

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF MARK: (source: christianityexplored.org)

Who is Mark, the author? Mark was a close friend and companion of Peter, who was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter was an "apostle" (one of those specifically called to witness the life, death and resurrection of Jesus). Peter wrote two letters to the first-century Christian churches. In one of them he said, "I will make every effort to see that after my departure (i.e. his death) you will always remember these things" (2 Peter 1:15). He was referring to the things he saw and knew about Jesus. He passed them on to others like Mark. Peter died in the mid 60s of the 1st century. The evidence suggests that Mark wrote his Gospel or Good News around that period.

No doubt Mark was influenced by Peter's desire for the Good News about Jesus to be told to others in later generations, so he wrote it down in a book. His opening sentence reveals the subject of his book: "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

When did Mark write this book? Jesus died, rose again and returned to heaven around AD 30. Mark wrote about 30 years later – well within the lifetime of those who lived through the events he recorded. So Mark had to write accurately. Any inconsistencies between what people saw and what he wrote would have discredited him.

A map of the places referred to in Mark's book:



EXPLAINING CHRISTIANITY – SESSION 1 NOTES

“The beginning of the gospel (Good News) about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1

We see that Jesus, the Son of God came into the world with all the authority of God Himself.

1. Jesus' authority as a teacher: Mark 1:21-22
2. Jesus' authority over evil spirits: Mark 1:23-28
3. Jesus' authority over sickness: Mark 1:29-31
4. Jesus' authority over nature: Mark 4:35-41
5. Jesus' authority over life and death: Mark 5:35-43
6. Jesus' authority to forgive sins: Mark 2:1-12 (This shows Him to be equal with God)

Where and how have you see these areas of authority active in your or in someone else's life?

But most importantly, we have seen:

7. Jesus' authority over people: Mark 1:16-20

Discuss how the authority of Jesus is displayed or experienced in your life?

Talk about areas you think you would like to surrender more to the authority of Jesus in your life?

Would you find that difficult? ...why or not?

Summary: Christianity is all about Jesus Christ (supreme Ruler or King).

We've considered WHO Jesus is.

As the Son of God, Jesus:

- Has great authority.
- Is God and Man in one.
- Is the supreme King.

MAIN QUESTION: Who is Jesus to you?

Someone has called Jesus 'The man you can't ignore'. He is either a liar, a lunatic or the Lord.

What choice will you make? Follow Him or Reject Him?

At home: Please read Mark chapters 1 to 5. Note anything you do not understand or would like to ask.

If you need to chat or ask questions, please contact Ps. La'Mont on 0413 765 200