





Family Updates

Week 40 Budget - \$365k Received - \$294k - \$19k last week

Conference Goal - \$80k (from Ames DSM CityChurch) Received - \$40k

Jeff - working with leaders in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

BILD Conference and Executive Leadership Summit - 17 days away!

2017 International Conference and Summit

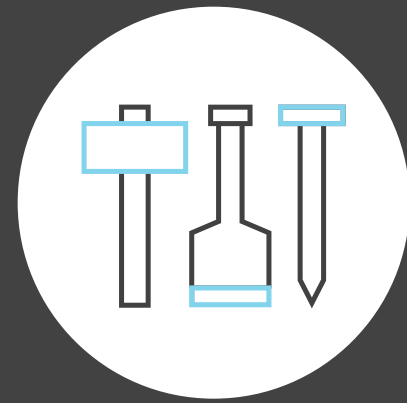
Unique Features

- Paradigm Pioneers
- Grand Strategies: India, SE Asia, Africa, Mediterranean
- Global C-BTE Network: Partners, Clusters, Hubs
- SE Asian focus—banquet
- Release of the entire Gospels Series

The Coming 2017 Conference–Summit

Playing your part

- Sharpen your development plan; you are a walking example for every leader at the conference.
- **Open your homes, we need more host homes!**
- Use your gifts and abilities to serve at the conference.
- Contribute toward the \$80,000 needed to host the conference

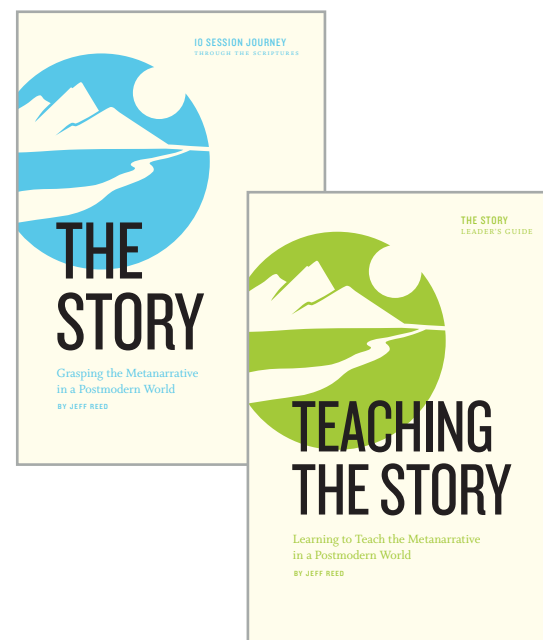


The Gospels Series

Examining the Intention of Jesus' Life and Ministry
as Witnessed by the Writers of the Four Gospels

MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES SERIES

Establishing Process—3 Years



Kerygma
Early Acts
Apostles' Teaching
6 months
Paul: 3 years “night and day”

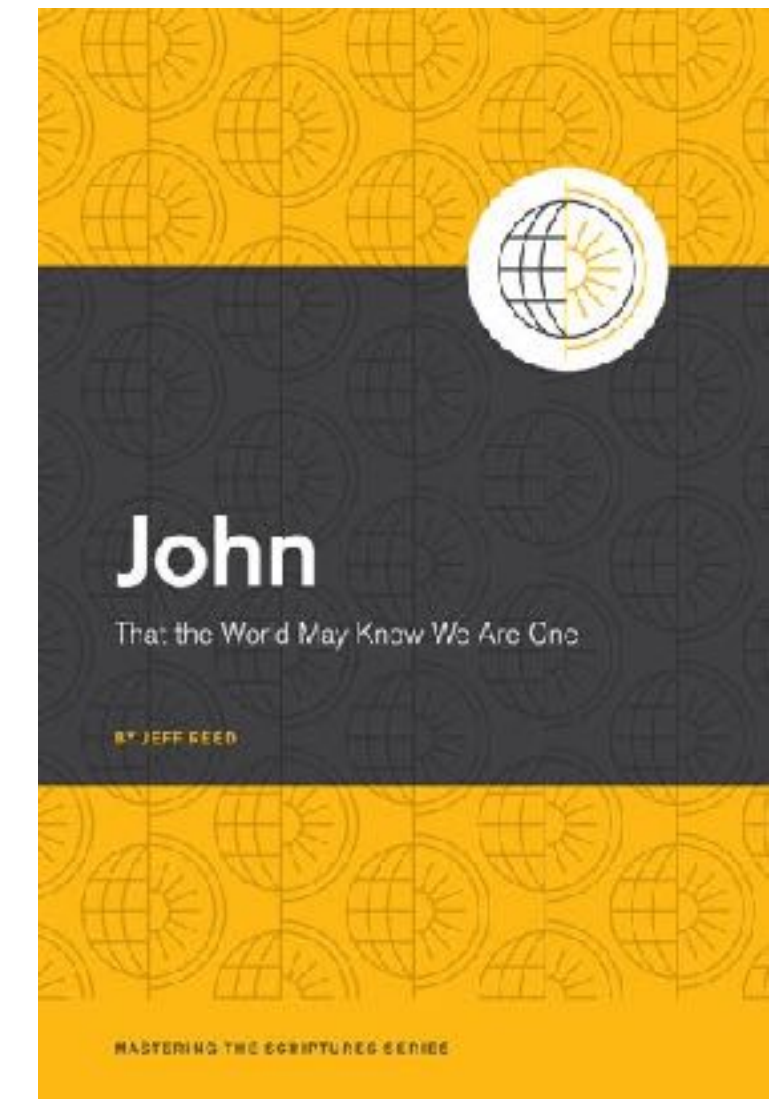
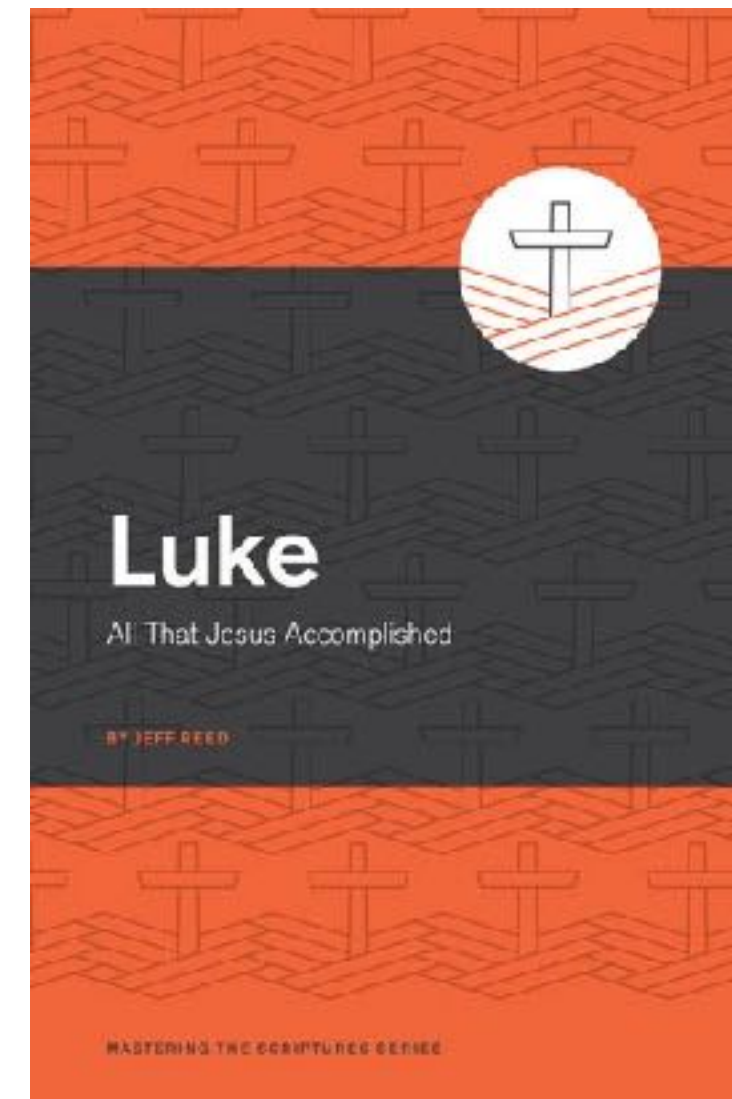
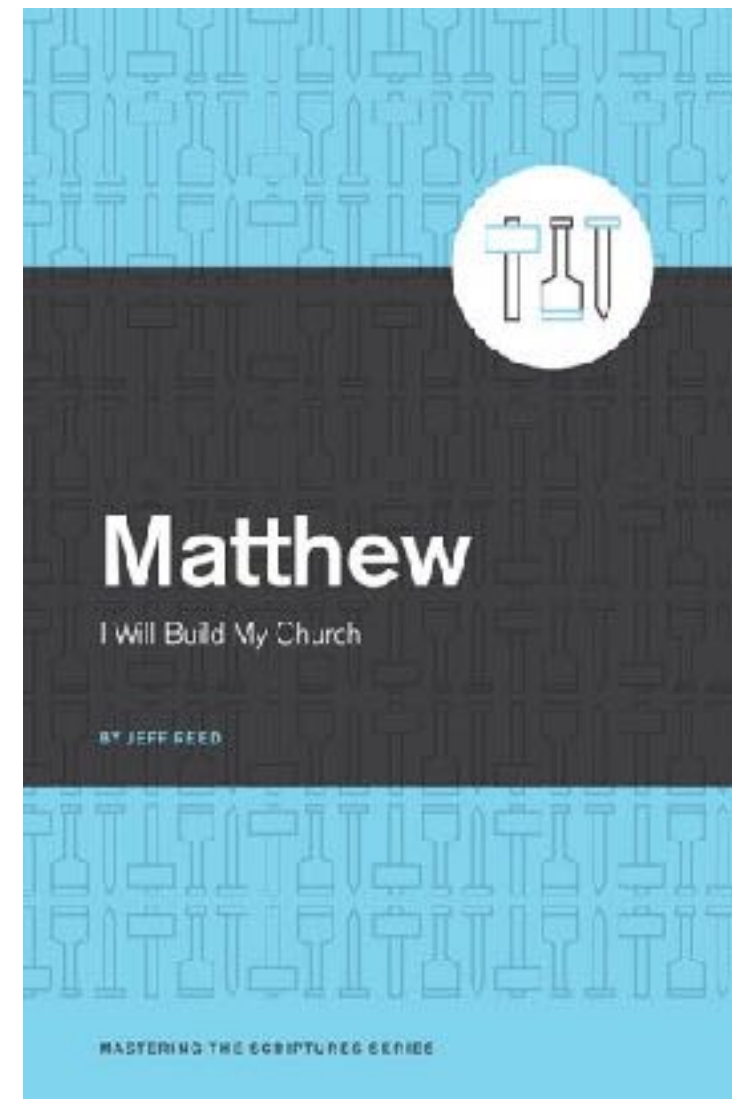
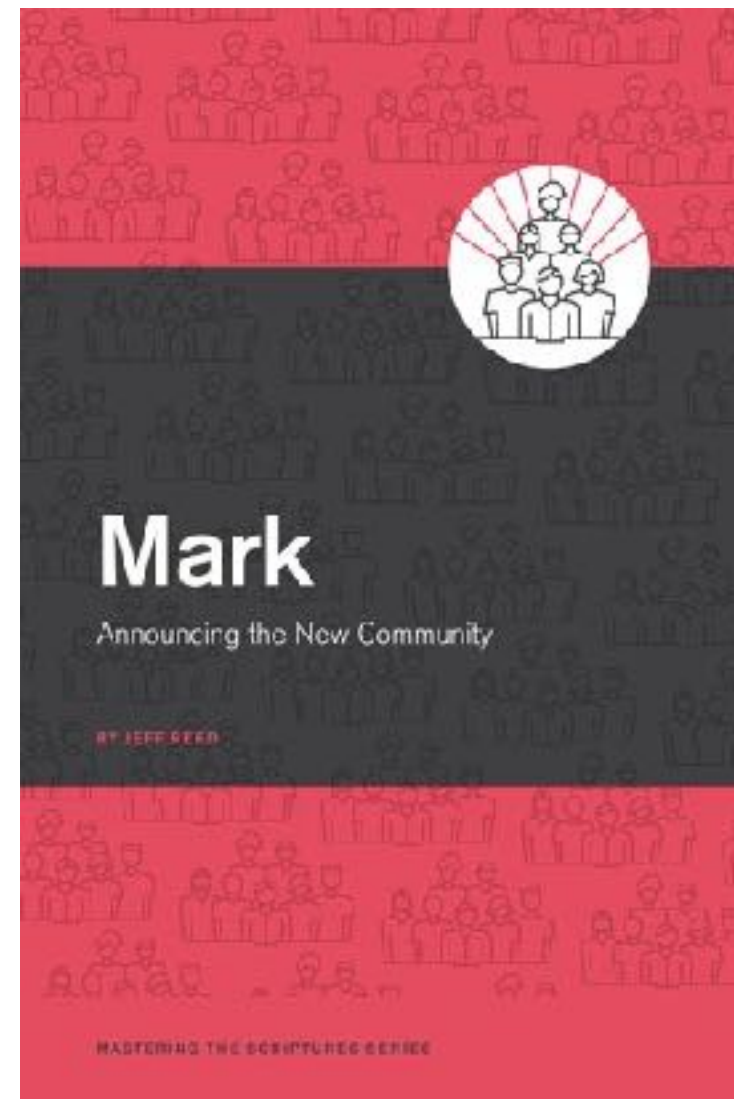
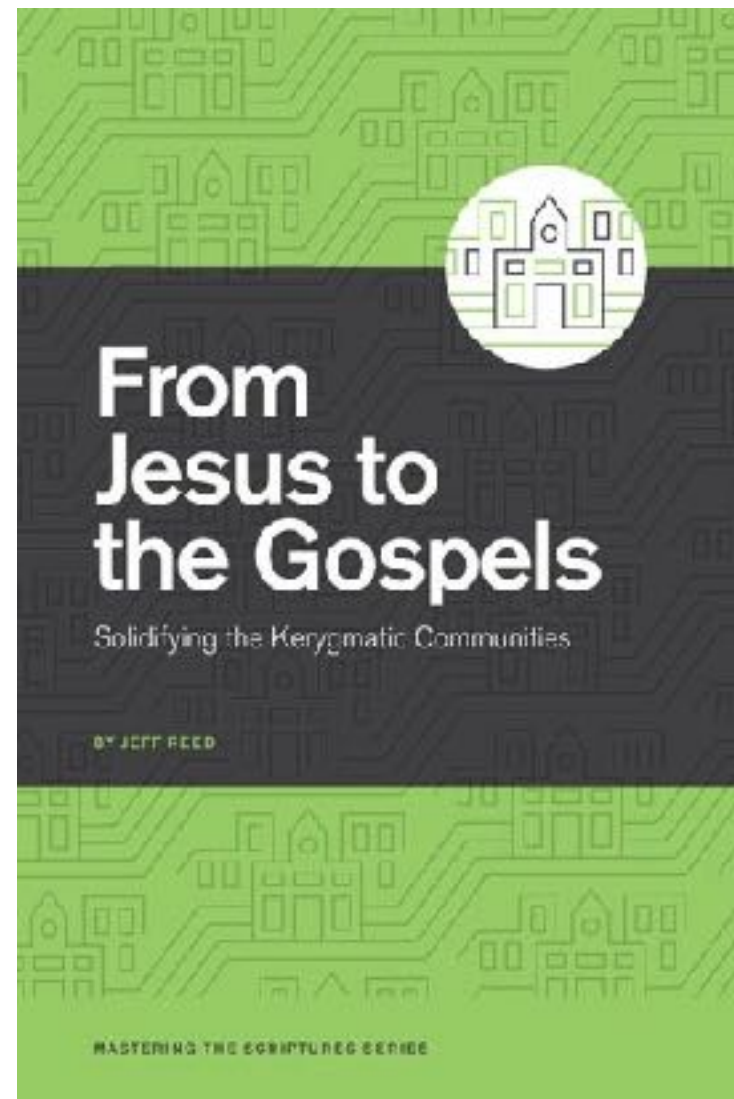


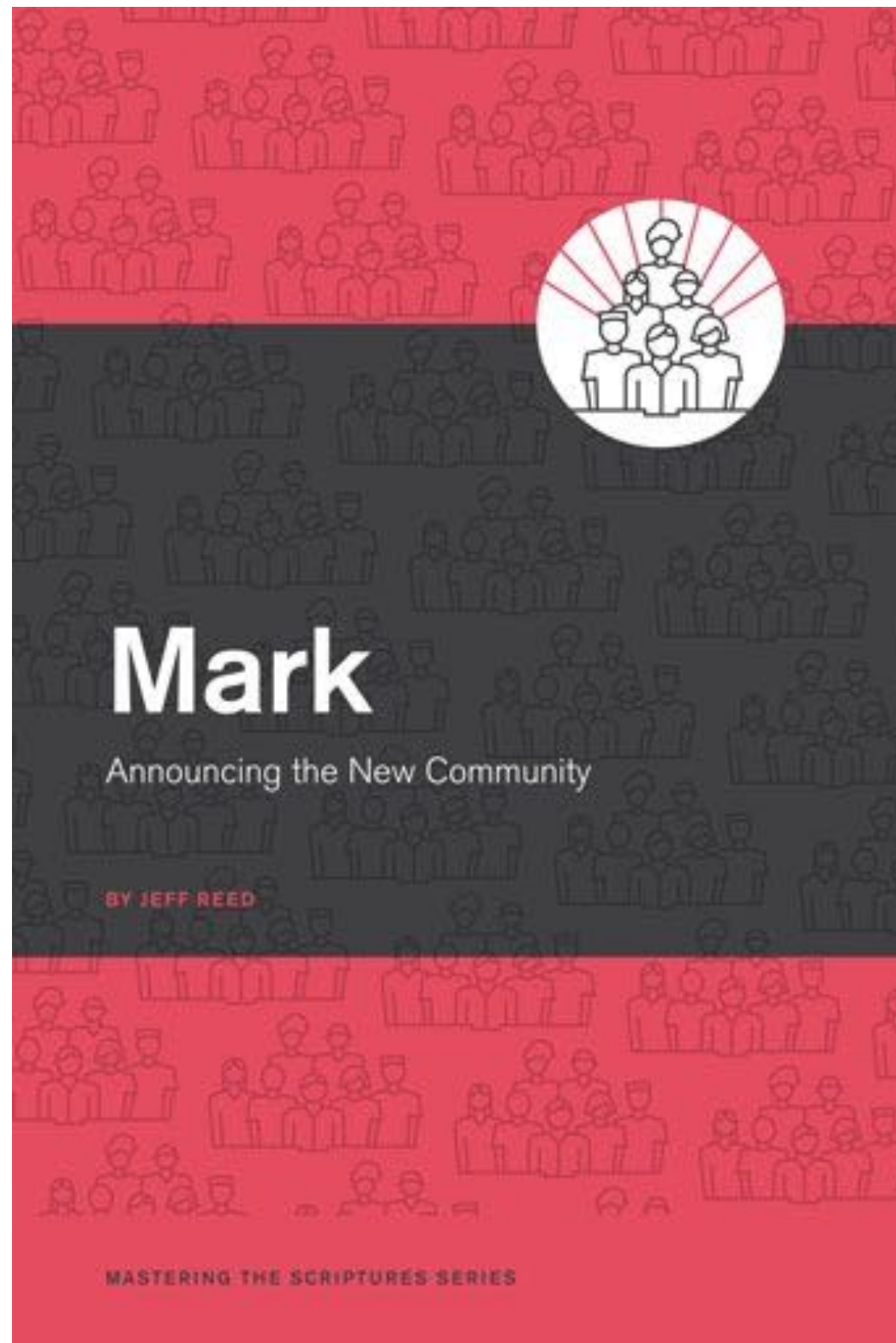
Didache
Body of Acts
Theology of Paul
1½ years



Full Kerygma
After Acts
Apostles' Gospels
1 year

The Gospels Series

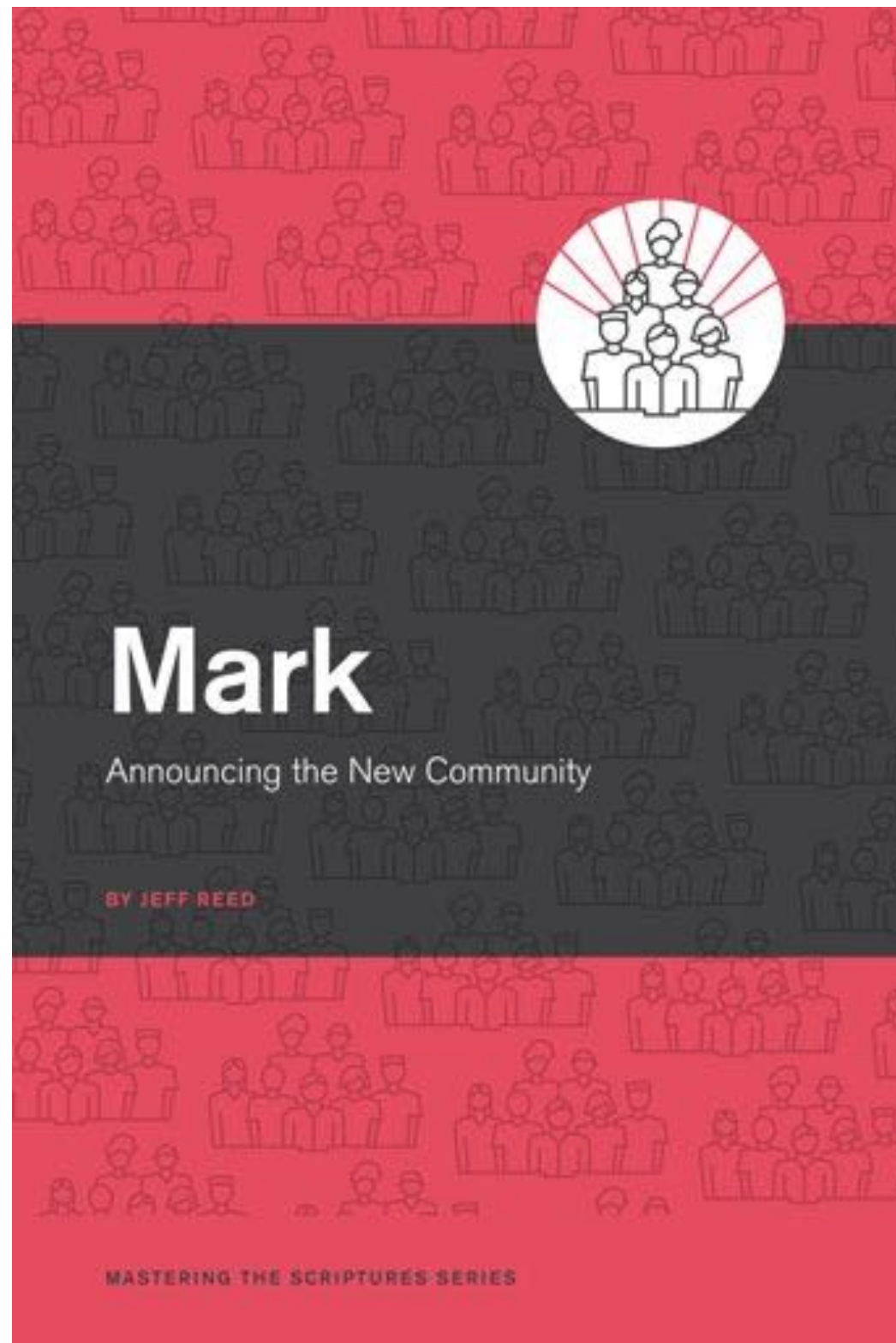




Preparing for the Conference

Growing and being established in Christ's Plan

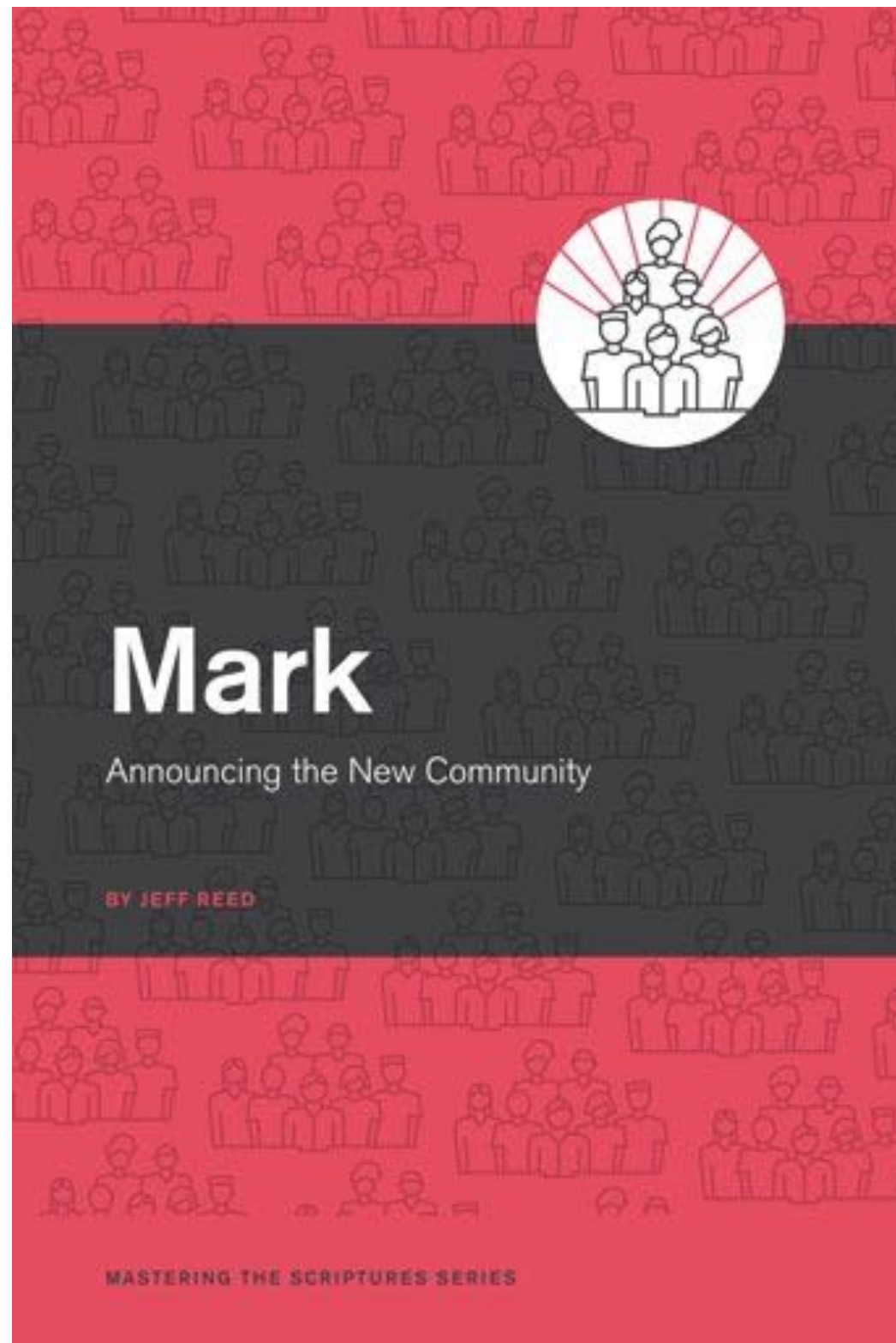
Increasing your confidence in the stewardship of CityChurch Ames DSM
and our global work



For so many years, the gospels have been viewed and interpreted as individualistic and moralistic guides to the Christian life, often separated from the other New Testament letters.

As I reflect on my past, my own understanding of how to use these books, I have previously thought the gospel books are used for:

- It is where the “gospel readings” come from in church services
- This is where we learn to be more like Jesus
- These are the books where the main message of Jesus is found
- This is where most sermons for the church services come from, one verse at a time
- The other parts of the New Testament are different, separate, detached as they are not Jesus’ words
- Jesus taught in stories and parables, so that we can understand

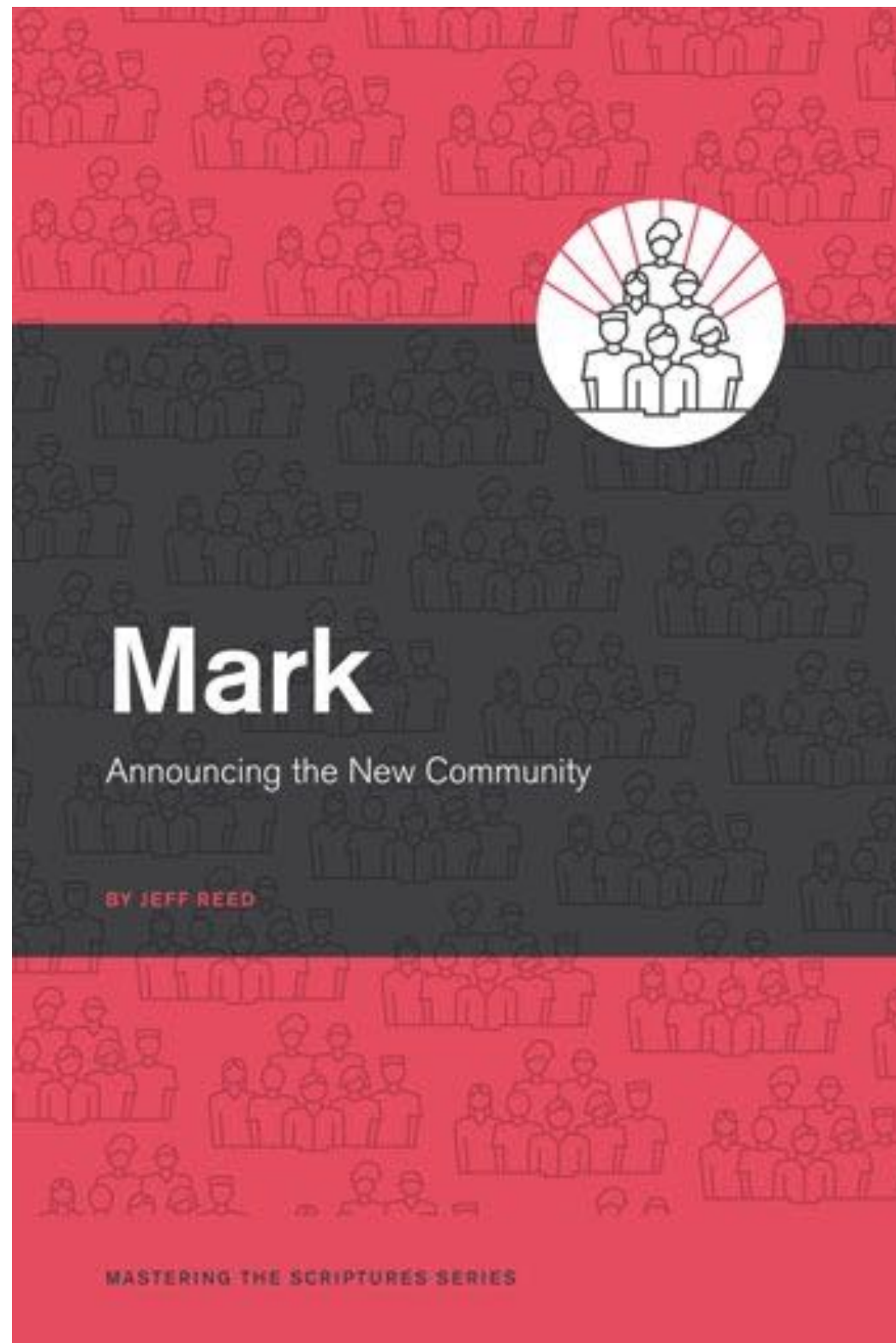


Mark's Intention for His Letter - Bookended

Mark 1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

1:14-15 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good newsⁱ of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news

16:15, 20 - And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned....²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it



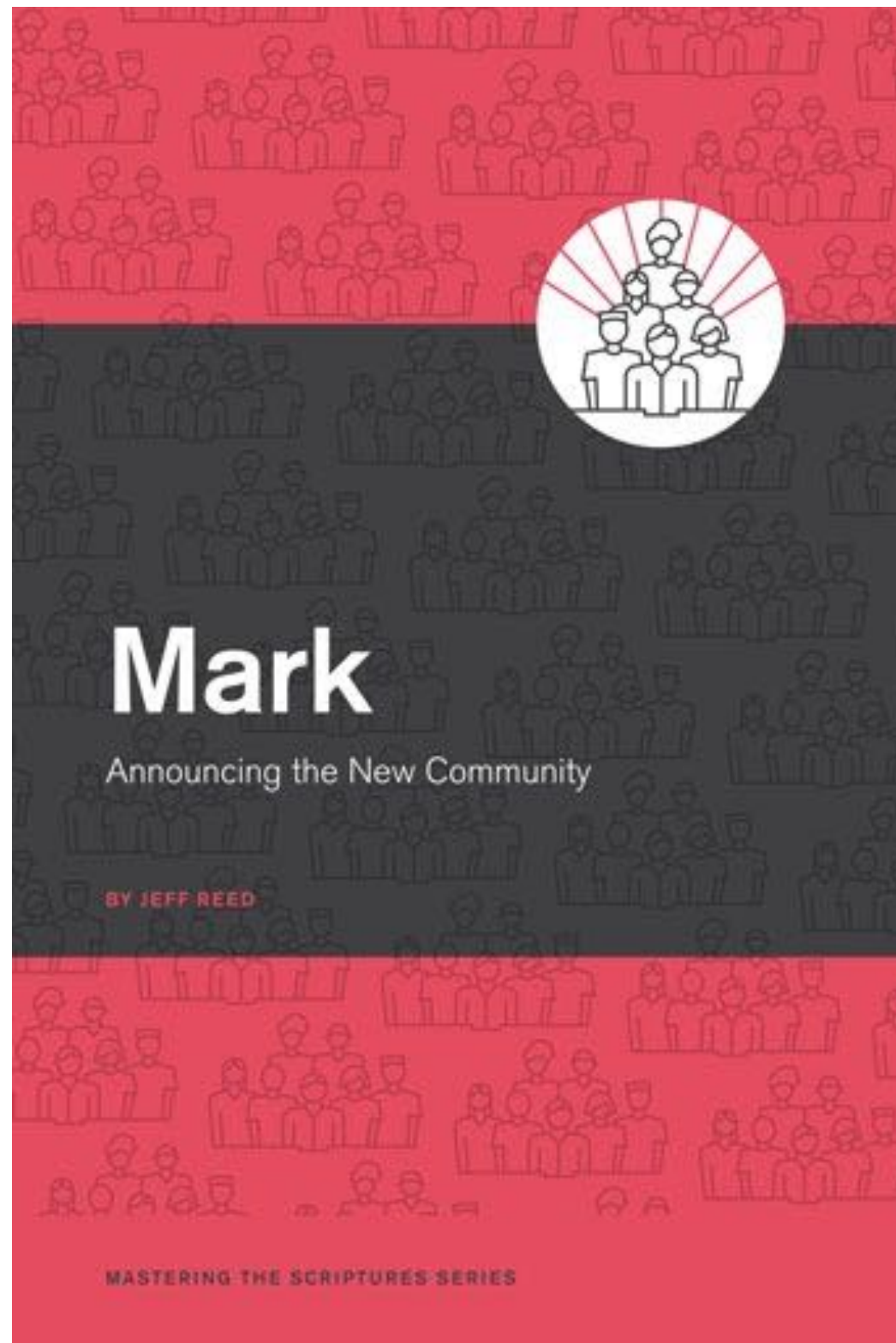
Mark's Intention for His Letter - Bookended

Mark 1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- Beginning - arche - first, foundational, authoritative
- Gospel - evangelion - good news, to proclaim good news

Mark 1:14-15 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good newsⁱ of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news

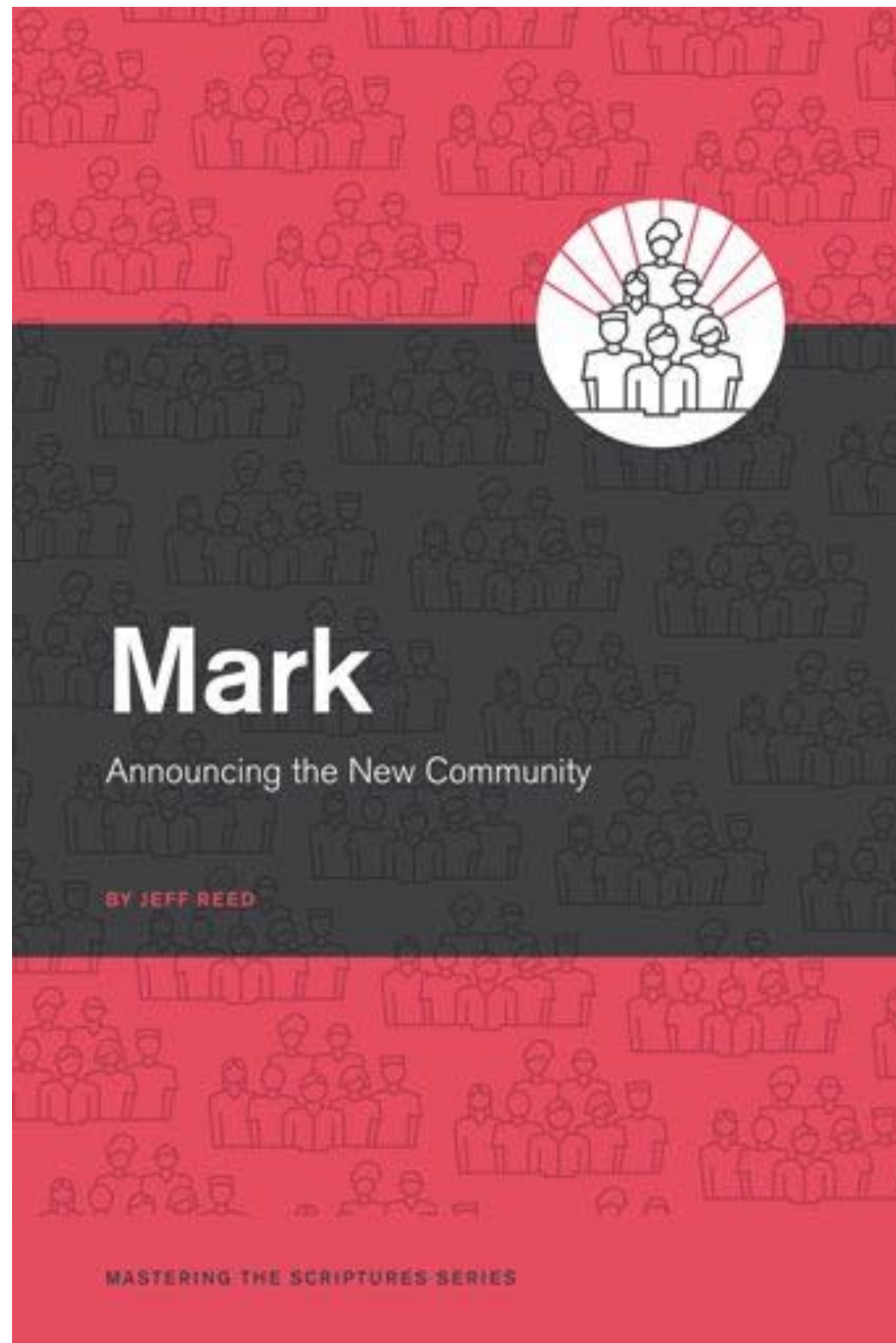
- kerysso - to announce, proclaim
- pleroo - to fulfill, fullness of time
- John and Jesus proclaimed this message of good news
- the message includes that the Kingdom of God has come near



Mark's Intention for His Letter - Bookended

16:15, 20 - And he said to them, “**Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.**”¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned....²⁰ And they went out and **proclaimed the good news everywhere**, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

- proclaim is used again at the end of the book
- proclaiming to the whole world, everywhere



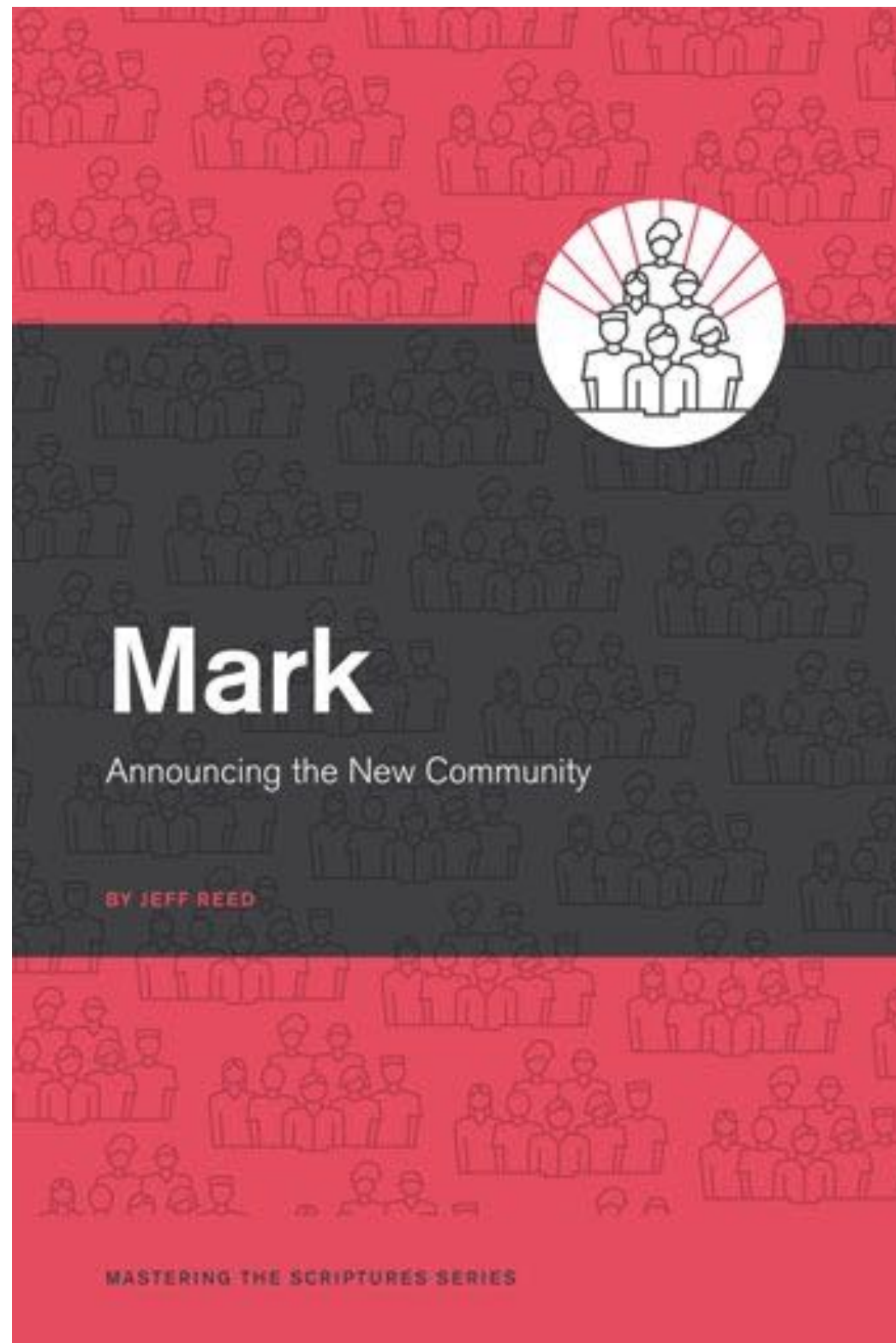
Mark's Intention for His Letter

Mark is written in the Graeco-Roman biography form known as bios, which is Greek for lives.

Peter is seen as a key figure in Mark (and Matthew), he is marked out as the main eyewitness source. Mark was like a son to Peter and he was an interpreter for Peter as well (Papias).

Remember Peter's five kerygma proclamations in Acts - 2:14-42; 3:11-26; 4:5-13; 5:27-32; 10:44-48

The book of Mark is shaped around these kerygmatic statements, it is an expanded version of this kerygmatic statement.



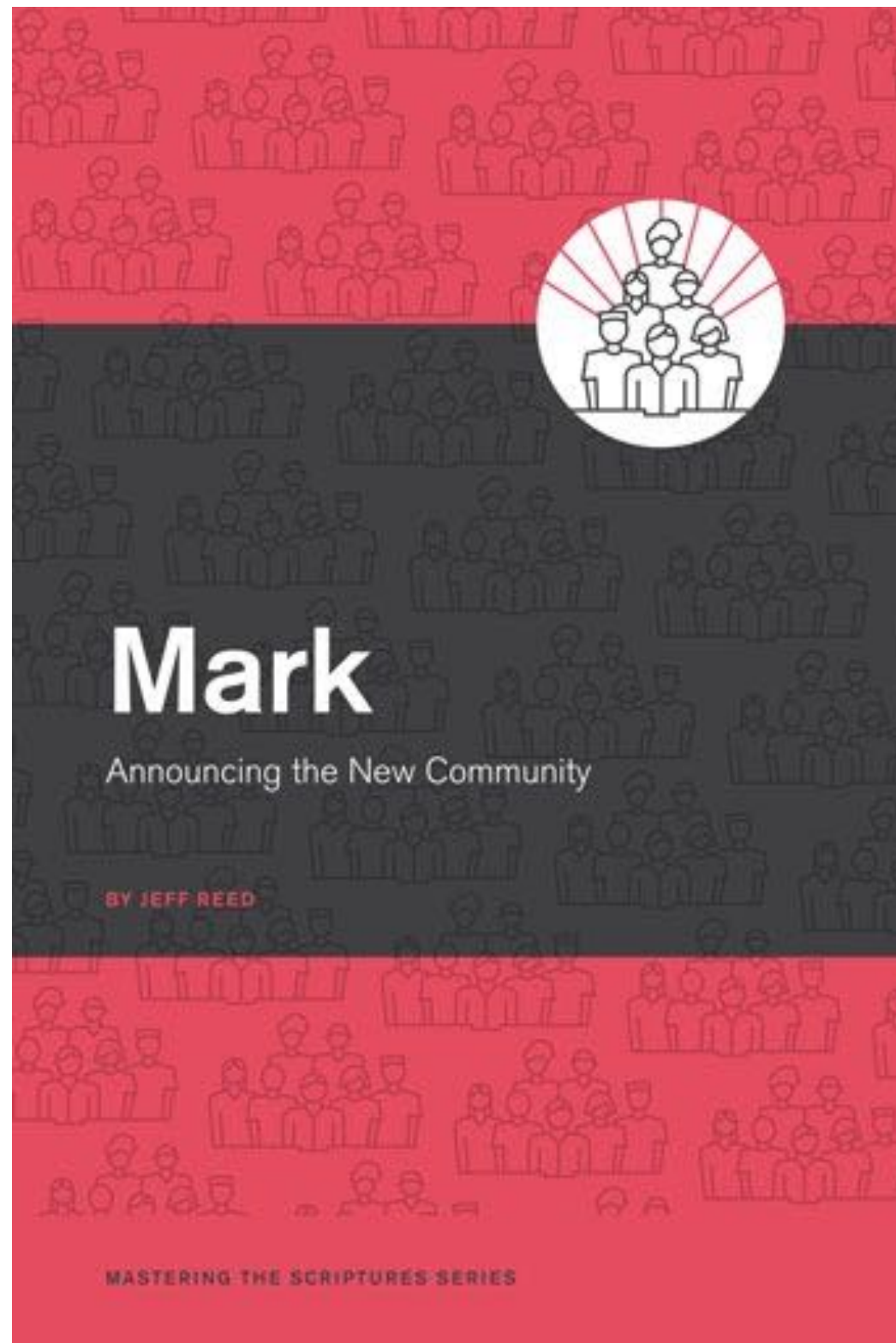
Mark: Announcing the New Community

Thus, the book of Mark, lays an eyewitness account for establishing an authoritative foundation, based on the kerygma message, for the establishing of the churches who were “post eyewitnesses”.

It was designed to preserve the gospel story, the kerygma that the apostles delivered to the church in the previous 30 years.

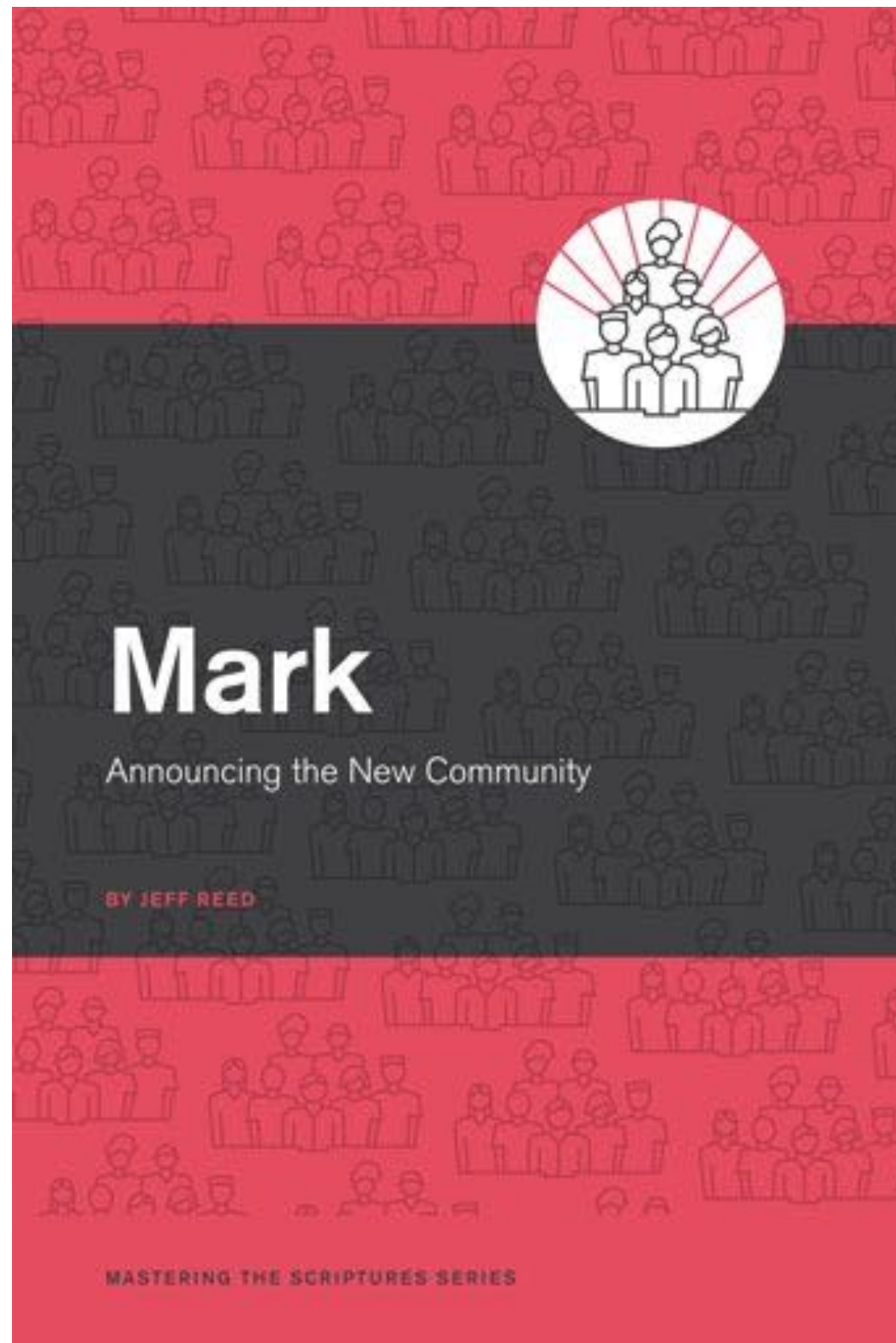
Intended to stabilize Peter’s Jewish churches at this critical time of impending destruction of Jerusalem and the emergence of the church from Judaism.

The type of Judaism that is defined by legalistic, moralists and a following of the law that misses the intent of the law, a false Judaism. Sincere Judaism leads to understanding that the church is the plan and that Jesus the King.



Mark: Announcing the New Community

Mark set out to write an eyewitness account based on Peter (yet in his own writing), in Greco-Roman biographical form. In light of Peter's letters, it was intended to stabilize the Jewish churches by demonstrating Jesus' intent of building a whole new kerygmatic community, committed to the progress of the gospel worldwide.



Discussion

For so many years, the gospels have been viewed and interpreted as individualistic and moralistic guides to the Christian life, often separated from the other New Testament letters.

1. What is the result of viewing the gospel letters only as individualistic and moralistic guides?
2. What is the result of separating them from the other New Testament letters? What is the result when we understand them as part of the New Testament (and the OT, in their canonical context)?
3. How should we understand the letter based on Mark's intention (after reading the beginning and the end of the letter)?

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Solidifying the Kerygmatic Communities 03

Mark: Announcing the New Community

Session 1 - Intention of Mark

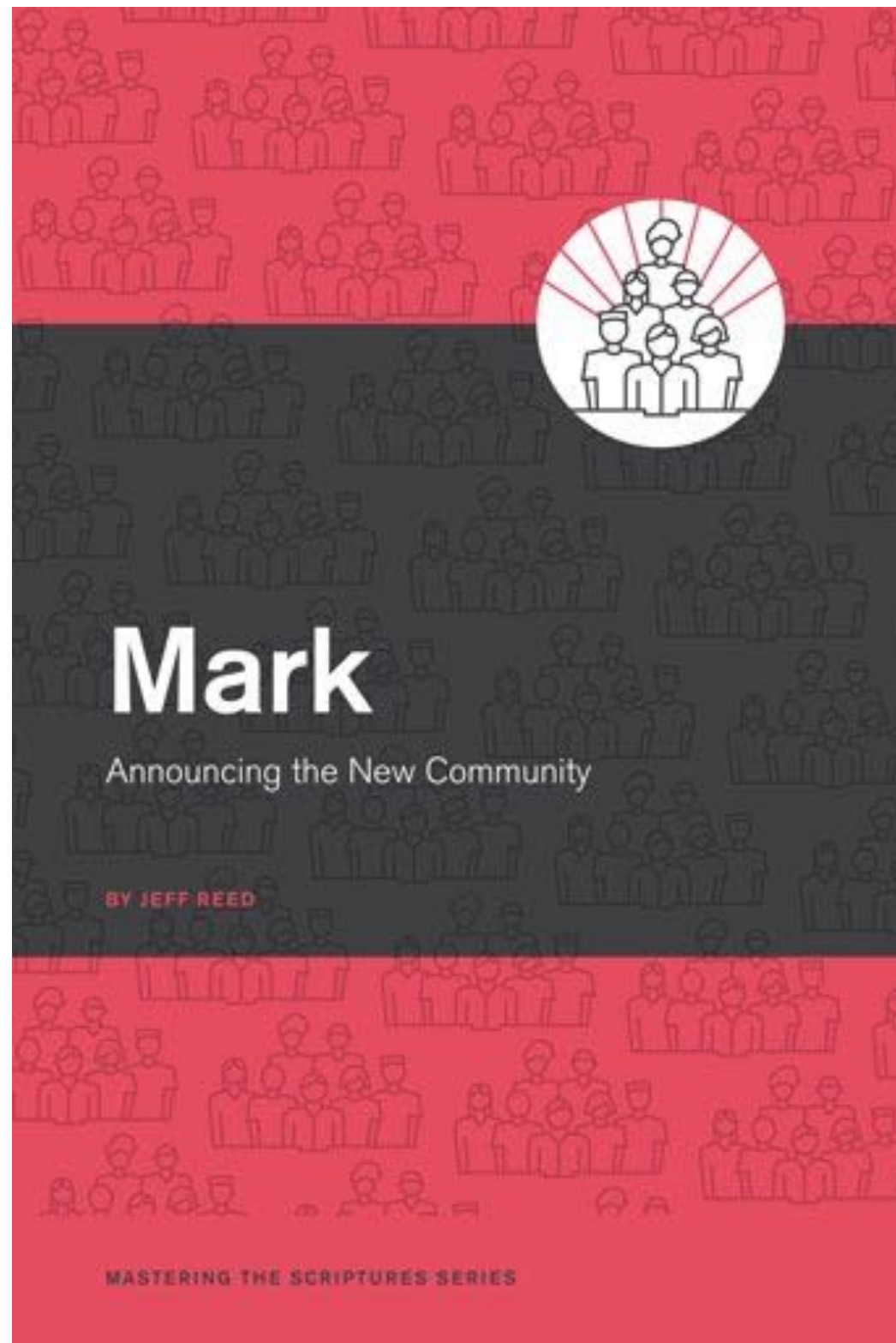
Session 2 - Jesus' Miracles and Parables

Session 3 - Jesus' Teaching: Explaining the Kingdom of God

Session 4 - The Heart of the Kerygma Story

Session 5 - Commissioning His New Community

Session 6 - Reshaping our Lives

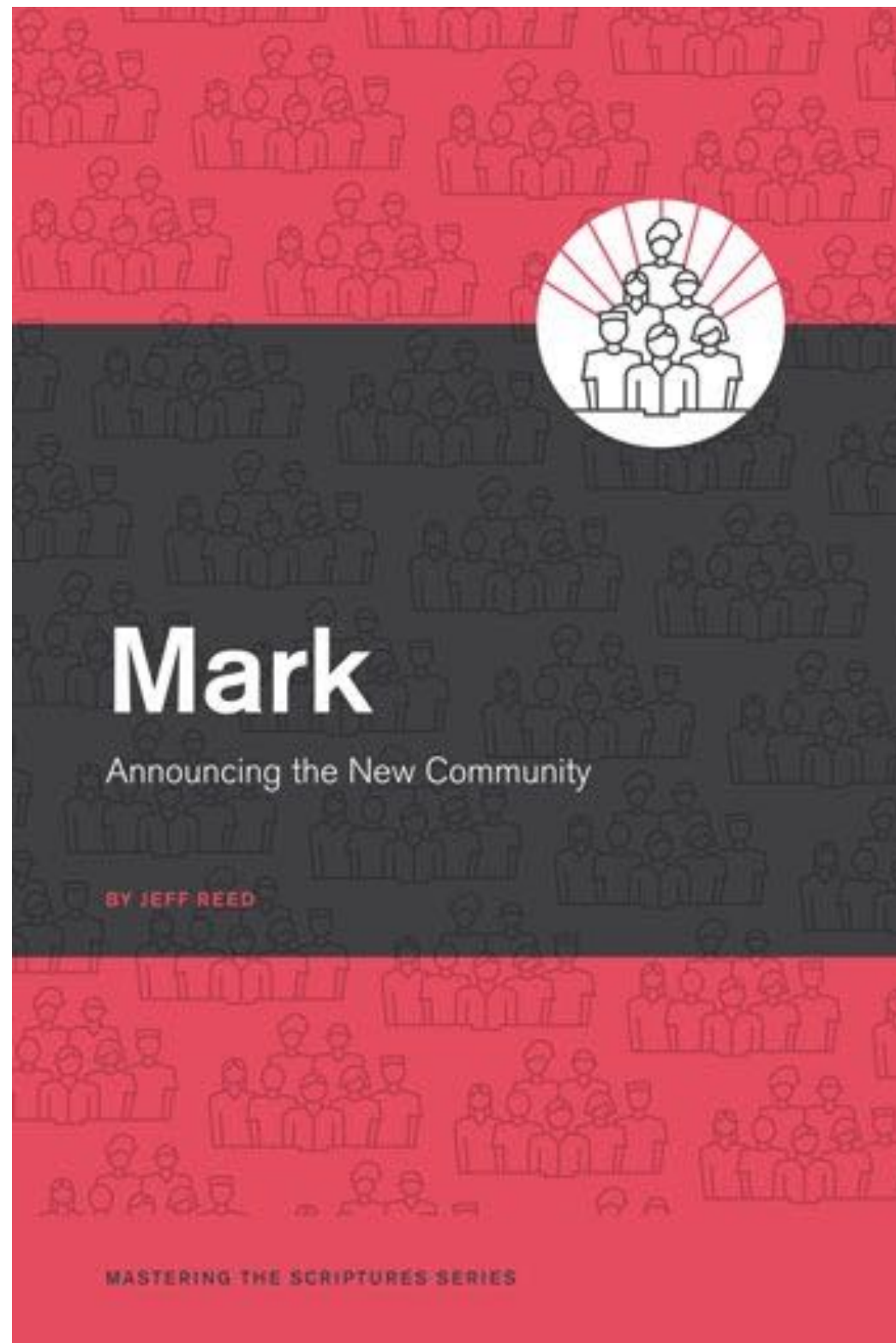


Mark: Miracles

18 scenes of miracles stories, about 25% of the book

First miracle - Mark 1:22, 27 - They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes...They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^m commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.

Last miracle - Mark 11:20-25 - Then Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." ²² Jesus answered them, "Have^b faith in God. ²³ Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. ²⁴ So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received^c it, and it will be yours. (See also Mark 11:27-29)



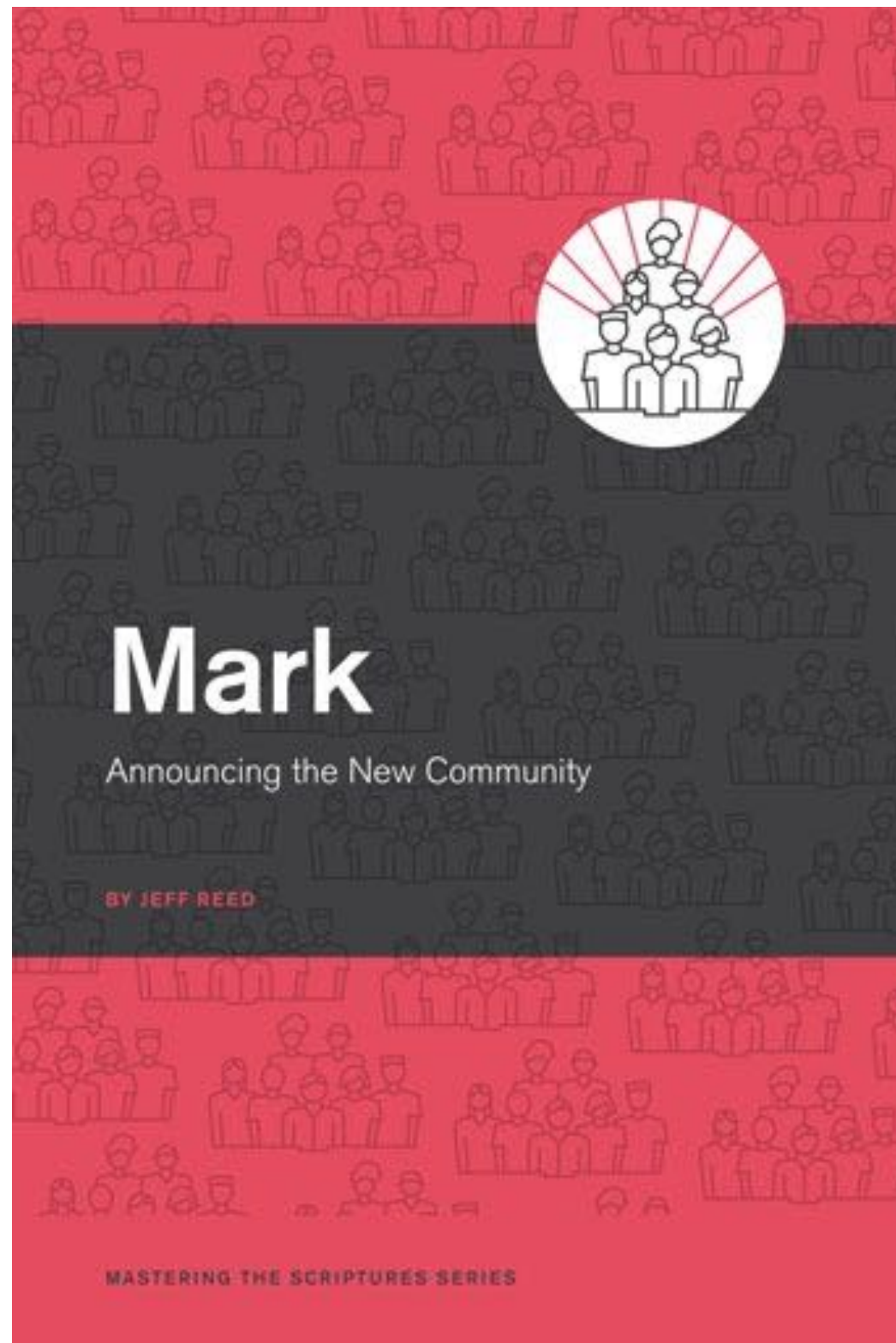
Mark: Miracles

The miracles are all about Jesus' authority. They represent the authority that had been delegated to Him, which could not be denied.

Jesus tells the disciples that they will have authority, enough even to move mountains.

It raised the question of where He got His authority and who He was.

- for some, authority was not an issue, their need was greater than the question
- for others, Jesus' authority was a gradual awakening
- for Jewish leaders, Jesus' authority was a problem



Mark: Parables

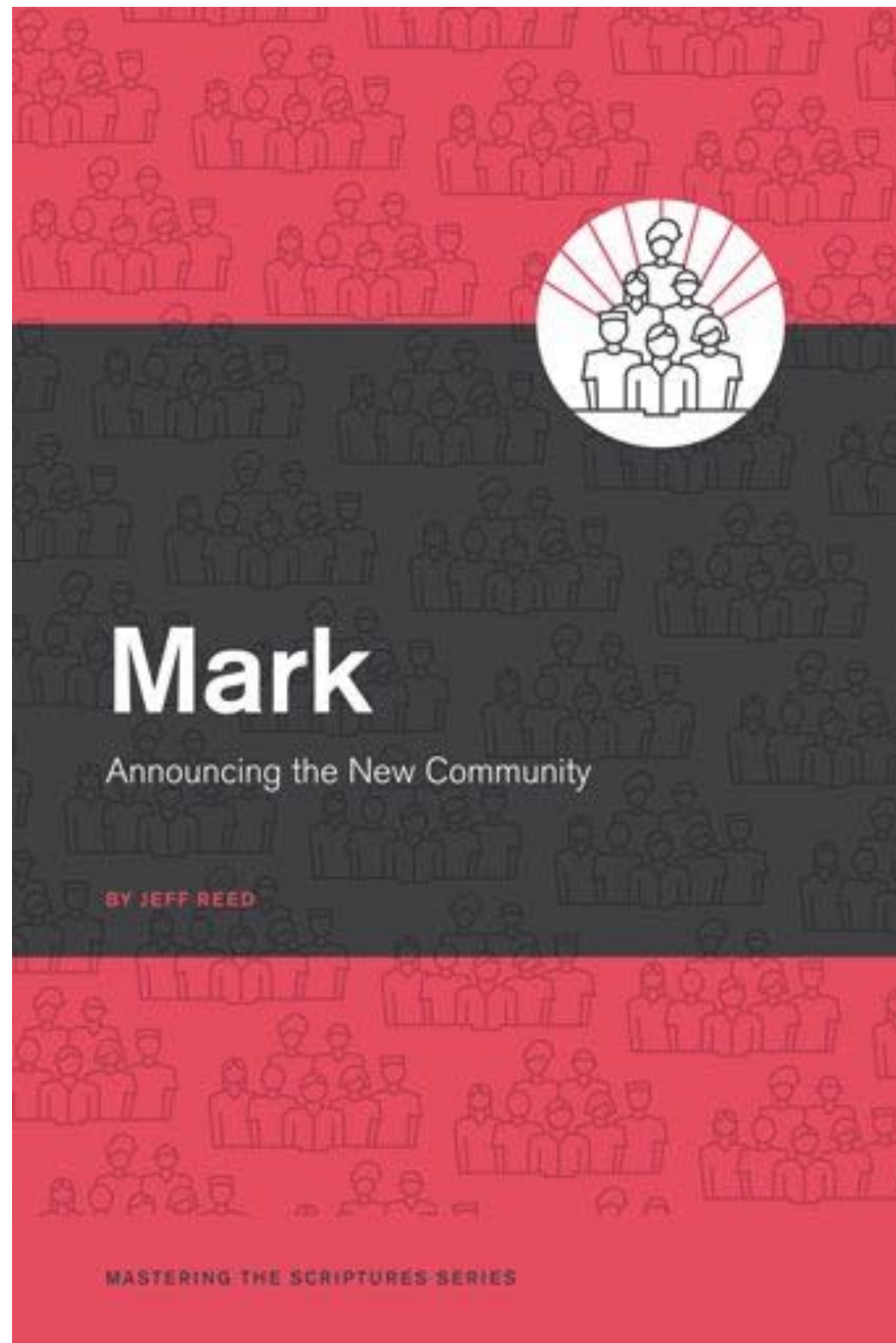
Parabole - means a comparison or illustration

4:11 - And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables...

4:26 - He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground...

4:30 - He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed...

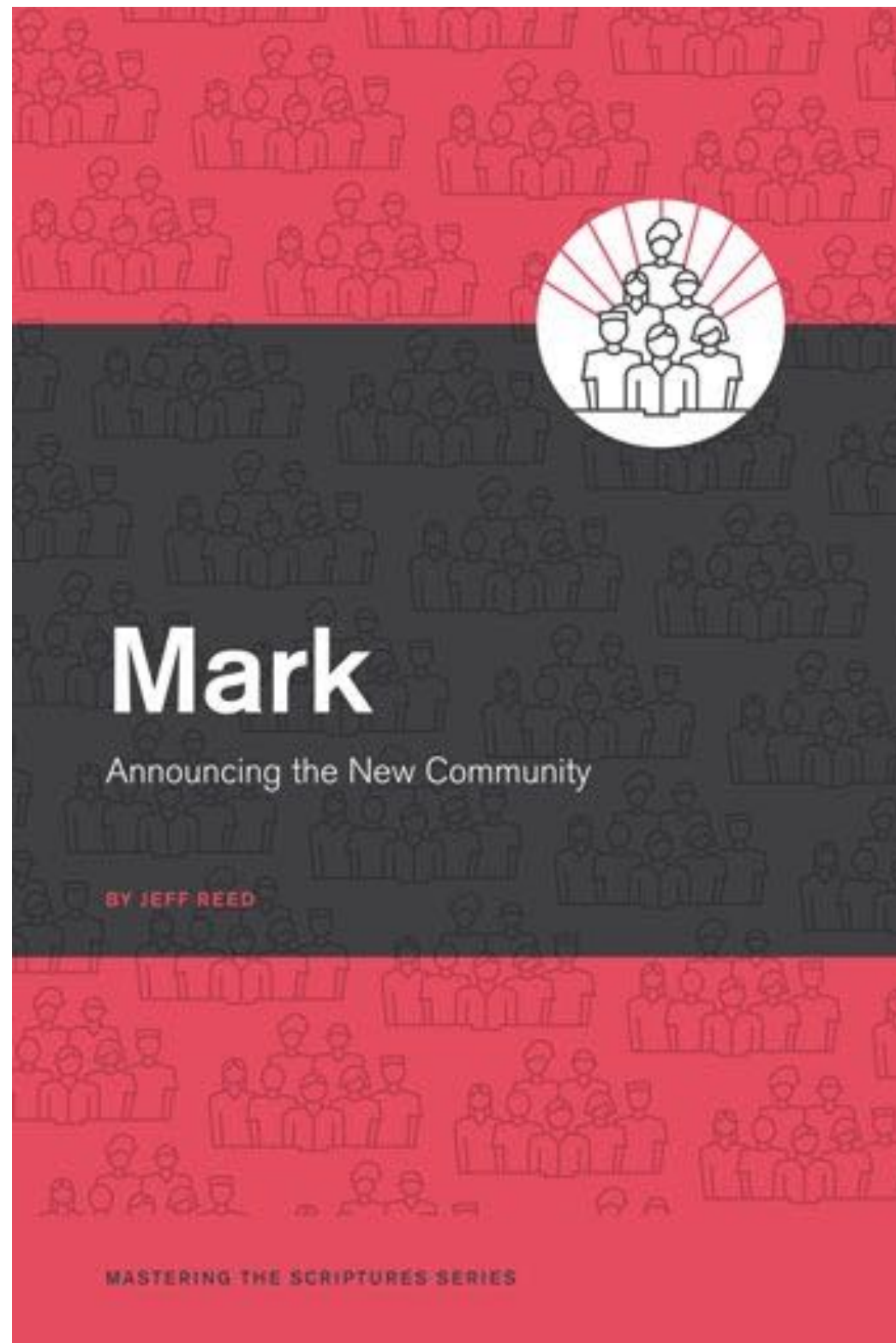
4:33-34 - ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples



Mark: Parables

Parables are about the Kingdom of God

At this point in time, before His death and resurrection, before He sent His Spirit and unveiled the church community, He was only willing to speak as directly as His audience could hear it. He explained everything to His disciples afterwards, yet even then they did not fully understand it.



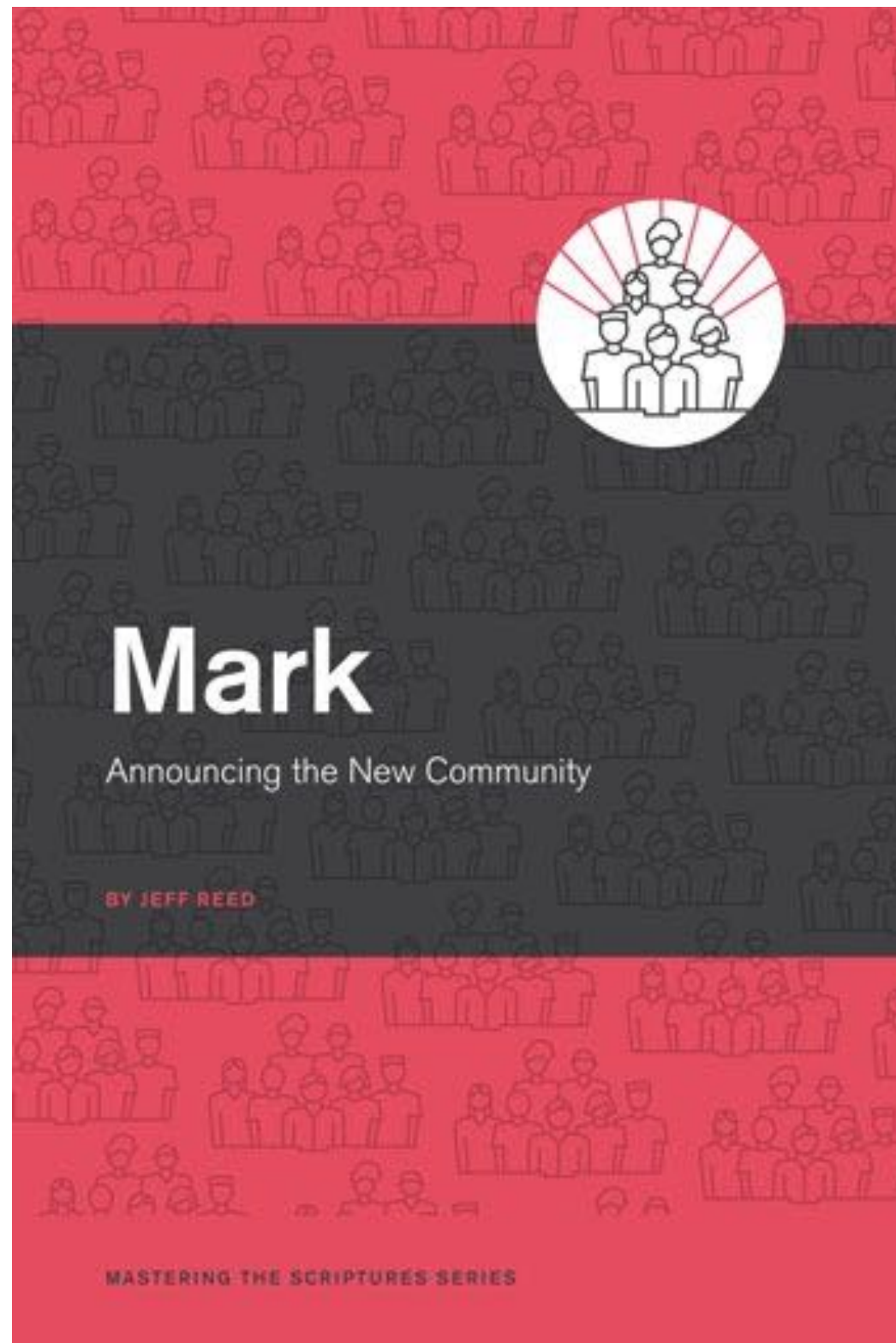
Mark: Miracles and Parables

Both miracles and parables played a very important role in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom.

Miracles established Jesus' authority...

Parables - important details of His message that the kingdom of God is at hand as He unfolded His plan, ultimately leading to His death. But He explained the parables privately to His disciples.

Receiving the message with joy is not enough (4:16)...what is required is hearing that leads to productive living

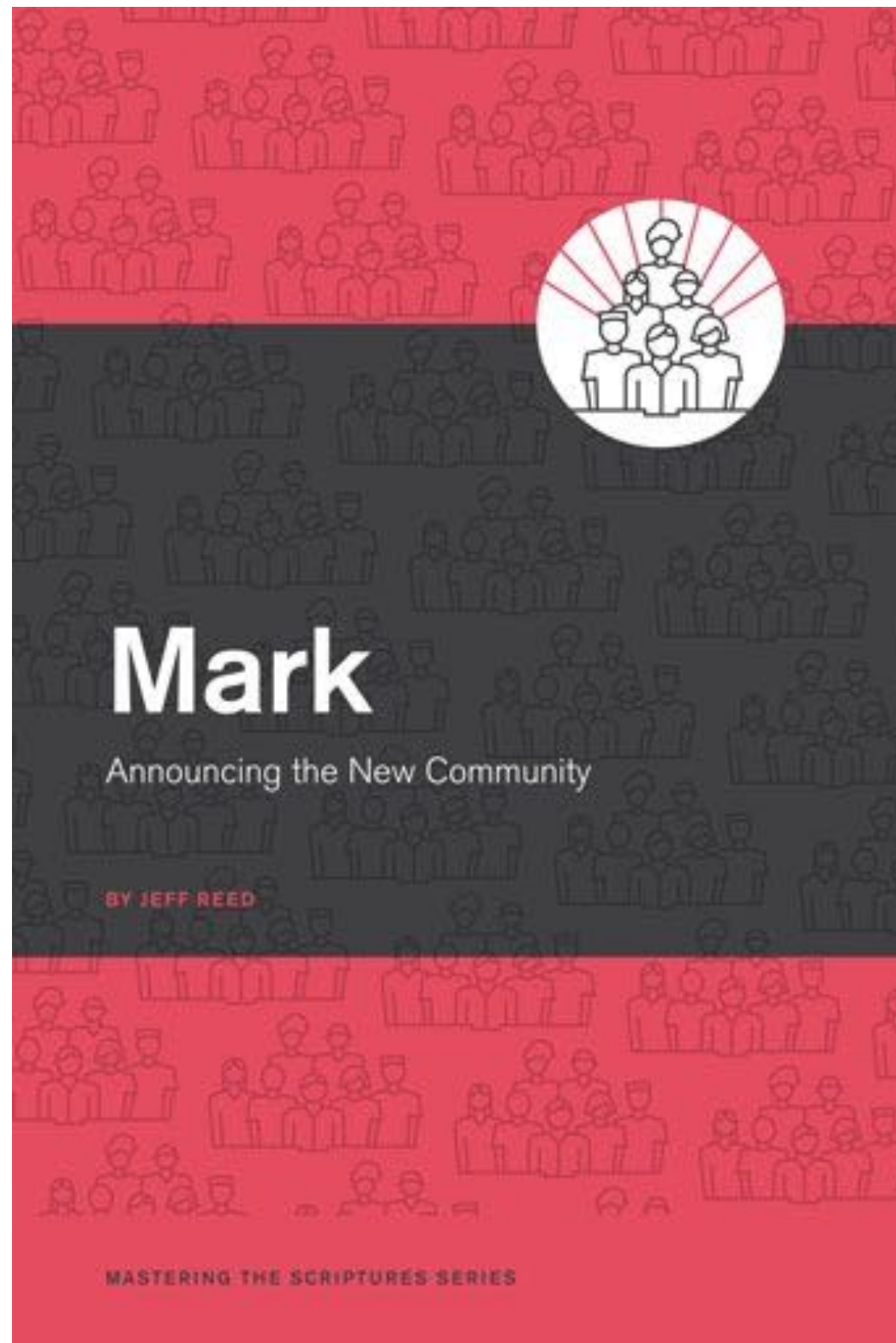


Mark: Explaining the Kingdom of God

1:14-15 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good newsⁱ of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news

The Old Testament shows that the inauguration of the kingdom would be preceded by repentance by the nation of Israel, forgiveness of sin and internal change accomplished by God.

Yet this was not the state of the nation as illustrated by John the Baptist, they thought they were better than their secular rulers and they wanted a Messiah to come and crush them. And they created a system out of the Old Testament that made them better than the Gentiles and their leaders and better than other Israelites. All this made them unprepared to respond to the idea that the kingdom was at hand, as Jesus delivered it.



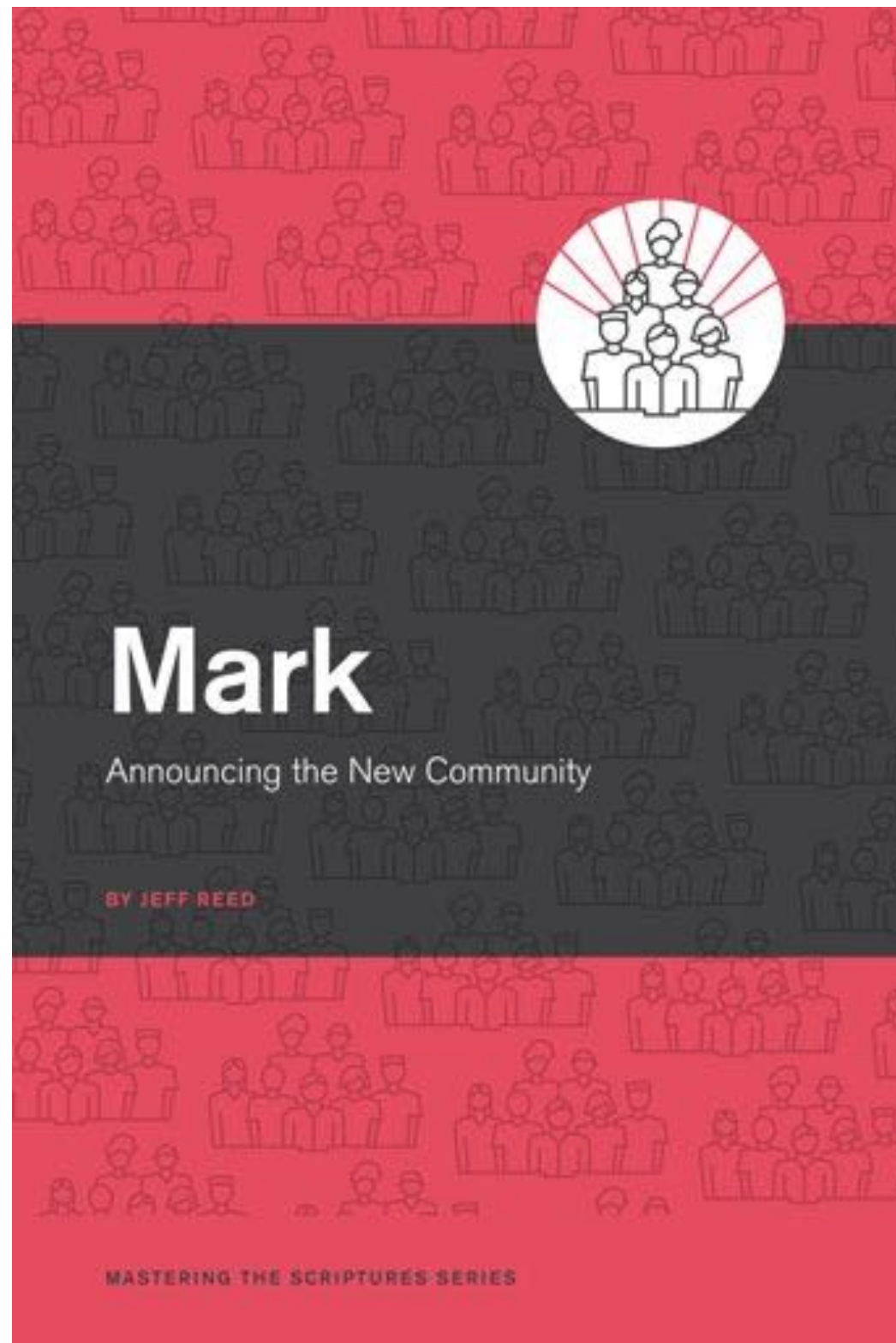
Mark: Explaining the Kingdom of God

The scribe who came and asked Jesus about the greatest commandment was near to entering the kingdom 10:13-16.

This implies that the kingdom was something that could be entered now, not at some distant date. The Messiah would return at some future date to fully setup His Kingdom...

So in one sense the kingdom was being inaugurated then; yet in fact that the master would return and setup the kingdom was in the future, a time which no one knew, not even Jesus (13:32-37).

He would return, set up the kingdom and enjoy the new covenant meal with His disciples at a great kingdom feast in the future.

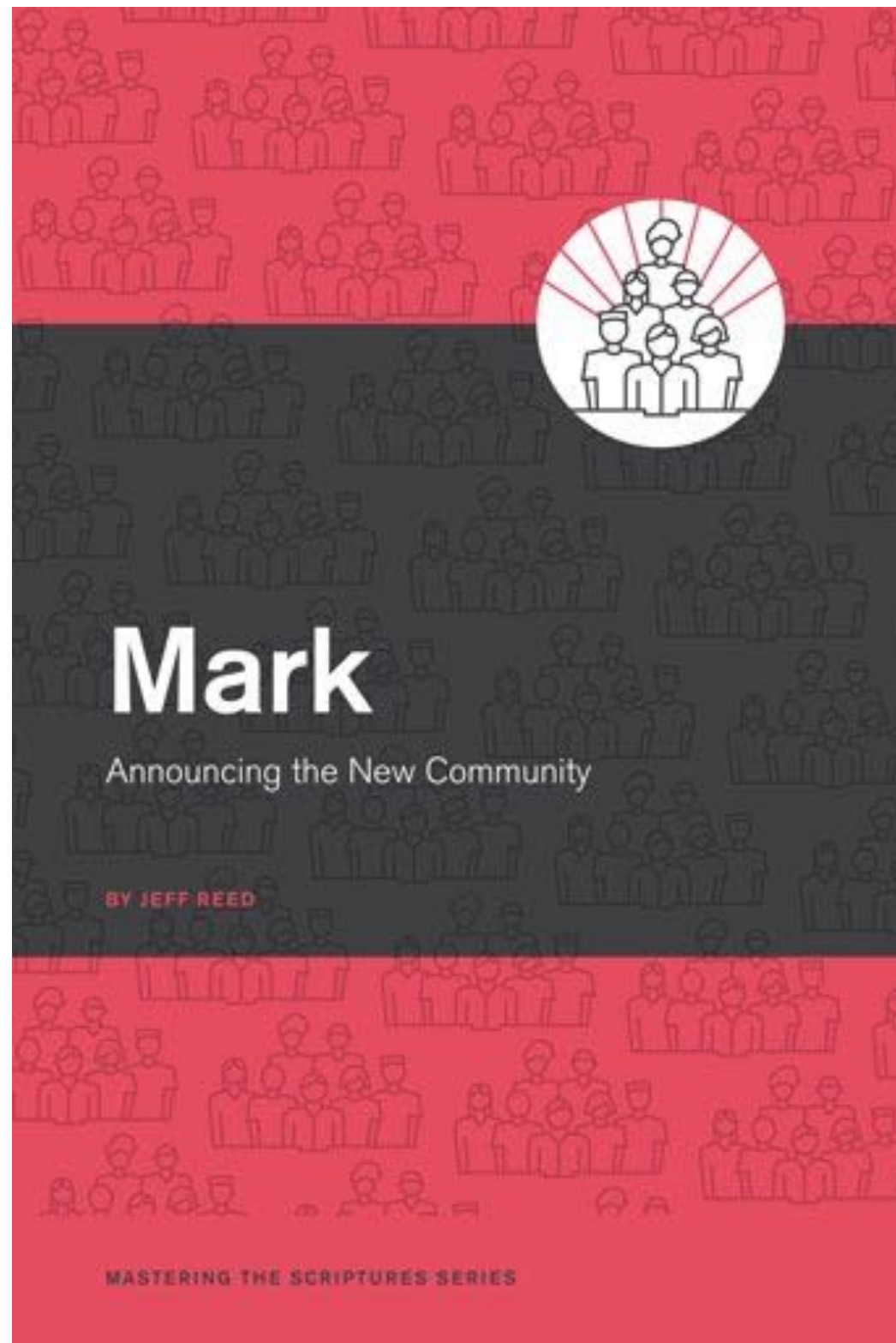


Mark: Explaining the Kingdom of God

So why all the mystery in all of this?

The mystery is that Jesus' is veiling at this stage, is that He was forming a New community, the Church, He was gathering around himself. The church was the mystery which was embedded in the parables, only to be fleshed out between Jesus and the Gospel (30yrs).

Jesus is not the mystery, over 300 prophecies in the OT about Him. This Church, this new community He began during His ministry, would become His bride. And as we shall see later in Rev 21, His Bride, the New Jerusalem, will come down from heaven and become the centerpiece of the Kingdom of God. Then the earth and heavens will be renewed and kingdom will be fully complete.



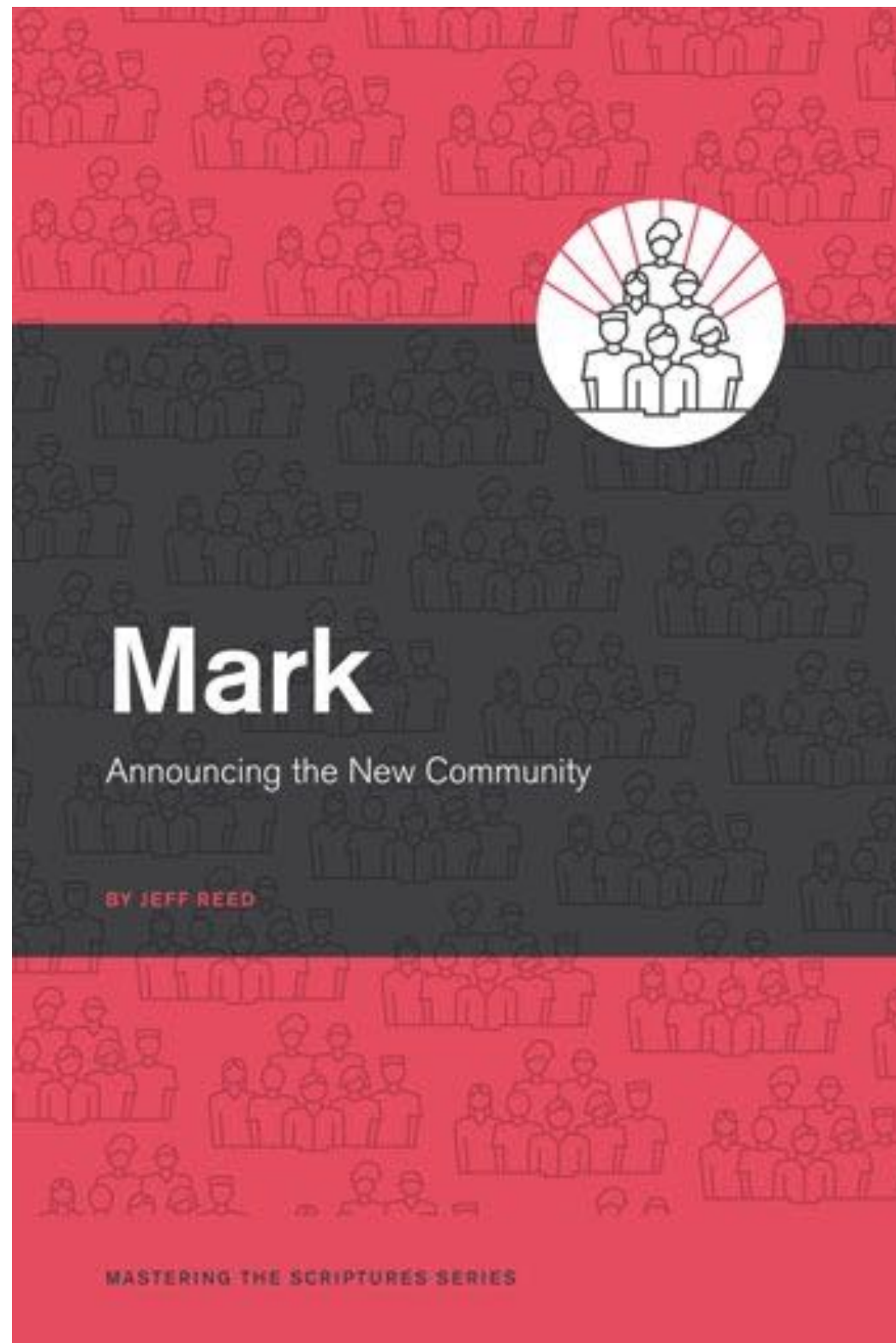
Mark: Explaining the Kingdom of God

The church is the tangible kingdom. It is a present reality and a full expectation in the days to come.

The church is Christ's tangible kingdom on earth today. It is the demonstration to the watching world, as they are building all kinds of kingdoms, that the good news is available to all. It is Christ's plan for the proclaiming the gospel and drawing people worldwide from every culture and generation into His Kingdom.

It will be the future centerpiece of His kingdom when the new heavens and new earth are created. This part of His plan was hidden until the right time.

Those who fail to make this connection end up following the life for Christ in some sort of vague kingdom living, rather than the clear plan for His church on earth, at this time now.

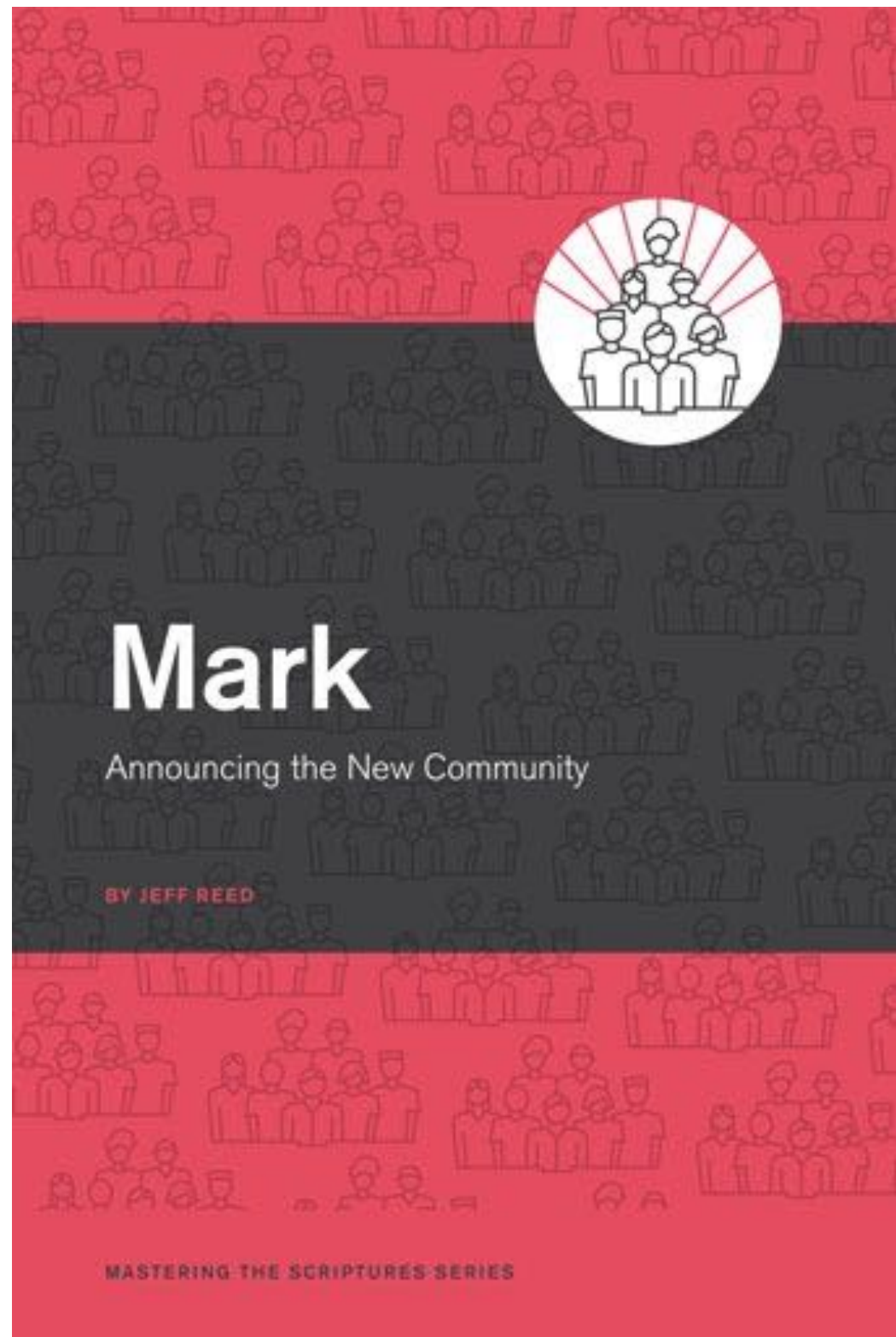


Mark: Heart of the Kerygma

8:31 - ³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, **and be killed, and after three days rise again.**

9:30-31 - ³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will **kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.**"

10:32-34 - He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; ³⁴ they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, **and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.**"

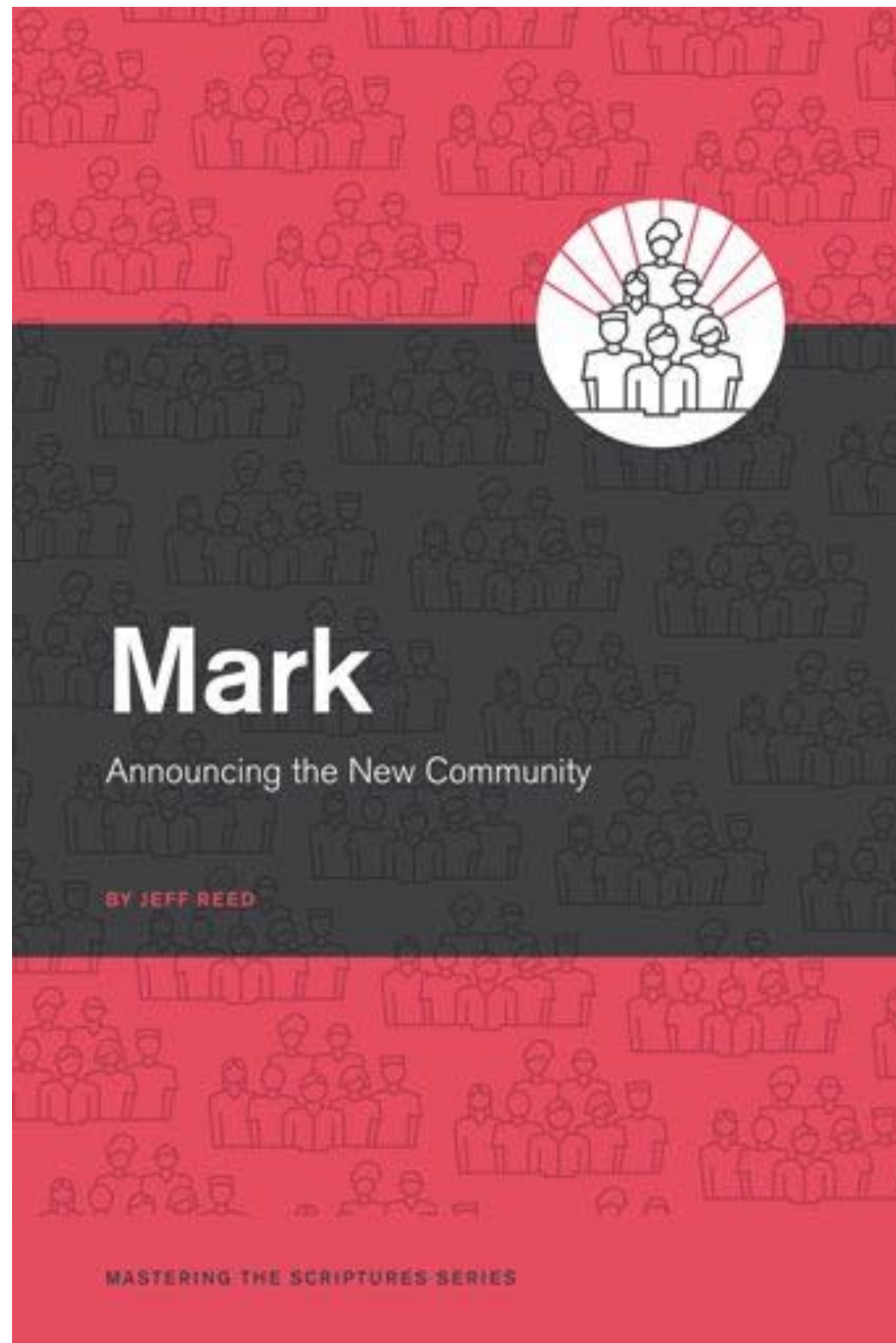


Mark: Heart of the Kerygma

Mark is explaining the origin of the gospel that the churches have been embracing. Remember, that Mark is an expanded kerygmatic narrative.

Mark is showing through these passages that they reinforce the statements that emerged from the Apostles, which was delivered to the churches.

The core of this kerygmatic statement was given by Jesus, but it would not all be put together until after Jesus left and sent His Spirit and Peter deliver his "5 sermons". Paul acknowledged that it was an authoritative statement that was passed on to him in 1 Cor 15



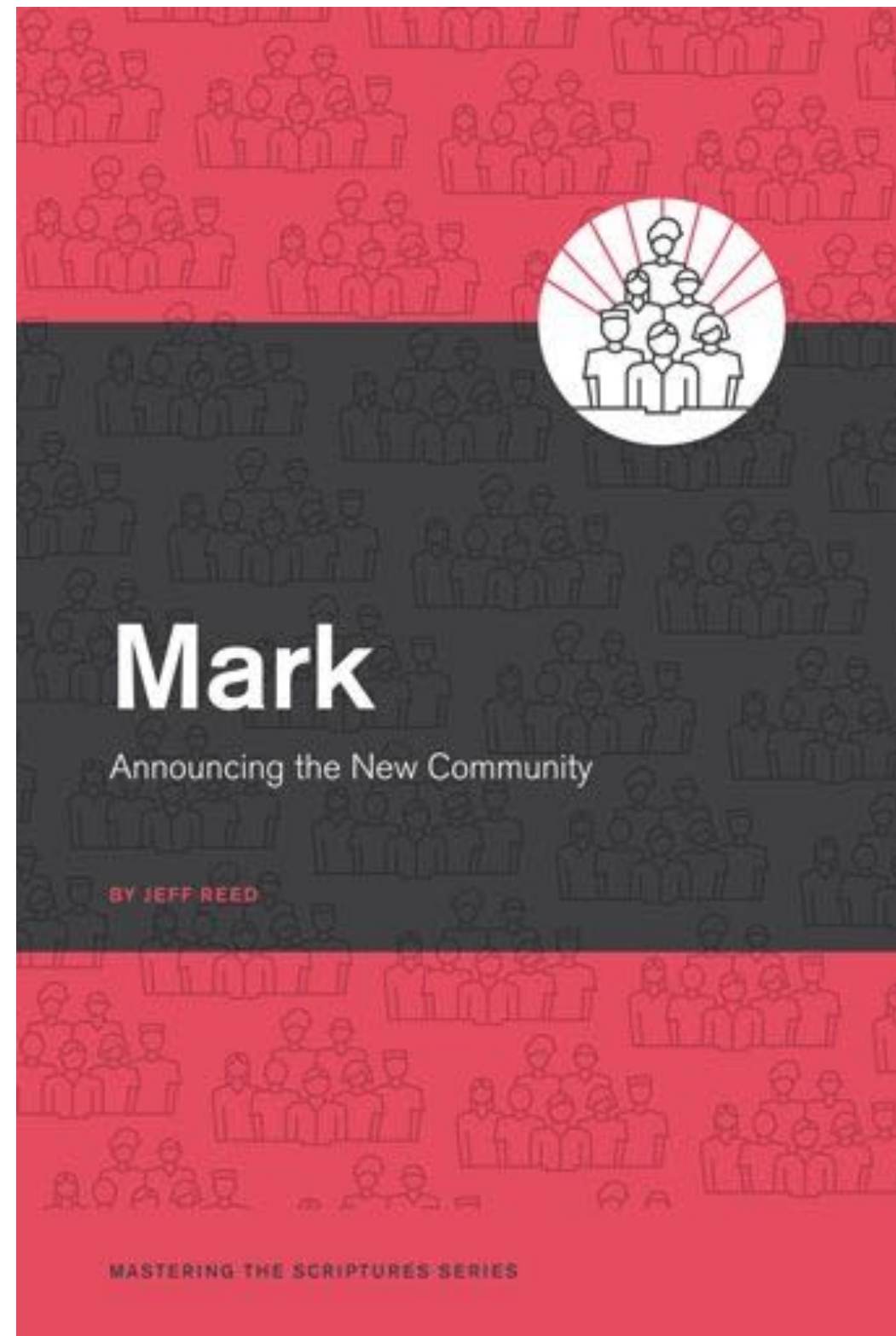
Mark: Heart of the Kerygma

1 Cor 15:3-5 - ³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

8:31 - ... **and be killed, and after three days rise again.**

9:30-31 - ... **kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”**

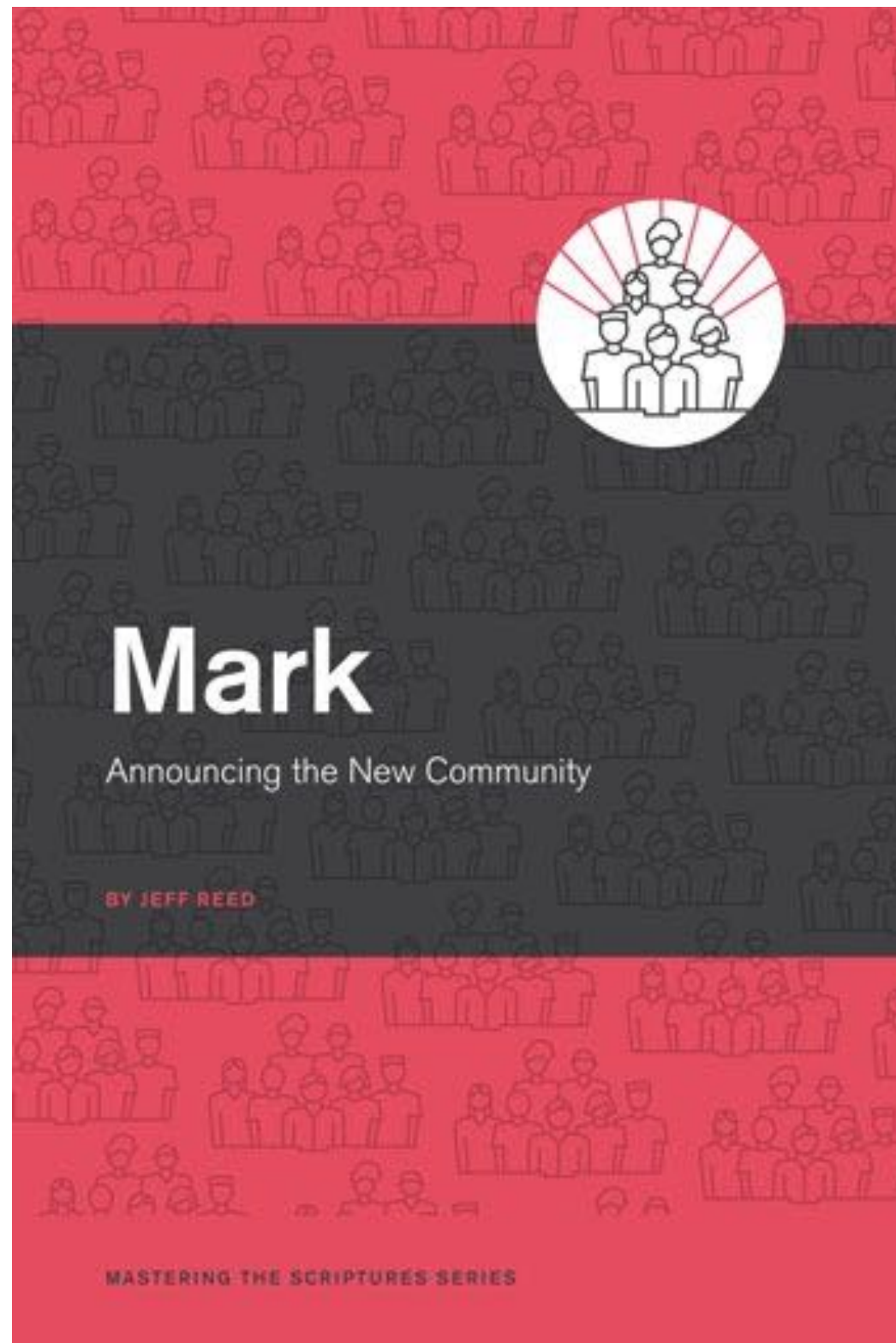
10:32-34 - ... **and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”**



Mark: Heart of the Kerygma

Mark is confirming the gospel that was delivered to them, and gives them broader context to fully understand, giving them fuller confidence in what they have received. This would have a stabilizing effect on the churches that were being bombarded with charges to abandon this false gospel, as the apostles were beginning to die.

This has huge implications for us as churches. The gospel must be accurately handed down to the churches to be stewarded and communicated in each generation.

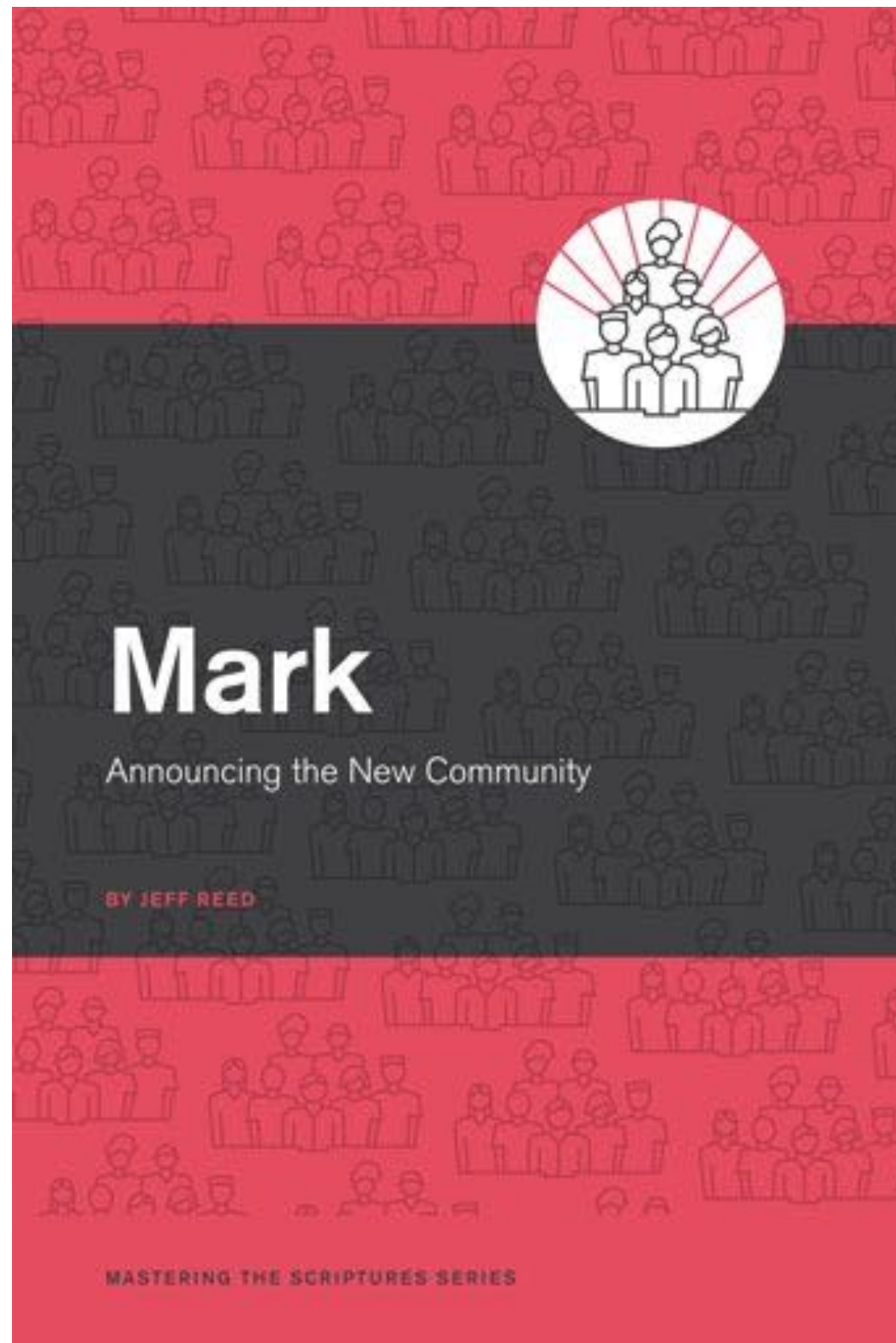


Mark: Commissioning His New Community

16:15, 20 - And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned....
²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The kingdom of God is part of the good news...This is where the whole book started and these essence of the good news is now complete, with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

In Mark 4 we see that the kingdom of God is a mystery that includes a whole new plan - a new community not revealed before - the church. Christ’s real family who will join Him in the kingdom of God, is made up of those who choose to leave their heritage and follow Him.

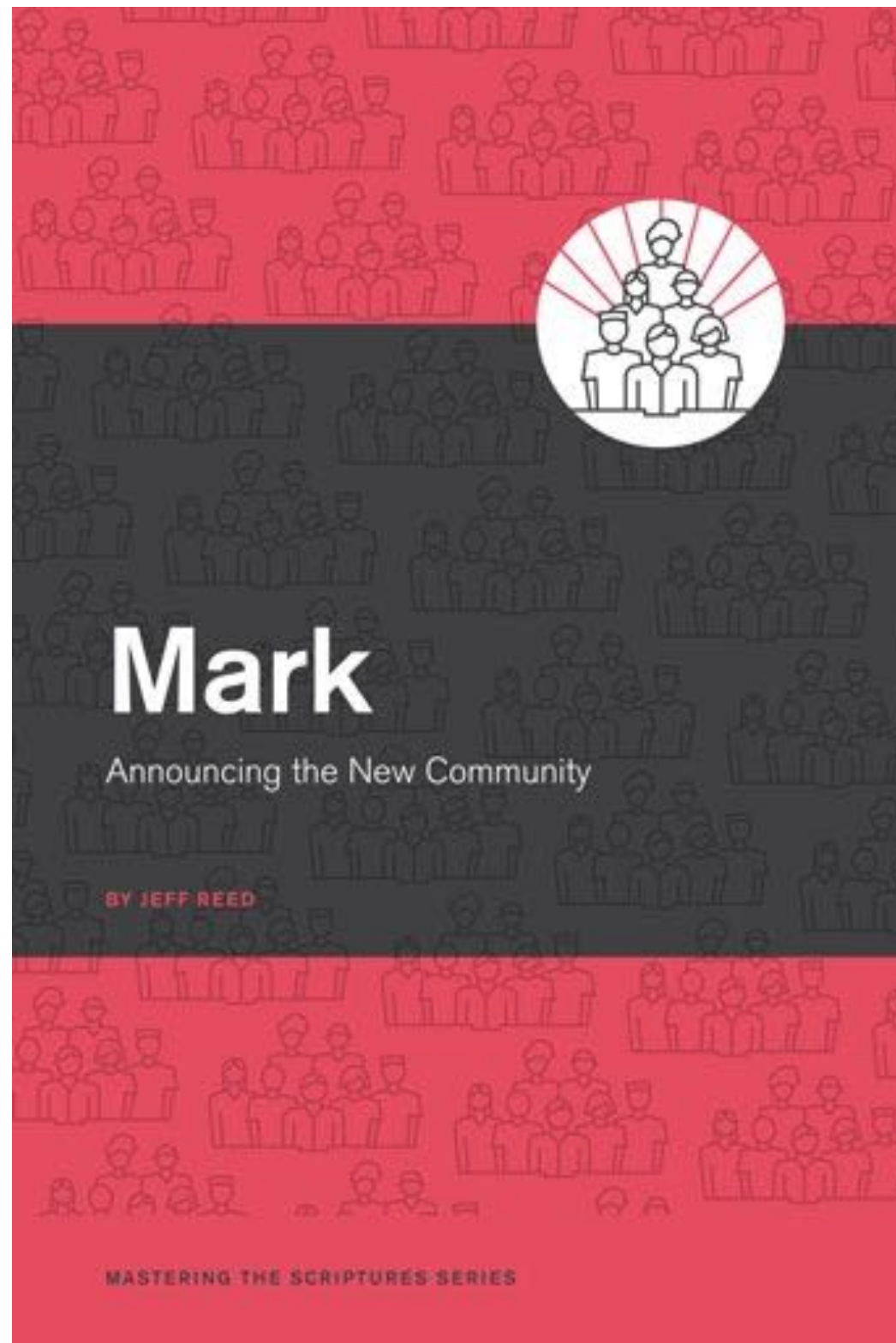


Mark: Commissioning His New Community

Today there is much confusion in our churches. Sometimes that confusion is around the essence of the gospel...We reduce the Great Commission and its message to a very narrow notions, robing the message of the fullness of its impact. The commission then becomes reduced to individuals sharing the message, detached from its tangible kingdom context, detached form kerygmatic churches.

So the proclamation may become isolated, impersonal, very reductionistic communication. Jesus' commission may even be reduced to the effort of an individual enterprise or Western business, in which money and efficiency drive the goals.

It is very important for us to understand the mandate for the global proclamation of the good news within the context of Christ's design.



Mark: Full Proclamation (not reductionistic!)

- The kingdom of God has arrived through Christ, launching His new community, His new family, the church
- Anyone can become part of this new community, by embracing the message and becoming a follower of Jesus
- We are now part of the spontaneous expansion of the gospel which takes place through forming and multiplying networks of small, authentic communities of faith
- These networks of communities will continue to grow worldwide until Christ returns and fully sets up His kingdom with the entire Church as His centerpiece, His bride.

This is the Kingdom message - This is the proclamation

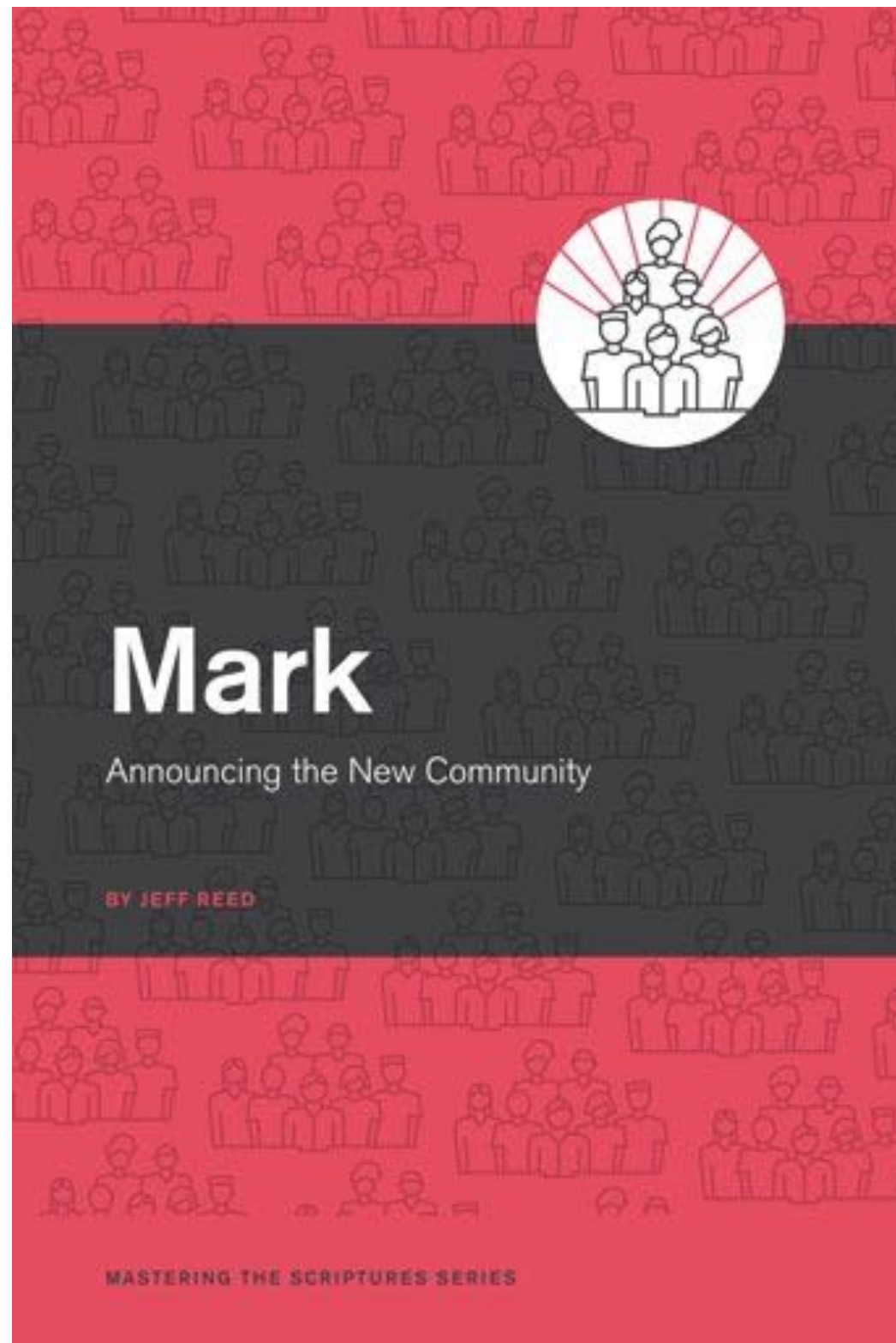
This is the good news - beginning in Jerusalem, to the entire world

This is the mustard seed that will grow globally!

This is the family that will grow hundred fold!

This is the tangible kingdom on earth waiting His return

The churches to which Mark was writing were now beginning to understand the nature of that global enterprise, it would go to the entire world.



We pray that your confidence in Christ's plan is growing

We pray that your family's reception of the Good News of the Kingdom is strengthened

We expect that your churches are being established to live out the gospel while being empowered to proclaim in a holistic way, whole kingdom way!

We expect that you are truly participating in His newly inaugurated community, the tangible kingdom on this side, the church!

We pray that in all of this, your churches are by their very nature kerygmatic, embracing everyone and going to the East and West.