

Contents

FOREWORD	xi
PREFACE	xv
INTRODUCTION	1
1: THE GOSPEL OF MARK	6
Introduction to the Translation	6
The Gospel of Mark	7
2: THE RHETORIC	35
The Narrator	35
<i>Mark's narrator is omniscient</i>	36
<i>The narrator is not bound by time or space</i>	37
<i>The narrator gives "inside views" of the characters' minds</i>	37
<i>The narrator speaks to the reader through "asides"</i>	38
<i>The narrator speaks from an ideological point of view</i>	39
<i>The narrator controls distance</i>	41
<i>The narrator arranges the order of events</i>	42
Point of View and Standards of Judgment	43
Style	44
Narrative Patterns	45
<i>Repetition</i>	46
<i>Two-step progression</i>	47
<i>Questions</i>	49
<i>Framing</i>	51
<i>Episodes in concentric patterns</i>	51
<i>Episodes in a series of three</i>	54
Other Literary Features	55
<i>Riddles</i>	55

MARK AS STORY

<i>Quotations from the writings</i>	58
<i>Prophecies</i>	59
<i>Irony</i>	59
<i>Summary</i>	62
3: THE SETTINGS	63
The “Way”	64
Local Settings Recalling Israel’s Past	65
<i>The river</i>	65
<i>Desert</i>	65
<i>Sea</i>	66
<i>Mountains</i>	66
Private and Public Settings	67
<i>Patterns of Movement</i>	68
<i>Galilee</i>	68
<i>Gentile Territory</i>	69
<i>Journey to Jerusalem</i>	69
The End of the Journey	70
<i>Jerusalem and the Temple</i>	70
<i>Summary</i>	72
4: THE PLOT	73
The Background and Origin of the Conflicts: God’s Rule	74
Jesus Versus the Demoniatic Forces and Nature	77
Jesus Versus the Authorities	79
<i>Authorities’ side of the conflict:</i>	
<i>defending God’s Law</i>	80
<i>Jesus’ side of the conflict: message and evasion</i>	83
<i>The development of the conflict in the plot</i>	86
<i>The resolution of the conflict</i>	88
Jesus and the Disciples	89
<i>The disciples’ side of the conflict:</i>	
<i>too much too fast</i>	89
<i>Jesus’ side of the conflict: frustration</i>	93
<i>The development of the conflict in the plot</i>	95

Contents

<i>Resolution</i>	96
<i>Summary</i>	100
5: CHARACTERS	101
Jesus	103
<i>Characterization</i>	103
<i>Jesus' authority</i>	105
<i>Integrity</i>	108
<i>Faith</i>	108
<i>Serving and not lording over others</i>	109
<i>Renouncing self, being least, and losing his life</i>	111
<i>Jesus faces death</i>	112
<i>The meaning of his death</i>	113
<i>The death</i>	115
The Authorities	117
<i>Characterization</i>	117
<i>Blindness of the opponents</i>	118
<i>The authorities "lord over" people</i>	119
<i>The opponents save their lives</i>	121
The Disciples	122
<i>Characterization</i>	122
<i>Loyalty</i>	124
<i>Lack of understanding, lack of faith, and fear</i>	124
<i>Resistance to death on the journey</i>	125
<i>Fear and misperception in Jerusalem</i>	127
<i>Judgment and sympathy</i>	129
The Little People	129
<i>Characterization</i>	130
<i>Faith, being least, being a servant</i>	130
<i>Foils for the disciples</i>	132
<i>Continuing discipleship</i>	134
<i>Note on the crowds</i>	134
<i>Summary</i>	135
CONCLUSION	137
NOTES	143