

Greek Readings
Series B, Advent 2
Mark 1:1-8

• **Verse 1**

- What is the meaning of ἀρχή? (cf. BDAG, p.137, 1) _____.
Considering its appearance in 1:1, what two other prominent scriptural passages featuring ἀρχή come to mind? _____. What is the commonality among these passages, if any? _____.
- What is unique about the gospel of Mark's use of the term εὐαγγέλιον in relation to the other Gospels? (cf. 1:15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10; 14:9; see esp. Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; 26:13). _____.
- How does the translation of τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ differ when Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ is translated as either an objective genitive or subjective genitive? _____.
Is there a theological difference between the two genitives, and if so, what is it? _____.
- Is Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ a proper name, or a proper name and a Christological title? (cf. 8:29; 9:41; 12:35; 13:21; 14:61; 15:32) _____. Why might such a distinction be important for the Gospel of Mark? _____.

• **Verse 2**

- Parse γέγραπται. _____. List the six principal parts. (cf. Voelz, 350) _____.
- What is interesting about the phrase ἐν τῷ Ἡσαΐα τῷ προφῆτῃ considering the passages cited in vv.2-3? (cf. Mal. 3:1; Isa. 40:3) _____.
- What is the referent of πρὸ ... σου? _____.

• **Verse 3**

- How does the phrase φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ from Isa. 40:3 apply to the work of John the Baptist in Mark? (cf. 1:4, 7) _____.
- Notice the difference between Isa. 40:3 as recorded in the LXX and the Gospel of Mark. How does this difference demonstrate Mark's Christology? _____.

• **Verse 4**

- Parse βαπτίζων. _____. How does this title differ from the other Synoptic Gospels? (cf. Matt. 3:1; 11:11; 14:2, 8; 16:14; 17:13; Luke 7:20, 28, 33; 9:19; see also Jos. Ant. 18:117) _____.
How may the use of the substantival participle affect the emphasis of the title? _____.
- Parse ἐγένετο. _____. List the principal parts. (cf. Voelz, 350) _____.
What does this verb along with the ensuing verses connote in conjunction with vv.1-3. _____.
- Why is the repetition of ἔρημος in vv.3-4 important and what significant motifs does it recollect? (cf. Hos 2:14; 12:9; Isa. 40:3-4; 41:18-19; 43:19-20; 48:20-21; 51:9-11; Micah 7:14-15) _____.
- What is the meaning of μετάνοια? (cf. BDAG, p.640; TDNT, 4:975f.) _____.

- Explain the significance of John's βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. _____.
- **Verse 5**
 - Parse ἐξεπορεύετο and ἐβαπτίζοντο. _____.
 - What may the inclusion of "all Judea" and "all the Jerusalemites" indicate about who John the Baptist was calling to repentance? _____.
 - What is the relation between the confession of sin (ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν) and John's Baptism? _____.
- **Verse 6**
 - Parse ἐνδεδυμένος. _____. Give the dictionary entry. _____.
 - What type of construction is ἦν ... ἐνδεδυμένος? (cf. Voelz, 155) _____.
 - What theme already mentioned does the biographical data "ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώην δερματίνην" support? _____.
 - How may the Baptist's garb relate to 2 Kgs. 1:8 LXX and Heb. 11:37? _____.
 - What may the clothing and diet of John the Baptist suggest about his status? (cf. Lk. 1:15; 1:80; Matt. 11:18; Judg. 13:7) _____.
- **Verse 7**
 - Parse ἐκήρυσσεν. _____. How does John portray himself in his preaching, and why might this be important? _____.
 - Parse ἰσχυρότερός. _____. Give the dictionary entry. (cf. BDAG, p.483, 1) _____.
 - What type of genitive is μου in the phrase ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου? (cf. Voelz, 233) _____.
 - Parse κύψας. _____. Explain the presence of ψ in this form. (cf. Voelz, 44) _____.
- **Verse 8**
 - How does John compare his baptism here to that of the ἰσχυρότερος? _____.
 - Are there any grammatical elements in v.8 that accentuate this comparison? If so, list them. _____.
 - Explain the significance of the phrase ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ. _____.
 - How does this relate to the baptism of John. _____.

Integration of Meaning

Come up with a sermon title and two to three supporting points.