

## Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.”

<sup>3</sup>“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the LORD;  
Make His paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. <sup>5</sup> Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. <sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



## Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you showed favor to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> **You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for the Lord will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.

<sup>9</sup> **Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,  
that glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> **Righteousness will go before the Lord,  
and will make God’s footsteps a way.**

## Isaiah 40:1-11

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”

Says your God.

<sup>2</sup>“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,

That her warfare is ended,

That her iniquity is pardoned;

For she has received from the LORD’s hand

Double for all her sins.”

<sup>3</sup>The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make straight in the desert

A highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be exalted

And every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough places smooth;

<sup>5</sup>The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see it together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>The voice said, “Cry out!”

And he said, “What shall I cry?”

“All flesh is grass,

And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.”

<sup>9</sup>O Zion,

You who bring good tidings,

Get up into the high mountain;

O Jerusalem,

You who bring good tidings,

Lift up your voice with strength,

Lift it up, be not afraid;

Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand,

And His arm shall rule for Him;

Behold, His reward is with Him,

And His work before Him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed His flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs with His arm,

And carry them in His bosom,

And gently lead those who are with young.

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup>looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup>and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.