

Gospel according to Mark overview and background notes from Lori and Michelle with Move Live Faithfully:

Who wrote it? Mark (John Mark), friend of Peter and traveled with Paul too. Mark collected eyewitness accounts from Peter. Peter told him things and John Mark recorded it.

When was it written: 50- 60 AD; debates around if it was the 1st gospel written or not. Written before the destruction of the temple in 70 AD

To whom it was written? To believers in Rome that were getting persecuted by the Roman emperor. Written for gentiles as he explains Jewish things and to remind them of Jesus - the victory in Him.

Why was it written: To show Jesus is Messiah and the suffering servant; to show how powerful, kind and merciful God is; Mark's gospel may have been to present Peter's account of life and sayings of Jesus as an instructional tool for early church practice and to encourage the Christians in Rome

General thoughts:

Not in any particular order. Taking from a variety of sources that we learned from looking into the overview of Mark.

Mark writes with a powerful and energetic literary style - full of drama and mystery. Mark moves quickly from one story to the next.

Mark focuses on:

- who Jesus was and what He came to accomplish.
- Jesus's doing things, so all about action, His words and less of His teachings which Matthew focused on

1st half of the book - focuses on the identity of Jesus as the mighty Messiah and son of God

2nd half of the book - His mission, not to over take Rome but suffer and die as atoning sacrifice for sins. His crucifixion affirms this.

Jesus was not here for political or military things, this is the view the people had then.

Chapters 1-9 Galilee area -focuses on His healings and miracles to show his power and covers about 3 years.

Chapter 8 - A shift in Jesus, where He is more open to share who He is and what He came to do.

Chapter 10 Things start to shift. Passover in Jerusalem.

Chapters 11 - 13 and 14-15 - Portraying Isaiah 53 Jesus as suffering servant. Israel lost its focus and the cross came in power by Jesus laying down his life for others.

Last few chapters covering one week of time.

Chapter 16 : 1-8 - Resurrection, empty tomb - conquered death and good news for humanity.

Chapter 16: 9-20 - Not part of original text (more on this ending below).

Mark shows Jesus is the new Moses.

His power is through His suffering.

Kingdom comes from humble beginnings, not like earthly kingdoms.

When Jesus cleansed people He was pointing to the healing that would come from His own death and resurrection.

By his death we are made new and part of His plan.

Jesus is saying I am the Messiah but not looking like what they thought.

Jesus is the embodiment of God's glory. The glorious God suffering and dying for the sin of His people.

Mark - starts off with this is the Gospel - not in the sense one of the four (like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John of the Bible) but it's about Jesus. The gospel is the good news about Jesus.

Jesus is God for us and man for God and Mark shows Jesus fulfilling this.

Disciples displayed as not good, lots of mistakes, and lacking faith. No attempt to make the disciples look better. As most people want to be remembered as good - this shows the authenticity of it.

And it shows the type of people God uses - broken people for His glory.

Jesus is the focus - not the disciples.

When reading make sure to look at the story in relation to the whole Bible. How do these stories relate to true doctrine?

Mark shows us Jesus but shows Jesus as someone who is in His human nature utterly dependent on God and on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Mark displays in his writing how Jesus lived out as a human, he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Trouble comes following Jesus because Satan will tempt us.

Satan causes confusion and division.

In Mark we will see the Issue is the heart of man - not physical. It's the inside of a person that is broken.

Jesus came for those broken and ready to surrender not people self righteous and think they got themselves into heaven.

We will see that Jesus cares more about saving a soul than a body.

The parables help us see spiritual success in this physical world.

Miracle stories - Why in here?

Notice the miracle stories in the 2nd half in the book - what are they teaching his disciples?

Miracles are not about deity or divine as people in OT did them.

Jesus was filled and driven by the Holy Spirit the miracles were to show He is fulfilling OT of what the Messiah would do.

Jesus did not perform miracles everywhere, He did not heal everyone.

We learn that Jesus didn't come promising or securing good health and relief from every trial and difficulty for people but to have them hear the good news about God's Kingdom.

These miracle stories have a redemptive function - showing who Jesus is - identity as Messiah. Miracles aren't in here to show that Jesus came to heal all, even though He can, we need to see that is not what the original text is saying or what Mark is trying to tell us.

The ending of Mark:

Mark ends his book leaving it up to you - are you going to go and tell?

His death is good news - liberation from sin.

Good news - tomb empty!

Mark ends it leaving you, the reader, to see if you believe it is good news.

Mark ends with fear - probably how Peter felt.

Jesus got the job done even though people around him failed. Jesus is victorious because of Jesus not us.

Also the addition part of the ending of Mark doesn't add or take away from anything. Everything that is stated there has been already revealed in the Bible.

Themes and other things to look out for:

1 - Jesus told people to be silent.

They didn't have good news yet - the cross.

Jesus was getting famous fast, not what He wanted as He had the Father's mission to still complete in His control.

He wanted people to see and follow Him because they believe He is God, not just because he does all these amazing things.

2 - Mark showing Jesus' authority and power Everything He does is with authority that no one has seen before. How Kingdom focused Jesus is.

3 - Immediately - he doesn't use this word to say this happened next but more of okay here is the next thing I want to tell you and this and this...

4 - 21 times Jesus is alone with the Father

5 - Everyone's reaction to Jesus

6 - 17 times the word FOLLOW - showing how to follow Jesus.

7 - When Jesus refers to himself as the son of Man - His favorite title for himself. Used about 14 times. 80 times in the whole New Testament

LAST THOUGHTS:

This is not a memoir of Jesus as a great man, but that He was the greatest man who had ever lived. It is to persuade its readers that Jesus was the Son of God.