

A Journey Through Mark

Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

Author and Audience

"Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately, though not indeed in order, whatsoever he remembered of the things said or done by Christ. For he neither heard the Lord nor followed him, but afterward, as I said, he followed Peter, who adapted his teaching to the need of his hearers, but with no intention of giving a connected account of the Lord's discourses, so that mark committed no error while he thus wrote some things as he remembered them. For he was careful of one thing, not to admit any of the things which he had heard, and not to state any of them falsely." -Eusebius, Hist. eccl. 3.39.15

Genre: What is a Gospel?

- Not a traditional “biography.” Neither by modern or first century standards.
 - Modern: Historical chronology is precise
 - Greek: Virtues of the “hero” are extolled and often exaggerated
- Records examples of sayings and events from the life of Jesus (weaving sayings and events together in such a way that they interpret each other), presenting Jesus' death and resurrection as the literary climax of the narrative in order to stress that it is the theological climax of God's saving purposes.
- Intends to convince readers to put their trust in Jesus, the Christ, so that they might experience (as a gracious gift from God) this quality of life, and be restored to a similar relationship

Genre: What is a Gospel?

"Many modern outlines of the gospels simply divide the material according to an assumed historical or geographical progression of the life and ministry of Christ. There are too many places, however, where it is clear that an evangelist grouped materials together not for chronological reasons, but because they contain the same literary form or because they share a similar theme or topic... Therefore, we are safest in not assuming any chronological connection between individual passages unless the writer uses a term that unambiguously requires such a connection or unless some other cause and effect relationship demands it."

- Craig L. Blomberg, Jesus and the Gospels

Genre: The Structure of Mark

"Even though the overall format of Mark's gospel is narrative, it does not possess a continuous storyline but is a collection of discrete units. There are crowd scenes, small group scenes, public scenes, and private scenes. The resulting book is a collage or mosaic of the life of Jesus. The best way to negotiate this format is to regard oneself as Mark's traveling companion as he assembles his documentary on the life of Christ. The main unifying element in the mosaic is the protagonist, Christ himself. ...Mark selected his material by two criteria: he chose events that were typical or representative in the life of Jesus (such as miracles of healing and telling of parables), and unique, once only events (especially those connected with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.)" –ESV Study Bible

Outline of Mark

- I. Introduction to Jesus and His Galilean Ministry (1:1-8:26)
- II. From Galilee to Jerusalem: The Path to Suffering (8:27-10:52)
- III. Jerusalem: The Passion and Empty Tomb (11:1-16:8)

*Adapted from The Story Retold p.71

Themes: Who is Jesus? The Messianic Secret

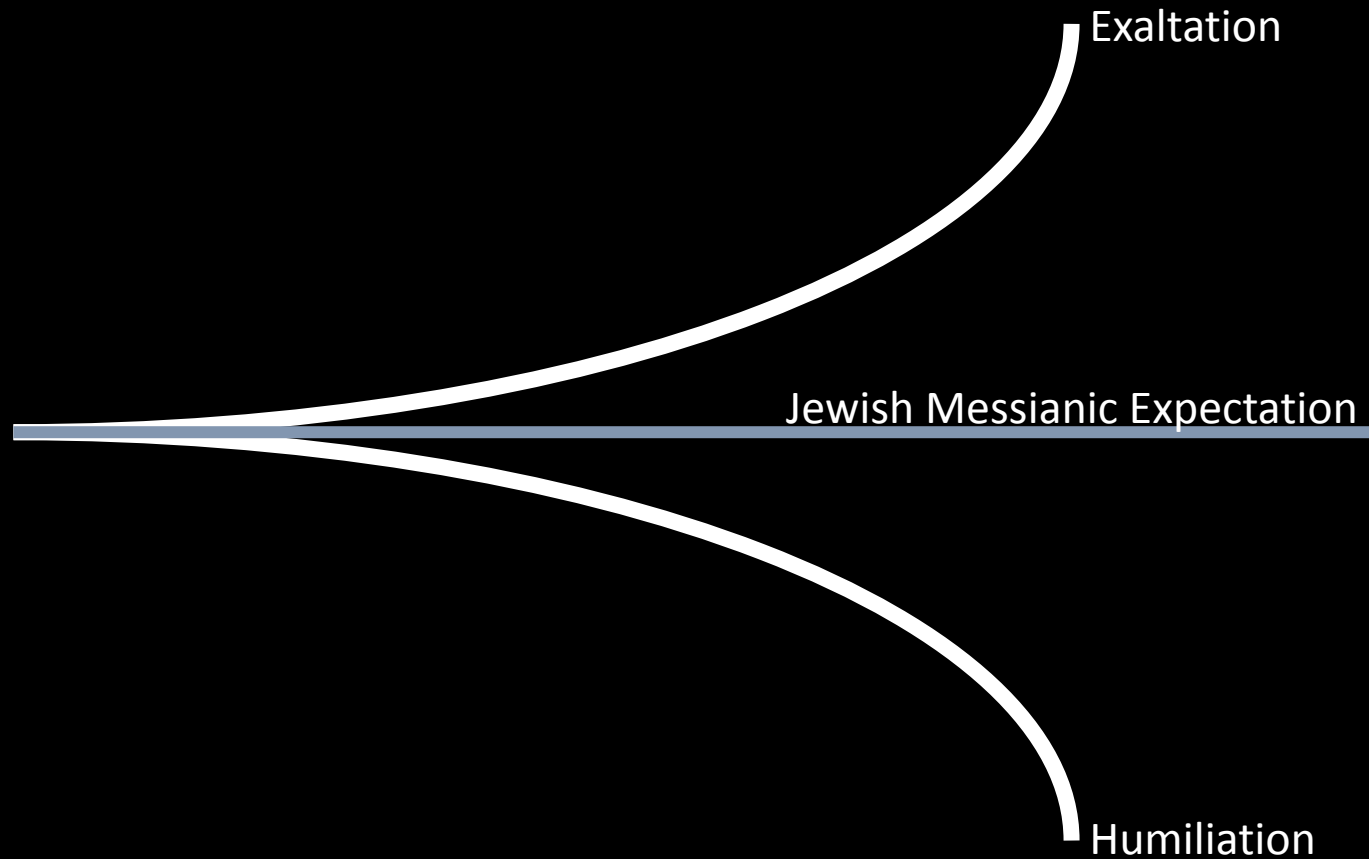
Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:45 “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go to the priest...”

- Disciples’ misunderstanding
 - Miracles of Jesus misinterpreted
 - Identity of Jesus misunderstood
- Minor characters’ understanding
 - “I believe, help my unbelief” (9:24)
 - Peter’s confession vs. the Centurion’s confession
- Interpreting Mark through the cross
- Open-ended close of the Gospel

Themes: Messianic Secret



Jesus exceeds expectations in both exaltation and humility

Themes: Messianic Secret

“The question of “who is he?” becomes increasingly urgent. The entire Gospel of Mark will answer this question by testifying to the following: (1) Jesus represents the coming Yahweh, according to Isaiah 40:3; (2) he is the messianic Lord of David (Mark 12:35–37; Ps. 110:1, 5); (3) he is the majestic and messianic Son of Man (Mark 8:38; 14:62; Dan. 7:13); (4) as the Son of Man, he is also the suffering servant of Isaiah 53:1–12 (Mark 10:45; 14:22–25); (5) he is God, who forgives sins (2:7; Neh. 9:17; Isa. 43:25; Ps. 103:2–3; 130:4; Jer. 31:34; Dan. 9:9); and (6) he is the eternal Son of God (Mark 1:11; 9:2–8; 12:1–12; Psalm 2).”

Hans F. Bayer, “Mark,” in *Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version*, ed. Bryan Chapell and Dane Ortlund (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 1320.

Themes: Second Exodus

- Mark 1:2-3 (Isaiah 40:3)

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

- Exodus □ Isaiah □ Mark

- Jesus as fulfillment of Isaiah’s second exodus: deliverer and suffering servant

Key Plot Points in Chapters 1-2

- John's Ministry
- Jesus' ministry: Authority over sickness, laws of nature, and the demonic world.
- Conflicts with religious leaders
 - Eating with sinners
 - Fasting
 - Plucking grain on the Sabbath

Jesus' Baptism

Mark 1:10-11

10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Isaiah 42:1

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

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