

New Testament SURVEY

Session 3:

The Gospel According to Mark

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1. Authorship: John Mark (With Peter)

- *Justin Martyr, A.D. 150:* “It is said that he [Jesus] changed the name of one of the apostles to Peter; and it is written in his memoirs that he changed the names of others, two brothers, the sons of Zebedee, to Boanerges, which means ‘sons of thunder’....”
- *Irenaeus, A.D. 180:* “Matthew composed his gospel among the Hebrews in their own language, while Peter and Paul proclaimed the gospel in Rome and founded the community. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, handed on his preaching to us in written form.”
- *Eusebius, in Ecclesiastical History:* “The Gospel according to Mark had this occasion. As Peter had preached the Word publicly at Rome, and declared the Gospel by the Spirit, many who were present requested that Mark, who had followed him for a long time and remembered his sayings, should write them out. And having composed the Gospel he gave it to those who had requested it. When Peter learned of this, he neither directly forbade nor encouraged it.”

- *Muratorian Fragment, A.D. 170*: “But he was present among them, and so he put [the facts down in his Gospel]”
2. **Date:** 50-60 A.D.
 3. **Key Themes:**
 - Focuses on deeds of Jesus, not teachings (although “teacher” still used 12x)
 - Focuses on the kingdom of God (a more imminent eschatology)
 - Anointing followed by Suffering (see below)
 - Son of God is developed
 - A. The first and last titles are “Son of God”
 - B. The Father speaks audibly of Jesus twice, both times He’s called “Son” (1:11, 9:7)
 - C. Evil spirits recognized Him as such

KEY PASSAGES:

1. Mark 1:1 - The Son of God Announced (Psalm 2:2: Anointed, King, Son)
2. Mark 2:1-12 - Son of Man Can Forgive Sin
3. Mark 3:11; 5:7 - The Son of God Recognized
4. Mark 4:10-12 - The Purpose of the Parables (Is. 6:9)
5. Mark 10:33-34 - Isaiah’s Fulfillment
6. Mark 10:42-45 - The Son of Man is Expected to be Served
7. Mark 14:62-63 - The Son of Man Will Come on the Clouds (Ps. 110:1, Dan. 7:13-14)
8. Mark 15:39 - The Son of God Recognized