

Mark was the son of a wealthy family in Jerusalem, he was a cousin of Barnabas, who traveled with Paul. Since earliest times it was understood Peter was the primary source of information for this gospel. With the authority of Peter as its foundation, the writing of Mark, was never questioned to be included as canonical. His writing emphasizes more about what Jesus did then what He said.

We just said, verses 9 through 20... are not found in what are considered by some scholars... to be the 2 oldest bibles in the world. Those who make that assertion follow the tradition and education of roman Jesuits, and they oppose the protestant reformation. They assert these 2 bibles fortunately discovered 150 years ago... are more reliable manuscripts... I guess... than God and His Holy Spirit himself were able to accomplish



over the last 2 millennia... though for whatever reason – probably \$\$, they continue to publish their old versions of the bible. Other scholars suggest, the Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are old gnostic manuscripts that would have been debunked in the early church debates throughout the middle east.

It is interesting to note: these final verses are in Jerome's Latin Vulgate which was translated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. We know, it was quoted by Irenaeus, a disciple of Polycarp... when he disputed with heretics in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Also, we know these verses are part of earliest liturgical calendars of the church: **Greek, Syrian, Armenian, Coptic and Ethiopic**, originating before the 4<sup>th</sup> century; early on, well before Europe knew, the church in Ethiopia had evangelized all the way to southern Africa.

Some say, these verses sound like a different speaker; others say, they read like the same writer. So, like the disciples of Polycarp, let's include them... and listen to Mark.

<sup>9</sup> Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week / remember: the first day of the week starts Saturday evening when the sun sets. Following Passover, the first day of the new week is: The Day of Firstfruits; Mark mentions this detail twice in this chapter. Paul wrote: in Christ will all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; after that, those who are Christ's at his coming -- 1 Corinthians 15,

He appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom He cast seven demons / Saturday evening; Jesus tells us: remember her, it's interesting how Mary, without warrant... has been deceitfully demonized by the



Day 3: Firstfruits

perverse male dominated hocus pocus church... which affixed on her the label of a whore – like the pot calling the kettle black. Both Mark and John say: Mary Magdalen was the first eye-witness to His resurrection. Even in the 21st century, roman law does not value women – women cannot inherit a private business held by their father, only a male relative can.



<sup>10</sup> And she went and declared to them who had been with Him, what happened / Mary Magdalen went to tell all His disciples... His **mathetes**; the ones supposed to be doing their math, but what were they doing? Mark writes...

#### as they mourned and wept.

<sup>11</sup> And when they heard that He was alive, and was seen by her / the word is: theaomai... Mark and Matthew use this word to describe what took place. The word denotes: meeting, visiting, admiring and viewing intently...

and she caringly met with Him,

**they did not believe it** / the word is: **apisteo**... both Mark and Luke use this word twice... describing the disciples first response; their **lack of faith**; their faith in reverse... going the wrong direction.

<sup>12</sup> After that He appeared differently to two of them as they walked, going to the countryside / to those who were at the crucifixion, He no longer look like the crucified, mangled mess after His brutal beatings. While we know the women were told to spread the word to head north to Galilee to meet the risen Lord. Luke tells us of two men on the road to Emmaus -- not going north! they didn't get the memo; so, it sounds like Jesus, the good Shepherd was gathering some scattering sheep going the wrong way.

<sup>13</sup> **And those two went and told it to the rest of them** / the two told the others what happened when Jesus walked along with them, and then broke bread with them; and what was the result of their report?

**no one believed them** / in other words, there was only faith in reverse... going on! And you know, to only drive your carcass backwards... is not the most intelligent thing to do! The book of Hebrews reminds us that, without faith... it is impossible to please God!

<sup>14</sup> After, He appeared to the eleven as they sat at meal, and upbraided them / Matthew, Mark and Luke confirm... the eleven were gathered together; and when Jesus showed up He rebuked them.

for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw Him, after He was risen / so Jesus was turning up the heat. He had walked with them every day... for more than 3 years... and that is equal to a doctor's degree worth of education they had received! And yet, they had NO expectation of His resurrection? Why not?! He clearly declared it to them many times as He set His face to go to Jerusalem. So, hear it again...

He upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw Him after He was risen.

Now, in these condensed final verses, Mark records those words Peter and the other disciples recalled... typical of many things Jesus said to more than 500 people... to whom He appeared.



<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, Go to all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature / Jesus said get going.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be damned / and did you notice; are you listening, Jesus did not say: he who does not believe, and is not baptized -- sprinkled or dunked will be damned; because John the Baptist, who knew a thing or two



about how to baptize... clearly said: The One coming after me will baptize with the Spirit and with fire... and he did not even mention a drop of water. To the Corinthians, Paul said: I thank God, I baptized nobody. In other words, John the Baptist said, what Jesus will do... is not what I am doing, sprinkling or dunking;

#### He who believes and is baptized will be saved;

But he who does not believe will be damned.

Jesus also said...

<sup>17</sup> And these miraculous signs will follow those who believe / Even today; without deceivers and hocus pocus workers working their deceptions. The word is: semeion; a sign always points us in a direction. And in word and deed, Jesus always pointed to His Father in heaven; who is our Father in heaven. This word also describes the life-giving miracles found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; and also, the Acts of the apostles. Now, it's also the word Jesus used with a faithless generation, running around seeking the spectacular... but not with faith that pleases God.

Jesus also said...

**they will cast out demons in My name** / representing Me; where 2 or 3 are advancing His agenda as Jesus builds His church...

those acting in faith representing Him... will exorcise and play hardball, and throw out demons; pulling down vain imaginations and strongholds of evil; starting with helping one another to renew and refresh our thoughts, and images, and information about reality; **replacing** what the world peddles... with what Jesus taught; His images, His information about where love and joy and peace intersect in our lives.

Jesus said...

what Jesus spoke, they will speak in new languages, / English, Spanish, French, German, Swahili, Yoruba, Indonesian, Russian, Chinese and 1000 more languages.



<sup>18</sup> **They will take up serpents** / in Luke 10, Jesus gave His disciples power to tread on serpents and scorpions. Psalm 91 says, to tread on lions and adders, and young lions and dragons. So, Jesus is

not sending His disciples to a picnic in the park; or to a local carnival in town, or even to a children's petting zoo. He is sending them into a world that can be violent and deadly brutal.

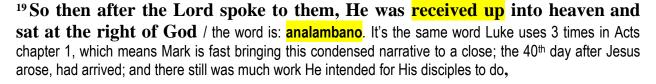
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them.

Jesus said...

they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover / Jesus just said... many signs would accompany those who believe...

so Jesus was not kidding! Those acting in faith,

representing Jesus... promoting His agenda... as He builds His church! Notice, Jesus did **not** say **everybody** will be doing those things. Nor did He say, these are the only signs that accompany **those** who **believe.** 



And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them / and isn't that what we do in prayer? He works with us through His Spirit, confirming the word / establishing and stabilizing the word... and making the word a firm foundation.

with signs / life-giving signs; signs that always point us to our Father in heaven.

**following** / the footsteps of those acting in faith.

Amen.

O Come Let Us Adore Him God of Wonders

The Funeral of a Great Myth -- CSLewisD