

Donald Spencer

Assignment 11

November 4, 2017, Synoptic Gospel, Professor Armstrong

1. Explain the number of verses in Matthew and Luke that are referred to as Q. How are these verses determined?
2. What exactly is meant by Q?
3. If Q is simply a hypothesis, then do we really know how the Bible was collected and compiled? Explain your answer.

Read pp 77 – 102

**Respond to the following in short answer essay format.**

1. Prepare a general outline of the structure of the gospel of Mark, showing in your outline the differences of each part.

- I. II. The Galilean Ministry 1:14—8:30
  - A. Exemplary Beginnings 1:14-45
  - B. The Early Galilean Ministry: a Rising Conflict 2:1—3:6
  - C. The Later Galilean Ministry: 3:7—6:13
  - D. Withdraw Beyond Galilee: 6:14—8:21
  - E. The Turning Point 8:22-30

II. The Road to the Cross 8:31—13:37

A. The Journey to Jerusalem 8:31—10:52

1. The First Passion Prediction 8:31 -- 9:1
2. The Second Passion Prediction 9:30-50
3. The Third Passion Prediction 10:32-45

B. The Jerusalem Ministry: 11:1—13:37

1. The Entry 11:1-11
2. Judgment on the Temple 11:12-26 (Intercalation)
3. Conflict with the Authorities 11:27-33
4. The Markan Apocalypse 13:1-37

III. The Markan Passion Narrative 14:1—16:8

A. Preparatory Events 14:1-52

1. The Plot 14:1-11 (Intercalation)
2. The Passover Supper 14:12-26
3. The Gethsemane Agony 14:27-52

B. The Trials 14:53 -- 15:15

1. Before the Sanhedrin 14:53-57 (Intercalation)

- 2. Before Pilate 15:1-15
- C. The Crucifixion 15:16-47
- D. The Burial 15:42-47
- E. The Resurrection: 16:1-8

**2. What does the author mean when stating that the Book of Mark represents the inauguration of the mission to the Gentiles?**

There are three main characteristics of this Gospel. The first is **Character**. In rapidity of action the narrative moves quickly from one event to the next. This probably reflects the impulsive personality of Peter. Over forty times we find the Greek word euthys, translated (kjv) “immediately,” “straightway,” “forthwith.” ). The second characteristic is vividness of detail. Mark often includes details omitted by the other Synoptics that make the narrative more alive. He gives special attention to the looks and gestures of Jesus. The third characteristic is picturesqueness of description.

**3. Explain how Mark portrays Jerusalem**

**4. Explain Mark 8:22 to 10:52. What is this section of Mark’s gospel referred to?**

**5. What is different about 8:22 to 10:52 than the rest of Mark’s gospel?**

Mark sets up his gospel in such a way to emphasize the importance of Jesus’ suffering and death as well as how the lives of Jesus’ followers should mirror Jesus’ sacrifice and suffering. So far, the narrative has moved at a frenetic pace, with Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee and traveling great distances every day. Now we slow down both geographically and narratively.

**6. Why did Mark keep Jesus' identity undercover to some degree? Who was Jesus' competition? What is meant by the Messianic secret motif?**

**The reasons why Jesus the Messiah did not clearly reveal his full identity:** (1) Because Jesus knew that his identity is beyond human understanding, and is revealed only to believers who are enabled by God to search for the truth: (2) because He did not want people to be distracted from His basic purpose and message, and (3) because Jesus knew many people have so hardened their hearts and surrendered to Satan, that they could not recognize who He really is and why He came.

The Messianic Secret is a motif in Mark's gospel wherein Jesus exhibits behavior that appears to be aimed at self-concealment. In other words, he seems to be trying to keep the fact that he is the Messiah from the general public

**7. What is the actual conclusion of Mark's gospel?**

The original ending of Mark was viewed by later Christians as so deficient that not only was Mark placed second in order in the New Testament, but various endings were added by editors and copyists in some manuscripts to try to remedy things. The longest concocted ending, which became Mark 16:9-19, became so treasured that it was included in the King James Version of the Bible, favored for the past 500 years.

**8. Explain why, according to biblical scholarship, it is not likely that Mark, the companion of Peter, actually wrote the gospel.**

In my own studies I can't find a disciple called Mark. The question is why then is there a Gospel of Mark? Who was Mark and why did he have a gospel named after him? The actual Mark who wrote this gospel is believed to be John Mark. Mark was not one of the disciples like John who had wrote a gospel of his own along with four other books in the New Testament but someone

who was mentored by Peter and Paul. Peter even referred to Mark as his son (1 Pet 5:13). Most biblical scholars agree that Mark or more precisely, John Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark

**9. Why was it necessary for Matthew and Luke to improve Mark's grammar and style?**

**Regarding the historical present tenses used in Mark, how did Matthew and Luke treat them? How many did they change?**

There are little details noted, such as Matthew turning a Pharisee's statement in Mark into a question, and Luke adding the little word "some" to Mark's account, on closer inspection turn out not to be haphazard variations, but evidence that the gospel authors were more focused on creative story telling than passing on "traditions". Matthew and Luke reversed the order of Mark's narrative so that the creation story is told first, and it is this ideal story that is then butted out of real life, and the Moses exception is allowed to stand:

Donald Spencer

Week 11 Assignment

November 4, 2017, Bi-103 Synoptic Gospel, Professor Armstrong

### **10. What is the priority of Mark's gospel?**

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels. In comparison with Matthew and Luke, the Gospel of Mark contains moderately little of the teachings of Jesus and nothing at all about his birth and childhood. Starting with the ministry of John the Baptist, it comes immediately to the public ministry of Christ, ending with his death and resurrection.

Most scholars place the writing of Mark between 65 and 70 AD, right before the destruction of Jerusalem in the latter year. Of course, if one accepts the tradition that Mark wrote after Peter's death, the later dates would have to be adopted.

As for the place of writing, there is little question or argument, exception of Chrysostom, that Mark's Gospel was written at Rome.

Most of the scholars of today favor the theory Markan Priority. This is the hypothesis that the Gospel of Mark was the first of the Synoptic written. The Markan Priority tells us that the Gospel of Mark was written first, it was used by Matthew and Luke when they composed their Gospels. The fact is that about 95 percent of the writings of Mark is found in Matthew and or Luke. The freshness and vividness of Mark's language suggest it was written first. It should be noted, however, that this position is still being challenged.