

Mark

The Gospel of the Servant of God

Introduction

Mark is the **shortest** of the **four gospels** (Matthew, **Mark**, Luke, John). From the 4th till the 19th centuries it was largely neglected by scholars because it was commonly regarded as an **abridgment** of **Matthew**. But by the end of the **19th century** the theory that **Mark** was the *first Gospel written* gained **widespread acceptance**.

Authorship and Date

The **Gospel of Mark** does **not name its author**. However, sufficient **evidence** is available from **early church tradition** (*external* evidence) and from **evidence within the gospel** itself (*internal* evidence) to identify the **author as Mark**.

John Mark was the son of **Mary**, a woman of wealth and position in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). **Mark** was a **close friend** (and possibly a **convert**) of the apostle **Peter** (I Peter 5:13). It is generally agreed that **Mark** received much of the **information** in his **gospel** from **Peter**. With **Peter's apostolic authority** behind the **gospel**, there was never any challenge to its **inclusion** in the **canon** of **Scripture**.

According to **Ryrie**, the **date** for the **writing** of the **gospel of Mark** is either in the **50s or 60s A.D.**

Distinctive Approach of Mark

Mark wrote his gospel for **Gentile readers** in *general* and **Roman readers** in *particular*. For this reason the **genealogy** of the **Messiah** is not included, for it would have meant little to the **Gentiles**. There are only about **63 quotations** or **allusions** from the **Old Testament** in **Mark** as compared with **128** in **Matthew** and between **90** and **100** in **Luke**.

Also **Mark**, being the gospel of **God's Servant**, emphasizes what **Jesus did** rather than what **He said**. It is a book of **action** (the word *euthus*, “**at once**” or “**immediately**,” occurs more than **40 times**).

Contents

The **theme** of **Mark** is the **Jesus the Messiah**, of the **Servant of God**.

The key verse is **Mark 10:45**, which *divides* the **gospel** into **two major divisions**: the **service** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52) and the **sacrifice** of the **Servant** (11:1-16:20). (Introduction to Mark is based on **excerpts** and **quotes** from the **Bible Knowledge Commentary**, pg. 95, and the **Ryrie Study Bible**, pg. 1574.)

I. The *Service* of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. *His Preparation* for **Ministry** (1:1-20)

1. The *Coming* of the **Lord's Messenger** (1:1-8)

¹ The beginning of the **gospel** of **Jesus the Messiah**, the **Son of God**.

² As it is written in **Isaiah the prophet**:

“BEHOLD, I SEND **MY MESSENGER** AHEAD OF YOU,
WHO WILL PREPARE **YOUR WAY**;

³ THE **VOICE** OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
‘MAKE READY THE **WAY** OF THE LORD,
MAKE **HIS PATHS STRAIGHT**.”

⁴ **John the Baptist** appeared in the **wilderness**
preaching a **baptism of repentance** for the **forgiveness of sins**.

⁵ And **all** the country of **Judea** was going out to him,
and **all** the people of **Jerusalem**;
and they were being **baptized** by him in the **Jordan River**, *confessing* their **sins**.

⁶ **John** was **clothed** with **camel's hair** and *wore* a **leather belt** around his waist,
and his diet was **locusts** and **wild honey**.

⁷ And he was *preaching*, and saying,
“**After me One** is coming who is **mightier than I**,
and I am not fit to **stoop down** and **untie** the thong of **His sandals**.”

⁸ **I baptized** you with **water**; but **He** will **baptize you** with the **Holy Spirit**.”

2. The *Commencement* of the **Messiah's Ministry** (1:9-15)

⁹ In **those days** **Jesus** came from **Nazareth** in **Galilee**
and was **baptized** by **John** in the **Jordan**.

¹⁰ *Immediately* coming up out of the water,
He saw the **heavens opening**, and the **Spirit** like a **dove** *descending* upon Him;

¹¹ and a **voice** came out of the **heavens**:
“**You are My beloved Son**, in **You I am well-pleased**.”

¹² **Immediately** the **Spirit** *impelled Him to go out into the **wilderness**.

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**.

¹⁴ Now after **John** had been taken into **custody**, **Jesus** came into **Galilee**, **preaching** the **gospel of God**, ¹⁵ and saying,

“The **time is fulfilled**, and the **kingdom of God** is at hand; **repent** and **believe** in the **gospel**.”

3. The *Calling* of the “**fishers of men**” (1:16-20)

¹⁶ As **He** was going along by the **Sea of Galilee**, **He** saw **Simon** and **Andrew**, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were **fishermen**.

¹⁷ And **Jesus** said to them, “**Follow Me**, and I will **make you** become **fishers of men**.”

¹⁸ **Immediately** they **left** their nets and **followed Him**.

¹⁹ Going on a little farther, **He** saw **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother, who were also in the **boat** mending the nets.

²⁰ **Immediately He called them**; and they **left** their **father** Zebedee in the boat with the **hired servants**, and went away to **follow Him**.

Personal Application Remaining *Faithful* in the **Ministry** of the **Gospel**...

A. *Proclaiming* the time honored **message** to “**repent** and **believe**” in the **gospel of Jesus the Messiah**, the **gospel of God** (1:1, 14-15)

B. *Pronouncing* the **priority** of receiving “**spiritual**” **baptism** or **regeneration** (birth) through **faith in Messiah**

“I (John) **baptized** you with **water**; but **He** (Jesus) will **baptize you** with the **Holy Spirit**.” (1:8)

Jesus answered (**Nicodemus**), “Truly, truly, **I say** to you, unless one is **born of water** and the **Spirit** he **cannot enter** into the **kingdom of God**. (John 3:5)

For by **one Spirit we** were all baptized into one body,
whether **Jews** or **Greeks**, whether **slaves** or **free**,...(I Corinthians 12:13)

He (Messiah) saved us, not on the basis of **deeds**
which we have done in **righteousness**,
but according to **His mercy**, by the **washing** of regeneration
and **renewing** by the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5)

C. **Producing those** who will become “**fishers of men,**” which is the
calling of believers in every **generation** (1:16-20)