

## The Book of Mark

### Introduction:

A comparison of size:

Matthew	Mark	Luke
28 Chapters	16 Chapters	24 Chapters
1071 verses	678 verses	1141 verses
18,345 words	11,304 words	19,482 words

\* *Analytical Greek New Testament*

Mark "is the most concise, vivid, and in some ways most exciting of the Gospels:

### **I. Mark, The author and the man:**

#### **1. The author:**

- John Mark...
- There is an unbroken historical testimony that Mark is the author.
- A quote by Eusebius that is important to our knowledge of the Gospel:

We can sum up what Eusebius said very simply: "*Mark recorded Peter's recollections and was striving for accuracy but not a tightly connected, strictly chronological narrative.*"

#### **2. The Man: Mark means "Yahweh is gracious".**

- Biblical information:
  - Acts 12:12-13: he was from a prosperous family
  - Col. 4:10,11: He was probably the cousin of Barnabas.
  - John Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the 1st Missionary journey.
  - Acts 15: 36-41: Accompanied Barnabas on mission; nothing is recorded for us beyond the fact of it.
  - He became a trusted worker with Paul (Philemon 24, Col. 4:10).
  - He worked so closely with Peter as to be called his 'son' (1 Peter 5:13). This passage also places Mark with Peter in Rome (Babylon).
  - (Mk. 14:51,52) – The Streaker
- Extra-biblical information:**
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  - Nicknamed "stump fingers."
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### **II. Date of the Gospel:**

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- Regardless of the date, the Gospel records the times of Jesus and the Apostles during Jesus' lifetime from Peter's perspective.

### **III. Recipients of the book: Most likely Gentile Christians in Rome**

Mark 3:17, 5:41; 15:22 ---

Mark 7:2-4; 15:42 ---

### **IV. Historical context:**

### **V. Themes and Characteristics**

#### **1. Themes: The facts given are meant to demonstrate two things primarily Mk.1:1:**

- Jesus is the promised Messiah ("*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus **Christ***"),
- Jesus is the Son of God ("*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ*", **the Son of God**").

#### **2. Characteristics:**

- Mark's Gospel is characterized by words of action.
  - The word "immediately" (euthys: immediately, right away, at once, as soon as) is used an astonishing 42 times in this Gospel and only 12 other times in the rest of the NT.
  - 1:10: The heavens were "torn open." (Schizo...rent, break, divide)
  - The Spirit "drove" Jesus into the wilderness (ekballo – Impelled).

- B. Not a biography (no details about Jesus' birth, circumcision, early years).
- C. It is not necessarily chronological in format.
  - a. Many miracle stories of Jesus' preaching and healing activity are in the first chapter (1:21-45)
  - b. Five controversy stories involving various opponents are in a connected block (2:1—3:6)
  - c. Three parables and further teachings about Jesus' parables are in one chapter (4:1-34)
  - d. Four more miracles stories (of different types) are found together (4:35—5:43)
  - e. Three "passion predictions" are near the middle of the Gospel (8:31—10:45)
  - f. Seven controversy dialogues with or about Jesus' opponents in Jerusalem (11:35—12:44).
- D. There are very few direct quotes from OT (an unfamiliar Gentile audience?).
- E. Of the 70 parables, Mark only records 18, some given only a single sentence.
  
- F. He records 18 out of a possible 35 miracles, more than any other single Gospel-action.
  
- G. It is a Gospel of personal reactions (there are 23 of them). People are:
  - a. "Amazed" (1:27)
  - b. "Critical" (2:7)
  - c. "Afraid" (4:41)
  - d. "Puzzled" (6:14)
  - e. "Astonished" (7:37)
  - f. "Bitterly hostile" (14:1)
- H. Very few Character sketches.
  
- I. "The Messianic Secret."
  
- J. Mark also periodically **encapsulates or summarizes the action**, in contrast to telling individual stories.
  
- K. Inclusions/Intercalations (enclosing or "sandwiching" one story in the middle of a different story (**A1, B, A2** pattern), so that each affects the interpretation of the other.)
 

Examples:

  - A1)** 2:1-5 – A paralytic is brought to Jesus
  - B)** 2:6-10 – Dispute over Jesus' authority to forgive sins
  - A2)** 2:11-12 – Jesus heals the paralytic
  
  - A1)** 11:12-14 – Jesus curses a fig tree outside of Bethany
  - B)** 11:15-19 – Jesus expels sellers and buyers from the Temple
  - A2)** 11:20-25 – the fig tree is withered; the importance of faith
- L. **Unique to Mark...**
  - a. 3:20-21: Jesus' family saying He was out of His mind.
  - b. 4:26-29: The Parable of the Growing Seed
  - c. 7:31-37: The healing of a deaf man (put fingers in ears, spit, touched his tongue and prayed.
  - d. 8:22-26: Healing of Blind man at Bethsaida (not instantaneous...look like trees walking)
  - e. 14:51,52: The Streaker...probably Mark himself.

### **The Ending:**

## **An Outline:**

### **I. Jesus' Ministry inaugurated (1:1-13)**

- A. John The Baptist, Forerunner of the Messiah (1:1-8)
- B. John Baptizes Jesus – Father identifies the Son (1:9-11)
- C. Temptations in the wilderness (1:12-13)

### **II. Jesus' Opening Ministry in Galilee (1:14-5:43)**

- A. Early Ministry – Galilee (1:14 – 4:34)
  - 1. Jesus ministry stated, *"The Time is fulfilled, repent and believe...the KOG is at Hand"* (1:14-15)
  - 2. The first Disciples (1:16-20)
  - 3. In Capernaum healing and casting out demons, a demonstration that the KOG has arrived (1:21-2:12)
  - 4. A tax collector? (2:13-17)
  - 5. Conflicts begin with Jewish authorities (2:18-3:12)
- B. Later Ministry (3:13-5:43)
  - 1. The Twelve Chosen (3:13-20)
  - 2. Teaching in parables (3:21-4:34)
  - 3. Jesus' Authority Demonstrated (4:35-5:43)

### **III. Conflict/Confusion in Ministry (6:1-8:26)**

- A. Unbelief in Nazareth – Rejection (6:1-6)
- B. Political Danger...sending the 12 to minister/death of John The Baptist (6:7-29)
- C. Popular Acclaim/Escape (6:30-56)
- D. "Tradition!" Challenged (7:1-23)
- E. "Give us a sign!" Sensationalism/Escape (7:24-8:26)

### **IV. The Gospel Center – Revelation to His Disciples (8:27-9:32)**

- A. Peter's confession (8:27-30)
- B. Jesus foretells His death and resurrection (8:31-9:2)
- C. The Transfiguration - The Resurrection Pre-figured (9:3-9:13)
- D. Demon Deliverance (9:14-29)
- E. Jesus for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time foretells His death and resurrection (9:30-32)
- F. Escape to Judea and Perea and Discipleship training (9:32-10:31)

### **V. The Last Journey (10:32-13:37)**

- A. En route to Jerusalem – training the Disciples
- B. Healing the sick in Jericho (10:46-52)
- C. Triumphal Entry (11:1-11)
- D. Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (11:12-11:14)
- E. Cleansing of Temple (11:15-19)
- F. Lessons from the withered Fig Tree (11:20-26)
- G. Jesus' Authority challenged/ further Discipleship training (11:27-12: 44)
- H. Jesus foretells the destruction of temple and signs of the end of the age (12:1-37)

### **VI. The Passion (14:1-15:47)**

- A. The Plot (14:1, 2 10, 11)
- B. An Interlude at Bethany (14:3-9)
- C. The Last Supper (14:12-26)
- D. Gethsemane (14:27-52)
- E. The Trial – Caiaphas (14:53-65)
- F. Peter Denies Christ (14:66-72)
- G. The Hearing before Pilate (15:1-20)
- H. The Crucifixion and Burial (15:21-47)

### **VII. The Resurrection (16:1-29)**

- A. The Resurrection (16:1-8)
- B. Disputed over authorship: Appearances and Great Commission (16:9-29)