

Mark 16.9-20

“the word of the prophets made more certain”

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. Mark 16:8

Last wk: Mark 16.8: Jesus ALIVE, Men HIDING, Women AFRAID & SILENT

Why would Mark end his gospel this way...? It would create an open ending that would allow readers to contemplate these unusual events and make a response of faith to God’s unexpected, unusual, and powerful work, a theme in Mark’s Gospel. The declaration of resurrection leaves no alternatives but to remain in fear or to believe. D. Bock

SOMETHING Good Happened: DESPITE Us > Church STRONG & Global NOT Quite FINISHED with Mark -- or MAYBE we Are --- CRYPTIC Heading: *[The most reliable early manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20.]*

NOT Expert on NT MSS > That Job is HIGHER than my PAY GRADE

Discovered STRONG FEELINGS – Both Sides – YES! and NO! IN! & OUT!

WIDER Concern > as Believer & Pastor > RELIABILITY of the BIBLE

PERSONAL Issue – ME > Years Preparing & Preaching // YOU > LISTEN!!

1. Parchments: What is the ‘real’ Mark?

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approx. Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	-----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	-----
Julius Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10	-----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	-----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49	-----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	-----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. fragment)	less than 100 years	5686	99.5%

Amazing ACCURACY of NT MSS > Far MORE than any OTHER Document

"... in the variety and fullness of the evidence on which it rests, the text of the New Testament stands absolutely and unapproachably alone among ancient prose writings" F.J.A. Hort

"...the textual critic of the New Testament is embarrassed by the wealth of his material" Bruce Metzger

HALLELUJAH for 99.5% Accuracy >>> Be HONEST about the .5%

We do NOT have PERFECT Copy of Mark > or ANY of the 66 Bible Books

2. Possibilities: Mark and the 'Wannabes'

Russian Bible, King James, New KJ, RSV, Living Bible NO ISSUE: Included

Texts used to Translate KJV in early 1600 INCLUDED these VSS

NEW American Standard > Known for Accuracy INCLUDES VSS in Brackets

Another Ancient Ending > Printed in Brackets in NASB:

[And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.] > Rejected by SCHOLARS

2 Main Possibilities > INCLUDE or EXCLUDE vs. 9-20 as TRULY MARKAN

a) Verses 16:9–20 are authentic, and were omitted or lost from the Sinaiticus and Vaticanus texts for one reason or another, perhaps accidental, perhaps intentional.

3rd Dan BROWN Relig. Conspiracy Theory Film: "Long Ending of Mark"

b) Mark intentionally ended his Gospel at 16:8, and someone else (at an early date) wrote the concluding lines.

c) The Gospel originally contained a different (perhaps similar) ending that was lost, for one reason or another, afterward the current ending was added.

d) Mark did not intend to end at 16:8, but was somehow prevented from finishing (perhaps by his own death), whereupon another person finished the work before it was released for church-use.

e) Verses 16:9–20 were added later to conform with the endings from the other Gospels.

MY GUESS is B & E > *But its ENTIRELY POSSIBLE that I am WRONG!*

The traditional longer ending to Mark was composed by someone (perhaps in the second century) who drew from the other Gospels and Acts. D. Bock

The earliest Greek, versional and patristic evidence supports the conclusion that Mark ended his Gospel at 16:8...The ending at 16:8, however, appeared too abrupt to some readers. The attempt to provide a more appropriate conclusion to the narrative affords the most plausible explanation for the origin of the additional endings. William Lane

No major Christian doctrine stands or falls because of our rejection or acceptance of Mark 16.9-20. Yours Truly

Long Ending / NT Parallel Chart – (Insert Separate File Here)

This reads like an early attempt to tidy the loose ends...the whole summary seems to have been drawn up independently of Mark's Gospel, without reference to any of the preceding verses. R. Alan Cole

3. Process – Mark is not Enough!

ACCURACY of MSS does NOT Guarantee INSPIRATION of the Text
May TRULY be a FIRST-CENTURY Document, but is it the WORD of GOD?

"No amount of historical evidence for the life and teaching of Jesus ever proves 'Gospel truth.' After all, some who saw and heard Jesus for themselves drew the conclusion that he was a magician and false prophet. Proof cannot reside either in any new papyrus fragment (however early its date), or in any artifact uncovered by archaeologists" Graham Stanton

INVITED by CHRISTIAN Group to speak at their HIGH SCHOOL in Uganda
Large, ISLAMIC HS with Medium-Sized Christian Group > Speak to Believers?
Arrived taken to Auditorium > WHOLE School > Mulla's/Teachers in FRONT!

Preached GOSPEL of JESUS, Good thing BEHIND Lectern – KNEES Knocked!

Q & A > Mullah:“I’ll PROVE Bible is NOT Word of God” *Shaking* quoted:

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4

NO Ref to GOD – Spirit – Angels > Just HUMAN Research and Writing

Right! Not JUST Word of God > Word of MAN AND the Word of God

FULLY Words/Ideas of Luke, Mark, Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul....& Fully God

Bible CLAIMS to be > "The Word of God in the words of men"

And we also thank God continually because, when you received *the word of God, which you heard from us*, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, *the word of God*, which is at work in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

They SAW Paul but they HEARD Jesus

Paul Commends Believers >> HEARD God’s Word thru his words

We have not received the spirit of the world but the *Spirit who is from God*, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in *words taught by the Spirit*, expressing *spiritual truths in spiritual words*. 1 Corinthians 2.12,13

Heard from Apostle to GENTILES (Paul), Now Apostle to JEWS (Peter):

And we have *the word of the prophets made more certain*, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but *men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*. 2 Peter 1:19-21

MEN –Moses to Malachi, Matthew to John– CARRIED Along by Spirit of GOD

Parents – Playmates – Education – Experiences – Speech – Style

FULLY Prepared for Important Written Gift to Church by SOVEREIGN God

4. Proof – Can we defend the Christian position?

It's so hard to believe in anything anymore. I wouldn't believe in anything if it were not for my lucky astrology mood watch. Steve Martin

Question of Proof > NOT Important for Today's Society > NO ABSOLUTES

Only thing Important > Is it TRUE for YOU? & How makes you FEEL!

I am OLD School > Believe in EARTH & SKY and HEAVEN & HELL

Want to KNOW God on Earth and be WITH Him in HEAVEN

Best PROOF > Found right in Mark 16: "...Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." Mark 16:6

If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead...And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 1 Corinthians 15:14-19

No Resurrection = No Hope > Preachers - Fools and Liars (true!)

EVIDENCES of Resurrection Truth:

1) The Scriptures

4 Gospels > Slight VARIATIONS in Account > UNIFIED Message of Jesus

If 4 Witnesses in Court – EXACTLY Same Words – Judge know Collaboration

Portions of Bible > Over 1000 Languages > Timeless "living" Relevance to All

Studied and Preached for 30+ yrs – Many People and Places

I may be BORING but Word of God is LIVING and LIFE Changing

"In twenty five years the Bible will be forgotten and Christianity will be a thing of the past." Voltaire

In 1778, 40 years after Voltaire's death, Bible's were printed in his home

2) Empty Tomb

Why? 1. Swoon (Woke & Walked) 2. Body Stolen 3. Wrong Tomb 4. Rose

TOMB was GUARDED: the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. Matthew 27:62-66

NO BODY/SKELETON EVER FOUND, His ENEMIES would've REJOICED!

Found by WOMEN- 1st Preachers of Resurrection Gospel > Women!!

1st C Roman & Jewish World > Testimony of Woman LEGALLY INVALID

It is strange that a more competent witness could not be found. John Calvin

SARCASTIC JIBE > those who Claim Easter Message is Human INVENTION

IF SO > INVENTOR was PRETTY STUPID > Base Tale upon WOMAN!

3) Graveclothes

JEWS > Neither Embalmed, Nor Cremated > NOR do they use COFFIN

Body Wrapped in Linen Bands / Enclosed w/ Dry Spices / Laid Face Up in Tomb

Linen Cloth round Body to SHOULDERS > Head & Neck Cloth like TURBAN

He (John) bent over and looked in at (*blepo* – mere sight) the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw (*theoreo* – more intense, ‘theorize’) the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw (*oraō* – to see with understanding) and believed. John 20:5-8

IF was RESUSCITATION > Jesus would STRUGGLE Out of TIGHT CLOTHS
 Leaving them IN GREAT HEAP of CLOTH and SPICES // Teenager's Room
 RESURRECTION of Jesus DIFFERENT than RESUSCITATION of Lazarus

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go'
 John 11.44

A glance at these grave clothes proved the reality, and indicated the nature, of the resurrection...like a discarded chrysalis from which the butterfly has emerged...
 John Stott

SPIRITUAL Body PASSED THRU Grave Clothes // & thru LOCKED Doors

BODY STOLEN?? Naked? How did HE ESCAPE from Graveclothes??
 Grave ROBBERS > Would Not LEAVE Expensive LINEN, Costly SPICES

NEVER DIED (Swoon) Healed in COOL of TOMB? Graveclothes in FORM?

WRONG TOMB? Why Jesus-shaped GRAVECLOTHES?

4) Risen Jesus was Seen

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, *he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living...* 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Written 30 Years AFTER Event > CHALLENGE! > FIND Them! ASK Them!

5) Transformation of Disciples

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am
 1 Corinthians 15:7-10

YOU BET Paul did NOT DESERVE this GRACE of Risen Jesus! *Who Does?*

Saul was there, giving approval to his (*Stephen's*) death...Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:1,3

Saul the PERSECUTOR / Paul the PERSECUTED

Very One who MURDERED Christians became a MARTYR for the CHURCH!

James? - UNBELIEVING ½ Brother of Jesus > Leader in Jerusalem Church

Peter – Human Weakness DENIED Him > Filled with Spirit DECLARED Jesus Preached RISEN JESUS in JERUSALEM – 50 Days after His MURDER There!

ALL APOSTLES > Held Fast to Same TRUTH > Lived & DIED for Risen Lord

Without having a reliable testimony to the emptiness of Jesus' tomb the early Christian community could not have survived in Jerusalem. W. Pannenberg

6) "The Lord's Day"

4th Commandment - Keep the Sabbath / Strict Practice of over 1000 years

Few years SABBATH Keepers become LORD'S DAY Worshippers

When the Sabbath was over...Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb... Mark 16:1-2

Mark > from Rome > to Church in Roman World > Sabbath WAS OVER!!

Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. *On the first day of every week*, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income
1 Corinthians 16.1-2

Apostle John > Last Book of NT Written: *On the Lord's Day* I was in the Spirit...
Revelation 1.10

Sunday is VASCRESENYA – Day of RISEN SON – Day of CELEBRATION!

7) THE International Christian Fellowship > God's GLOBAL CHURCH

Been to DOZENS of Countries > Visited CHURCHES in Many of Them

Different Colors, Cultures, Foods, Faces, Styles, Songs, Smells

WORSHIP One JESUS – PREACHING from SAME Bible

Risen Lord/Creator Cultures/Gospel "fits" > SONGS from HEART & Languages

Like NO Other Religion > Christian's SING > Not Just Chant, Hum, Recite

Hearts filled with JOY – Mouths filled with PRAISE

We who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh Philippians 3:3

KINGDOM of God LIVES because our KING is ALIVE

Millions "Experienced" the Risen Lord > TALK with HIM Daily

Exclusive: Only Jesus can take us to Heaven

Inclusive: Only Jesus connects us on Earth

NARROW in our CONFESSION / WIDE in our ACCEPTANCE

Different: Politics, Passports, Faces, Figures, Preferences, Personalities> JESUS!

CLEAR, Adequate, Convincing EVIDENCE of Resurrection of Jesus Christ

IF Someone Will NOT BELIEVE> CHOICE agnst Abundant, Solid EVIDENCE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best attested fact in history. Matthew Arnold

As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidences for the first Easter day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling...As a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of men to facts that they were able to substantiate.
Sir Edward Clark

5. Proclamation: Great News for the Whole World

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples...." Mark 16:6-7

ALL 4 Gospels End with GOING & TELLING

Jesus CAME and TAUGHT so Church is Sent to GO and TELL

Women OVERCAME being SCARED and SILENT > Got to TALKING Again!

a) We can know the true God

No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1.18

Claim of ARROGANCE? – All gods, Religions, Ideas, Philosophies of World?

You can VISIT Graves of Buddha and Muhammed – See Mt. where Moses Died

Nearly 2000 years > ONLY Evidence of BODY of Jesus is EMPTY TOMB

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

b) We can have a relationship with the true God

He was delivered to death for our sins and was *raised to life for our justification.* Romans 4.25

LEGAL ACQUITTAL BY A JUST & HOLY GOD

PENALTY of Sin Accepted > PAID in FULL > Blood of Jesus on Cross

Christian Justified from all sin > Resurrection = Sacrifice is Accepted

STONE was ROLLED AWAY – Not to Let HIM OUT – But World IN to SEE!

c) We can live forever with the true God

RESURRECTION of Jesus is PROOF that God has Appointed Him as JUDGE:

For God has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by a man He has appointed. He has given proof of all this to all men by raising him from the dead.

Acts 17.31

Even MUSLIMS Teach that 'ISA (Jesus) will be JUDGE on LAST DAY

I ask my Muslim FRIENDS: "Why don't you get on Judge's Good Side NOW?"

Why NOT Meet Him as MORE than JUDGE – But as Friend, Savior, and Lord?

Knowing Jesus is NOT Just for THIS SHORT LIFE – Risen Lord PROMISED:

Jesus: "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14.3

He'll FIND us in Almaty, Africa, America – Beijing and Brazil – Dead or Alive

PRACTICE Sessions of ICF we've had for these Years > HEAVENLY Reality

Know Him – See Him – Love Him – Worship Him in ENDLESS Praise

And we have *the word of the prophets made more certain*, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:19
