



The King Announced!

“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” - this is the opening line of Mark’s record of Simon Peter’s memory of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, proving Him to be greater than the figures worshipped in the Roman Empire.

1 - “Check-in” with your Group - Take about 30-45 seconds each to share:

At the beginning of this Lent season, is there anything you have decided to give up?

2 - Watch Pastor Scott’s Video for Kingdom > Empire #61, “The King Announced”

Read Mark 1:1 - Mark begins his Gospel with a very intentional statement about Jesus’ divine identity.

- How do you think Mark’s readers living in Ancient Rome would have reacted when they read this introduction?
- Note the two photos in the right margin that Pastor Scott referred to - knowing that these items of Roman propaganda were known in the time of Mark’s writing, why do you think he uses such a bold introduction?

Read Mark 1:2-8 - John the Baptist is the one who announces the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry through His baptism in the Jordan River.

- **Read Joshua 3:9-17** - This epic event from Israel’s history records the entry into the Promised Land at the same spot where John baptized Jesus! Why do you think John chose this spot to proclaim his message?
- **Read 2 Kings 2:7-13** - Another epic event from the same spot - the blessing of Elijah falls on Elisha. John the Baptist was regarded as a prophet like Elijah, so how does this story reflect John and Jesus?
- **Read Mark 1:9-13** - this passage describes the events preceding the start of Jesus’ public ministry. What stands out from these verses?

As we begin this study of Mark, what are some new ways you are thinking about Jesus, the Son of God?

Spiritual Formation practice: This week read Mark chapters 1 & 2

Prayer: Share requests and pray for one another, asking God to speak to our hearts in reading through Mark and celebrating the true Son of God



Denarius Coin of Caesar Augustus

The front shows the 1st Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, son of Julius Caesar. The back shows a comet (or star) that appeared after Julius Caesar’s assassination, with the inscription *Divus Iulius* - “Divine Julius”, indicating that Augustus was considered a “son of a god”.



The “Priene Calendar” Inscription

Refers to Caesar Augustus as a “Prince of Peace”, and states that “the birthday of the divine Augustus was the beginning of the good tidings (gospel) for the world that came by reason of him,” portraying his birth as a source of peace and prosperity for the Ancient world.

Love for others is the greatest evidence of our love for God!