

Discover the New Testament – Mark

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 | lifeatvictory.com/discoverthent

- The New Testament is a collection of 27 books by 8 or 9 authors (Hebrews is disputed), written over a 50 year time period.
- Major Book Divisions of the New Testament:
 - Historical – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & Acts
 - Doctrinal – Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I&II Thessalonians, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, Jude and I John.
 - Personal – I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and II & III John
 - Prophetic – Revelation
- New Testament authors:
 - All of the writers were Jews except Luke.
 - Only Matthew, Peter, and John were of the original 12 disciples of the Lord.
 - Mark, James, and Jude were engaged in active ministry in the early church and had been with the apostolic group.
 - Neither Luke nor Paul were eyewitnesses of the life of Christ, but both men were well known to those who were.

The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the “Synoptic Gospels” because they take similar views of the life, ministry, and teaching of Jesus.
- They focus on the Kingdom of God.
- The Gospel of John approaches the Life of Jesus from a completely different view point. It omits things the others cover and covers things the others omit. John focuses on Eternal Life, not the Kingdom.

The Gospel of Mark

- Author: John Mark (John was his Hebrew name, and Mark is a Greek name) was the son of a woman named Mary and a friend of the Apostles.

Acts 12:11-12 – 11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." 12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

- A cousin to Barnabas – Colossians 4:10
- Accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey

Acts 12:25 - When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

- Worked with Peter and Timothy – I Peter 5:13, II Timothy 4:11
- Much younger than the Apostles, many believe he didn't accompany Jesus.

- Early church fathers report that Mark wrote down those things that Peter preached, accompanied Peter to Rome as an interpreter, and wrote his gospel after the death of Peter in approximately 64 A.D.
- Many Bible commentators suggest that Mark was the “young man” that fled from the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of the Lord’s arrest there. – Mark 14:51-52
- The Gospel of Mark contains a vividness of description that is consistent with it being an eyewitness account; details that are unnecessary to the flow of the narrative are included in the gospel.

Examples include the following:

- James and John leave their father in the boat with the servants when they heed Jesus' call to follow him (1:20)
- James and John go with Jesus and the rest into the house of Simon and Andrew (1:29)
- Jesus takes Peter's mother-in-law by the hand and raises her to her feet (1:31)
- On the evening of the Sabbath, when the sun has set, the sick are brought to Jesus to be healed (1:32)
- In the morning, long before daylight, Jesus gets up and goes out (1:35)
- There are so many people crowded into the house that there is no room even near the door (2:2)
- The paralytic is carried by four men and the roof is dug out in order to lower the paralytic down (2:3-4)
- Jesus looks around at his critics with anger (3:5)
- Jesus sits in a boat in the water and teaches the crowd of people on the shore (4:1)
- Jesus is asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat (4:37-38)
- There are about two thousand pigs into which Jesus sends the legion of unclean spirits (5:13)
- Jesus instructs the people to sit down upon the green grass in groups of hundreds and fifties (6:39-40)
- Jesus puts his fingers in the ears of the deaf and dumb man, touches the man's tongue with saliva, looks to heaven with a deep sigh and says, "Ephphatha" (7:33)
- Jesus spits on a blind man's eyes and lays his hands on him; the blind man is described as gradually regaining his sight (8:23-25)
- Peter asks Jesus whether he should build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah (9:5)
- Jesus takes children into his arms, blesses them, and lays his hands on them (10:16)
- The blind man who is healed in Jericho is identified as the son of Timaeus (10:46)
- Jesus is crucified at the third hour (15:25)
- Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bring spices to the tomb very early, before the sun has risen (16:2)

Background:

- Written between A.D. 50 – 68, probably from Rome and likely after the death of Peter.
- This gospel is a historical narrative of the life of Christ and is filled with facts and Latin terms that would appeal to the Roman mind.
- There are some 18 Latin words found embedded in NT texts, but no fewer than 10 of them are found in Mark’s Gospel. This provides further indication that Mark was writing to appeal to Romans.
 - In two places Mark pauses to explain Jewish terms with Latin terms. For example at Mk. 12.42 he explains the two lepta of the widow using the Latin term ‘quadrans’, and at Mk. 15.16 he refers to the governor’s hall as the ‘praetorium’. Other examples in Mark would be the use of the term ‘modius’ in Mk. 4.21 for a measuring vessel, or ‘census’ in Mk. 12.14, or the use of ‘flagellare’ to refer to the whipping of Jesus (Mk. 15.15). There is also the use of

the term 'sextarius' for a measuring cup (only in Mark), the use of 'speculator' for a member of the governor's staff (only in Mark).

- There is little emphasis on Jewish law or customs.
- Emphasizes the urgency in the ministry of Jesus. (The Greek word "atheist" meaning straightway, immediately or forthwith is used 42 times in this gospel, more than all the rest of the New Testament)
- Mark explains Hebrew customs and makes no reference to Old Testament prophecies after the first chapter.

Mark 7:1-4 – **1** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and **2** saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. **3** (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. **4** When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

Summary of Mark:

- Presentation of the Lord's Servant – 1:1-13
- The Manifestation of the Lord's Servant – 1:14 – 3:6
- The Opposition to the Lord's Servant – 3:7 – 8:13
- The Instruction to the Disciples in View of the Opposition – 8:14 – 10:52
- The Rejection of the Lord's Servant – 11:1 – 15:47
- The Resurrection of the Lord's Servant – 16:1-14
- The Great Commission to the Church – 16:15-18
- The Ascension of Jesus – Mark 16:19-20

Theme:

- Mark reveals Jesus as a Conquering Servant. Mark 10:45 is both a climax and summary of the Gospel of Mark: "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- Jesus is presented as the "Servant of the Lord," a theme found in the Old Testament prophets (Isaiah 42:1, 53:1-11; Zechariah 3:8)
- Mark reveals Jesus as the Son of God.

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

- Mark reveals relatively few of the words of Jesus, but emphasizes His mighty works.

Miracles:

- Stilling the Storm – 4:35
- Feeding the 5,000 – 6:30
- Walking on water – 6:48
- Feeding the 4,000 – 8:1
- Withering the fig tree – 11:12

Healings:

- Cleansing the leper – 1:40
- Healing of Peter's mother-in-law – 1:30
- Healing the sick at evening – 1:32
- Healing a paralytic – 2:3
- Healing the hemorrhaging woman – 5:25
- Healing a man's withered hand – 3:1

- Healing the Gentile woman's daughter – 7:4
- Healing the epileptic boy – 9:17
- Healing a blind man – 10:46
- Healing a deaf mute – 7:31
- Healing a blind man at Bethsaida – 8:22
- Raising Jairus' daughter from the dead – 5:22,35

Casting out Demons:

- Demons in the herd of swine – 5:1
 - Casting out an unclean spirit – 1:23
- Mark reveals that we are to serve, deny ourselves and take up the cross, and lose our lives for Jesus and the sake of the Gospel.

Mark 8:34-36 – **34** Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36** What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

- The doctrine of the operation and keys of the Kingdom of God is revealed Mark 4:2-30.

Mark 4:10-13 – **10** When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. **11** He told them, "*The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.* But to those on the outside everything is said in parables **12** so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" **13** Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? *How then will you understand any parable?*