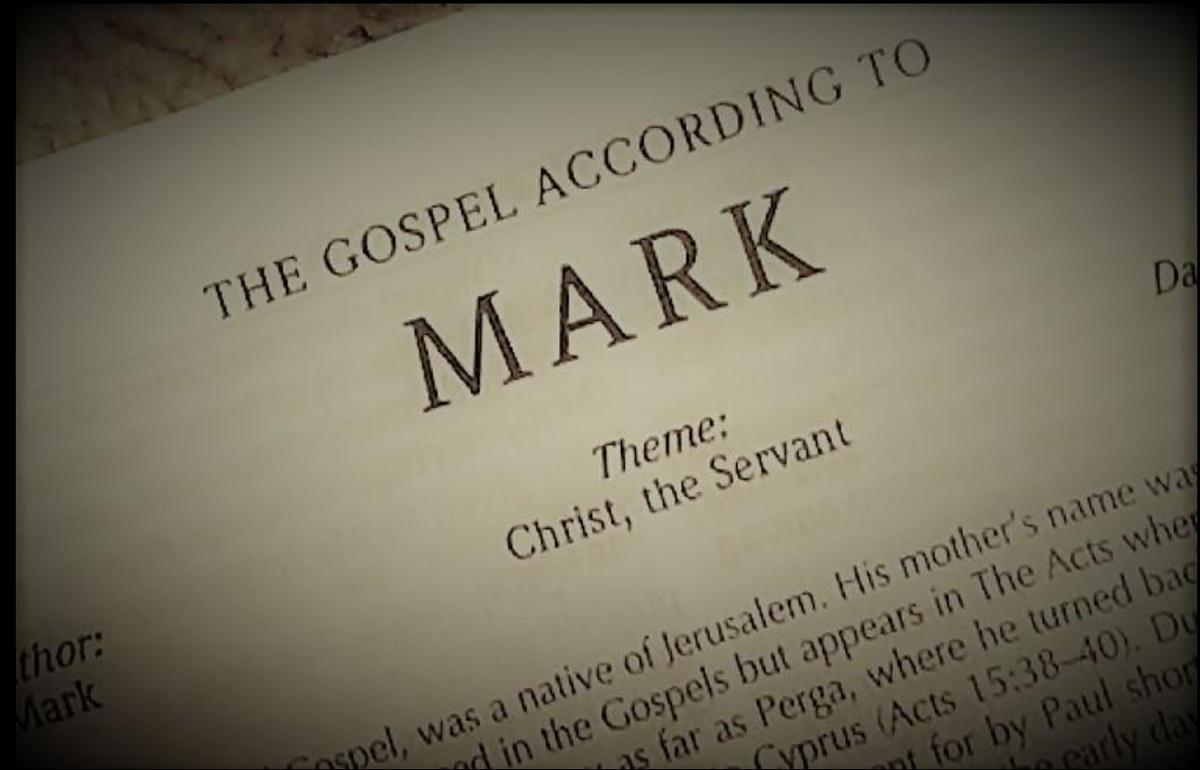


# Verse by Verse

## Mark 16



# Mark 16 Introduction

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- This chapter ends the **Gospel of Mark**.
- Like the other Gospels, it ends with the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

# Mark 16 Key Verses

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- Mark 16:5-7 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

# Mark 16 Outline

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1. The Resurrection 16:1-8
2. A Shorter Ending
3. The Longer Ending 16:9-20

# 1. The Resurrection 16:1-8

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- 16:1-4 All four Gospels are unanimous in reporting that the women who followed Jesus discovered the empty tomb.
- They do not, however, give the same names, so they need to be blended in order to get the full account.

# 1. The Resurrection 16:1-8

- 16:1-4 This simple fact is important because, in that culture, women were not considered reliable witnesses.
- If the Gospel writers were making up the story, it is hard to see why they would all have told it in this way.

# 1. The Resurrection 16:1-8

- 16:5-7 The “young man” is really an angel. It seems they often appear in human form.
- Luke describes “two men in dazzling apparel” giving a more supernatural impression.
- Mark mentions only the one who spoke.

# 1. The Resurrection 16:1-8

- 16:5-7 The angel tells the women to tell the other disciples what they have seen – and to expect to see Jesus himself.
- Peter is probably singled out because of Christ's specific prediction that Peter would deny him – which he then did.

# 1. The Resurrection 16:1-8

- 16:8 They ran through town without saying anything about Christ rising from the dead.
- They would have passed soldiers, Passover visitors to Jerusalem and people starting their normal day.
- Only after seeing and speaking with Jesus, and being empowered by the Spirit did Christ's followers begin their public witness.

## 2. A Shorter Ending

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- Most of you probably have a note of some kind in your Bible saying that the Gospel may originally have ended here.
- It is true that Mark may have stopped at v.8, but the manuscript evidence is not simple to decipher.
- That is why our Bibles tend to vary in how they communicate this to us.

## 2. A Shorter Ending

- The oldest manuscripts we have end here.
- Most later manuscripts, (therefore, most manuscripts) have the longer ending.

## 2. A Shorter Ending

- A couple of very early church fathers quote from the later verses in **Mark 16**, so they are clearly very old.
- On the other hand, other early writers report the Gospel ending at **v.8**, or do not engage with the longer ending.

## 2. A Shorter Ending

- There are also several very early translations that do not include the remainder of the chapter.
- These are Syriac, Coptic (from ancient Egypt), Armenian and Georgian.
- One Armenian manuscript gives the name of the early presbyter who reportedly added the later verses.

## 2. A Shorter Ending

- Other questions to answer would be
  1. If the short version is original, why would someone decide to add the rest?
  2. If the long version is original, why would anyone decide to leave it out?

## 2. A Shorter Ending

- And finally, some later manuscripts add this:
- **Mark 16:9a**

But they reported briefly to Peter and those with him all that they had been told. And after this, Jesus himself sent out by means of them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

- Some of these evidently go on to **16:9-20**, which we will now also do.

### 3. The Longer Ending 16:9-20

### 3. The Longer Ending 16:9-20

- Most everything here is included elsewhere, either in other Gospels or in the book of Acts.
- That is, except for the stuff about picking up deadly serpents and drinking poison – which is not quite what Paul did.
- That might be disappointing to some snake handlers.

### 3. The Longer Ending 16:9-20

- If we stop with the shorter ending, we are still challenged to believe in the risen Christ.
- If we go with the longer ending, we are challenged to believe and to make the gospel known to the rest of the world.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

# Mark 16 The Resurrection

1. If Christ did not rise, then he did not fulfill his own word to his disciples.

- Mark 9:9-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

2. If Christ did not rise, then it is hard to see how we can believe he is working within us.

- Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

# Mark 16 The Resurrection

3. If Christ did not rise, then it is hard to see how we can believe he is now serving as our high priest.

- Hebrews 4:15-16 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

4. If Christ did not rise, then it is hard to grasp how he presently intercedes for us.

- Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

5. If Christ did not rise, we have lost what the New Testament declares is most important to our faith.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve ...

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

5. If Christ did not rise, we have lost what the New Testament declares is most important to our faith.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

6. If Christ did not rise, then the gospel has become pointless.

- 1 Corinthians 15:14-15, 17-19 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise ...

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

6. If Christ did not rise, then the gospel has become pointless.

- 1 Corinthians 15:14-15, 17-19 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

# Mark 16 The Resurrection

7. If Christ did not rise, then he has not secured complete victory over death for us.

- 1 Corinthians 15:53-57 (ESV)

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory” ...

# Mark 16 The Resurrection

7. If Christ did not rise, then he has not secured complete victory over death for us.

- 1 Corinthians 15:53-57 (ESV)

<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

- But Christ has been raised from the dead.
- Your sins are covered by his blood.
- He has won the ultimate victory over Satan, sin and death.
- We can be confident he represents us before the Father and is seated at his right hand.

# Mark 16    The Resurrection

- We can declare these important articles of faith with believers all over the world.
  1. Christ has died.
  2. Christ is risen.
  3. Christ will come again.

# Mark 16 Key Verses

- Mark 16:5-7 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

# Mark 16    A Prayer

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- Dear Heavenly Father
- We thank you for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- This event shows us that he was more than an ordinary man.
- We believe and rejoice in the fact that he died for our sins. We accept the fact that he rose and then ascended into heaven. We are grateful for his present intercession for us and look forward to his soon return.
- We offer up our prayers to you in his name,
- Amen.