"THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND"
MARK 1:14-15

Chronology of the intervening period;

JOHN 3:22–24, 26-30

22 After this Jesus and his disciples *went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing.* 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 *(for John had not yet been put in prison)…*26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered… 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him…30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

MATTHEW 4:12–16

12 *Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.* 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

ACTS 1:22

22 …beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

Possible reasons for narrating the story out of chronological order?;

1. The heralding of verses 14 and 15 are the 'beginning of the gospel' (verse 1)
2. The theme of the Gospel: *Jesus is the anointed Son of God*, and Mark wants to begin the story with the heralding of His kingship
3. The narrator of the story (Peter) is qualified as a witness and apostle (Acts 1:22)
4. Mark accents John's quick exit after his role is complete
5. Mark illustrates that the gospel is proclaimed and received in the context of adversity, not ease or comfort *(Baptizer is the forerunner)*
6. John's arrest and Jesus' temptation have an important correlation

"Handing over"

Of the Son of Man;

MARK 9:31 (Plus 8 additional instances in Chapters 14-15)

31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be *delivered into* the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

MARK 10:33

33 …saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be *delivered over* to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and *deliver him* over to the Gentiles."

Of believers;

MARK 13:9–12

9 "But be on your guard. For they will *deliver you over* to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. 10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 And when they bring you to trial and *deliver you over*, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12

And brother will *deliver* brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.

Just as with Pharaoh (Exodus 8:9), Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24-25), King Cyrus (Isaiah 45:1), and Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1), God freely uses pagan kings as suits His purpose and timing.

PROVERBS 21:1
1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

John was invincible until the point he had accomplished the purposes for which God had appointed him.

Why would Jesus chose to leave Judea for Galilee?;

JOHN 4:1–3, 43
1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than
John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 *he left Judea and departed again for*
Galilee 4 And he had to pass through Samaria…

JOHN 10:18
18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

God is *always* pictured as the initiator of salvation.

The time is fulfilled (a critical or opportune moment, filled to overflowing);

LUKE 19:44
44 …And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the *time* (καιρός) of your visitation."

EPHESIANS 1:10 (See also: Galatians 4:4)
10 as a plan for the *fullness* of *time,* to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

ACTS 2:2
2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it *filled* the entire house where they were sitting.

JOHN 12:3
3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was *filled* with the fragrance of the perfume.

The all-wise Controller of all of human history exercises control over the unfolding of historical events.

GALATIANS 4:4
4 But when the *fullness of time* had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law…

The kingdom of God:
The reign of God exercised for the salvation of His people and the destruction of His and their enemies.
—Albert Martin

Mark's focus on the kingdom is present and spiritual, not future and actual;

MARK 12:34 (See also; 4:11, 4:26; 9:1, 47; 10:14-15, 23-24; 14:25; 15:43)
34 And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God"…

Repent—often understood too narrowly;

EPHESIANS 4:22–24

22 …put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Believe;

True faith is not only a sure knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in his Word, but also a firm confidence which the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel, that not only to others, but to me also, remission of sins, everlasting righteousness and salvation are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

Heidelberg Catechism, 1563 *(Q21)*

Theme of faith/belief;

MARK 5:36 (See also; 11:22, 11:24)

36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, *"Do not fear, only believe."*

Rebuke of unbelief;

MARK 4:40 (See also; 6:6; 9:19

40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? *Have you still no faith?"*

Commendation of true faith;

MARK 2:5 (See also; 5:34; 9:23; 10:52; 11:23)

5 *And when Jesus saw their faith*, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

The world stands in need today of the same thing it needed when Jesus came—*the simple preaching of the gospel.*

LUKE 13:4–5

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–2

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 *preach the word*…