

# **The Gospel According To MARK**

## **Introduction & Chapter 1:1-15**

**Introduction: Understanding the Bible:** 66 books (39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament) written by 40 different authors, spanning 4000 years of human history. The Bible is God's Word and explains how we got here (creation by God); why we are here (to have a relationship with God); and where we're going when we die (eternity with or without God). Every verse of the Bible points to one person, that is, the Son of God, the Messiah and Savior of mankind. It's been said that the "whole Bible bleeds Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation." It's also been said, "The Bible will keep you from sin, whereas, sin will keep you from the Bible." Warren Wiersbe writes about the Bible, "Love it, learn it and live it." I hope pray that this will be our goal as venture into the life and love of Jesus Christ through "*The Gospel According to Mark.*"

### **> Understanding the four gospels:**

- **MATTHEW** was written to the Jewish mind and heart presenting Jesus as "**Messiah and King**" through prophetic fulfillment.

- **MARK** was written to the Roman lifestyle presenting Jesus as a "**Servant to mankind.**"

- **LUKE** was written to the Greek culture presenting Jesus as the "**Son of Man.**"

- **JOHN** was written to the world universal presenting Jesus as the "**Son of God.**"

(Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the *synoptic gospels*, that is displaying the life of Christ in a similar fashion, whereas, John is known as a *supplemental gospel* describing Christ differently, whereas, the main focus is upon His deity.)

### **> The Gospel According to Mark:**

**Key verses: Mark 10:43-45; 8:34-37**

**M – Who is Mark?** Marcus, a Roman name means "*a large hammer or defense;*" his full name is John Mark, John is his Hebrew name *Johanan* meaning "*the grace of God.*" He was a Jewish Christian whose mother owned a house in Jerusalem. He was the cousin of Barnabas who had accompanied Paul on several missionary journeys of which Mark joined them for a while and then in the middle of one such journey he departed, this caused Paul not to trust Mark for missions and as a result Paul decided not to travel with him again. This tense situation split Barnabas and Paul from traveling together; of which Paul and Silas teamed up together.

It's believed that Mark wrote this letter while in Rome. Let's look at some scriptures that unveil the life of Mark:

- **Mark 14:51 (Mark introduces himself)**

- **Acts 12:12 (A godly family)**

- **Acts 13:1-5 (A missionary)**

- **Acts 13:13 (His weakness)**

- **Acts 15:36-41 (Mark will go again)**

**Paul also writes about Mark in his letters to the churches - Col 4:10-11 - Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. 2 Tim 4:11-12 - Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. Philemon 23-24 - Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. Peter wrote about Mark in 1 Peter 5:13-14 - She that is in Babylon, elect together with (you), saluteth you; and (so doth) Mark my son. Salute one another with a kiss of love. Peace be unto you all that are in Christ.**

**A – Mark the AUTHOR** – It's believed the accounts of this gospel were actually dictated from Peter's personal relationship with Jesus. This gospel is very fast pace, a key word is "immediately," it's used more than 30 times throughout the gospel. Mark's gospel wants you to know the deeds of Jesus more than the words or parables of Jesus. Jesus is truly presented as a "servant!" We will discover His service for mankind in chapters 1 – 13 and His sacrifice in chapters 13 -16. This gospel is a "witness document," a proclamation! Jesus the Son of God battling a cosmic war against humankind's greatest enemy, Satan. This battle is fought in Mark 1:12-13; 3:7-12;4:35-41; 8:34-38; 11:27-33. Mark certainly wanted the Christians throughout the Roman Empire to know that Jesus will enable them to make it through their fiery trials.

- **This gospel leads to a pinnacle of truth by revealing Jesus as the "Son of God":**

**Mark 1:1-2 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

**Mark 8:29 - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."**

**Mark 15:39** - *So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"*

> Tradition tells us that Mark became a bishop and later a martyr, his body was removed to Venice and buried there. His gospel was written with the Roman army in mind, he displays Christ power in service through a progressive series of victorious conflicts. This leads us to the letter "R" pointing to the place and the people Mark specifically wanted to reach with the "good news" of Jesus Christ!

**R – Mark in ROME** – What was Rome like when Mark wrote this victorious gospel in A.D. 64, listen to its description as presented in a commentary by William Lane.

**K – Mark and the KINGDOM** (Chapter 1:1-15):

(v1-8) The **PROPHETS!** (Matthew chapter 3)

(v9-12) The **POWER!** (Matthew chapter 4:1-11)

(v14-15) The **PREACHING!** (The GOSPEL - Rom 1:16-17 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 2 Cor 4:3-6 - But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Gal 1:6-9 - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Eph 1:13-14 - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Eph 6:14-20 - Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints — and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*