

SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Author: Mark (also called John Mark. He is a cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10 & close associate of Peter (1 Peter 5:13) and Paul (Colossians 4:10, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:11)).

Date Written: Traditionally held to have been written sometime between A.D. 53-56 though some scholars date Mark's gospel to as late as A.D. 62-65.

Theme: Jesus is the Son of God with authority to teach and forgive, the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Savior to all who believe.

Quick Outline:

- I. Introduction (1:1–15)
- II. Demonstration of Jesus' Authority (1:16–8:26)
 - a. Jesus' early Galilean ministry (1:16–3:12)
 - b. Jesus' later Galilean ministry (3:13–6:6)
 - i. Calling of the Twelve (3:13–35)
 - ii. Parables (4:1–34)
 - iii. Nature miracle, exorcism, and healing (4:35–5:43)
 - iv. Rejection at Nazareth (6:1–6)
 - c. Work beyond Galilee (6:7–8:26)
 - i. Sending of the Twelve (6:7–13)
 - ii. Death of John the Baptist (6:14–56)
 - iii. Teachings on moral defilement (7:1–23)
 - iv. Opening to Gentiles (7:24–30)
 - v. Additional miracles in Decapolis and Bethsaida (7:31–8:26)
- III. Testing Jesus' Authority in Suffering (8:27–16:8)
 - a. Journey to Jerusalem (8:27–10:52)
 - i. Peter's confession (8:27–33)
 - ii. Call to discipleship (8:34–9:1)
 - iii. Transfiguration and healing (9:2–29)
 - iv. Instruction on discipleship (9:30–10:52)
 - b. Entering and judging Jerusalem (11:1–13:37)
 - i. Triumphal entry to Jerusalem (11:1–11)
 - ii. Jesus' judgment on religious leaders (11:12–12:44)
 - iii. Jesus and the coming judgment (13:1–37)
 - c. Death and resurrection in Jerusalem (14:1–16:8)
 - i. Betrayal (14:1–52)
 - ii. Trial (14:53–15:20)
 - iii. Crucifixion and resurrection (15:21–16:8)
 - iv. [4. "Longer ending of Mark" (16:9–20)]



Summary:

Mark's Gospel is the earliest and shortest of the four gospels and the quickest paced considering one of the favorite words used in his writing is *immediately*. It is believed that Mark listened to Peter and wrote down what he heard Peter preaching: *This also the presbyter said: 'Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately, though not indeed in order, whatsoever he remembered of the things said or done by Christ.'* (Eusebius, *Church History* 3.39.15, quoting Church leader Papias about a statement John the Elder made). Also, *in the same reign of Claudius [who died in A.D. 54] the Providence of the universe . . . guided to Rome the great and mighty Peter . . . preaching the gospel . . . But . . . the hearers of Peter . . . were not satisfied with a single hearing . . . but with every kind of exhortation besought Mark . . . seeing that he was Peter's follower, to leave them a written statement of the teaching given them verbally, nor did they cease until they had persuaded him, and so became the cause of the Scripture call the Gospel of Mark* (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* 2.14.6-2.15.1).

Mark most likely wrote his gospel while in Rome with Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Other evidence could include Mark's usage of the name Rufus in Mark 15:21 coupled with Paul's use of the name Rufus in Romans 16:13. Mark's focus on explaining many of the Jewish customs, translated Aramaic word and phrases into Greek, used Latin terms rather than their Greek equivalents, and rarely quoted from the Old Testament guides us to believe his primary audience was the Roman Church shortly before or just after Peter's martyrdom. Being the first Gospel written, most scholars believe Mark's Gospel served as one of the sources for Matthew and Luke's writings.

Mark gives focus to the Gospel of Jesus being a call to discipleship and salvation for all people by his intentional usage of Gentile regions, explaining Jewish customs, the recording of the faith of a Gentile (15:39), the sending of the first Gentile evangelist (5:18-19), and Jesus' reference to the temple as a *house of prayer for all nations* (11:17, underline added for emphasis).



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

This list is not intended to be exhaustive but a starting point to provide additional study tools should you desire to dig deeper. ~Bro. Mark

STUDY BIBLES

Life Application Study Bible (NIV), Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.

The Literary Study Bible (ESV), Crossway Bibles, 2007.

ESV Study Bible, Crossway Bibles, 2008.

The Disciple's Study Bible (CSB), Holman Bible Publishers, 2017.

CSB Study Bible, Holman Bible Publishers, 2017.

Archaeological Study Bible (NIV), Zondervan, 2005.

OTHER RECOMMENDED READING

Devotional Style Commentaries

The Bible Exposition Commentary, Volume 1: Matthew-Galatians, Warren W. Wiersbe, Chariot Victor Publishing, 1989.

Mark: Holman New Testament Commentary, Rodney Cooper, Author; Max Anders, Editor, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000.

NIV Application Commentary: Mark, David E Garland, Zondervan Publishers, 1996.

Deeper Digging Commentaries

An Introduction to the New Testament, D.A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, & Leon Morris, Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

The New Testament: Its Background and Message 2nd Edition, Thomas D. Lea and David Alan Black, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.

Matthew & Mark, Revised: The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Editors: Tremper Longman, III & David E. Garland, Zondervan Publishers, 2005.

Mark: Jesus, Servant, and Savior, New Edition (Preaching the Word Commentary), R. Kent Huges, Crossway Bibles, 2015.

