

Early Church at the time of Mark's Gospel		ESV "Introduction to Mark" by Dr. Hans F. Bayer, Covenant Theological Seminary, (page 1889-1892).		
<p><i>Key Theological Themes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Jesus seeks to correct messianic expectations and misunderstandings.</li> <li>2) Jesus is man.</li> <li>3) Jesus is the Son of God.</li> <li>4) Jesus is the Son of Man with all power and authority.</li> <li>5) Jesus as the Son of Man must suffer.</li> <li>6) Jesus is Lord.</li> <li>7) Jesus calls his followers to imitate him in humble service, self-denial, and suffering.</li> <li>8) Jesus teaches on the kingdom of God, and implies that God continues to call a people to himself.</li> </ol>		<p><u>Date</u> The external and internal data most convincingly point to Rome as the place of composition and a date for Mark in the mid-to late -50s A.D. (but some scholars date it in the mid- or late-60s. . .).</p> <p><u>Theme</u> The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark is <i>to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship</i>. Mark returns often to this theme, and as the narrative unfolds he categorizes his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Though Mark wrote from Rome, the Gospel of Mark was composed for the wider church as the record of the apostolic testimony of Peter. . . . Mark addresses an audience that is largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs. He intends to familiarize them with those customs, because only then will they understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world.</p>		
Outline		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Introduction (1:1-15)</li> <li>II. Demonstration of Jesus' Authority (1:16-8:26)</li> <li>III. Testing Jesus' Authority in Suffering (8:27-16:8)</li> <li>IV. Longer ending (16:9-20)</li> </ol>		
Gospel According to Mark		Zondervan Handbook to the Bible "Mark" (page 577-594).		
Summary	1:1-13	1:14 - 8:26	8:27 - 10:52	11:1 - 16:20
Mark's life of Jesus is the shortest and most action-packed [Gospel].	Good news!	Jesus in Galilee	Jesus' identity and mission: towards Jerusalem	Jesus in Jerusalem Jesus' death and resurrection