

# The Gospel of Mark



# Resources

- ◆ Workbook on the Gospel of John, 2016 David Padfield, [www.padfield.com](http://www.padfield.com)
- ◆ The Gospel of Mark, 2003 Jim Jonas, [www.embryhills.com](http://www.embryhills.com)
- ◆ Investigating the Word of God: Mark, 2010 Gene Taylor, [www.centervilleroad.com](http://www.centervilleroad.com)



# The Gospel of Mark

- ◆ In general, why do we have four Gospels?
- ◆ We don't. We have one Gospel that is told four ways.
- ◆ Therefore the key questions to always ask are: who, what, when, where, and why?



# Who was the author?

- ◆ Mark is only name ever attached.
- ◆ Title commonly appearing in ancient Greek manuscripts Euangelion kata Markon (Gospel according to Mark).
- ◆ Mark as the author is an uncontested fact emerging from early Christian writings.
- ◆ Internal and external evidence agree that Mark was the author.



# Who was Mark?

- ◆ The son of a wealthy family in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12-14)
- ◆ A cousin of Barnabas (Col.4:10)
- ◆ A traveler with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:5)
- ◆ Left Paul on first missionary journey, later requested by Paul (2 Timothy 4:11)
- ◆ Called son by Peter (1 Peter 5:13).



# To whom was it written?

- ◆ It was written for a Roman (Gentile) audience more interested in action and power than discourse and dialogue.
- ◆ Mark gives the translation of Aramaic expressions so Roman audiences could understand (3:17; 5:41; 7:11, 34; 14:36; 15:34).
- ◆ He also explains Jewish customs (7:3-4).
- ◆ Mark 15:21 adds a touch of interest for Roman readers. Same Rufus Paul mentions in Romans 16:13.



# When was it written?

- ◆ Giving a specific date is difficult.
- ◆ General consensus however is that it was written while Peter was still alive.
- ◆ Most likely written in the late 50's or Early 60's (some argue as early as 45 AD).
- ◆ This would make Mark the first Gospel written.



# When was it written?

## New Testament Books

All dates are approximate

Synoptic  
Gospels

Mark 55-65 A.D.

Matthew 58-68 A.D.

Luke 60-68 A.D.

James 45-60 A.D.

Acts 61-63 A.D.

Galatians 49-50 or 53-56 A.D.

1 Thessalonians 51 A.D.

2 Thessalonians 51 A.D.

1 Corinthians 55-56 A.D.

2 Corinthians 56 A.D.

Romans 56-58 A.D.

Prison  
Epistles

Colossians 60-62 A.D.

Philemon 60-62 A.D.

Ephesians 61-62 A.D.

Philippians 62 A.D.

Gospels

History

Epistles

Prophecy

40 A.D.

50 A.D.

60 A.D.

70 A.D.

80 A.D.

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# Where was it written?

- ◆ External and internal evidence points to it being written while Mark was living in Rome.
- ◆ “Several statements from early Christian writers suggest that Mark wrote his Gospel while he was in Rome. Early traditions suggest that Peter was martyred in Rome, and Papias’s quoted statement that Mark was Peter’s interpreter points to his presence in Rome. Both Clement of Alexandria and Irenaeus also add testimony for a Roman origin of writing. The anti-Marcionite prologue to Mark indicates that Mark wrote his Gospel in Italy. The reference to Mark in 1 Peter 5:13 places him at Rome with Peter, and this provides additional information about the likelihood of a Roman origin for Mark’s Gospel.” – Thomas D. Lea



# What is the theme?

- ◆ There's no explicit state theme mentioned, but the focus is the service and sacrifice of Christ.
- ◆ Bookend confessions that Jesus is the Son of God is seen in Mark 1:1 and Mark 15:39.
- ◆ Key word in Mark is "immediately," appearing some 40 times, giving the impression of rapid development and activity.
- ◆ Key verse = 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



# What is the theme?

- ◆ Matthew and Luke are both written as historical novels of Jesus' life.
- ◆ Mark is written more like a long, short story.
- ◆ Mark contains the fewest number of parables (only 7) but the highest proportion of miracles in the Gospels.



# Uniqueness in Mark

- ◆ Incidents. The only incident peculiar to Mark is the flight of the young man (14:51-52).
- ◆ Parables. Only one parable is unique to it – the growth of the seed (4:26-29).
- ◆ Miracles. Two miracles are peculiar to it. They are the deaf and dumb man cured (7:31-37) and a blind man cured (8:22-36).



# General Outline

- ◆ 1:1-8:21 – The Galilean ministry of Jesus
- ◆ 8:22-10:52 – The withdrawal of Jesus from Galilee and Perean ministry
- ◆ 11:1-16:20 – Concluding events of Jesus' life (trial, death, resurrection)
  - ◆ Omitted from the Gospel:
    - ◆ Birth narrative and childhood
    - ◆ Early Judean ministry
    - ◆ Later Judean ministry



# Mark Chapter 1

- ◆ Introduction to Jesus and John the Baptist
  - ◆ Jesus - Son of God (1:1)
  - ◆ John - the Messenger and the Baptizer (1:2-6)
    - ◆ Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3
- ◆ Introduction of the Messiah (1:7-8)
- ◆ Baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
- ◆ Temptation of Jesus (1:12-13)



# Mark Chapter 1

- ◆ Jesus preaches in Galilee
  - ◆ Jesus calls Simon and Andrew (1:16-18)
  - ◆ Jesus calls James and John (1:19-20)
  - ◆ Jesus teaches in Capernaum (1:21-22)
  - ◆ Jesus heals the man with the unclean spirit (1:23-28)