



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or said ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple phrase sums it all up ?
7. What is the application to my life today ?

Survey of the Book of Mark

1. **The writer :** John-Mark, son of Mary of Jerusalem (Ac12v12) and cousin of Barnabas (Co4v10), was neither an apostle nor a “hero” (Mk14v51-52, Ac12v25, 13v4-5, 13 & 15v37-38). But, he learned the importance of faithful service and has a lot to say about it (2Ti4v11).
His two first names are Hebrew (John) and Latin (Mark) suggesting a non-Jewish father. He is at ease with Aramean (3v17, 5v41, 7v11, 34, 9v43, 10v46, 14v36, 15v22 & 34) and the Roman cultures (6v48, 13v35, 9v49, 13v9). His Greek is easy to read.
2. **The date :** This book was probably written before the destruction of Jerusalem (13v2) which took place in 70 AD. But, it must have been written after the restoration of the writer (Ac15v37-39, 2Ti4v11, Phm24 & 1Pe5v13) around the year 67 AD, just before the death of the apostle Paul in 68 AD. Matthew and Luke had already written their Gospels around the year 60 AD.
3. **The readers :** This Gospel was written for non-Jewish readers in the first century (16v15). It is unique in speaking of the nations (5v20, 7v24, 26, 31, 8v10, 11v17, 13v10 & 14v9) without Israel as the center of God’s plan. It emphasizes the non-Jewish conversions to Jesus (15v21 & 39). This is an excellent Gospel for those who have no Bible knowledge and even for children.
Mark’s Gospel speaks more about the acts of Jesus (18 miracles) than His teachings (only 4 parables), a unique characteristic among the four Gospels.
4. **The divisions : The Eight Steps of the Servant of the Lord -**
The Servant prepares Himself, 1v1-13
The Servant passes into Galilee, 1v14-3v12
The Servant preaches in all of Israel, 3v13-8v38
The Servant proceeds to Jerusalem, 9-10
The Servant presents Himself to Israel, 11-12
The Servant predicts the future, 13
The Servant punished in our place, 14-15
The Servant precedes His disciples into Heaven, 16
5. **The key word :** Come/came/went (ἔρχομαι) 201x & Jesus (Ἰησοῦς) 103x.
This book answers the question : “How did Jesus come ?” (He came as **The** Servant !)
6. **The message :** “The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a Ransom for many.” Mark 10v45
7. **The application :** Actions speak louder than words, but words are needed to explain our actions.