

## BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #9

MARK

02-26-23

Monday - Mark 1-4

Wednesday - Mark 8-10

Friday - Mark 14-16

Tuesday - Mark 5-7

Thursday - Mark 11-13

**The Gospel according to Mark** is the second of the four books that give us an account of the life and ministry of Christ. It is the briefest and fastest moving of all the gospels. It omits the birth story of Jesus and begins with a short summary of John the Baptist and then immediately launches into the ministry of Christ. By leaving out a lot of His discourses and dealing more with what He did, Mark emphasizes Christ as being a man of action. As we read his powerful presentation of facts concerning the mission of Jesus, we too should come to the same conclusion that the centurion did in Mark 15:39 where he states, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**The author** of this gospel appears to be unanimously agreed upon among conservative scholars to be Mark, also known as John Mark, of the New testament. His background and experience would definitely make him a logical candidate to be used by the Lord in this capacity. His mother was evidently an active Christian, that used her home as a place of fellowship with other Christians, including the apostle Peter (Acts 12:11-12). John Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10) and a traveling companion with him and the apostle Paul (Acts 12:25-13:5; 15:39). Even though Paul was upset with Mark when he turned back on the first missionary journey, he later saw him as a dependable servant of the Lord. Paul described him as such during his first imprisonment at Rome. When Paul was arrested and put in prison a second time in Rome, he specifically requested of Timothy to have Mark come to him (2 Tim 4:11).

Mark was also a traveling companion and close friend of the apostle Peter, who it appears might have converted Mark to the Lord from a statement he makes in his first letter (1 Peter 5:13). It is thought that in this relationship, Peter provided Mark with a lot of first hand, eye witness testimony that was used in the writing of his gospel. Whether or not that was the case, we recognize Mark as one of those men inspired by the Lord to record the things that he wrote.

**The date** of the writing of this book is considered to be sometime during A.D. 60-68.

**The purpose** of the book is to produce faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God. Many believe that Mark wrote in Rome for the benefit primarily of Gentiles there. Even though its first objective may have been to convince unbelievers, it would also have been a tremendous encouragement to those that were

**An Outline** for the book:

1. The Galilean ministry of Jesus 1-9
2. The Judean and Jerusalem ministries 10-16

**Questions** for Mark chapters 1-16:

- 1.) What did Christ say he would make Simon and Andrew when he told them to follow Him in chapter one?
- 2.) What was unusual about how the friends of the paralytic brought him to Christ to be healed by Him?
- 3.) In chapter five where did the demons go that Christ cast out of the man that was possessed?
- 4.) Who was the beggar that was healed of blindness in chapter ten?
- 5.) When the disciples mentioned how wonderful the temple and surrounding buildings were in Jerusalem, what did Christ say was going to happen to them in the first part of chapter thirteen?

**Answers** to questions for Week #8 – Numbers 18-36:

- 1.) Miriam's death is recorded in the beginning of chapter twenty and Aaron's death is recorded toward the end.
- 2.) Balaam.
- 3.) Take a census of the males twenty and up in the congregation of Israel.
- 4.) They would have to cross over the Jordan with their brothers and help them in their battles to conquer the land of Canaan.
- 5.) Vows.