

NEW TESTAMENT 1

UNIT TWO: THE COMING OF THE KING

The Infancy Narratives

- Mark does not tell the story of Jesus' birth, Matthew and Luke do.
- Both point out the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy.
- Matthew introduces the opposition of the powers of evil.
- Luke emphasises the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew traces the genealogy to Abraham, Luke goes back to Adam.
- Mark prefers to announce the sudden arrival of Jesus on the stage of human history.

Mark 1:1-13

- In accordance with prophecy, John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord (1:1-8).
 - The first part of John's ministry is a revival message to the Jews (1:4-6).
 - The second part of the ministry is a message of promise (1:7-8).
- The identity of the greater Coming One – Jesus of Nazareth is the unique Son of God (1:9-13).
 - Jesus appears as one of the sinners, he submits to John's baptism to identify with Israel.
 - The Spirit is poured out on Jesus at his baptism. The one addressed is the Son of God.
 - The temptation in the wilderness is vital to Jesus' mission.
 - Jesus is the Son of God and the Servant of God who will be faithful to the end.
 - Jesus' mission is to smash Satan's power once and for all.

The Titles of Jesus

➤ MESSIAH

- A Hebrew word meaning anointed, the Greek equivalent being Christos (Christ).
- Gained a specific significance towards the end of the Old Testament period.
- God would raise up a king who would deliver Israel and reign in righteousness.
- In Mark's gospel the word Christ is used seven times, not usually by Jesus.
- At times it seems that very little was made of Jesus being the Messiah.
- Jesus was not the kind of Messiah that many people were expecting.
- Often Jesus used other Old Testament terms to convey the sense of his mission.

➤ SON OF GOD

- In the Old Testament, Israel was described as God's Son.
- By New Testament times, the title was applied to the Messiah as one who would fulfil the role given to Israel.
- Jesus is the Son of God in a unique sense, descended from God in a way that no-one else is.

➤ SON OF MAN

- The title most frequently used by Jesus in the Gospels.
- Three distinct uses of the term:
 - Present Authority
 - Suffering, Death and Resurrection
 - Future Glory and Vindication
- Reference to prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14.