

- i. 1 Probably written between 65-73 A.D. It was the first Gospel written.
- ii. Could well have been written in Rome
  - 1 Peter and Paul were both there.
  - 2 There was persecution in Rome at the time.
  - 3 Author explains Aramaic terms to his audience but not the Latin ones.
- iii. Motivation for writing a “Gospel” might well have been the deaths of the eye-witnesses and first generation Christians (e.g. Peter & Paul).
- iv. So what is a gospel?
  - 1 The word comes from the old English “god spel” which meant good news. In turn it was a translation of the Latin evangelium, a transliteration of the Greek word euangelion.
  - 2 In the Roman world it was an official announcement often from the Emperor. “Good news, your legions have defeated the Gauls”!
  - 3 Paul appropriated it and spoke of the good news which comes from God, not Rome.
  - 4 Since Mark uses it to open his work, it and those like it came to be called “gospels”. They are narratives which contain stories about Jesus, traditions about him, his teachings, an account of his death and resurrection.
  - 5 The canonical Gospels have become authoritative witnesses to who Jesus was, what he did, and what it means to be his disciple. These were accepted as Scripture very early on in the Church’s history (No later than 180 A.D.
- v. Mark’s influence on Matthew and Luke-the “Synoptic Problem”.
- vi. Major Themes in the Gospel