



SIGNPOSTS :

A Journey in
The Gospel of Mark :

First Steps in Our Journey

*An Introduction to the Gospel of Mark
For the people of the Inversion Fellowship
August 30th 2007
By Reid S. Monaghan*

GALATIANS 4:1-6 ESV

4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,* 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

KEY SIGHTINGS FOR TONIGHT

THE OLD SCHOOL AND NEW SCHOOL ARE INTERCONNECTED

All the God did in the Old Testament, or Old Covenant does not dangled disconnected from the New. In fact, the Scriptures are a unified whole which progressively unfolded over time. The Old records the promises of God to bring a coming King, a person anointed by God (*Messiah*) to save God’s people from our bondage to sin and death. History can be seen as many acts of God past, present and future and we live now in a time of a coming fulfillment.

THE FULLNESS OF TIME—THE NEW RETRO

All of history may be divided by three major events. First—the creation of the world and fall of humanity. These crucial events—God’s decision to create and our subsequent rebellion—shaped the coming realities of history. Second, God’s purposes arrived at a time of fullness with the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. This time saw the promises of God realized in the person and work of the man from Nazareth. The third moment which will wrap up the three part story of God will come at the consummation of all things at the return of Jesus. This will usher in the fullness of the Kingdom of God—which in the English speaking world is known as *heaven*. In light of this, we live in the most significant time in history. For these are the days of our lives. Sorry...these are the days that God has given to us to live for his purpose in our generation (Acts 13:36).

WE SEE LIFE THROUGH SOME NARRATIVE (STORY) LENSE

As we journey through our own days, as we travel from cradle to grave, our lives are guided by some narrative framework. We “see” through a certain set of beliefs and assumptions. Many times these beliefs/assumptions are just given to us by our culture, our family or through things we read and interact with. Many times they are formed by a direct experience with God. It is a good practice to examine our assumptions because they influence how we respond to life’s circumstances and what life we will pursue in the days marked out for us. We also can be deceived or unconsciously sucked in to believing some jacked up stuff. So our hope is to see life through the truest of all stories—the gospel of Jesus. In light his life, teaching, death and resurrection our lives and circumstances must be understood. Jesus himself told his followers: “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

MY NOTES:

REVIEWING THE OLD SCHOOL TO STEP INTO THE NEW



THE FULLNESS OF TIME—THE NEW RETRO

OUR JOURNEY – SEEING THROUGH STORY

BASICS OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

- ◆ **AUTHOR:** John Mark, serving as the steward of Peter's teaching and account
- ◆ **PLACE OF WRITING:** Rome
- ◆ **DATING:** Late 50s to Mid 60s AD
- ◆ **MAJOR THEMES:** The gospel – good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection proclaimed — nearly ½ the book focuses on the passion week. A demonstration of Jesus' authority and his coming Kingdom (rule and Reign). The disciples cluelessness. Really, they look like idiots – a bit slow in understanding Jesus mission...especially Peter. The book also provides encouragement by way of Jesus' example of suffering under injustice.

For much, much more grab the article—*An Introduction to the New Testament, Gospel Literature and the Book of Mark* from the back table or from the articles page at www.InversionFellowship.org