

# *Mark*

## *"Jesus the Servant"*

### **Background Information**

Mark (or John Mark) was a close companion of Peter's and is mentioned often in the book of Acts. He was also a cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). His life story comes more clear in Acts and through the writings of Paul.

Some suggest, due to Mark's close relationship with Peter, that this account of the Gospel was more of Peter's recollection, but that cannot be proven.

Likely, Mark was the first account of the Gospel actually penned, and most scholars date it to the early 50s.

### **Time Covered and Outlines**

Mark covers less time than the other accounts of the Gospel, since he begins with the ministry of Jesus. Therefore, the time covered is only about 3 or 4 years.

Mark is most easily outlined by locations where Jesus was in His ministry.

- I. In the wilderness (1:1-13)
- II. In Galilee and Surrounding Regions (1:14-7:23)
- III. In Further Gentile Regions (7:24-9:50)
- IV. The Road to Jerusalem (10)
- V. Jerusalem (11-16)

### **Major Themes**

The humanity of Jesus  
Servanthood  
Jesus's busy life ("immediately")

## God's Character in Mark

Accessible (15:38)

Unified (2:7; 12:29)

## Jesus in Mark

While Mark is not afraid to say Jesus is divine, his focus is on the humanity of Jesus, and he emphasizes Jesus's role as the Suffering Servant (10:45). There is more of an emphasis on the deeds of service Jesus did in Mark than on His teachings.

## Key Words in Mark

Faith (Greek, *pistis*) 2:5; 4:40; 5:34-36; 10:52; 11:22. "Trust" or "belief"

Gospel (Greek, *euangelion*) 1:1; 1:14-15; 13:10; 14:9; 16:15. "Good news"

## Elsewhere in the World...

The Han dynasty begins in China.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Of course, Mark is just one account of the Gospel, so much of his writings overlap with Matthew and Luke, and some with John. Matthew, Mark, and Luke contain enough of the same material that scholars call them the "synoptic" Gospels. Each Gospel, however, is written from a slightly different perspective, and is worthy of study. Books such as J.W. McGarvey's *The Fourfold Gospel* and the two-volume *The Life of Christ: A Supplement* by David Roper help the Bible student put the four accounts of the Gospel together in a chronological fashion.