

Outline of
Mark



Introduction

Authorship

Large narrative works rarely circulated anonymously, especially in the first generation when the recipients generally knew the authors. The titles of the Gospels, which unanimously attribute them to particular authors, circulated in diverse parts of the Roman world from an early period; their wide circulation without contradiction indicates that the tradition is early. Although “Mark” was a common name, early church tradition attributes this Gospel to John Mark (Acts 15:37; Col 4:10; 1 Pet 5:13), who was said to have derived his information from Peter. Because there is no evidence against this attribution, many scholars support Mark as the most likely candidate for the author. A relative of Barnabas (Col 4:10), John Mark may have had stronger ties with the Diaspora than with Judea even when living in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 4:36). Similarly, some believe that this Gospel’s writer was more familiar with Diaspora Judaism than with details of Galilean geography or Pharisaic customs.

Date, Setting and Purpose

The most common suggestions are that Mark wrote his Gospel to Roman Christians during the time of the great persecution in Rome, about A.D. 64 (for more discussion see 1 Peter), or that he wrote shortly before the conclusion of the Judean-Roman War (A.D. 66–70). The earlier of these dates helps explain the emphasis on suffering and may allow more easily for the most probable dating of Luke (who wrote after Mark), but certainty remains elusive.

Place of Writing

Various proposals for Mark’s provenance have been offered: Galilee, Alexandria and, most often, Rome. Mark’s audience probably lived outside Palestine and most of them were non-Jewish; Rome is the most likely of these proposals (favored by some early Christian traditions), though it is not certain. Internal evidence confirms that Mark himself comes from the eastern Mediterranean world.

Why Mark Wrote

Those who heard Mark read in the churches already knew many of the stories about Jesus, whom they worshiped as Lord. Mark connects these stories into a sort of biography of Jesus, perhaps following some of the plot movements familiar from Greek tragedy, except with a happy ending, like traditional Jewish stories that emphasized the faithfulness of God. Ancient biographies often made particular moral points through the example of their heroes, and Mark is no exception: he wants his fellow Christians to understand that Christ’s call involves both power and suffering in their conflict with Satan’s forces.

Thus Mark wrote to a community that needed to be reminded that God heard prayers and would work through their witness and faith; they also needed to be reminded that this might cost them their lives in persecution. Finally, they could be reminded through the failure of the disciples in Mark that if they had not yet achieved the radical lifestyle their Lord’s words demanded, he would still work with them patiently to help them get to that level of commitment. Along with external evidence for Rome as the place of writing, such factors may support viewing Mark as addressing the suffering of Roman Christians under Nero starting in A.D. 64. Again, however, this hypothesis, like many reconstructions of Gospels’ “target audiences,” remains simply a best guess.

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.

FOUR GOSPELS

MARK ~ SON OF MAN
 MATTHEW ~ KING OF JEWS
 LUKE ~ SAVIOUR OF WORLD
 JOHN ~ SON OF GOD

THREE STAGES

1. WHAT JESUS DID (MARK)
2. WHAT JESUS SAID (MATTHEW, LUKE)
3. WHAT JESUS WAS (JOHN)

TWO ANGLES

1. WRITER ~ INSIGHT
 What? How?
2. READER ~ INTENTION
 Who? Why?

FOUR GOSPELS

WRITERS: a. DEVELOPING INTEREST

What he did (Mark)
 What he said (Luke, Matthew)
 What he was (John)

b. DIFFERING INSIGHT

King of Jews (Matthew)
 Son of man (Mark)
 Saviour of world (Luke)
 Son of God (John)

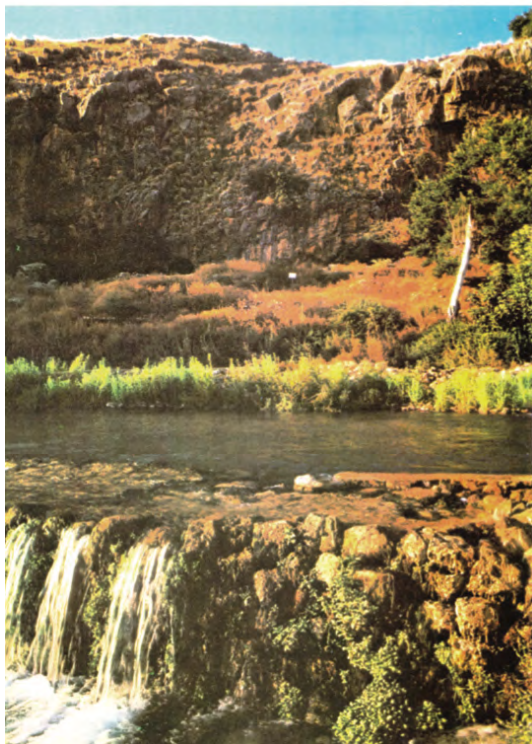
READERS: a. BELIEVERS

Matthew (younger)
 John (older)

b. UNBELIEVERS

Mark
 Luke

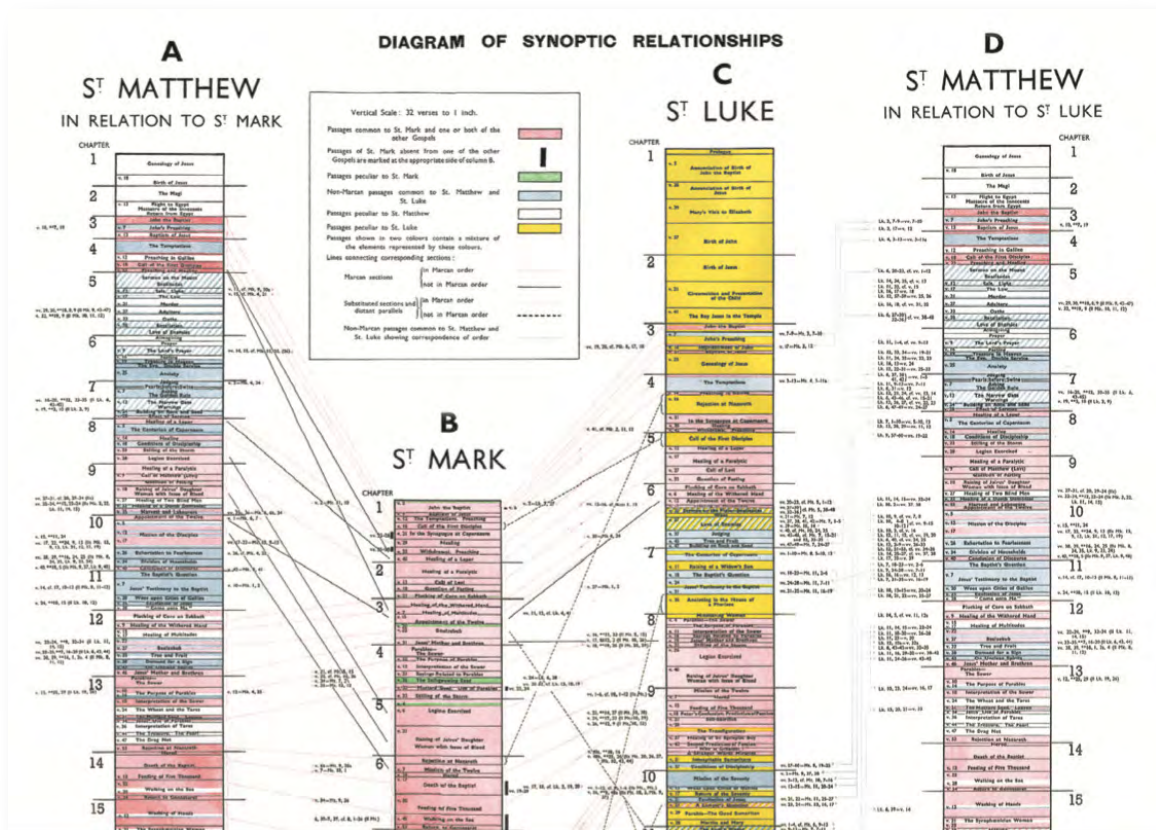
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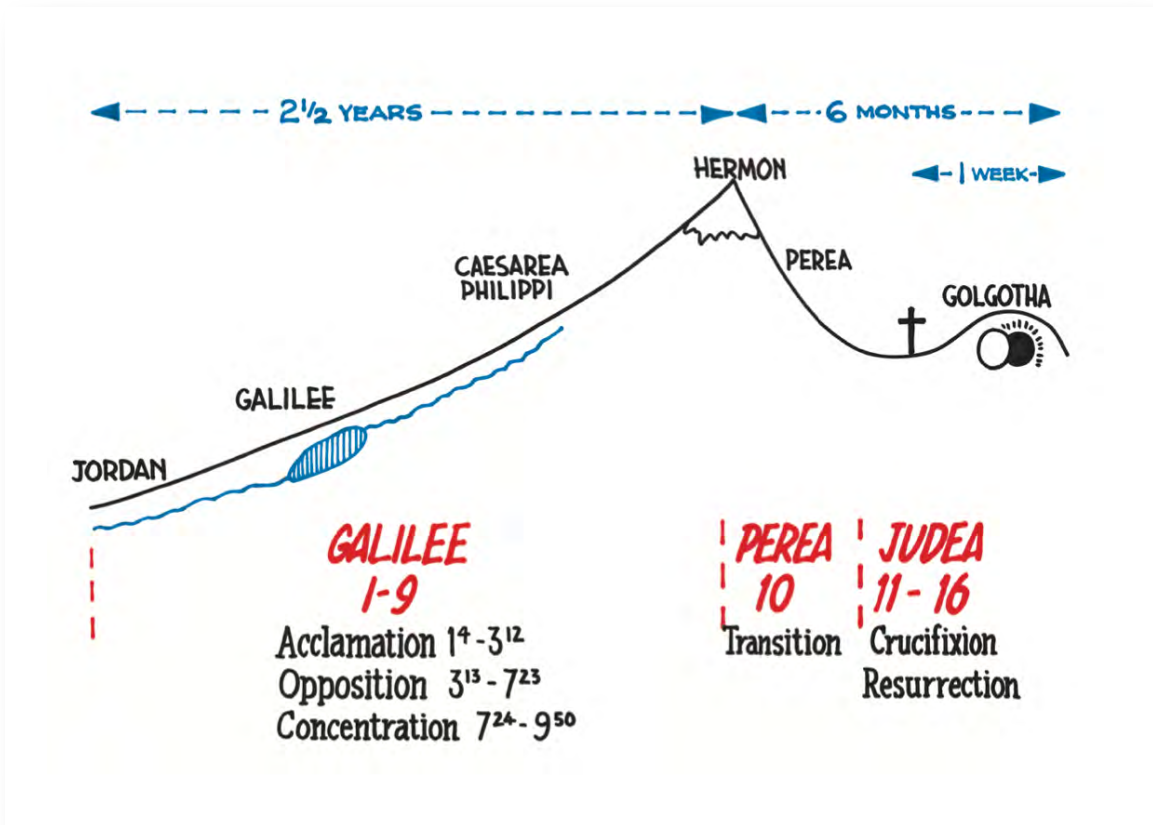


GETHSEMANE



Larger version available from: www.davidpawson.com/synopticrelationshipdiagram





Chapter
1
Mr 1:1-8 The office of John the Baptist.
Mr 1:9-11 Jesus is baptized;
Mr 1:12-13 tempted;
Mr 1:14-15 he preaches;
Mr 1:16-22 calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John;
Mr 1:23-28 heals one that had a devil;
Mr 1:29-31 Peter's mother in law;
Mr 1:32-39 many diseased persons;
Mr 1:40-45 and cleanses the leper.

Chapter
2
Mr 2:1-2 Christ followed by multitudes,
Mr 2:3-12 heals one sick of the palsy;
Mr 2:13-14 calls Matthew from the receipt of custom;
Mr 2:15-17 eats with Publicans and sinners;
Mr 2:18-22 excuses his disciples for not fasting;
Mr 2:23-28 and for plucking the ears of corn on the sabbath day.

Chapter
3
Mr 3:1-9 Christ heals the withered hand,
Mr 3:10 and many other infirmities;
Mr 3:11-12 rebukes the unclean spirit;
Mr 3:13-21 chooses his twelve apostles;
Mr 3:22-30 convinces the blasphemy of casting out devils by Beelzebub;
Mr 3:31-35 and shows who are his brother, sister, and mother.

Chapter
4
Mr 4:1-13 The parable of the sower,
Mr 4:14-20 and the meaning thereof.
Mr 4:21-25 We must communicate the light of our knowledge to others.
Mr 4:26-29 The parable of the seed growing secretly;
Mr 4:30-34 and of the mustard seed.
Mr 4:35-41 Christ stilleth the tempest on the sea.

Chapter
5
Mr 5:1-12 Christ delivering the possessed of the legion of devils,
Mr 5:13-21 they enter into the swine.
Mr 5:22-24 He is entreated by Jairus to go and heal his daughter.
Mr 5:25-34 He heals the woman of the bloody issue,
Mr 5:35-43 and raises from death Jairus' daughter.



Chapter
6

- Mr 6:1-6** Christ is contemned of his countrymen.
- Mr 6:7-13** He gives the twelve power over unclean spirits.
- Mr 6:14-15** Divers opinions of Christ.
- Mr 6:16-29** John the Baptist is imprisoned, beheaded, and buried.
- Mr 6:30-33** The apostles return from preaching.
- Mr 6:34-44** The miracle of five loaves and two fishes.
- Mr 6:45-52** Christ walks on the sea;
- Mr 6:53-56** and heals all that touch him.



Chapter
7

- Mr 7:1-7** The Pharisees find fault with the disciples for eating with unwashed hands.
- Mr 7:8-13** They break the commandment of God by the traditions of men.
- Mr 7:14-23** Meat defiles not the man.
- Mr 7:24-30** He heals the Syrophenician woman's daughter of an unclean spirit;
- Mr 7:31-37** and one that was deaf, and stammered in his speech.

Chapter
8

- Mr 8:1-9** Christ feeds the people miraculously;
- Mr 8:10-13** refuses to give a sign to the Pharisees;
- Mr 8:14-21** admonishes his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod;
- Mr 8:22-26** gives a blind man his sight;
- Mr 8:27-33** acknowledges that he is the Christ who should suffer and rise again;
- Mr 8:34-38** and exhorts to patience in persecution for the profession of the gospel.

Chapter
9

- Mr 9:1-10** Jesus is transfigured.
- Mr 9:11-13** He instructs his disciples concerning the coming of Elias;
- Mr 9:14-29** casts forth a deaf and dumb spirit;
- Mr 9:30-32** foretells his death and resurrection;
- Mr 9:33-37** exhorts his disciples to humility;
- Mr 9:38-50** bidding them not to prohibit such as are not against them, nor to give offence to any of the faithful.

Chapter
10

- Mr 10:1-12** Christ disputes with the Pharisees touching divorce;
 - Mr 10:13-16** blesses the children that are brought unto him;
 - Mr 10:17-22** resolves a rich man how he may inherit life everlasting;
 - Mr 10:23-27** tells his disciples of the danger of riches;
 - Mr 10:28-31** promises rewards to them that forsake any thing for the gospel;
 - Mr 10:32-34** foretells his death and resurrection;
 - Mr 10:35-45** bids the two ambitious suitors to think rather of suffering with him;
 - Mr 10:46-52** and restores to Bartimaeus his sight.



Chapter
11

- Mr 11:1-11** Christ rides with triumph into Jerusalem;
 - Mr 11:12-14** curses the fruitless fig-tree;
 - Mr 11:15-19** purges the temple;
 - Mr 11:20-26** exhorts his disciples to steadfastness of faith, and to forgive their enemies;
 - Mr 11:27-33** and defends the lawfulness of his actions by the witness of John, who was a man sent of God.

Chapter
12

- Mr 12:1-12** In a parable of the vineyard let out to wicked husbandmen Christ foretells the reprobation of the Jews, and the calling of the Gentiles.
- Mr 12:13-17** He avoids the snare of the Pharisees and Herodians about paying tribute to Caesar;
- Mr 12:18-27** convicts the Sadducees of error, who denied the resurrection;
- Mr 12:28-34** resolves the scribe, who questioned of the first commandment;
- Mr 12:35-37** refutes the opinion that the scribes held of Christ;
- Mr 12:38-40** bidding the people to beware of their ambition and hypocrisy;
- Mr 12:41-44** and commends the poor widow for her two mites, above all.

Chapter
13

- Mr 13:1-8** Christ foretells the destruction of the temple;
- Mr 13:9** the persecutions for the gospel;
- Mr 13:10-13** that the gospel must be preached to all nations;
- Mr 13:14-23** that great calamities shall happen to the Jews;
- Mr 13:24-31** and the manner of his coming to judgment;
- Mr 13:32-37** the hour whereof being known to none, every man is to watch and pray, that we be not found unprovided, when he comes to each one particularly by death.

Chapter
14

- Mr 14:1-2** A conspiracy against Christ.
- Mr 14:3-9** Precious ointment is poured on his head by a woman.
- Mr 14:10-11** Judas sells his Master for money.
- Mr 14:12-21** Christ himself foretells how he shall be betrayed by one of his disciples;
- Mr 14:22-25** after the passover prepared, and eaten, institutes his last supper;
- Mr 14:26-42** declares beforehand the flight of all his disciples, and Peter's denial.
- Mr 14:43-45** Judas betrays him with a kiss.
- Mr 14:46-52** He is apprehended in the garden;
- Mr 14:53-64** falsely accused and impiously condemned of the Jews' council;
- Mr 14:65** shamefully abused by them;
- Mr 14:66-72** and thrice denied of Peter.

Chapter
15

- Mr 15:1-5** Jesus brought bound, and accused before Pilate.
- Mr 15:6-15** Upon the clamour of the common people, the murderer Barabbas is loosed, and Jesus delivered up to be crucified.
- Mr 15:16-20** He is crowned with thorns, spit on, and mocked;
- Mr 15:21-26** faints in bearing his cross;
- Mr 15:27-28** hangs between two thieves;
- Mr 15:29-38** suffers the triumphing reproaches of the Jews;
- Mr 15:39-41** but is confessed by the centurion to be the Son of God;
- Mr 15:42-47** and is honourably buried by Joseph.

Chapter
16

- Mr 16:1-8** An Angel declares the resurrection of Christ to three women.
- Mr 16:9-11** Christ himself appears to Mary Magdalene;
- Mr 16:12-13** to two going into the country;
- Mr 16:14** then to the apostles;
- Mr 16:15-18** whom he sends forth to preach the gospel;
- Mr 16:19-20** and ascends into heaven.



Quiz on Mark

1. Who was Jesus baptized by?

2. Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

3. After Jesus's resurrection, to whom did he first appear?

4. Which two apostles were named the 'sons of thunder'?

5. Who appeared alongside Moses at the Transfiguration?

6. In Chapter 7, what did Jesus accuse the Pharisees of teaching as their doctrines?

7. What did Jesus say would defile a man?

8. In Chapter 10, what was the name of the blind beggar that received his sight?

9. In Chapter 11, what did Jesus say his house should be called?

10. In Chapter 15, what confession did the centurion make after seeing Jesus die on the cross?

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL

