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# The Beginning of Good News:

### A Pastoral Response to Stressful Times

Mark 1:1-13

## Resumes 🡪 John Mark? Peter? Jesus!

*“The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God…”* (1)

1. **Jesus’ Credentials** (2-8) – *revealing the unknown/hidden*

* Scriptural and preplanned (2-3; Ex. 23:20; Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1)

*I (God) will send my messenger (Elijah/John/JESUS) ahead of you (Jesus/ YOU) to prepare your (Jesus/ YOU) way.*

* John the Baptizer, Forerunner (4-8)
* “for” -- *on the basis of the promise and expectation of repentance*
* “all” *were expected to come to be baptized* (back to a new beginning)
* Dressed for prophetic success (2 Kgs 1:7,8)
* “more powerful”—*a power that regularly looks weak*

2. **The baptism of Messiah** (9-11) – *things we never saw or heard*

* Heaven is “torn” (Ezek 1:1)
* The Spirit descends “like” a dove – *God is about to reorder a new creation*
* A voice came from heaven – *he who has an ear*…
* “well pleased”—*sovereign prerogative*

3. **The Testing of Jesus** (12-13) – *ongoing clash of the kingdoms just beginning*

* Wilderness – *prepare to spend lots of time there*
* There is a way prepared; there is a way proposed

*Since our behaviour grows out of our deepest convictions, what we really believe about Jesus shapes everything about us.*