

God's Big Ideas

The Gospel of Mark – Key themes with Bible verses

The age of fulfilment

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:14-15)

The kingdom of God

[Jesus] also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32)

The identity of Jesus

Again the high priest asked [Jesus], “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am, and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’” (Mark 14:61b-62)

The death and resurrection of Jesus

So Jesus called [the twelve] and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:42-45)

The return of Jesus

[Jesus said,] “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. (Mark 13:24-27)

The Holy Spirit

[Jesus said,] “When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11)

Revealing the kingdom

[Jesus] asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. (Mark 8:29-30)

Israel and the Gentiles

[Jesus said,] “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. Similarly, no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.” (Mark 2:21-22)

Discipleship

[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)

Mission

[Jesus] called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits... So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. (Mark 6:7, 12-13)

Bible quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.