NEW TESTAMENT · GOSPELS · BOOK 41 OF 66

Mark

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1:1)

16	Shortest	c. A.D. 55–65	About 40
Chapters, 678 Verses	of the Four Gospels	Date Written	Times “Straightway”

STRUCTURE

The Book in Seven Parts



Each bar shows that part’s share of the 678 verses.

I 1:1–13 · 13 verses

Preparing the Way

John the Baptist, the baptism and the temptation.

II 1:14–3:6 · 66 verses

Authority in Galilee

Disciples called, healings, and five conflict stories.

III 3:7–6:6 · 119 verses

Parables and Miracles

The Twelve chosen, parables, the storm, Jairus’ daughter.

IV 6:7–8:21 · 108 verses

Beyond Galilee

The Twelve sent out, two feedings, faith beyond Israel.

V 8:22–10:52 · 119 verses

The Road to Jerusalem

Peter’s confession and three predictions of the cross.

VI 11–13 · 114 verses

The Final Week

The triumphal entry, the temple, the Olivet Discourse.

VII 14–16 · 139 verses

Passion and Resurrection

The Last Supper, the trials, the cross and the empty tomb.

THE AUTHOR

Who Was John Mark?

John Mark wrote this Gospel, setting down what the apostle Peter preached. Here is what the New Testament tells us about John Mark.

ACTS 12:12

His Home

The church prays at the Jerusalem home of his mother, Mary.

ACTS 12:25; 13:5

A Helper

He goes with Barnabas and Saul (Paul) on their first journey.

ACTS 13:13

He Turns Back

He leaves them at Perga and returns to Jerusalem.

ACTS 15:37–39

A Sharp Contention

Paul refuses to take him, so he sails with Barnabas, his cousin (Colossians 4:10).

COL. 4:10; PHILEM. 24

With Paul Again

Later he is one of Paul’s fellowlabourers.

2 TIM. 4:11 · 1 PET. 5:13

Profitable for the Ministry

Paul asks for him, “for he is profitable to me for the ministry,” and Peter calls him “Marcus my son.”

Only Mark tells of the young man who fled without his linen cloth when Jesus was taken (14:51–52).

MARK AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

The Turning Point, the Cross and His Authority

CHAPTER 8:27–30

The Turning Point

Mark falls into two halves that turn on one question: who is Jesus?

1:1–8:26 · GALILEE

"What Manner of Man Is This?"

Miracles, crowds and amazement, as people wonder who Jesus is.

"What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

4:41

8:31–16:8 · TO JERUSALEM

"The Son of Man Must Suffer"

Jesus teaches openly about the cross as He leads His disciples to Jerusalem.

"the Son of man must suffer many things ... and be killed, and after three days rise again"

8:31

NEAR CAESAREA PHILIPPI (8:29)

Jesus: "But whom say ye that I am?"

Peter: "Thou art the Christ."

CHAPTERS 8–10

Three Predictions of the Cross

Each time, Jesus names the cross, the disciples miss the point, and Jesus teaches what following Him means.

1 MARK 8:31–34

Deny Yourself

The disciples: Peter takes Him and rebukes Him (8:32).
Jesus teaches: "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (8:34).

"the Son of man must suffer many things ... and after three days rise again"

2 MARK 9:31–35

Servant of All

The disciples: they dispute who should be the greatest (9:34).
Jesus teaches: "the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" (9:35).

"The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him"

3 MARK 10:33–45

To Minister

The disciples: James and John ask to sit on His right hand and left (10:37).
Jesus teaches: "whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister" (10:43).

"they shall condemn Him to death ... and the third day He shall rise again"

MIGHTY WORKS

Jesus' Authority Over ...

Mark shows the power of Jesus over every kind of need.

SIN
A Man Sick of the Palsy
2:1–12

NATURE
The Storm Calmed
4:35–41

DEVILS
The Man Called Legion
5:1–20

DEATH
Jairus' Daughter
5:21–43

SICKNESS
A Leper Cleansed
1:40–45

THE SABBATH
A Withered Hand
2:23–3:6

HUNGER
Feeding the 5,000
6:30–44

BLINDNESS
Blind Bartimaeus
10:46–52

> *"What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him"*
>
> Mark 1:27 (KJV)

How Mark Tells It and Who Jesus Is

HOW MARK TELLS IT

Stories Inside Stories

Mark often starts one story, tells another in the middle, then finishes the first, so each helps explain the other.

3:20–35

His Family and the Scribes

His friends set out to lay hold on Him (3:20–21) · the Beelzebub charge (3:22–30) · His true family (3:31–35).

5:21–43

Jairus and the Woman

Jairus asks for help (5:21–24) · a woman is healed (5:25–34) · the girl is raised (5:35–43).

6:7–30

The Twelve and John the Baptist

The Twelve sent out (6:7–13) · John the Baptist killed (6:14–29) · the apostles return (6:30).

11:12–25

The Fig Tree and the Temple

The fig tree cursed (11:12–14) · the temple cleansed (11:15–19) · the fig tree withered (11:20–25).

14:53–72

Peter and the Trial

Peter follows afar off (14:53–54) · Jesus on trial (14:55–65) · Peter denies Him (14:66–72).

WORDS JESUS SPOKE

Aramaic Words Kept in Mark

Mark keeps some of Jesus' own Aramaic words and translates them for readers who did not know the language.

MARK 3:17

Boanerges

"The sons of thunder"

MARK 5:41

Talitha cumi

"Damsel, I say unto thee, arise"

MARK 7:11

Corban

"a gift"

MARK 7:34

Ephphatha

"Be opened"

MARK 14:36

Abba

"Father"

MARK 15:34 · FROM THE CROSS

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

Jesus' cry from the cross is the first line of Psalm 22.

BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END

"The Son of God"

Mark names Jesus as the Son of God at the start, hears it from heaven twice, and ends with a Roman soldier saying it at the cross.

MARK 1:1 · THE OPENING LINE

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"

MARK 1:11 · AT HIS BAPTISM

"Thou art My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"

MARK 9:7 · AT THE TRANSFIGURATION

"This is My beloved Son: hear Him"

MARK 15:39 · A ROMAN CENTURION

"Truly this man was the Son of God"

TORN OPEN

At His baptism Jesus sees "the heavens opened" (1:10), and at His death "the veil of the temple was rent in twain" (15:38). Mark uses the same Greek word, "torn," for both moments.

Mark's first line names Him "the Son of God" (1:1), and a Roman centurion says the same at the cross (15:39).

He Is Risen, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 16

He Is Risen

> *"Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here"*
>
> Mark 16:6 (KJV)

16:1–8

The Empty Tomb

The women find the stone rolled away, and a young man in a white garment tells them Jesus is risen.

16:9–14

The Risen Lord Appears

He appears first to Mary Magdalene, then to two disciples, and then to the eleven.

16:15–20

Sent Into All the World

Then He is received up into heaven, and the disciples go forth and preach everywhere.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"

Mark ends as it began, with "the gospel" going out, now to every creature (1:1; 16:15).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Jesus the Son of God

Named at the start and confessed at the cross.

1:1; 15:39

His Authority

Over sin, sickness, devils, nature and death.

1:27; 2:10

The Kingdom of God

God's reign is at hand in Jesus.

1:15; 4:26–32

The Servant Who Suffers

The Son of man came to minister and to die.

8:31; 10:45

Following Jesus

Disciples deny themselves and take up their cross.

8:34; 10:21

Faith, Not Fear

Trust in Jesus, even when faith is weak.

5:36; 9:24

KEY VERSE

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 (KJV)