

Introduction

1. It is good at the end of a long study to reflect on what we have learned.
2. We have studied Mark's gospel for the past 20 months (1/13/21 – 9/7/22)
3. As we conclude this study, let's reflect together regarding what we have learned.
4. **Read Mk 1:1 and Mark 16:8**

A. Mark's Purpose

1. I believe Mark's purpose was ultimately to build a case for Jesus as God's Messiah, the Savior of humankind from sin, death, and Hell.
2. William Lane eloquently concludes, "That verse 8 marks the ending to the Gospel in its present form is scarcely debated. The contention that this is the original and intended ending, however continues to be resisted. The abrupt ending on the phrase 'for they were afraid' has been regarded as evidence that the Gospel is incomplete or mutilated. . . . In point of fact, the present ending of Mark is thoroughly consistent with the motifs of astonishment and fear developed throughout the Gospel. . . . Astonishment and fear qualify the events of the life of Jesus. The account of the empty tomb is soul-shaking, and to convey this impression Mark describes in the most meaningful language the utter amazement and overwhelming felling of the women. With his closing comment he wished to say that 'the gospel of Jesus the Messiah' (Ch. 1:1) is an event beyond human comprehension and therefore awesome and frightening. In this case, contrary to general opinion, 'for they were afraid' is the phrase most appropriate to the conclusion of the Gospel. The abruptness with which Mark concluded his account corresponds to the preface of the Gospel where the evangelist begins by confronting the reader with the fact of revelation in the person of John and Jesus (Ch. 1:1-13). The ending leaves the reader confronted by the witness of the empty tomb interpreted by the word of revelation. The focus upon human inadequacy, lack of understanding and weakness throw into bold relief the action of God and its meaning" (William Lane, *The Gospel of Mark*, 592-3).

B. So, What Have You Learned from Our Study of Mark?**C. Where Do We Go from Here?**

1. Most scholars today believe that Mark's Gospel was the first one to be written.
2. However, we have three other Gospels, Matthew, Luke, and John.
3. Matthew and Luke used Mark as an important source along with other eyewitness reports and sources of information about Jesus.
4. Over the next couple of years, we will look at the additional information that Matthew and Luke included in their Gospels regarding Jesus. After that study, we will look at the Gospel of John for his somewhat unique look at Jesus.
5. Here is the study outline from now until the end of the year as we begin our journey looking at "The Unique Gospel Material in Matthew and Luke."

ABC Unique Gospel Material In Matthew & Luke 2022-24
Bible Study Series

Lesson	Date	Title	Text	Readings
1	9/14/22	“Luke’s Preface”	Lk 1:1-4	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 25-29 <i>Compassionate</i> 9-18
2	9/21/22	“Genealogy of Jesus”	Mt 1:1-17 Lk 3:23-34	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 30-31 <i>Loyal</i> 9-26 <i>Compassionate</i> 45-50
3	9/28/22	“The Birth of John Promised”	Lk 1:5-25	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 32 <i>Compassionate</i> 18-21
4	10/05/22	“Annunciation to Mary”	Lk 1:26-38	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 33 <i>Compassionate</i> 21-24
5	10/12/22	“Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth”	Lk 1:39-56	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 33-34 <i>Compassionate</i> 24-26
6	10/19/22	“Birth of John the Baptist”	Lk 1:57-80	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 34-35 <i>Compassionate</i> 26-30
7	10/26/22	“Annunciation to Joseph”	Mt 1:18-25	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 36 <i>Loyal</i> 26-27
8	11/02/22	“Birth of Jesus”	Lk 2:1-7	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 36 <i>Compassionate</i> 31-32
9	11/09/22	“Angels and Shepherds”	Lk 2:8-20	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 37 <i>Compassionate</i> 33-35
10	11/16/22	“Circumcision/Presentation”	Lk 2:21-39	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 37-38 <i>Compassionate</i> 35-40
	11/23/22	Thanksgiving Break		
11	11/30/22	“The Wisemen”	Mt 2:1-12	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 38-39 <i>Loyal</i> 27-29
12	12/06/22	“The Flight to Egypt”	Mt 2:13-23	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 39-40 <i>Loyal</i> 29-33
13	12/13/22	“Jesus’ Childhood”	Lk 2:40-52	<i>NIV Harmony</i> 40-41 <i>Compassionate</i> 40-44
	12/20/22	Children’s Program		
	12/27/22	Christmas Break		

Suggested Resources

Thomas, Robert L. and Stanley N. Gundry. *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels*, hardcover. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1988. (ISBN: 978-0060635237 - hardcover \$26.49)

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Loyal: Matthew*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2008. (ISBN: 978-1434767790 - paperback \$14.99)

———. *Be Compassionate: Luke 1-13*, 2nd edition. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010. (ISBN: 978-1434765024 - paperback \$14.99)

———. *Be Courageous: Luke 14-24*, 2nd edition. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010. (ISBN: 978-1434764997 - paperback \$14.99)