


24

Who was Mark?

5. Mark is mentioned in Peter. Mark was a close friend and possibly a convert of the apostle Peter.



- *She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. – 1 Pet 5:13*
- *“She who is in Babylon” is the Church in Rome where Peter was writing. “My son Mark” is John Mark, the author, who was not Peter’s natural son but his son in the faith.*
- *Tradition tells us that Mark paired up with Peter to Rome. And that when Peter was in prison in Rome, Mark was their writing down his preaching and that is where Mark composed his gospel.*
- *In fact the Gospel of Mark is often called the Gospel of Peter because it is understood to have Peter’s apostolic authority attached to it.*

27

## Outline of Mark in Peter's Preaching

Gospel of Mark	Acts 10:36-41
<i>"The beginning of the joyful tidings concerning Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. (1:1)</i>	<i>"You know the word which he [God] sent to Israel preaching joyful tidings of peace by the Messiah Jesus (he is Lord of all)</i>
<i>"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the joyful tidings of God" (1:14)</i>	<i>"which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee"</i>
<i>"And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove" (1:10)</i>	<i>"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power;"</i>
<i>Narratives describing healings and exorcisms, demonstrating the power of God (1:16-10:52)</i>	<i>"how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."</i>
<i>Christ's ministry in Jerusalem (ch. 11-14)</i>	<i>"We are witnesses of all that he did in Jerusalem"</i>
<i>The crucifixion and resurrection. "He is not here. He is risen as he said" (16:1-8)</i>	<i>"They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him up on the third day."</i>

28

## Who was Mark?

### 6. At some point, Mark and Paul reconcile...



- *About a dozen years later, Mark was again with Paul and just before Paul's execution, he was sent for by the apostle. Paul includes Mark in the Jewish believers and it appears that Mark was chosen by Paul to be his representative in Colossi.*
  - *My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) - Col 4:10*
  - *And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. - Phm 1:24 NIV*
- *Maybe the most beautiful of all, in the last of Paul's writings, Paul notes that Mark has become very useful to Paul and to the entire church.*
  - *Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. - 2 Tim 4:11*

29

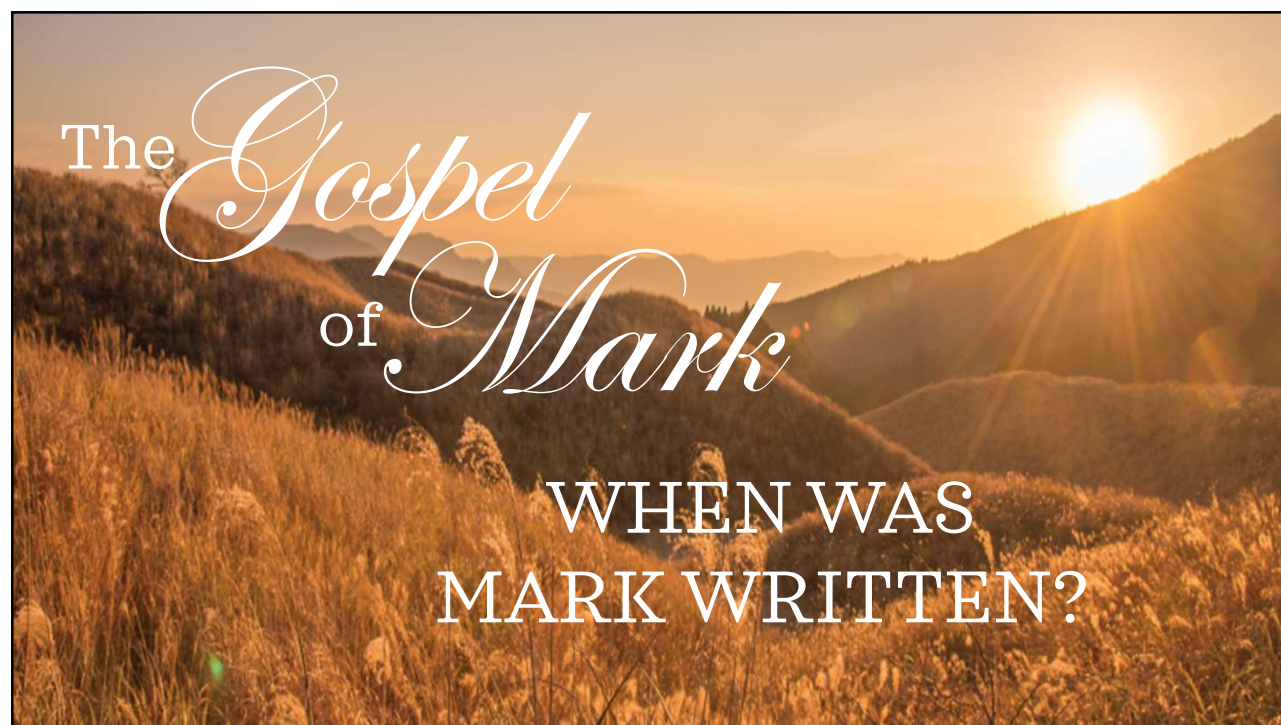
## Who was Mark?

7. We now lose biblical history and return to tradition.



- *Testimonies of the relationship between Peter and Mark:*
  - *Eusebius (AD 140)*
  - *Prologue to Latin Gospel MSS (160-180 AD)*
  - *Irenaeus (175 AD)*
- *Eusebius writes that Mark was the first to be sent to Egypt and established churches in Alexandria.*
- *Under the persecution of Nero, Mark was arrested tied with ropes and with those ropes was pulled into the fire and burned to death as a martyr.*
- *Mark lives on as one of the martyrs under the alter saying "how long, how long"*

30



31

## When was Mark written?



- *It is generally recognized that Mark represents the earliest attempt to reduce the apostolic tradition to written form.*
- *Research in the synoptic gospels over the last 200 years or so have produced detailed evidence that Matthew and Luke had before them a document virtually identical with Gospel of Mark.*
  - *The remarkable agreement of both Matthew and Luke with Mark in regard to content, order and wording form a convincing hypothesis of the priority of Mark.*
  - *These other Gospel writers not only appropriated much of Mark's content but adopted his structure as well.*
  - *If Mark is indeed the first gospel, it transforms the Gospel of Mark from an "also-ran" to one meriting the most careful consideration.*

32

## When was Mark written?



- *If one denies predictive prophecy, then the book must be dated after AD 70 because of 13:2, but since our Lord could predict the future, this late date is unnecessary.*
  - *"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." - Mark 13:2*
- *In fact, if Acts must be dated about AD 61 and if Luke, the companion volume, preceded Acts, then Mark must be even earlier since Luke used Mark in his writings.*
- *This points to a date in the 50s for Mark.*
- *(However, some scholars believe Mark was written after Peter was killed, so after AD 67 but before 70.)*

33