

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:

- A. John Mark...
- B. There is an unbroken historical testimony that Mark is the author.
- C. 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".

- A. Biblical information:
 - a. Acts 12:12-13: he was from a prosperous family
 - b. Col. 4:10,11: He was probably the cousin of Barnabas.
 - c. John Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the 1st Missionary journey.
 - d. Acts 15: 36-41: Accompanied Barnabas on mission; nothing is recorded for us beyond the fact of it.
 - e. He became a trusted worker with Paul (Philemon 24, Col. 4:10).
 - f. 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).
 - g. (Mk. 14:51,52) – The Streaker
- B. **Extra-biblical information:**
 - A.
 - B. Nicknamed "stump fingers."
 - C.

II. Date of the Gospel:

- 1.
- 2. 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:

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

2. Characteristics:

- A. **Mark's Gospel is characterized by words of action.**
 - a. 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.
 - b. 1:10: The heavens were "torn open. " (Schizo...rent, break, divide)
 - c. 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. Inclusios/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 2nd 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)