STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

TOPIC 1: THE CONTEXT OF MARK'S GOSPEL



Roman Imperial Rule

Written around 67–69 AD emldst heavy Roman military dominion, high taxation, and social stratification.



Persecution under Nero

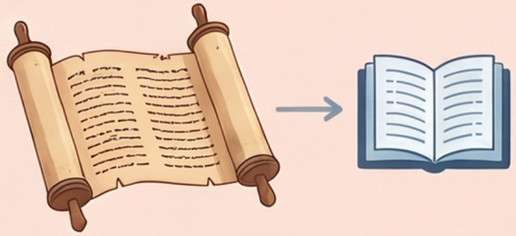
Early believers in Rome faced sovere crisis and martyrdom, including the deaths of Peter and Peul.



Diverse House Communities

Small house churches comprised Jewish and Gentile converts, slaves, free citizens, and active women leaders.

TOPIC 2: GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE WORK



Pioneer of Gospel Genre

Mark created the Gospel fiterary genre by weaving oral traditions into a continuous narrative.



Popular Semitic Style

Characterized by vivid realism, colloquial terms, Aramaic expressions, historical present tenses, and literary triptychs.

Complementary Frameworks

Structured across geographical (Golilee to Jerusalem), Christological, and literary-theological outlines.

TOPIC 3: CONTINUED READING OF THE WORK OF MARK



Human and Divine Jesus

Highlights Jesus' deep human emotions and fotigue alongside His divine authority as Son of God.



Five-Stage Narrative Flow

Moves from Messiah's announcement to Galilean ministry, Peter's confession, suffering, and resurrection victory.



Call to Radical Service

Prioritises marginalized groups and defines true discipleship as humble service and carrying the cross.

TOPIC 4: CENTRAL THEMES OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK



The Good News (Gospel)

Proclaims God's definitive intervention in history through Jesus, demanding conversion and faith.



The Kingdom of God

Present germinally like a growing seed, embodied in Jesus' parables, healings, and exarcisms.



Suffering Messiah and Secret

Reveals Jesus' messianis identity fully on the cross rather than through triumpholist expectations.

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Continued Reading of the Work of Mark

Key Narrative & Theological Features

Humanity Revealing Divinity



Jesus is depicted with vivid human emotions—anger, fatigue, and pity—revealing divine power through lived experience.

Option for the Marginalised



The narrative favours social outcasts, women, fureigners, and the poor over hypocritical religious leaders.

Leadership as Humble Service



True discipleship demands childlike simplicity and seltless service, embodied visually by Jesus' heeling hands.

The Five-Part Narrative Framework

1. Messiah's Announcement (1:1–13)



Proclaims Jesus as Christ and Son of God, prepared by John the Baptist.

2. Power in Galilee (1:14–8:26)



Demonstrates authority through healings and parabies while maintaining strategic messianic secrecy.

3. Peter's Confession (8:27–30)



Marks the narrative turning point as disciples confess Jesus as the Christ.

4. Path of Suffering (8:31–15:47)



Details Jesus' journey to Jerusaiem, predictions of the cross, passion, and death.

5. Ultimate Victory (16:1–8)



Concludes with the empty tumb and awe, comforting believers facing persecution.

Summary of Mark's 5-Stage Narrative Progression

Stage	Seripture Reference	Central Focus
Announcement	Mark 1:1–13	Proclamation of Jesus as Messiah
Demonstration of Power	Mark 1:14–8:26	Miracles and Kingdom teaching in Galilee
Apostolic Confession	Mark 8:27–30	Peter acknowledges Jesus' identity
Path of Suffering	Mark 8:31–15:47	Discipleship instruction and the Cross
Resurrection Victory	Mark 16:1–8	The empty tomb and call to faithful endurance

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Topic 1: The Context of Mark's Gospel

Imperial Power and Oppression



Military Empire and Taxation: 400,000 soldiers enforced subjugation and heavy economic taxes.



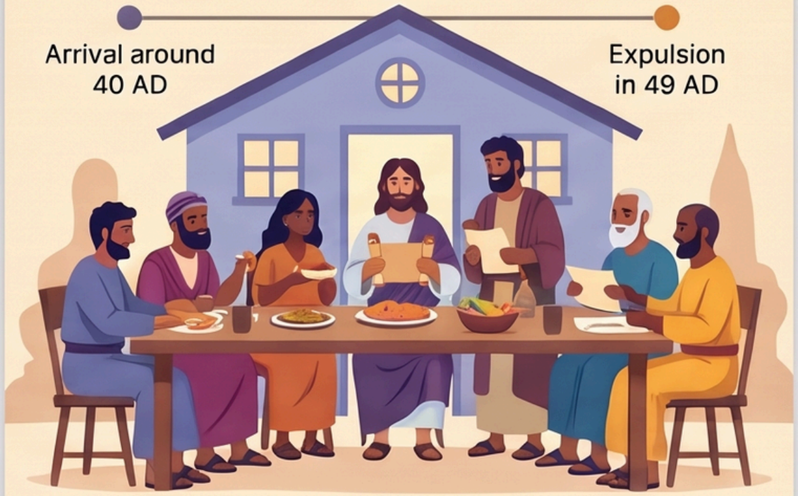
Nero's Brutal Persecution:
Nero blamed Christians for the 64 AD fire, executing many.

The Roman Christian Community

Arrival and Expulsion

Arrival around 40 AD

Expulsion in 49 AD





Diverse House Churches: Communities united slaves, free citizens, Jews, Gentiles, and women.

Martyrdom of Apostles: Peter and Paul's deaths spurred compliation of written memories.



Struggles and Gospel Origin



Compllation of Pamphlets: Believers recorded Jesus' memories to guide community struggies.





Resisting Imperial Ideology: Jesus' service model inspired believers facing tyrannical authority.

SUMMARY: ROMAN POWER VS. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Context Aspect	Roman Imperial System	Early Christian Community
Economic Reality	Massive texation causing widespresd poverty	Shared resources and solidarity with the poor
Social Hierarchy	Division between masters and subjugated slaves	Equality amongst Jews, Gendles, men, and women
Key Historical Event	Great Fire of Romo (64 AD)	Martyrdom of Peter and Paul (64-67 AD)

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE WORK

LITERARY STYLE & COMPOSITION



Creator of the Gospel Genre

Mark compiled scattered oral traditions into the first continuous narrative of Jesus's life.



Semitic Roots and Colloquial Realism

Features vivid historical present tenses, popular oral phrasing, and retained Aramaic terms.



Summaries and Sandwich Triptychs

Employs structural summaries and inserted stories (triptychs) to build narrative suspense.

STRUCTURAL & THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS



Geographical Journey to Jerusalem

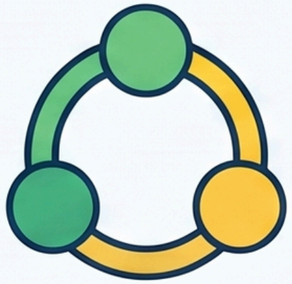
Moves from Jesus's ministry in Galilee to his final confrontation in Jerusalem.



8:27–30

Two-Part Christological Arc

Pivots at Peter's confession from veiled authority to the suffering Son of Man.



Tripartite Narrative Cycles

Repeats three-part cycles of summaries, disciple pericopes, and responses throughout the text.

AUTHORSHIP, DATE & AUDIENCE



Attributed to John Mark

Composed around 65–69 AD by a companion of Peter and Paul prior to Jerusalem's destruction.

Tailored for Gentile Believers

LINGUISTIC EVIDENCE POINTING TO A ROMAN GENTILE READERSHIP

LATIN WORDS (Unexplained for Roman Readers)	ARAMAIC WORDS (Explicitly Translated for Non-Jewish Readers)
Legio	**Talitha cum** ("Little girl, I say to you, arive"
Denarius	**Boanerges** ("Sons of thunder"
Centurio	**Abba** ("Father"

Uses unexplained Latin military terms while translating Hebrew customs and Aramaic phrases.

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Central Themes of the Gospel of Mark

The Good News



Definitive Divine Intervention
Proclaims God's active presence in history through Christ's death and resurrection.

Universal Missionary Call
Entrusts disciples to proclaim the gospel globally despite facing opposition.

Radical Discipleship Cost
Requires total commitment, renouncing personal security and wealth to follow Christ.

The Kingdom of God



Imminent Growing Reality
Present in a germinal state, growing like a small seed into fullness.

Essential Conversion Demands
Requires active faith, childlike humility, and detachment from material riches.

Present and Future
Exists now as a hidden mystery awaiting ultimate future manifestation.

Jesus Christ, Son of God



The Messianic Secret
Veils Christ's true identity until fully revealed through his Passion.

The Suffering Servant
Defines messiahship through sacrificial service rather than earthly political power.

Climactic Cross Confession
Recognized by a Roman centurion at the crucifixion as Son of God.

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