

The Gospel of Mark

The "Good News" Is Here!

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The Author: Who Was John Mark?

➤ **He was a Jewish Christian:**
Acts 12:12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

➤ **He was under Peter's Apostolic Authority:**
 "And the Elder said this also: "Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately whatever he remembered of the things said and done by the Lord..." (Papias).

What Was The Situation?

➤ **Mark finished the gospel after Peter's death:**
 "Mark declared, who is called "stump-fingered", because he had rather small fingers in comparison with the stature of the rest of his body. He was the interpreter of Peter. After the death of Peter himself he wrote down this same gospel in the regions of Italy" (Anti-Marcionite prologue to the gospels 160-180 A.D.)

➤ **Date: 64-68 A.D.** 1 Peter 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

What Was The Situation?

➤ “Neither human resources, nor imperial munificence, nor appeasement of the gods, eliminated sinister suspicions that the fire had been instigated. To suppress this rumor, Nero fabricated scapegoats—and punished with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians (as they were popularly called) ... Dressed in wild animals’ skins, they were torn to pieces by dogs, or crucified, or made into torches to be ignited after dark as substitutes for daylight” (Tacitus, *Annals* XV. 44.)

Evidence For A Roman Composition

Latin phrases:

Army: legion (5:9); praetorium (15:16); centurion (15:39)

Courts: speculator (6:27); flagellare (15:15)

Commerce: denarius (12:15); quadrons (12:42)

Time: four watches (6:48; 13:35)

Mark: A Gospel of Martyrdom

➤ **Christians were attacked by wild beasts and were cast into the “wilderness.”**

Mark 1:13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

➤ **Christians were falsely accused of sedition and of being public menaces.**

Mark 3:21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”

Mark: A Gospel of Martyrdom

➤ **Christians were under pressure to deny Christ:**

Mark 4:17 ...and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

Mark 8:34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

The Structure of Mark

Mark 1:16-8:29 Jesus' demonstration of deity
Confession: You are the Christ

Mark 8:31-15:38 Jesus' road to the cross
Confession: Truly this man was the Son of God

Mark 15:40-16:8 Jesus' burial and resurrection

➤ "Immediately" – Used 40 times!
➤ 150 usages of the "historical present"

The Good News Has Arrived!

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

Subjective genitive = message Jesus proclaimed
Objective genitive = message *concerning* Jesus

Gospel
Greek = Euangelion
Hebrew = Bawsar

Jesus Is "The Christ"

Prophet: 1 Kings 19:16 ...Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

Priest: Exodus 29:7 Then you shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him (Aaron).

King: 1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the Lord anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?"

The Messiah As Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 'It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

The Messiah As King And Priest

Psalms 110:1,4 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies... The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

The King Has Arrived

Mark 1:1-4 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way; **The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.'**" John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The King Has Arrived

Isaiah 40:9-11 Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "**Here is your God!**" **Behold**, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. **Behold**, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Summary

- We have been reading how Isaiah was pointing forward to the need of a righteous king who would also be a servant capable of "healing" God's people.
- The book of Mark announces to the world that He is here!
- Come and study the book of Mark with us as he proves to us that God came for us in history in the person of Jesus Christ.
