

THE Gospels Bible study **The Gospel of Mark**

Mark- (Greek: κατὰ Μάρκον εὐαγγέλιον, *kata Markon euangelion*) or the **Gospel according to Mark** (τὸ εὐαγγέλιον κατὰ Μάρκον, *to euangelion kata Markon*). The Gospel of Mark is one of four gospels in the Holy Bible and is the second book in chronological order presented in the New Testament. Mark (John Mark was his full name) was an associate with Simon Peter, one of the 12 apostles that followed Jesus Christ throughout His public ministry on earth.

John Mark is a minor biblical figure who lived during the first century. He's traditionally believed to also be Mark the Evangelist, the author of the Gospel of Mark. In the Book of Acts, John Mark was a companion of Paul and Barnabas. While the Bible doesn't confirm or deny this, many believe he developed a close relationship with Peter, and that his gospel records Peter's account of Jesus' life and ministry. Peter was the name given to Simon by Jesus Christ personally (Mark 3:16). He was very close to Jesus and after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, Peter was one of the founders of the early Christian church. Although the book was written by Mark, the facts contained in it are thought to be the accounts of Peter during his ministry with Jesus. Mark has heard the story from Peter, a student who admires their teacher would more than likely try to make their teacher look better, but the teacher would not have that and this would give more weight to the argument of who wrote the gospel. If he was, in fact, Mark the Evangelist, then according to the early church, John Mark was also the first bishop of Alexandria and the first person to establish a Christian church in Africa. His name first appears in Acts 12:12

The consensus among scholars is that the book of Mark was written as early as 50 and 60 A.D and as late as 70 and 80 A.D. The author is referenced several times in the New Testament starting in the book of Acts, chapters 12 and 13, in Colossians 4:10, and finally in 2 Timothy 4:11. The book of Mark was probably written in Italy, and perhaps even Rome. Mark has 16 chapters and is the shortest book of the four gospels. However, the details of the events and miracles of Jesus in this book are consistent with the other three gospels; Matthew, Luke and John. The Gospel of Mark is thought to be the 1st written Gospel, not primarily an oral culture, but also a manuscript culture. Mark is a gospel that is talked about, written down, then read. Mark has us going through a single-minded movement. Jesus is seen as miracle worker and crucified Lord. Mark is a more simple Gospel, but deeply theological, simpler story line and fewer pieces in the story than others. Mark begins Gospel of speaking about Jesus the messiah, anointed, and means quite a lot in Judaism. The authorship generally given to John Mark who was a student and disciple of Peter, tends to make Peter look the worst, yet Peter was the rock and the basis of the church. He was highly respected in the growing Christian community. Peter would tell the stories in which he knows he would look bad, and tell John Mark to write it down, because that is how it happened. Beakner says that Mark is a man in a hurry, no breath, no time to lose, Mark uses immediately a lot, and the writer shows that time is short as we are headed to the cross. Mark writes for people who already believe.

The consistent thing you can say about the word Anointed, is that in Judaism in this period is that it is always used of one who is God's agent in fulfilling God's promises to Israel. Mark begins that Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and later the disciples have been given the keys to the kingdom of God. Mark unlike the other Gospels do not define what God's kingdom is like, Mark may have assumed that readers of the Gospel would know what God's kingdom would be like.

God's sovereignty is to act and restore God's people. **The Targums-** Jews in the time of our Lord could not read and understand the scriptures and were reduced down to paraphrasing and later written down as such, but done in Aramaic. Marks Gospel ends with the story of Jesus is Risen, does not live on as Jesus the Martyr and living in the hearts of the faithful, nor Jesus who was wrongly put to death and lives on in the

souls of his followers.

The notion of the resurrection of the dead has no place in the pagan traditions, pagans have two attitudes, tradition of Homer, wouldn't it be wonderful, the other is that it won't happen and you wouldn't want it to because the body becomes bad. In Ezekiel 37 you have the "*ruack*" of God's breath gives life to the valley of the dry bones. "The rising from the dead means the ultimate completion of God's promise of fulfilling the promise, or; the first down payment of God is shown in the resurrection of Christ."

Mark calls Jesus teacher-*diakanos*, there are signs which are teaching for Jesus. Jesus is a warrior so to speak and fights the battle but in the end wins by losing the battle. Mark's Jesus is powerful, authoritative, intense, impatient, kind, compassionate, good, and heroic. Jesus bears up so much intense wild Love for the people that he insists on dying for them and gracious enough for dying for them. He moves through fast leaving people confused, spinning, but also hopeful and steadfast all the way up until the resurrection. Jesus is shown to be concerned about Gentiles by Mark. This is about who Jesus was. Jesus is the Son of God, and it is in the very first sentence of the gospel, the entire book is obsessed about his death and the passion and resurrection has to be dealt with. Why did Jesus do this? This is the way Jesus wanted it through God. Jesus wanted to pay the ransom for humanity. There is constant movement in this Gospel and at some point the movement stops and Mark takes a close look at Jesus, describing in detail where and what Jesus does and puts in great detail about the area around him. Mark uses one word instead of several to give us the best possible picture of what is going on. Mark has half of his book dealing with the last days in Jerusalem and how he was handled. Mark ends his book almost in the middle of a sentence at Mark 16.8, nothing contradicts the other ending by the church. The ending is significant to portray the world, there is no way to tie up the loose ends, and this is the power of the ending. Mark's last word is AFRAID, Mark knew what fear was all about, Mark was a disciple of a Martyred teacher. It is not about fear, the last thing is hope, you will see him as he told you.