

# NEW THRU 30 HISTORY

## History: Mark

**Author:** John Mark, missionary partner to Paul and Barnabas. Although he was not one of the 12 disciples, Mark gathered his material for his gospel from Peter.

**When was the book of Mark written, where was it composed and who was it written to?:** Mark most likely wrote his gospel from Rome sometime between 50-60 AD with a Roman/Gentile audience in mind.

**Purpose of the book:** There are two primary purposes that Mark had in writing his gospel: 1) to encourage disciples during a time of persecution and 2) to preserve an account of Jesus' life as the first generation of Christians was passing away.

### Interesting notes about the book of Mark:

- Mark was the first gospel written and became the foundation for the remaining gospels. Only 31 of the 678 verses in Mark are not quoted in the other Gospels.
- There are more miracle accounts in Mark than any other Gospel.

### Main Takeaways from the book of Mark:

- Mark is divided into two halves. The first (chaps. 1-8:26) presents Jesus as a powerful miracle worker but the second (8:27-16) emphasizes the necessity of his suffering. Mark is telling us that one cannot call Jesus the Messiah and Son of God unless he is the suffering Messiah and Son of God. Jesus' life was marked not only by power, but also by suffering, sacrifice, and death.
- The disciple of Jesus can also expect to live a life of sacrifice and possible suffering (8:34-38). Suffering is not necessarily a sign of God's displeasure, but of being faithful to Jesus' call of discipleship.
- While followers of Jesus will consistently fall short, Jesus continues to remain faithful and does not give up on them.