

### **Homework # 3**

According to Wright, the gospel of Mark is a fast paced, action packed story of Jesus. It contains his life, his teachings, his Godliness but also the human part of him. Mark paints a picture that God's kingdom is on the move and invading while opposition is heavily armed against Jesus. Wright also notes that Mark's gospel truly rings heavily with the context of what the early church was going through. It also has some similarities with some written hellenistic biographies such as Socrates and Julius Caesar. Of course, the book of Mark goes well beyond just the story of a man from Nazareth, but the story of God, the redeemer of Israel, the savior of the world.

Wright mentions that Marks invites his readers into Israel's great story and how it culminates with Jesus Christ. This book is intended to remind the church of its mission and the life that it will live. Another purpose and function of the book was that it was meant to be read as an apocalypse. Hays mentions that all quick transitions in Mark is not random and that it meant to stir the readers into urgency. The story of Mark is meant to show Jesus, and how God has become the King.

Wright also speaks of the authorship of Mark. Most likely it was written by a Greek speaking Jewish Christian who was well versed in the Old Testament. Many have suggested that this book was heavily influenced by Peter himself. Wright states that many stories in the book were written from Peter's point of view. Also, a possible author of the bible is a member of the early church named John Mark. John Mark was a member of the Cypriot Jewish family and settled in Jerusalem. He accompanied

Barnabus and Paul in their missionary journey. Wright assumed that Matthew and Luke perhaps used Mark around 70s or 80s. It is possible that most scholars date the writing of Mark around 65-75. The reason behind this date is the way Mark talks about the Temple in Mark 13. It is either written as a memory or as an event happening very soon. As to the location of where the text was written, there is some possibility that it was written in Rome due to its many Latinism.

Wright also tackles the purposes of the book of Mark. Mark helps portray Jesus as Isaiah's "Suffering Servant" and the mysterious one as mentioned in Daniel. Wright states that Mark doesn't illustrate Jesus as some prophet who gets caught up with the political power of the day. However, Mark shows that Jesus allowed himself to go through the suffering so that he can accomplish his mission as messiah. Wright says that Jesus is portrayed as the messiah not despite the cross, but because of the cross.

Also, Wright addresses the many endings of Mark and the explanations why. There is a good chance that the earliest manuscript actually ended in 16.8. The additions seem like they were added in the second quarter of the second century. It could fill up the parts from Matthew, John, Luke, and Acts. Mark may have ended the book in verse 8 to give the readers a sense of fear and trembling. Perhaps, Mark wanted readers to understand the crucifixion and the resurrection as well. At the end of the day, scholars are not too sure what the true ending would have looked like. Even the Dead Sea Scrolls lack a beginning and an end.