



M A R K

The Gift of God





The End of Mark (?)

Mark 16:9-20



Are Vv. 9-20 Part of Mark?

- Some say “Yes!”
 - *Many* Greek manuscripts include them
 - Old Latin & the Vulgate have them
 - Titian & Irenaeus used them (ca. 180 AD)



Are Vv. 9-20 Part of Mark?

- Most say “No!”
 - Earliest manuscripts do not include them
 - Clement & Origen (ca. 200 AD) never mentioned them
 - Eusebius (ca. 300 AD) & Jerome (ca. 400 AD) doubted them



Are Vv. 9-20 Part of Mark?

- Most say “No!”
 - Most non-Greek versions omit them
 - Awkward transition – v. 8 to v. 9
 - Different writing style & vocabulary
 - Some copies have scribal indications
 - Another “shorter” ending also existed

So What?



- Consider what these verses say, but compare with the rest of Scripture
 - See if we can find support elsewhere
 - If not, don't be dogmatic

Mark 16:9-20



1. His Appearances (9-14)
2. His Assignment (15-18)
3. His Ascension (19-20)
4. The Alternate (Shorter) Ending

His Appearances



- He first appeared to Mary Magdalene (9)
 - See John 20:11-18
 - Mary told the disciples and others (10)
 - They refused to believe (11)
 - Because she was a woman?
 - *Sounded like nonsense* (Luke 24:11)

His Appearances



- He then appeared to two of them (12)
 - See Luke 24:13-35 (*road to Emmaus*)
 - What does *in a different form* mean?
 - Was He different? Or His attire?
 - Luke: *their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him; their eyes were opened*

His Appearances



- He then appeared to two of them (12)
 - They told the disciples and others (13)
 - Still the disciples refused to believe
 - 2 or 3 witnesses? (cf. Deut. 19:15)

His Appearances



- He then appeared to the eleven (14)
 - Luke 24:36/John 20:19 or John 20:26?
 - Where? In Galilee (Mark 16:7)?
 - He reproached them because they did not believe those who had seen Him

His Assignment



- Go and preach the gospel (15)
 - See Matt. 28:19-20 (John 20:28-29?)
 - *Good news*: Messiah's sacrificial death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-11)
 - Emphasis on believing (16; John 20:31)
 - Is baptism required, or a result of faith?

His Assignment



- Accompanying signs (17)
 - *Sign: a physical manifestation of a non-physical (spiritual) presence or power (to reveal / authenticate – Matt. 12:39-41)*
 - *Miracle: intensification or suspension of natural laws (benefits the receivers)*

His Assignment



- Signs from God
 - To confirm His spokesmen (e.g. – Ex. 4:1-9; Acts 2:22, 43; 4:30; 5:12; 15:12; 2 Cor. 12:12)
 - To confirm His message (e.g. – Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3; Heb. 2:1-4)

His Assignment



- Signs from Satan
 - To *deceive* (Matt. 24:23-26; Mark 13:21-23; Acts 8:9-11; 2 Thess. 2:8-15; Rev. 13:11-4; 16:13-16; 19:20)
- Prevention: remember the truth! (2 Thess. 2; 2 Tim. 3; cf. 2 Cor. 11:3; Deut. 13)

His Assignment



- Accompanying signs (17)
 - Who are *those who have believed*?
 - Context (19-20)
 - *Them/they* -> the eleven (see 14)
 - The Lord confirmed by signs (20)
 - 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 27-31

His Assignment



- Accompanying signs (17-18)
 - Cast out demons (Mark 6:7, 13)
 - Speak with new tongues (Acts 2:1-13)
 - Pick up serpents (Acts 28:3-6?)
 - Drink poison (?)
 - Heal the sick (Mark 6:13)

His Ascension



- He was received up into heaven (19)
 - See Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11
- Sat down at the right hand of God (Ps. 110:1, Luke 22:69; Acts 7:55-60; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, *et al*)

His Ascension



- The eleven preached everywhere (20, 15)
 - See the Book of Acts
- The Lord worked with them
 - *Partnership*: See 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:20-6:1
 - E.g. – Acts 4:29-31

His Ascension



- The Lord confirmed the word by signs
 - *Confirm: to make reliable; to establish; to strengthen; to authenticate*
 - The purpose of these signs was to confirm the gospel that the apostles were preaching (see Acts 14:3; Heb. 2:1-4)



The Alternate Ending

- One manuscript (after v. 8): “**In some instances there is added as follows.** And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.”



The Alternate Ending

- Universally rejected as not from Mark
- Clearly an attempt to correct a problem (that Mark ended abruptly at v. 8)
- Casts doubt on the longer ending as well



The Alternate Ending

- C.E.B. Cranfield:

1. Mark unintentionally never finished it
2. Mark's original ending was lost
3. Mark's ending was removed/suppressed
4. Mark intentionally ended with verse 8

So What?



- Regardless, this issue should not diminish our confidence in the whole of Scripture
- For the most part, it is not an issue of *truth* (i.e.- confirmed elsewhere in Scripture)
 - May be some *additions*, but no *contradictions*

So What?



- William Barclay:

1. The church should preach the gospel
2. Be concerned with bodies & souls
3. The risen Christ is our power source
4. Christ is working *with, in, and through* His church

The Gospel of Mark



**“Who do you
say that
I am?”
(8:29)**

**“If anyone wishes
to come after
Me...”
(8:34)**