

The Gospel According to Mark: An Introduction | Mark 1:1

Purpose

The Gospel of Mark begins with the purpose of this book immediately in verse 1.

- “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

Place and Timing

Evangelical scholars have suggested dates for the writing of Mark’s gospel ranging from A.D. 50 to 70. Mark is most likely writing to Roman Gentile believers due to the terms used, writing style and references in Latin.

The Person of Mark

Mark, also known as John Mark – John (Jewish Name) Mark (Gentile Name) showed himself useful in service.

● **Time with Paul**

- Piecing together Mark’s story in scripture shows us that Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10) who served as one of the Pastor’s at the Church of Antioch with Saul (Paul). After begin on mission to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas take Mark to with them back to Antioch. (Acts 12:25)
- Mark accompanies Saul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. (Acts 13:4-5)
 - Mark then defects and returns to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13)
- Paul and Barnabas are set to go on their second mission but split over taking Mark. This leads to a split mission with Paul taking Silas to Syria, and Barnabas taking Mark to Cyprus. (Acts 15:36-41)
- Mark is with Paul in his first imprisonment in Rome. (Philemon 1:23-24)
- Nearing the end of Paul’s life during his second imprisonment in Rome, we see Paul ask Timothy to bring Mark, for he is useful to him for ministry.

● **Time with Peter**

- Mark is a son in the faith of Peter, and it is during Mark’s time under his preaching that he matures and proves himself in ministry after he left Paul and Barnabas. (1 Peter 5:12-13)
- It is Peter who will preach the eyewitness account of Jesus, and this preaching will directly impact Mark as he writes the Gospel of Mark.

Structure

- 16 Chapters – the first 8 revealing Christ’s authority by his works and miracles, and the last 8 revealing his authority by his death and resurrection. This is written as a fast moving account proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God.

Application:

- God saves and uses broken and weak sinners to advance the good news of the Gospel that has saved and reconciled them to Himself. We MUST NEVER QUIT.
- We ALL as a member of the body of Christ lead lives of joyful obedience and service to our Lord and King.
- The Goal of Mark is to lead you by the power of the Holy Spirit to confess what Peter confessed, that Jesus is the Christ - The Son of God who comes to take away the sins of the world.
- Just as we are told in Mark 1:15 - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; ^[a]repent and believe in the gospel.”