

# Mark Notes

## THE AUTHOR

Mark (identified in **14:51**), the young man who ran away from the Garden. Appears in no other Gospel. Maybe a signature ... OR, a disciples ("student") of that Mark, who includes what no one else knew or remembered ... OR, John Mark (the nephew of Barnabas and traveler with Paul) ... OR, some in very early centuries of The Church believed that Mark was a disciple ("student") of Simon Peter ..... Had to have relationship to someone near Christ to validate his authorship.

## DATE OF AUTHORSHIP

First canonized Gospel – mid-to-late 50s AD, perhaps 60s AD. 20-30 years earlier than *Matthew*, *Luke*, as much as 50 years than *John*. All but 60 verses from *Mark* appear in *Matthew* and *Luke*.

## WHY NO BIRTH STORY OR POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES?

Date of authorship. Contemporary of Paul. Writing to people who had been there! Not trying to prove what they already knew – Trying to help them interpret what it meant!

## REASONS FOR WRITING

- to evangelize unbelievers
- to inspire believers during persecution (same time frame as Paul when Church was suffering at hands of Judaizers and Rome) ...
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## TWO MAJOR SECTIONS

- **1:1-8:26**: Jesus' ministry in Galilee (north – Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum)
- **8:27-16:8**: Jesus in Jerusalem predicting suffering, death, and Resurrection

## MAJOR THEMES

### Sacraments

- Baptism (**1:9-13**)
- The Lord's Supper (**14:16-26**)

Humanity of Jesus (**3:5**, **10:13-16** – anger; **4:38** – rest; **6:1-6** – disappointment; **8:11-13, 33** – frustration; **11:12** – hunger; **13:32-42** – the Garden of Gethsemane; **15:21** – suffering; **15:33-34** – spiritual emptiness) ... In tough times, we pray to Someone Who has walked where we walk

### Messianic Reality of Jesus

- Miracle stories (**5:1-43**, **6:30-56**)
- The Kingdom of God ("the reign of God"). Jesus inaugurates that age. (**1:15**, **9:1-8**, **17:27**; **15:2**)

### The Suffering (Passion Story) of Jesus (**14:1-15:41**)

- Absolute dedication to His Calling – Confrontation with enemies will reveal Who has the real power and will draw others to Him (**8:31**)

• No specific Atonement Theology in *Mark* (in others and Paul) *unless* Upper Room "Pascal Lamb" reference (Mark infers Atonement; Paul declares it)

### The Calling of Believers to tell The Story

- The calling of the fishermen (**1:14-20**) ... Ministry in community)
- The response of the women to the Resurrection (**16:1-8** – Mark's last word is "afraid" – Not easy to do what Jesus calls us to do – but right thing not always easy thing, but is always right thing!)
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