

The Gospel of Mark

Who is Mark?

John Mark was not one of the 12 disciples but was a close follower of Christ. Theologians believe that Mark served as an interpreter for the apostle Peter. After Peter's miraculous escape from prison he went to Mark's house (Acts 12:12). Mark also accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13).

Why did Mark write this Gospel?

Mark wanted to present the work and teaching to the people of Rome. He records more miracles than any other Gospel.

Why doesn't Mark mention the account of Jesus' birth?

Mark's audience was not of Jewish descent. Genealogies would not have meant much to these non-Jews. Important Roman officials of this day were always preceded by an announcement, or herald; So Mark begins his book with John the Baptist, whose mission it was to announce the coming of Jesus, the most important man who ever lived.



<i>Major Events of The Passion Week • As Described in Chapters 11-16 in the Gospel of Mark</i>		
Sunday	Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Mark 11:1-10
Monday	Jesus clears the temple of those turning it into a market place	Mark 11:15-17
Tuesday	Jesus' authority is challenged in the temple by religious leaders Jesus teaches in parables and is confronted by the Jewish leaders * "The Olivet Discourse" (the future, His return, remaining watchful) Judas agrees to betray Jesus	Mark 11:27-33 Mark 12:1-40 Mark 13 Mark 14:10,11
Thursday	The Last Supper Jesus agonizes in the garden Jesus is betrayed and arrested	Mark 14:22-25 Mark 14:32-42 Mark 14:43-52
Friday	Jesus is tried by Jewish and Roman authorities and disowned by Peter Jesus is crucified	Mark 14:53 – 15:20 Mark 15:20-41
Sunday	The resurrection	Mark 16:1-11

*13:3,4 – From the slopes of the Mount of Olives one can look down into the city and see the temple.
Zechariah 14:1-4 predicts that the Messiah will stand on this very mountain when he returns to setup his eternal kingdom.

Rome gave partial freedom to the Jews as long as they were quiet and obedient. The Jewish religious leaders had condemned Jesus to death on religious grounds, but only the Roman government could grant the death penalty. So they took Jesus to Pilate (the Roman Governor) and accused him of treason and rebellion, crimes for which the Roman government gave the death penalty.

Pharisees/ Sanhedrin/ Sadducees: (15) **The Pharisees** came from all classes of people and advocated meticulous obedience to the Jewish law. They followed both the Old Testament laws and the oral traditions handed down through the centuries. **The Sanhedrin** were a ruling council of the Pharisees. **The Sadducees** were descended from wealthy, upper class, priestly nobility and believed the Pentateuch (Gen – Deut) alone to be God's Word.

Herod : (6:20) Ruled the region of Galilee for the Roman Empire. He was appointed King of the Jews, under the authority of Rome. His Father was Herod the Great (Matthew 2:1-19). During Jesus' trials he was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

Herodians (12:13): A Jewish political group that approved of Herod's compromises with Rome.

Caiaphas (14:53-65) : "High Priest" was a position for life, however Rome appointed Caiaphas (a Jewish leader) to replace his father-in-law Annas. Earlier Caiaphas suggested that Jesus be killed in order to stop His "dividing disturbances" (John 11:49); otherwise the Romans would discipline the Jews and bring further hardship upon their nation.

Pilate (15:1-15): The Roman Governor of Judea. It was in his best interest to control the uproar being caused by the religious leaders against Jesus; otherwise he would have to answer to Caesar for the commotion.