

THE BOOK OF MARK

Date of Writing: The Gospel of Mark was likely one of the first books written in the New Testament, probably in A.D. 55-59.

Purpose of Writing: Whereas Matthew is written primarily to his fellow Jews, Mark's gospel appears to be targeted to the Roman believers, particularly Gentiles. Mark wrote as a pastor to Christians who previously had heard and believed the Gospel ([Romans 1:8](#)). He desired that they have a **biographical story of Jesus Christ** as Servant of the Lord and Savior of the world in order to strengthen their faith in the face of severe persecution and to teach them what it meant to be His disciples.

Key Verses:

[Mark 1:11](#): "And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'"

[Mark 1:17](#): "'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"

[Mark 10:14-15](#): "He said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'"

[Mark 10:45](#): "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

[Mark 12:33](#): "To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

[Mark 16:6](#): "'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.'"

[Mark 16:15](#): "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'"

Brief Summary: This gospel is unique because it emphasizes **Jesus' actions** more than His teaching. It is simply written, moving quickly from one episode in the life of Christ to another. It does not begin with a genealogy as in Matthew, because Gentiles would not be interested in His lineage. After the introduction of Jesus at His baptism, Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and called the first four of His twelve disciples. What follows is the record of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Practical Application: Mark presents Jesus as the suffering Servant of God ([Mark 10:45](#)) and as the One who came to serve and sacrifice for us, in part to inspire us to do the same. We are to minister as He did, with the same greatness of humility and devotion to the service of others. Jesus exhorted us to remember that to be great in God's kingdom, we must be the servant of all ([Mark 10:44](#)). Self-sacrifice should transcend our need for recognition or reward, just as Jesus was willing to be abased as He lay down His life for the sheep.

Information from

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