

“THE MYSTERY OF GOD MADE MAN”

The Gospel of Mark

Who wrote The Gospel of Mark?

Mark wrote his Gospel sometime before 70 A.D. in Rome. Some scholars believe it could have been the first Gospel written.

How did The Gospel of Mark get its name and/or what does that name mean?

This Gospel is named after Mark who was the son of Mary of Jerusalem and the cousin of Barnabas. He was also an assistant to St. Peter.

When did these events take place?

The Gospel of Mark chronicles the life of Christ from His Baptism until His Ascension. It is commonly believed that Mark's Gospel was a basic source for Matthew's and Luke's Gospels

For more on The Gospel of Mark:

See Page 1063 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

There's something about mystery that makes any good story all the better because of it. It doesn't matter if you are watching TV, reading a book or enjoying a movie, the idea of there being something about the story that somehow is never fully revealed makes it extra interesting. We are captivated because our imaginations are forced to fill in the blanks.

More than any other Gospel, the Gospel of Mark will force you to use your imagination – or at least your mind's eye. Mark's own fascination with the miracles of Jesus as well as his many references to Jesus as the “Son of God” will remind you that Jesus was God made man. It's easiest for us to relate to the humanity of Jesus because like him, we all feel hunger, we all feel sorrow, we all feel pain. Instead, much of the focus in the Gospel of Mark is on the divinity of Christ. How He was and is the Son of God who was made present among us as the promised Messiah. Like a good mystery, there is something about Christ's story that is told in the Gospel of Mark that will leave us in awe of Him not fully understanding why.

Mark's Gospel was written to give a permanent record to oral accounts. Mark was undoubtedly influenced by Peter who he assisted as an interpreter. Unlike all the other Gospel writers, most scholars believe that Mark did not come in direct contact with Jesus. Although, his own writing suggests that he was the young man in the back of the crowd that ran away from Jesus during His arrest. Like a good scribe, and with the strongest of faith, Mark tells the story of Christ's life with a fascination of someone who wasn't there to see it first hand.

Some scholars believe that Mark was a Jewish priest and a Levite by heritage. He traveled widely with Paul and Barnabas as well as Peter and is credited with establishing the Church and serving as the first Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt. Although there is some evidence to suggest that Mark's commitment to evangelization through extensive travels may not have been as evident as that of St. Paul, we know that his faith (despite the inherent danger) was as strong as any in the group of the first believers. His writing also reveals a sense of urgency as he moves quickly from story to story. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is a man of action who knew clearly what His mission here was and pursued it with determination.

Mark was persecuted, suffered and martyred in Alexandria. He was dragged over the stone streets on two consecutive days before his death, all the while welcoming the pain and suffering in an imitation of Christ. Originally buried there, Mark's relics were eventually moved to Venice where he is celebrated as the Patron Saint.

Bonus point: Which two Apostles did Jesus nickname the “Sons of Thunder?”