

Reading The New Testament

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The Gospel of Mark - Chapter 24

The Gospel of Mark explains the themes, theology, and stories about Jesus of Nazareth. It is pressed together and full of narratives about His divine identity, His teachings, His life, human vulnerability and the Kingdom of God boring in as a wrecking ball through Him. At the same time, opposition of the Roman and Judean stacking up against Him. It is the story of resistance and betrayal, prophesy and power. It culminates or erupts with the violent death of Jesus by crucifixion, and an unexpected and mysterious ending pointing to Jesus' resurrection. It is said the Mark's writing in Greek is primitive, but he is a great storyteller. Mark's Gospel joins together the early church's preaching of the Gospel with or in the Jesus tradition. Mark's Gospel is a story about God and the Jewish people and it is in the category of 'Apocalyptic', which is a revelation of predicting prophesy. It is a story of secrecy of mystery that needs to be searched and to hold firmly by faith. In the contextual and critical matters, the Gospel of Mark's author continues to remain unknown, though discussion of John Mark as a possible author. The writing of Mark has been indicated possibly around AD 65 to AD 75. The place of the composition or writing is thought to be in Galilee or Alexandria. However, there are other options such as Syria and Rome. The purpose of Mark's Gospel is to portray Jesus embracing the crucifixion as a calling by Israel's messiah would redeem and rescue His people. Jesus claimed to speak for God over and against the pharisees, scribes, high priests and even the temple itself. His crucifixion was not an accident but his own chosen means on the basis of His scripture-shaped vocation, to complete his kingdom in auguration. The prologue begins with the word 'Gospel' or good news as seen in Isaiah Chapters 40 and 52. The good news is the new exodus, the end of exile and the return of YHWH Himself to rescue His people and reign over them and the world as king. In the Galilean Ministry, Jesus entered as a massive storm with His immediate authority, performing exorcisms, healing many, casting out unclean spirits, healing skin diseases and the people became joyous of the occurrences. There are a myriad account of healing a multitude of people, at the same time, He is calling his disciples. In Mark's Gospel, there are many parables which Jesus said in ministry about the kingdom of God. Jesus's confrontations with local cultural leaders were about Him, deliberately and with open disregard, working on the Sabbath. Jesus did this because He, Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and also, He is greater than the temple. Lastly, the Passion of Jesus which focuses towards the cross/his crucifixion. This event is described in Mark as a triumphant one. This is to say that, we too, must take up our own cross and follow Jesus, and the Kingdom of God continues.