

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Mark)

I. General Introduction to Mark

-Title/Author: John Mark, Barnabas' cousin, and a close associate of Peter (Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5, 13; 15:37-39; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 23, 24; 1 Pet. 5:13)

-Date: AD 50-70

-Purpose: present Jesus as the suffering Servant of the Lord; written to Gentiles/Romans

-Distinctive Features: shortest gospel; emphasizes actions, not words; "immediately"; ending of Mark

-Structure:

- I. Introduction (ch. 1)
- II. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (chs. 1-9)
- III. Jesus' Ministry in Judea (chs. 10-13)
- IV. Jesus' Death and Resurrection (chs. 14-16)

II. General Overview of Mark

III. Prominent People and Themes in Mark

-People: John the Baptist (3:1-15; 4:12; 9:14; 11:2-19; 14:1-12); The Twelve Disciples (10:2-4; *passim*); The Pharisees and Sadducees (3:7-10; 5:20; 9:11-34; 12:10-45; 15:1-20; 16:1-12; 19:1-9; *passim*); Herod Antipas (6:14-28); Pilate (27:1-65); Mary Magdalene (27:56-28:11).

-Themes: Prayer (1:35; 6:46; 9:29; 11:17, 24, 25; 13:33; 14:32-29)

IV. Christ in Mark

-Mark portrays Jesus of Nazareth as an active, compassionate servant who continually ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of others. He is identified as the Son of God, whose earthly life culminates in the cross where He suffers and dies for the sins of His people.

V. Practical Lessons in Mark

1) Jesus came to serve us at the point of our deepest need (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:6-8).

2) We are called to sacrificial service even as Jesus was (Phil. 2:3-5; 1 John 3:16; 4:10, 11).