

# Mark's Gospel

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## I. SOME INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- a. Mark is not the most popular of the four Gospels
  - i. No birth stories
  - ii. Many of Jesus' unique teachings and memorable parables are missing from Mark
  - iii. There's no Sermon on the Mount with its beatitudes and antitheses and none of the great one-line sayings such as "For God so loved the world..."
  - iv. The end of the original Gospel contains no appearances of the Risen Lord.
- b. Some literary characteristics
  - i. This is the shortest of the 4 Gospels
  - ii. Lively, action oriented approach using the historical present very frequently.
  - iii. Fewer stories but with more details than Matthew or Luke include when they tell the same story.
  - iv. There is an urgency about this Gospel; he frequently begins a sentence with "and immediately"
  - v. The frequent use of intercalation-Markan Sandwich"
  - vi. Much ambiguity and misunderstanding in this work
- c. Who wrote this work? When? Where? Why?
  - i. A tradition that goes back to Papias in the second century identifies Mark as a Christian who wrote down what Peter preached, but not in order.
  - ii. Some linked the Gospel to the John Mark mentioned as a companion of Paul.
  - iii. The earliest manuscripts are anonymous as are all the Gospels. But it may be that very early on as a manuscript was copied a name was attached to it even though the author did not do so.