

The Beginning

Mark 1:1

Author: John Mark, who compiled Peter's eyewitness testimony

The elder [a. John] also used to say: "Mark, who had been Peter's interpreter, wrote down carefully, but not in order, all that he remembered of the Lord's sayings and doings. For he had not heard the Lord or been one of his followers, but later, as I said, one of Peter's. Peter used to adapt his teaching to the occasion, without making a systematic arrangement of the Lord's sayings, so that Mark was quite justified in writing down some things just as he remembered them. For he had one purpose only—to leave out nothing that he had heard, and to make no misstatement about it".

(History of the Church 3.39.15)

Overarching Message

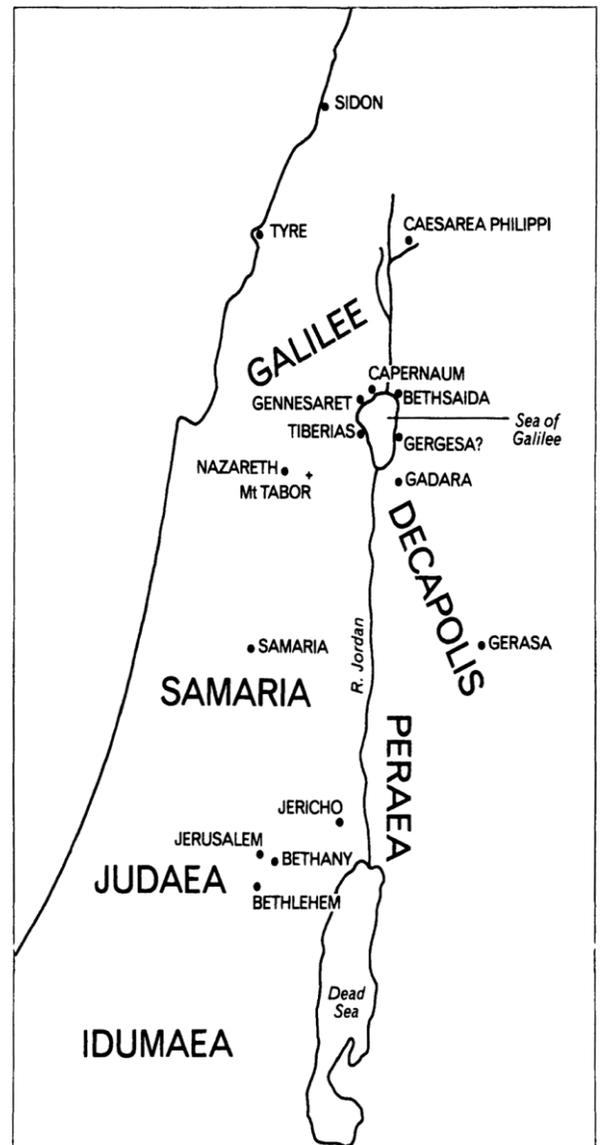
Jesus is the promised Messiah and Son of God, who by His death redeems his people and calls them to follow in His footsteps as the Suffering Servant.

Key Verse: 10:45 "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1. Who is Jesus? (1:1-8:21)

2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Messiah?
(8:22-10:52)

3. How is Jesus vindicated as the Son of God?
(11:1-16:8)



1. What is the importance of this story?

It is THE STORY of stories

2. What is the message of the story?

It is the GOSPEL

Whereas the Providence which has ordered the whole of our life, showing concern and zeal has ordained the most perfect consummation for human life by giving to it Augustus, by filling him with virtue for doing the work of a benefactor among men, and by sending in him, as it were, a saviour for us and those who come after us, to make war to cease, to create order everywhere ... and whereas the birthday of the God [Augustus] was the beginning for the world of the glad tidings [gospel] that have come to men through him ... Paulus Fabius Maximus, the proconsul of the province ... has devised a way of honouring Augustus hitherto unknown to the Greeks, which is that the reckoning of time for the course of human life should begin with his birth.

Ernest Barker, From Alexander to Constantine: Passages and Documents Illustrating the History of the Social and Political Ideas 336 b.c.–a.d. 337 (Oxford: Clarendon, 1956), 211–12.

3. What is the gospel accomplished?

It is through Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God
