revealed about Jesus in prophecy to be true of Jesus in time.
- c. When it comes to God's prophetic revelations, whether of future events or of divine promises, it is not a matter of "if" but of "when."
- (1) **2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV)** *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*
 - (2) **2 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)** *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*

III. Accepting the Proof

- A. God uses this proof to call His chosen ones to faith - conversion**
- B. God uses this proof to call His chosen ones to trust - sanctification**
- C. God uses this proof to call His chosen one to obedience - mission**