SERMON | A GIFT NOT A BURDEN
SERIES | BOOK OF MARK
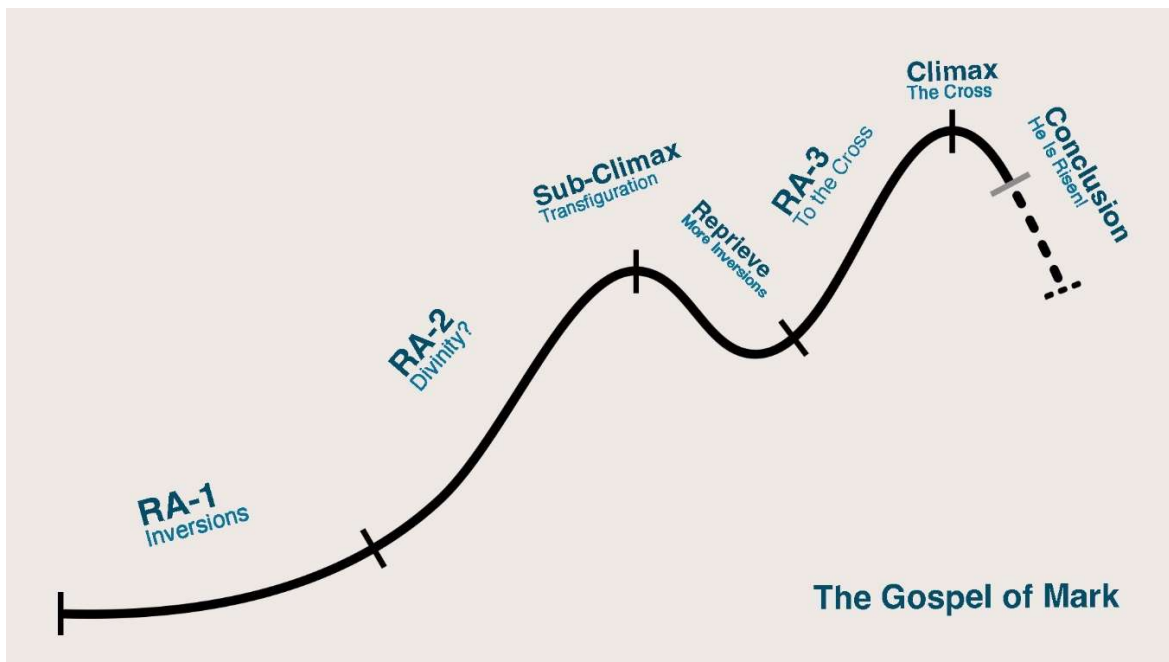## STUDY GUIDE | ALEC SEEKINS | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024
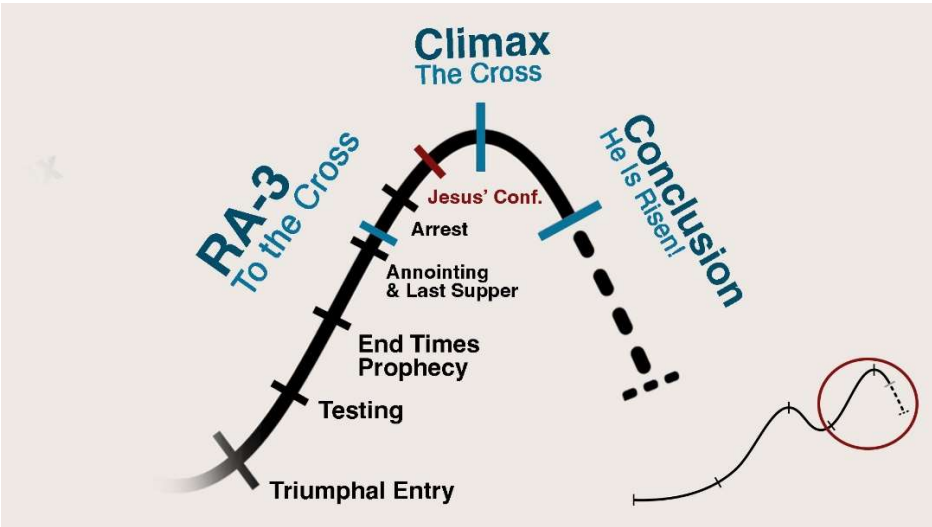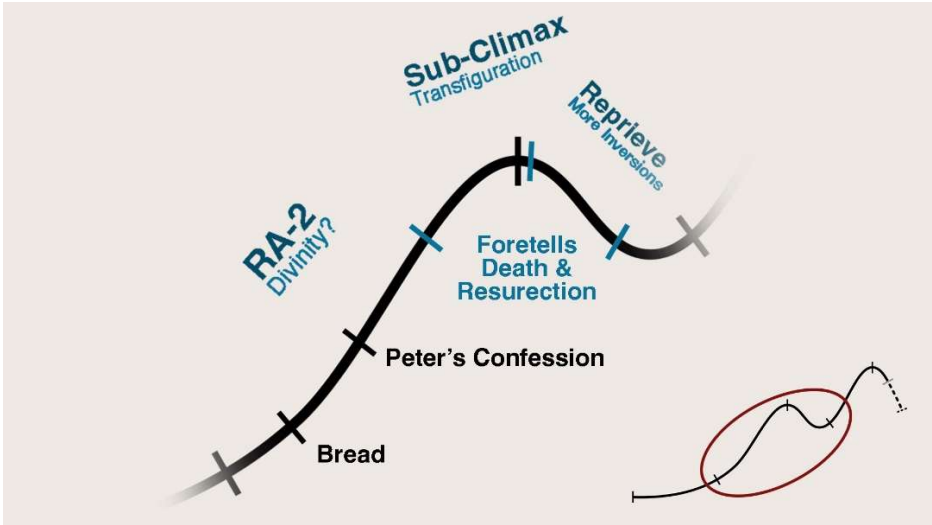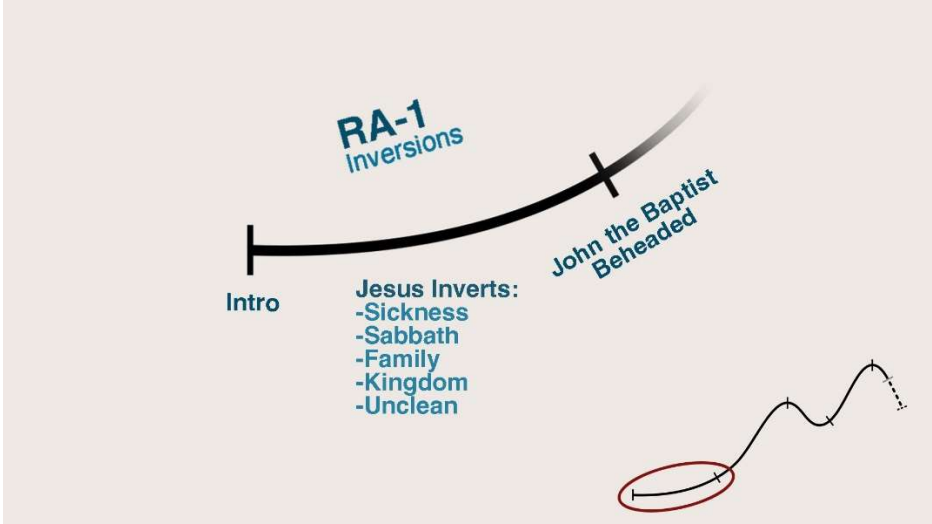
SERMON SUMMARY

This week we discussed some of the context and background for the Gospel of Mark. It was written by Mark, also known as "John whose other name was Mark", for Gentile converts, and Roman believers. Its primary purpose is to emphasize that Jesus is the Son of God.

John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10), who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5). But he deserted them along the way in Perga and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Barnabas wanted Paul to take John Mark on the second missionary journey, but Paul refused, which created friction between Paul and Barnabas, that led to their separation (Acts 15:38-40).

John Mark's early indecision gave way to great strength and maturity, and in time he proved himself even to the apostle Paul, who referred to Mark as a fellow worker (Philem. 24) and very useful in ministry (2 Tim. 4:11). Mark was greatly influenced by Peter, who helped him grow in the strength and maturity he would need for the work to which God had called him.

The images below go over the plot line of Mark and how the Gospel of Mark builds in intensity, presenting us with the question, "Who do I think Jesus is?" While at the same time, laying out evidence that will help us answer that very question.

RA-1
Inversions

John the Baptist Beheaded

Intro

Jesus Inverts:
-Sickness
-Sabbath
-Family
-Kingdom
-Unclean

Sub-Climax
Transfiguration

Reprieve
More Inversions

RA-2
Divinity?

Foretells
Death &
Resurection

Peter's Confession

Bread

Climax
The Cross

Conclusion
He Is Risen!

RA-3
To the Cross

Jesus' Conf.

Arrest

Annointing
& Last Supper

End Times
Prophecy

Testing

Triumphal Entry

In the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus inverted the Pharisees understanding of the Sabbath. They had come to view Sabbath as a burden from God, because they misunderstood the heart of the Father. Jesus showed them that it was always meant as a gift from their loving Father.

God instituted the Sabbath to benefit humanity by giving them a day to rest from their labors and to be a blessing to them. The Pharisees turned it into a load to bear and made people slaves to their numerous man-made rules.

In Mark 2:28, Jesus claimed He was greater than the Sabbath, and thus was God. Based on that authority, Jesus could in fact reject Pharisaic regulations concerning the Sabbath and restore God's original intention for Sabbath observance to be a blessing, not a burden.

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 2:23-28 (ESV)

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

23 One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. **24** And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" **25** And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: **26** how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" **27** And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. **28** So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

BIBLE PASSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do these passages teach you about the character of God? What do these passages teach you about mankind? What do these passages teach you about how mankind should respond to God? What do these passages teach you about how to respond to others?

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Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

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GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. What are some of the ways you tend to feel about the Father? Do you always view Him as loving or do you sometimes feel like He is harsh, impatient, or unfair, etc.?

2. Does honoring the Sabbath come easy to you or not? Are you applying rest in your week?

3. What are some gifts from God that you have been viewing as a burden (i.e., work, spouse, children, parents, siblings, car, house, personality, body, etc.)?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.