

The Gospel of Mark the Kingdom in action
(Review of overview notes)

Mark: (Author John Mark) Likely the 1st Gospel written, a close associate of uncle Barnabas and Paul, and of course, of Peter.

He is writing to the early church which is being persecuted after being blamed by Nero for the burning of Rome in 64AD. He intends it to truly be good news', to remind them to serve the Great Servant, Son of Man, Jesus, who has walked this road before them.

It is like a movie screenplay, with a lot of action, written largely chronologically, and does not sanitize anything. Suffering, service, shame, death, etc is all in there. It is a book of what He did as opposed to Matthew's 'what He said' sort of a book.

Summary verse: 10:45 (quote from Jesus) For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many.

It was likely written to believers under persecution after the burning of Rome, reminding them that the path of suffering and glory they were on had already been walked by the Savior.

The Book of Mark is the most detailed, vivid, raw, no punches pulled book of the 4 Gospels, one reason many feel it was the first one written, while the events were fresh.

It gives a lot of attention to action/miracles, traveling, movement, and uses the phrase and immediately' 42 times, suggesting a rapid change of scenery. Lots of kingdom confrontations with demons, miraculous stuff.

Again, the emphasis is on Jesus, the Man/God, servant of all.

More than the others, Mark tells 'all' when it comes to showing how flawed His disciples were, and gives account after account of how Jesus patiently dealt with them.

Some examples-- : In chapter 6, He feeds the 5,000 with 5 loaves, 2 fish. :: In Chapter 8, the disciples just can't imagine how Jesus can manage to feed 4,000 with just 7 loaves and a few fish (just for fun see 8:18-21).

::: At one point, the disciples are unable to cast out a spirit due to unbelief (see 9:14-19, where He calls them faithless').

::: They have to have every little truth explained to them

These should be an encouragement to us earthlings that we can be used.

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This is a good book for anyone struggling with worthiness' issues. They were no different than us, and Mark implies that.

Key Idea of Jesus' work for us--- the idea of the ransom.

Mark 10:45 (also Matt 20:28) mentions the doctrine of ransom,

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Ransom/lutron'luo, to loose, release thru payment, which defines the worth of the item being loosed/the value of our life was His life.

Modern day idea of ransom gives the idea that the captive is released at the will of the captor, but this word means that, once the price is paid, the captor has no choice/the price is paid, the transaction complete, the swap is made in spite of the captor's wish. It was never in doubt!

More than 1/3 (6 chapters out of 16) of Mark deals with Jesus' last week on earth, from Palm Sunday through the death and resurrection. This gives us an idea of how important Jesus' death (price paid) was to Mark in communicating God's love for us.

Bottom line for Mark: The book is a statement of the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, Son of God, Servant of Man, who by example gave His life for us. We reciprocate by giving our lives in service for Him.

Implied: We do the stuff of the kingdom because He patterned that for us in Mark healing the sick, delivering the oppressed, fearlessly serving.

Suggested reading: Mark 16:14-20 how the kingdom is confirmed

Intro to the Gospels the wait is finally over

Circa 65 AD to 85 AD

Q. Why the Gospels, and why four? (II Cor 13:1- by 2 or 3 witnesses,,,,')

A. Each account addresses a community of people within the Body

First, the Synoptic Gospels', Matt/Mark/Luke

Matthew: A Jew (Levi'), is concerned primarily with demonstrating to the Jews that Jesus was one of them and filled every qualification to be Messiah according to their own prophets. 1:1 calls him Son of David' and gives Joseph's genealogy, a true Jewish thing'. He quotes the OT 41 times in an effort to connect Jesus to the Prophets for his audience.

He uses the term Son of God' repeatedly.

Matthew, a former tax collector and oppressor of his own people, had a huge value for forgiveness. His telling of parables notes this again and again, and begins the discussion on the Kingdom of Heaven'.

Matthew is basically a what He said' book. It appears to draw upon Mark's account for some details, though some insist this book was written first. Honestly, well, no idea.

Matthew is a cradle to the grave account, nativity to resurrection.

Mark: Possibly 1st Gospel, written by John Mark, a close associate of (uncle) Barnabas and Paul, and of course, of Peter. He is writing to the early church which is being persecuted after being blamed by Nero for the burning of Rome in 64AD.

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Luke: The beloved physician' (Col. 4:14), was Paul's frequent road companion. Like Mark, he emphasizes the Son of Man', and focuses on his humanity, not just his divinity. It is also a 'cradle to grave' book.

This is Volume 1 of 2 by Luke, the other one being Acts. The two should be read together. His purpose in writing it is in 1:3, to present an orderly account' of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He is very meticulous in getting it straight, and is probably the one who interviewed Mary about details of the Nativity, as well as other eyewitnesses of Jesus' life. Many feel he leaned on Mark's account for some details, while others feel he wrote this before Mark's account.

Key verse: 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost. This places Him as one of us' and presents him as the Man God', in contrast to Matthew's God/Man'. Look for miracles, healings, and a great deal of detail in the account. Chapter 9, the sending out of the Disciples, is significant as they bring the kingdom' by preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

John: The Beloved Disciple, as he calls himself 5 times. It is the last Gospel written, circa AD 85. Church tradition says he wrote it while in Ephesus late in the 1st century AD.

The theme of John's gospel is that the Kingdom of God is relational; that is, to enter it is to enter into relationship with God's only son, and not only that, the Kingdom spreads through relationships.

THEME: IF YOU WANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ETERNAL FATHER, CREATOR OF ALL, YOU NEED RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS SON FIRST. Differences with other Gospels (the

Synoptics):

- (1) Does not focus on parables, but rather long discourses of various stories.
- (2) Chooses only 7 hand-picked miracles, which he called signs'
- (3) Jesus' ministry is examined by topics, not by time-sequence.
- (4) The I am' sayings are only in John,