



The Gospel according to Mark

DESCRIPTIVE SHEET

Author

The Gospel according to Mark is written by John Mark. He was with the apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:13). It is likely that it is the same Mark whom Luke mentions in his second book (Acts 12:25; 13:5,13). Mark was not among the twelve apostles that Jesus had chosen. However, he was a fellow minister to the apostle Peter and his secretary. According to some Church fathers such as Papias and Justin Martyr, Peter was one of Mark's primary sources of information.

Date

In the category of Gospels' writings, Mark is considered the first to have been written. According to some, Matthew and Luke would have drawn information from Mark to write their gospels. Since Peter had to be alive for Mark to write his gospel, this text is dated between the years 50-60.

Core theme and target audience

The theme developed by Mark in his Gospel seems to target a Roman audience. While Matthew emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah and the King, the heir to the throne of David that God had promised to the Jewish people, Mark presents Jesus as the suffering servant who comes to serve others. Above all, he emphasizes what Jesus did instead of what he taught. Moreover, he demonstrates the humanity of Christ more than the other gospels (Mk. 1:41; 3:5; 6:34).

Outline of the book

It must be said that the text of Mark is the shortest of the Gospels. It is characterized by its brevity and the richness of the history of the events. It is divided as follows :

1. Prologue (Mark 1 :1-13) ;
2. The beginning of Jesus' ministry (Mk. 1:14- 7:21);
3. The ministry of Jesus in various pagan regions (Mk. 7:24-9:50);
4. On the way to Jerusalem (Mk. 10:1-52);
5. The end of Jesus' ministry (Mk. 11:1 - 16:1-8);
6. Postscript. (Mk. 16 :9-20)