



# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 35 "The Faithfulness of God & the Weakness of Man" 3-20-22

### Introduction: Israel's Covenant History

"A biblical covenant between God and man is a solemnly sealed and explicit declaration of intent and obligation about a matter of great importance. It binds one or both parties to fulfill the words of the covenant oath. The parties of the covenant cannot be changed out."

—Paul Henebury, *The Words of the Covenant*

#### Israel's Covenants

1. **The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21)**

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation (implying the need for a *Land*, a *People*, and a *King*). He also promised that all the families (nations) of the earth would be blessed through Abraham (Gen. 12:3). This promise was unconditional and based solely on God's promise.

2. **The Mosaic Covenant (Exod. 19:1-8) — The People**

After the Exodus, God stated His intent to set Israel apart as His people (a kingdom of priests) through whom He would minister His presence and His salvation in the world if they would "keep" the conditions of the covenant. This covenant was conditional and the people declared to God that "all the Lord has spoken, we will do."

3. **The Land Covenant (Deut. 30:1-6) — The Land**

God made an unconditional promise that He would restore Israel's fortunes even though they would break the terms of the Mosaic covenant and experience God's judgment. In spite of this, He would keep the promises of the Abrahamic covenant and bring Israel back to the Promised Land.

4. **The Davidic Covenant (1 Chron. 17:3-15) — The King**

God made an unconditional promise that He would establish the house of David and that He would establish the throne and kingdom of one of David's offspring forever to rule over Israel.

5. **The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:22-31) — The People (Redeemed)**

Because of the reality of human sin, there was no hope for Israel to obey the Mosaic covenant. Therefore, God made an unconditional promise through the prophets that in the latter days that He would transform them internally and forgive their sin (Jer. 31:33-34), cleansing them and causing His Spirit to indwell them (Ezek. 36:25-26). The blessings of this covenant are centered on a person (*The Servant of the Lord*) who embodies the covenant and actualizes its blessings and benefits both for Israel & the nations (Isa. 42:6). The promises of God in the other covenants all pass through the New Covenant which is the means by which they all are realized.

**Main Point:** The events of the last night of Jesus' earthly life demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to keep His promises to His people in spite of their own \_\_\_\_\_ weaknesses and limitations.

### The Last Supper & the Events in Gethsemane—Mark 14:22-52

- As Jesus ate the meal with His disciples, He spoke to them of the fulfillment of God's promises in His person and work.

#### Observations:

1. Jesus took two elements of the Passover meal and gave them new meaning in relation to His coming \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Bread** → His " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**The Cup** → His " \_\_\_\_\_ " of the covenant.

⇒ Jesus' words recalled those of Moses in the establishment of the Mosaic covenant (Exod. 23:8). The covenant that the Lord referred to here was the New Covenant, which Luke makes explicit in his account (Luke 22:20). Although the fulfillment of the New Covenant with Israel will come at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> advent, the blessings of salvation associated with it are experienced by all those who come to Him by faith.

"Since the church receives the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant (Gal. 3:14; 4:22-31) by faith without being under or fulfilling that covenant, so the church may receive blessings from the New Covenant without being under or fulfilling it, simply by God's grace."  
—Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come*

2. Jesus statement about the kingdom of God anticipated His resurrection and the completion of His work at His 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

"[These statements] present two contrasting yet suggestively linked aspects of what is now to happen. The 'cup of death' (v.24) and the 'cup of future glory' (v. 25)...[are] part of a single purpose..." —R.T. France, *Mark*

**Key Point:** Jesus' reference to the New Covenant and the coming Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ God's plan to fulfill His covenant promises to His people through the person and work of His Son.

- **After the meal, they left the city and went out to the Mt. of Olives and then on to Gethsemane.**

Observations:

1. Jesus predicted that the disciples would all fall away based on His confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 13:7).
2. Peter and the rest of the disciples denied that they would fall away based on their confidence in \_\_\_\_\_.

3. In Gethsemane, Jesus took His closest disciples with Him in order to \_\_\_\_\_ in them and have them keep watch.

*"very sorrowful, even to death"*

4. Jesus then went on further away from the disciples in order that He might pray.

*"Abba, Father"*

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*"Long ago, at his baptism, he had publicly embraced his Messianic role, identifying himself totally with his people. In the temptations in the desert, he had already faced some of the implications of his position, as the Enemy quickly unleashed three massive assaults. But the full implications of being the Servant and Ransom (Mk. 10:45) dawned on him gradually, as he reflected on the Scriptures, observed sin at work and communed with his Father. In Gethsemane the whole, terrible truth strikes home. The hour of reckoning has come."* —Donald MacLeod, *The Person of Christ*

5. Upon finding the disciples sleeping, He exhorted them and then returned to prayer.

*"The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak."*

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*"What Christ saw in Gethsemane was God with the sword raised...The sight was unbearable. In a few short hours, he, the Last Adam would stand before that God answering for the sin of the world: indeed, identified with the sin of the world (2 Cor. 5:21)...He feared [death] because for him it was no sleep (1 Thess. 4:13), but the wages of sin: death with sting; death unmodified and unmitigated; death as involving all that sin deserved."* —Donald MacLeod, *The Person of Christ*

6. After returning to them and once again finding them asleep, Judas arrived with an armed crowd to arrest Him.

7. Although He addressed the crowd, He did not \_\_\_\_\_ them in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

8. The account concludes with the mention of a young man who "ran away" after being detained.

*"The young man's panicked getaway reflects the disciples' mind-set: 'Every man for himself' and 'Save yourself if you can.'"*

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**Key Point: Jesus' obedience to His Father's plan and His confidence in the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ sharply with His disciples' weakness and subsequent abandoning of Him in spite of all that He had told them ahead of time.**

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- **Mark wants his audience to reflect upon the sinful weakness displayed in the example of the disciples.**

- **Mark wants his audience to marvel at the faithfulness of God displayed in the person and work of His Son.**

*"The wonder of the love of Christ for his people is not that for their sake he faced death without fear, but that for their sake he faced it terrified. Terrified by what he knew, and terrified by what he did not know, he took damnation lovingly."* —Donald MacLeod

## Concluding Thoughts:

1. **We can \_\_\_\_\_ in the plans and purposes of God.**

Phil. 1:6—*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

2. **We can trust that God remains faithful even when we are \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Tim. 2:11-13—<sup>11</sup>*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*



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