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A Biographical Study of Mark

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Mark

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Mark, the failure
 - A. He was brought to Antioch by Paul and his uncle, Barnabas (Acts 12:25).
 - B. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:5).
 - C. When things became difficult, he abandoned the team at Perga and returned home (Acts 13:13).
 - D. Paul later refused to allow John Mark to accompany him on his second missionary (Acts 15:36-38).
- II. Mark, the fruitful
 - A. John Mark and Barnabas—Barnabas left Paul and took John Mark with him to Cyprus for missionary purposes. Apparently this time, the young man rose to the occasion (Acts 15:39).
 - B. John Mark and Paul
 1. He ministered to Paul in Rome during the apostle's first imprisonment (Philem. 24; Col. 4:10).
 2. He was summoned by Paul in Rome during the apostle's final imprisonment—"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11).
 - C. John Mark and Peter—"The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son" (1 Peter 5:13).
- III. Mark, the author—He was the author of the Gospel that bear his name.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark emphasizes the servanthood of Christ.

- I. The setting apart of the servant
 - A. His forerunner (Mark 1:1-8)
 - B. His baptism (Mark 1:9-11)
 - C. His temptation (Mark 1:12-13)
- II. The spokesman of the servant
 - A. The personal meeting with his apostles
 1. James, John, Peter, and Andrew (Mark 1:14-20)
 2. Matthew (Mark 2:13-14)
 - B. The public ministry of his apostles
 1. The official call of the Twelve (Mark 3:13-21)
 2. The official commission to the Twelve (Mark 6:7-13)
- III. The sermons and subjects of the Savior—"And he said unto them, Let us go into the next town, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth" (Mark 1:38).
 - A. The sermons he delivered
 1. The sower and the soils (Mark 4:1-34)

2. A description of defilement (Mark 7:1-23)
3. The Mount Olivet discourse (Mark 13:1-37)
- B. The subjects he discussed
 1. The unpardonable sin (Mark 3:22-30)
 2. True relationships (Mark 3:31-35)
 3. Discipleship (Mark 8:34-38)
 4. Greatness (Mark 9:33-37; 10:42-45)
 5. Sectarianism (Mark 9:38-41)
 6. Hell (Mark 9:42-50)
 7. Divorce (Mark 10:1-12)
 8. Rewards (Mark 10:28-31)
 9. Prayer and faith (Mark 11:20-26)
 10. The Messiah (Mark 12:35-37)
- IV. The supernaturalness of the servant—“And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole” (Mark 6:56). Mark records no less than 18 miracles performed by Jesus.
 - A. Casting out of demons
 1. From a man in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28)
 2. From a man in Gadara (Mark 5:1-20)
 3. From a girl in Tyre (Mark 7:24-30)
 4. From a boy near Mount Hermon (Mark 9:14-29)
 - B. Healing of diseases
 1. Peter’s mother-in-law
 2. A leper (Mark 1:40-45)
 1. A palsied man (Mark 2:1-12)
 2. A withered hand (Mark 3:1-6)
 3. A woman with a bloody issue (Mark 5:25-34)
 4. A deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31-37)
 5. A blind man (Mark 8:22-26)
 6. A blind man named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
 - C. Feeding the hungry
 1. The five thousand (Mark 6:30-44)
 2. The four thousand (Mark 8:1-9)
 - D. Controlling the elements (Mark 4:35-41)
 1. Stilling the storm (Mark 4:35-41)
 2. Walking on water (Mark 6:45-52)
 - E. Judging a fruitless fig tree (Mark 11:12-14)
 - F. Raising a girl from the dead (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)
- V. The skeptics of the servant—“And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils” (Mark 3:22). “And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from

heaven, tempting him" (Mark 8:11). "And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words" (Mark 12:13).

A. His confrontation with the skeptics

1. They said he associated with sinners and did not observe all their legalism (Mark 2:16-22).
2. They questioned his authority (Mark 11:27-33).
3. They attempted to trap him:
 - a. Concerning the subject of paying tribute (Mark 12:13-17)
 - b. Concerning the subject of the resurrection (Mark 12:18-27)

B. His condemnation of the skeptics

1. He suggested they might have committed the unpardonable sin (Mark 3:22-30).
2. He refused to give them a sign (Mark 8:11-13).
3. He warned against their hypocrisy (Mark 8:14-21).
4. He compared them to some wicked and murderous laborers in a vineyard (Mark 12:1-12).
5. He denounced their self-centeredness and pride (Mark 12:38-40).

VI. The seekers of the servant—In contrast to the wicked Jewish leaders who rejected him, there were those who sought him out for various reasons.

- A. Some parents with their children (Mark 10:13-16)—"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:16).
- B. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-27)
- C. James and John (Mark 10:35-41)—"They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory" (Mark 10:37).
- D. A sincere scribe (Mark 12:28-34)—"And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question" (Mark 12:34).
- E. A woman in Bethany (Mark 14:3-9)—"And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head" (Mark 14:3).

VII. The splendor of the servant

- A. A declaration of his deity (Mark 8:27-30)—"And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? And they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets. And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ" (Mark 8:27-29).
- B. A demonstration of his deity (Mark 9:1-13)—"And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became

shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mark 9:2-3).

- VIII. The sorrow of the servant
 - A. Over the disbelief in Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6)
 - B. Over the death of John (Mark 6:14-29)
- IX. The showing of the servant (Mark 11:1-11)—“And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest” (Mark 11:7-10).
- X. The surveillance of the servant (Mark 11:15-19)—“And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves” (Mark 11:15).
- XI. The supper of the servant (Mark 14:12-25)—“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God” (Mark 14:22-25).
- XII. The submission of the servant (Mark 14:32-42)—“And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:35-36).
- XIII. The sufferings of the servant
 - A. He was plotted against—“After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people” (Mark 14:1-2). “And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him” (Mark 14:10-11).
 - B. He was filled with horror and distress in the garden.
 - 1. The agony (Mark 14:32-42)
 - 2. The arrest (Mark 14:43-49)
 - 3. The abandonment (Mark 14:50)
 - C. He was denied by a friend.
 - 1. The revelation of these denials (Mark 14:26-31)—“But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice” (Mark 14:29-30).

2. The record of these denials (Mark 14:66-72)—“But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man to whom ye speak” (Mark 14:71).
- D. He was betrayed by a follower (Mark 14:43-46)—“And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him” (Mark 14:44-45).
- E. He was illegally tried.
 1. Before the high priest (Mark 14:53-65)
 - a. Falsely accused (Mark 14:55-59)
 - b. Condemned to die (Mark 14:60-64)
 - c. Spat upon, blindfolded, struck, and ridiculed (Mark 14:65)
 2. Before Pilate (Mark 15:1-15)
 - a. Slandered by the priests (Mark 15:1-5)
 - b. Scourged by Pilate (Mark 15:15)
 3. Before the Roman soldiers (Mark 15:16-20)
 - a. He was mistreated.
 - b. He was mocked.
- XIV. The sacrifice of the servant (Mark 15:20-47)
 - A. On the cross (Mark 15:20-41)
 - B. In the tomb (Mark 15:42-47)
- XV. The sovereignty of the servant (Mark 16:1-20)
 - A. He arose from the grave (Mark 16:1-18).
 1. The announcement (Mark 16:1-8)—“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. . . . And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him’” (Mark 16:1, 5-6).
 2. The appearances (Mark 16:9-11)
 - a. To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11)
 - b. To two disciples (Mark 16:12-13)
 - c. To the 11 (Mark 16:14-18)
 - B. He ascended into glory (Mark 16:19-20)—“So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19).

STATISTICS

Mother: Mary (Acts 12:12)

Uncle: Barnabas (Acts 12:25; Col. 4:10)

First mention: Acts 12:25

Final mention: 1 Peter 5:13

Meaning of his name: John means "Grace of Jehovah"; Mark means "Large hammer."

Frequency of his name: Referred to 10 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Five books (Acts, Colossians, 2 Timothy, Philemon, 1 Peter)

Occupation: Author and missionary evangelist

Place of birth: Probably Jerusalem

Place of death: Tradition says he died in Alexandria, Egypt.

Circumstances of death: Tradition says he died a martyr's death, being dragged through the streets with a rope around his neck.

Important fact about his life: He authored the Gospel of Mark.