

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHAT IS THIS?

Mark has set down the preaching of Peter: these are Peter's memories of being with Jesus.

READING TIP: Ask yourself, Why did Peter remember this story? What would it have been like to be there? Are there any strange eyewitness details in this passage?



SOME EYEWITNESS EXAMPLES:

Peter's mother-in-law (1:29-31), Jesus sleeping on a cushion (4:38), the "green" grass (6:39), all the examples of Jesus speaking in Aramaic, though Mark is writing in Greek (3:17; 5:41; 7:11,34; 14:36; 15:22,34)

AND MARK HAS ARRANGED ALL THIS AROUND ONE CENTRAL QUESTION:

WHO IS THIS?



Mark tells us who Jesus is in the very first verse:

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. -*Mark 1:1*



But the true identity of Jesus is misunderstood by everyone else until the Roman Centurion, at the foot of the cross, truly understands when he says,

And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" -*Mark 15:39*

Jesus tells people to keep quiet about his identity because he knows that they will misunderstand what it means for him to be the Messiah:

- So he asks the people he heals to keep quiet about the miracles;
- And he forbids the demons to give away his identity.



And all of this is illustrated in the living parable Jesus performs with the strange story of the double-healing of the blind man at Bethsaida: Jesus heals him in stages, to show that the disciples don't yet truly see whom he is. (*Mark 8:22-26*)