

New Testament Survey

Gospel of Mark

I. Attestation and Authorship¹

A. Papias affirmed the authorship of Mark as being John-Mark.

“And the Elder said this also: Mark having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately everything that he remembered without however recording in order what was either said or done by Christ...So then Mark made no mistake, while he thus wrote down some things as he remembered them; for he made it his own care not to omit anything that he had heard, or to set down any false statement therein.”²

B. The ancient church uniformly attests to the Gospel of Mark and considered it inspired.

C. Irenaeus affirms the authorship of Mark with the help of Peter.

“After their departure (*exodon*), Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter.”³

D. Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Origen, and Eusebius all ascribe the second Gospel to Mark.

E. Internal evidence points to Markan authorship:

1. The incident of the youth that fled in the Garden (Mark 14:51-52) is peculiar and many think that the young man was Mark.
2. The upper room may have belonged to Mark's mother. Note the details in Mark 14:12-16.

F. Some biographical notes on Mark:⁴

1. His full name was John Mark - Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37
2. His mother's name was Mary and her house was a meeting place for the Church - Acts 12:12-17.
3. Mark was a cousin to Barnabas - Colossians 4:10.
4. Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey - Acts 13:5, 13.
5. Paul rejected Mark's company on the second missionary journey because he deserted Paul and Barnabas on their first journey - Acts 15:36-41.
6. Mark was with Paul in Rome sending greetings to Colossae - Colossians 4:10, Philemon 1:24.

¹ Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1987), pp. 140-142.

² Lightfoot's translation of this fragment from Eusebius *H. E.*, III. xxxix.

³ *Against Heresies* III. i. 1.

⁴ Thiessen, p. 142.

7. Paul requests Mark's presence in his last epistle - 2 Timothy 4:11.

II. Occasion and Date⁵

- A. Peter wanted to give a gospel to the Roman people, hence Mark writes the gospel with Peter's help.
- B. Written approximately A.D. 67-68 shortly after Peter's death in Rome.
 - 1. Paul wrote in A.D. 56 (Romans) that no Apostle had as of yet visited the city.
 - 2. Peter probably did not get to Rome prior to the Neronian persecution of A.D. 64.
 - 3. There is no evidence in the book that Jerusalem had yet been destroyed.

III. Purpose and Plan

- A. Present Christ as the Servant - Mark 10:45.
- B. 5 of the 16 chapters refer to Christ's last week.

IV. A Brief Outline⁶

- A. The Preparation of the Servant - Mark 1:1-13
- B. The Ministry of the Servant in Galilee - Mark 1:14-7:23
- C. The Ministry of the Servant North and East of Galilee - Mark 7:24-9:50
- D. The Ministry of the Servant on the Way to Jerusalem - Mark 10
- E. The Ministry of the Servant in Jerusalem - Mark 11-13
- F. The Submission of the Servant to Death - Mark 14-15
- G. The Triumph of the Servant in the Resurrection and Ascension - Mark 16

V. Chapters to Remember

Mark 1	The First Calling of the Twelve
Mark 4	Kingdom Parables
Mark 8	Christ Feeds the Multitudes
Mark 9	The Mount of Transfiguration
Mark 11	The Triumphal Entry
Mark 14	The Upper Room
Mark 15	Christ's Crucifixion and Burial

⁵ Thiessen, pp. 145-146.

⁶ Thiessen, p. 147.

Mark 16

The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ

VI. Points and Peculiarities

1. Jesus is presented as the Servant of Jehovah.
2. Mark is a gospel of deeds.
3. No genealogy - servants need to know no heritage.
4. Emphasis on teaching.
5. Peter is mentioned by name many times.
6. Great detail in it's incidents although it is the shortest gospel.
7. Quotes from the Old Testament only once.
8. Records 19 miracles, 5 parables of which 2 miracles and 2 parables are unique to Mark.
9. Order of events are very chronological.

VII. A Closer Look

A. Mark 1

1. Second calling of Peter, Andrew, James and John (first calling recorded in John 1:35-49) - 1:14-20
2. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law - 1:30-31

B. Mark 2

1. Healing of the palsied man - 2:1-12
2. Christ - the Lord of the Sabbath - 2:16-28

C. Mark 3

1. Calling of the Twelve - 3:13-19
2. Christ thought of as crazy - 3:20-35

D. Mark 4

1. Parable of the Sower - 4:1-20
2. Parable of the Seed Growing in Secret - 4:26-29
3. Parable of the Mustard Seed - 4:30-32
4. Christ stills the storm - 4:35-41

E. Mark 5

1. Christ and the Gadarene Demoniac - 5:1-17

2. Healing of Jarius' daughter - 5:22-43
- F. Mark 6
1. Sending out of the disciples - 6:1-13
 2. The death of John the Baptist - 6:14-29
- G. Mark 7
1. Conflict with the Pharisees over unwashed hands - 7:1-23
 2. Healing of the Syrophonecian's daughter - 7:24-30
- H. Mark 8
1. Christ feeds the multitude - 8:1-9
 2. Peter's Confession - 8:27-38
- I. Mark 9
1. Mount of Transfiguration - 9:1-13
 2. Healing of the epileptic demoniac - 9:14-29
 3. Christ predicts his passion - 9:30-32.
- J. Mark 10
1. Teaching on divorce and remarriage - 10:2-12
 2. Christ again predicts his passion - 10:33-34
 3. James and John ask for places of honor - 10:35-45.
- K. Mark 11
1. The Triumphal Entry - 11:1-10
 2. The Cursing of the Fig Tree - 11:13-21
- L. Mark 12
1. The Parable of the Vineyard - 12:1-11
 2. The Question of Tribute - 12:13-17
 3. The Question of the Resurrection - 12:18-27
 4. The Question of the Greatest Commandment - 12:28-34
 5. The Condemnation of the Pharisees - 12:35-44
- M. Mark 13
1. The Olivet Discourse - 13:1-37

N. Mark 14

1. Christ anointed for his Crucifixion - 14:1-11
2. The Upper Room - 14:12-26
3. Christ in the Garden - 14:27-52
4. Christ on trial and Peter's denial - 14:53-72

O. Mark 15

1. Christ on Trial - 15:1-20
2. The Crucifixion and burial of Christ - 15:21-47

P. Mark 16

1. The Resurrection of Christ - 16:1-14
2. Christ's commission to His disciples - 16:15-20