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0521477662 - Faith as a Theme in Mark's Narrative - Christopher D. Marshall

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MARK'S NARRATIVE

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Faith as a theme in Mark's narrative

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*In memory of my mother
Jenny Marshall
with loving gratitude*

ὦ γόναι, μεγάλη σου ἡ πίστις (Mt 15:28)

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PREFACE

It is almost a commonplace these days to read of the 'rediscovery' of Mark by recent scholarship. The earliest evangelist, who in the past has been considered as a somewhat simple-minded collator or rather artless redactor of discordant traditions, is being increasingly recognised as an author of considerable theological and literary competence. Many would now feel that the comparatively low estimate of Mark's literary abilities that has coloured much of the critical and redaction analysis of his gospel, simply attests to a failure by scholars to appreciate the stylistic features and rhetorical integrity of his text. Hopefully the present study of Mark's faith-theme will further corroborate this more positive evaluation of his capacities as an author.

This book is based on a doctoral thesis, prepared under the supervision of Professor G. N. Stanton and accepted by the University of London in December 1985. The revision was largely carried out during a short stay in London over the Christmas period of 1987–1988. I am grateful for a grant from the E. M. Blaiklock Memorial Fund that made the time in London possible and for the generous hospitality offered to my family and myself by the London Mennonite Centre. In carrying out the revision I was helped by the comments made on the thesis by its examiners, Dr John Muddiman and Dr Cyril Rodd, and especially by the detailed written criticisms offered by Professor Ernest Best, who recommended my work for inclusion in the SNTSMS series. To have at hand the comments of such a highly respected Markan specialist as Professor Best was invaluable in provoking me to further reflection on the subject and greater clarity of expression. I would also like to thank Professor Stanton for his guidance during the period of research and for his advice and encouragement during the preparation of the work for publication.

I am very conscious of how much my work owes to the love, support and generosity over many years of family and friends,

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both in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. They are too numerous to name but without their contribution in so many different ways, my research on Mark would have never seen the light of day. I am especially grateful to my parents who have exemplified in their own lives many of the qualities of faith described in the following pages. Sadly my mother's life was claimed in a car accident before the book was published, and it is to her memory that I gratefully dedicate this study in Mark's gospel. A special word of thanks to my wife, Margaret, and my little boy, Peter, for sacrificing their summer holiday in the New Zealand sun to enable me to undertake preparation of the typescript in the mid-winter chill of London.

ABBREVIATIONS

AnBib	Analecta Biblica
BAG	Bauer, W., Arndt, W. F., Gingrich, F. W., and Danker, F. W., <i>A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>
BDF	Blass, F., and Debrunner, A., trans. and revised by Funk, R. W., <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum Lovaniensium
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
Bill	[Strack, H. L.] and Billerbeck, P., <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , I–VI, 1926–61
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BR	<i>Biblical Research</i>
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
ExpT	<i>Expository Times</i>
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
Fs	Festschrift
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
IDB	Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible
IDB supp	Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplementary Volume
IrBibStud	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>

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JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSS	JSNT Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
JournTheolSAfr	<i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i>
NIDNTT	New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
RelS	<i>Religious Studies</i>
RevExp	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SJT	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
Sem	<i>Semeia</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNovT	Supplement to Novum Testamentum
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SWJT	<i>Southwestern Journal of Theology</i>
TBT	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
TDNT	Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
Theol	<i>Theology</i>
TToday	<i>Theology Today</i>
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>