

## OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE THE GOSPEL OF MARK

September 26, 2018

### *Jesus and John the Baptist*

In all four gospels the relationship between Jesus and John varies.

In Matthew 3, John knows Jesus as soon as Jesus comes to John at the Jordan River.

In their exchange, John questions his own worthiness to baptize Jesus.

In Mark 1, John preaches of a coming leader but he does not call that leader by name.

In Luke 1, John is a cousin of Jesus whose birth is foretold by Gabriel.

In both Matthew 11 and Luke 7, John sends disciples to question Jesus about his status ...  
Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist witnesses the spirit descend like a dove upon Jesus.  
He preaches explicitly that Jesus is the Son of God.

### *See that no one knows of this*

All theories simply offer logical reasons as to why Jesus told people not to speak about him.

Publicity over his miracles could hinder his mission and divert attention away from his message.

It was critical for the people to remain focused on the message of salvation.

### *Review of Herod the Great and Family Tree*

#### *The Q Source*

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke were written independently but both used Mark as a source.

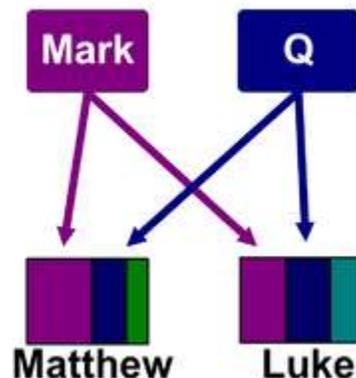
Q was seen as the most likely explanation behind the common material in Matthew and Luke.

Q is from the German (Quelle – meaning *source*)

They are primarily the sayings of Jesus not found in the Gospel of Mark.

The material was drawn from the oral tradition of the early church.

#### Two-source Hypothesis



## **Lesson 25 – Matthew**

Matthew records more quotations from the Old Testament than any other New Testament author. 12 times Mathew tells us that events occurred to fulfill what had been prophesied in the OT. Matthew wanted the Jews to understand that the entire OT pointed to Christ. Jesus perfectly fulfilled all prophecies concerning the Messiah. The legal lineage of Jesus was through the line of David. It reminded the Jews of the unconditional covenant God made with David to establish his throne.

### *The Sermon on the Mount*

In these chapters Jesus gives the ethical foundation of the Kingdom. He sets a high standard and shows that the Kingdom of God starts in the hearts of the people. The Kingdom is available to all who seek it but it demands inward and outward obedience. Jesus makes it possible for us to live according to the will of God.

### *The Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century*

They were waiting for a political kingdom. They expected an earthly monarchy that would restore their independence and power. The Messiah was to reign from Jerusalem. The Jews would hold a place of prominence and honor on earth.

### *In Matthew 10 Jesus begins to clarify the nature of the kingdom.*

There is an incredible cost involved with discipleship. Preaching the Kingdom does not bring glory and honor. On the contrary the disciples will be rejected, arrested, hated, and even killed. They must be willing to take up their cross and follow him (to sacrifice their lives).

### *The Kingdom Parables*

We learn there will be varied responses to the gospel message. The righteous and the wicked live side-by-side but they will be separated at the final judgment. From small and insignificant beginnings the Kingdom will grow and spread. The Kingdom was meant to change the lives of the people.

### *Jesus' Death*

Matthew alone records that at the time of Jesus' death the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The death of Jesus removed the barrier between the people and God. Fellowship with God was restored. The earth shook, tombs broke open, and many people were raised to life.

### *Progression of Thought*

From the very start it is the Gentiles who recognize and worship Jesus. Salvation is not through our birthright. Jesus begins his ministry to the sick and outcast. The message of Jesus is to the Jews first. They are to be given every opportunity to come to Christ.

### *Five Great Discourses*

Found in Chapters 5-7 / Chapter 10 / Chapter 13 / Chapter 18 / Chapters 24-25

Each passage ends with *now when Jesus had finished saying these things*.

Scholars believe the author wanted to provide something to be read in public worship.

The five divisions are reminiscent of the five books of the Law.

The teachings of Christ could be seen as the new Torah.



The Gospel of Mark was written around 70 AD.

In Mark 1:1 the author signals a change from the oral tradition to a written account of the gospel.

The opening words of Mark suggest that what follows fulfills the Old Testament promise.

Until the Gospel of Mark there was no sequential account of the life of Jesus.

However it is not a biography since it speaks nothing of his birth or early years.

It describes only his brief period of public ministry which culminated in his death.

The promise of a future deliverance is missing in that it does not include his resurrection.

The call to discipleship is at the heart of the Gospel of Mark.

The author provided the basic narrative framework behind the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

He writes from a consistent point of view.

He maintains a healthy tension between the theology of glory and the theology of the cross.

It is only in offering himself on the cross that Jesus is truly the Son of God.

One of the other features of Mark that stands out is the evident weakness of his disciples.

They seem to become more bewildered and frightened as the story unfolds.

In the gospel the author gives special attention to Peter (so he might be one of his companions).

Peter sets a standard that is within reach for the rest of us.

Some believe John Mark was the author of this Gospel but it is not confirmed within its pages.

It was written by someone who knew Greek as many quotations are taken from the Septuagint.

John Mark: It was common for Jews to bear both a Semitic name and a Greek name.

John was one of the most common names among Palestinian Jews.

Mark was the most common name in the Roman world.

John Mark is named in the Acts of the Apostles.

He is an assistant accompanying Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys.

He went with them on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and as far as Perga.

*Outline of Mark (Part 1) – Jesus Heals and Teaches with Power*

Chapter 1                    Beginning of Jesus' Ministry  
                                  The Baptism of Jesus  
                                  The Temptation / Beginning of the Galilean Ministry  
                                  Jesus Calls the First Disciples  
                                  An Exorcism in the Synagogue  
                                  Various Healing Stories

*Reflections*

In Mark we know the least about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. After his temptation the rest of the gospel is occupied with showing the nearness of the kingdom. There is an urgent necessity for his followers to heed the summons to prepare for it. In Mark the first miracle is an exorcism carried out in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Chapters 2-3                Controversy at Capernaum  
                                  Healing of the Paralytic  
                                  Reframing Jewish Traditions  
                                  Call of the Rest of the Disciples  
                                  Beelzebul / Jesus' Family

*Reflections*

When Jesus teaches in the synagogue the people are amazed. Mark uses three different root words (for the same word) to describe the reactions of the people. People also believed Jesus was out of his mind. The Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking some of their traditions. People were afraid when Jesus did some of his miracles – calming of the sea / exorcisms

Chapter 4-4:34            Parables of the Kingdom (only four parables in Mark)



Parable of the Sower likens the Word to seed scattered on various soils.

Parable of the Growing Seed shows the mystery and the power of the Word of God. It produces a harvest right before our eyes even though we do not understand how it happens.

Parable of the Mustard Seed shows us how the smallest seed can become significant.  
The kingdom of God will have an insignificant beginning but one day will show true greatness.

Parable of the Tenants reveals how the Jews receive the message of God through his Son.

Chapters 4:35-6:6a    Miracles Around the Sea of Galilee  
Chapters 6:6b-8:26    Preaching in Galilee

*Outline of Mark (Part 2) – The Son of Man Must Suffer*  
Chapters 8:27-10      Preparing the Disciples for Suffering  
                                 Three Passion Narratives  
                                 Discipleship Defined

### *Reflections*

Chapter 8 is called the *hinge* of the gospel as there is a transition in message and location.  
It is decision time for those who follow Jesus and action is required.  
We will continue to hear the mixed reactions to Jesus and his message:  
Some cry out for help in their disbelief (9:24).  
The rich young man goes away shocked and grieving because he has great wealth (10:22).  
The chief priests and the scribes are threatened by Jesus and plot to kill him (11:18).  
The love and devotion of Mary (14:2-9) stands in sharp contrast to Judas (Mark 14:10).

Discipleship has a high cost.  
Followers of Jesus must deny themselves and take up their cross.  
They are to lose their lives for the sake of the gospel.  
The cost of discipleship is humility and learning to be servant of all.  
They are to remove any obstacles that stand between them and total devotion to Christ.

The term *Son of Man* is used to show the authority of Jesus and the necessity of suffering.  
The author records the relentless ministry of Jesus.  
Even though tired he was moved with compassion to be with the people.  
The greatest example Jesus gives us is his total surrender to the will of God (Gethsemane).

Chapters 11-13      Ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem

### *Reflections*

In Mark 13 the destruction that will mark the coming of the age is both political and cosmic.  
The clue to the approaching end will be the destruction of the Temple.  
In the meanwhile the task of the followers is to bring the good news of Christ to the Gentiles.  
There was no way to determine when *the end* would take place.  
It was a secret known only to God.  
The new covenant people could be sure it would occur within the life of the first generation.  
It was the responsibility of the community to be faithful and watchful.

Prediction of the destruction of the Temple gives us the best clue to the reason for the gospel. Some leading apostles were already put to death (Peter, Paul, and James). Jerusalem and its temple fell into hands of the Roman authorities. The Jerusalem Christians fled the city. The community was gravely concerned over these developments. Its members needed some assurance that the new age would arrive within their lifetime. All had to be explained in terms of the power of God to fulfill his promises.

The Maccabean Revolt led to the writings of Daniel.

The Roman invasion of Palestine and the disruption to the life of the Christians in Jerusalem seem to be the occasion for the writing of Mark.

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Chapter 16:1-8      Jesus Has Been Raised

### *Reflection*

The news that Jesus has been raised fills the women with trembling, astonishment, and fear. All three terms are found in the Septuagint version of Daniel 10. In Daniel he is responding to an apocalyptic vision of the eschatological king. The open-ended way in which the author ended his gospel was part of that apocalyptic tradition. Other writers added a more standard ending but that was unnecessary. The suffering and death of Jesus were essential stages on the path to glory. Christ will appear in triumph when the purpose of God for his creation is complete. The obligation of the community is to fulfill its mission, to stand firm and to watch.

### **Assignment for October 3**

Complete the Exercises from Lesson 26 on Pages 141-144  
Read the *Gospel of Luke* or the portions outlined on Page 144

