

A LOOK AT THE BOOK MARK

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AUTHOR

Tradition points to Mark.

May have been saved through the ministry of Peter (1 Pet. 5:13).

Tradition credits Peter as the source of his account.

He is most noted as a companion of Paul and Barnabas who left them.

Caused division of Paul and Barnabas -Acts 15.

Paul later testified to his value -2 Tim. 4:11.

DATE

The date cannot be definitely identified.

Tradition placed it second in order.

Most modern commentators accept Mark as the earliest gospel.

It seems likely that it was written after Matthew, and perhaps even after Luke.

Prophesies the fall of Jerusalem, with no reference to its fulfillment, indicating it was probably written before A.D. 70

BACKGROUND

Since Matthew wrote, the gospel message has extended to the Gentile world. Those who have heard about Jesus are seeking a clearer understanding about Jesus' life and ministry.

From the contents of the book, it appears that they are already familiar with much of the story.

* Jewish customs, genealogies, and other characteristics are ignored, either because they were understood by the readers, or considered unnecessary.

* The readers did not understand Aramaic. Mark explains the terms.

The intended readers were perhaps a mixed group, living outside Palestine.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Mark's popular preaching style points to the two alternatives concerning Jesus.

The purpose appears to be principally evangelistic.

They must decide which side they will join.

Neither side represents an easy solution!

Those who oppose Jesus will be judged.

Those who join Him will pay a price.

The emphasis on the hatred of the opposition, and their attempt to destroy Him and those identified with Him, introduces the theme of persecution.

The theme of the message centers on the Person and work of Christ.

Jesus' words and works combine to demonstrate that He was the Messiah.

Nevertheless His presence did not bring repentance; it brought opposition.

The reader is faced with a choice:

Recognize Jesus' claims and follow Him,

Or, turn against Him, as the others did.

WHAT PRACTICAL LESSONS DOES THIS GOSPEL TEACH US FOR OUR LIVES TODAY?

