



“Mission Accomplished:
The End of Mark’s Gospel”

Mark 16:9-20

I. Issues Surrounding the Text- (Why is it in question?)

- Some translations exclude verses 9–20
- Modern Bibles include notes about this (brackets and marginal notes)
- Debate: should it be included?
- Issues: KJV's basis for inclusion, the abrupt ending of Mark's Gospel, Difference in language/grammar, the believed practices that come out of the "long ending"

English Translation Insight

- Formal (Literal-Word for word) vs Dynamic (thought for thought) translations
- Goal: closest to original text
- Modern translations rely on earlier manuscripts

Key Issue: Manuscripts

- Older (more ancient) manuscripts do not include verses 9–20
- Later manuscripts include them
- Age of manuscripts matters more than quantity in science of textual criticism

II. Textual Judgment- (Does it belong as part of Mark's Gospel?)

- Does this passage belong in Mark?
- Earliest manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus) exclude it
- Early church fathers did not include it (Eusebius, Justin Martyr, Origen, Clement of Alexandria, etc.)

Historical Evidence

- Eusebius & Jerome: verses absent in most copies
- Earliest witnesses support shorter ending
- Conclusion: likely added later (by one person or multiple people to "conclude" Mark's ending)

III. Verdict of the Text- (What do we do with this passage?)

- Verses 9–20 likely not original
- Should not be treated as part of Mark's Gospel
- Proponents of its exclusion (Daniel Wallace, John MacArthur, RC Sproul, DA Carson, Bruce Metzger, Douglass Moo, Thomas Schreiner, and BB Warfield)

But....still useful

Why It's Still Useful

- Does not contradict Scripture
- Confirms key truths
- Resurrection, Apostles' authority, Great Commission

What are we to do with Mark's Ending?

- Mark's Gospel ends with astonishment, amazement, and awe of the Resurrection
- Same words used of Mark's demonstration of Jesus as the Son of God throughout his Gospel

Ref: Mark 1:22, 1:27, 4:41, 5:15, 5:20, 5:33, 7:37, 9:6

- Culminates in Centurion's response and women's reaction to the Resurrection
- Proof: Jesus is the Son of God