

MARK

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

2

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

16

TYPE

GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



OVERVIEW

As one of the Gospels that detail the ministry of Jesus Christ, Mark is written by John Mark, who was a friend of the Apostle Peter. He later traveled with the Apostle Paul and his assistant Barnabas on Paul's first missionary journey around Asia Minor. Mark's account is unique in that it is written to a Gentile audience, and he emphasizes Christ's actions more than His teachings. As such, the book is filled with miracles Jesus Christ performed during His ministry. Mark's testimony shows how powerful, kind, and merciful God is.



WRITTEN
50-60 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
7 BC-26 AD



AUTHOR
John Mark, a friend
who traveled with the
Apostle Paul

1	2	3	4	5
THE START OF THE BOOK OF MARK	TEACHINGS OF CHRIST SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL	THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL	THE PROPHECIES OF CHRIST SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL	THE DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION DETAILS SINGULAR TO THIS GOSPEL
MARK 1-2	MARK 3-15	MARK 3-15	MARK 3-15	MARK 15-16
Mark shares the ministry of John the Baptist relating to Jesus Christ, but does not account for Christ's early years.	Mark includes two original parables including the parable of the seed growing secretly, and the parable of the doorkeeper.	Fifteen miracles are presented in Mark, three of which are original: the healing of the deaf-mute man in Decapolis, the blind man at Bethsaida, and the boy who threw himself in fire. Mark also tells of Jesus calming the storm.	Mark recounts Jesus telling Simon Peter and his brother Andrew that He will make them fishers of people, Jesus naming James and John the Sons of Thunder, and reports the power that left Jesus when a bleeding woman touched His robe.	Mark tells of a young man fleeing naked during the arrest of Jesus, and Pilate asking whether Jesus was already dead. The last verses of Mark are questionable, not having been included in the original manuscripts.

JOHN MARK

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Gospel of Mark

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospels (Mark is the second of four gospels)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

50-60 AD



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Mark, also known as John Mark, was not an apostle. However, he is thought to be among the 70 disciples who first gathered to follow Jesus. He also was a friend of the apostles Peter and Paul, traveling with Paul on at least one missionary journey.

Mark was born in the North African country of Libya. He was born of Jewish parents, and most histories date him as too young to have been a disciple during Jesus' ministry. Mark's parents, Aristopolos and Mary, migrated to Palestine shortly after Mark's birth because their town and property were under siege by the Berbers. They settled in Cana, which is in Galilee, not far from Jerusalem.

This is where Mark met the future disciple Simon Peter. Mark's father died suddenly, and Simon Peter considered him a son. He saw that Mark got a good education, training in literary classics and law. Thus, when it came time to write his gospel, Mark was well prepared.

Extra-biblical materials state that Mark's mother Mary was a great admirer of Jesus and followed him on his journeys. As well, it is thought that Mark chronicled the path of Simon Peter, and that the Gospel of Mark serves as a biography told by the apostle himself.

Along with accompanying Paul, Mark also went to preach the gospel in Egypt, established one of the oldest churches there that still stands, and wrote his gospel there. He was martyred by pagans in 68 AD.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Mark was living in Palestine while Jesus was alive, which gave him all the material to make up his gospel. However, he wrote the gospel after having returned to his homeland in Africa.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Mark's gospel is considered the no-frills gospel, as it is the shortest and most concise. Mark felt it was important to show Jesus as a humble servant (whereas Matthew had portrayed Christ as a royal king). His writing contains many famous lines like Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The Life of Jesus

