

## **Introduction to the Gospel of Mark**

### **By Bob Young**

#### **Author/Date/Audience**

Mark; a narrator who tells that which he has come to know

Generally thought to be early

John Mark in the New Testament:

Acts 12:12,25; 13:5,13; 15:36-39; Col. 4:10; Philm 24, 2 Tim. 4:11

General audience, Roman audience

#### **Understanding the General Outline of the Synoptic Gospels**

Identity stories

Organized structures of Jesus' life

Passion predictions

Passion Week (from Triumphal Entry to Resurrection)

Send forth followers

#### **Purpose of Mark**

Is not only a biography, does not include narrative of birth or infancy

Provide a clear identification of who Jesus is, and why this is a valid conclusion

#### **Theological Themes**

Fear/Faith

Amazing

Suffering

Touch

Servant Lord

Son of God, Son of Man

Who knows Jesus' identity? Make a list of the various descriptions used

Messianic secret

#### **Interesting facts**

Is one of the Synoptic Gospels, thus follows general outline of Synoptics: identity stories, ministry, conflict, passion predictions, triumphal entry, passion week, conclusion

Short, terse

Action words, what Jesus did

Declaration of 1:1

"Immediately"

People Jesus touched; make a list of the people Jesus influenced

## **Structure**

What is this book about?

Introduction/prologue

Ia—Who is Jesus? [1-4]

Identity stories, Son of God, angels, calls followers

Identity stories, amazing works and words

Conflict stories, paralytic, Matthew Levi, fasting, Sabbath healing, Beelzebub

Power stories, what does Jesus have power over? [1-4, temptation, evil spirits, diseases, demons, leprosy, paralysis, Sabbath, shriveled hand, nature, storm]

Miracle stories, 17/20 of these appear in the first section (1-8)

Ib—Who can be a follower of Jesus? [5-8]

Sinners, unclean [demon-possessed, sick woman, dead girl, deaf mute], foreigners

Jesus is revealed as the Messiah

II—Jesus is the Messiah [blind man stories serve as introduction and conclusion]

Blind man

Confession

Passion prediction

Difficulty of following

Transfiguration--fear

Healing--faith

Passion prediction

Follower stories

Passion prediction

Difficulty of following

Blind man

III—Final Week

Triumphal Entry

In Jerusalem

Last Supper

Gethsemane, trial, crucifixion

IV—Resurrection and subsequent events

## **Commentary on the Biblical Text**