

Purpose

To present the person, work, and teachings of Jesus

Author

John Mark, who was not one of the 12 disciples but he accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey

To Whom Written

The Christians in Rome, where he wrote the Gospel

Date Written

Between 55-65 AD

Setting

The Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar. The empire, with its common language and excellent transportation and communication systems, was ripe to hear Jesus' message, which spread quickly from nation to nation

Key People

Jesus, the disciples, the religious leaders, and Pontius Pilate

Key Places

Nazareth, Caesarea, Philippi, Jericho, Bethany, Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum, and Golgotha

Key Verse

"For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give My life as a ransom for many." *10:45*

Special Features:

Mark was probably the first Gospel written. The other Gospels quote all but 31 verses of *Mark*. *Mark* records more miracles than does any other Gospel.

An Overview (16 Chapters)

- Birth and Preparation of Jesus, the Servant (*1:1-13*)
- Message and Ministry of Jesus, the Servant (*1:14-13:37*)
- Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Servant (*14:1-16:20*)

Major Themes

Jesus Christ

Jesus alone is the Son of God. In *Mark*, Jesus demonstrates His divinity by overcoming disease, demons, and death. Although He had the power to be king of the earth, Jesus chose to obey the Father and die for us.

Servant

As the Messiah, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament by coming to earth. He did not come as a conquering king; He came as a servant. He helped people by telling them about God and healing them. Even more, by giving His life as a sacrifice for sin, He performed the ultimate act of service.

Miracles

Mark records more of Jesus' miracles than sermons. Jesus is clearly a man of power and action, not just words. Jesus did miracles to convince the people who He was and to confirm to the disciples His true identity — God.

Spreading the Gospel

Jesus directed His public ministry to the Jews first. When the Jewish leaders opposed Him, Jesus also went to the non-Jewish world, healing and preaching. Roman soldiers, Syrians, and other Gentiles heard the Good News. Many believed and followed Him. Jesus' final message to His disciples challenged them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel of salvation.