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## MARK

This volume provides a comprehensive, accessible introduction to the Gospel of Mark, now widely considered the first recorded treatment of Jesus. Darrell Bock explains how this text, once the least-used Gospel, came to be regarded as the starting point for understanding Jesus. Drawing together previous arguments and discussion in a constructive summary, he traces the significance of Mark and addresses key features such as its cultural and historical background, its narrative flow, and the role of Greek in supplying meaning. This commentary highlights the issues Mark's Gospel raises and develops Mark's message surrounding Jesus' claims of kingdom authority and salvation, the call to disciples to follow him, and the preparation of those disciples to face suffering in light of their choice. *Mark* will be a valuable resource for students, teachers, and pastors alike.

Darrell Bock is Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He is the author or editor of more than thirty books, and his recent publications include *Truth in a Culture of Doubt: Engaging Skeptical Challenges to the Bible* (with Andreas J. Köstenberger and Josh D. Chatraw) and *Parables of Enoch: A Paradigm Shift* (with James H. Charlesworth).

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**Darrell Bock**  
*Dallas Theological Seminary*



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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107677678](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107677678)

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

Bock, Darrell.

Mark / Darrell Bock.

pages cm. – (New Cambridge Bible commentary)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-03421-1 (alk. paper)

1. Bible. Mark – Commentaries. 2. Jesus Christ – Person and offices.

3. Jesus Christ – Historicity. I. Title.

BS2585.53.B63 2015

226.3'07-dc23 2015020957

ISBN 978-1-107-03421-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-67767-8 Paperback

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## Preface



This commentary on Mark is designed for anyone interested in the meaning, background, and discussion of this Gospel. It is designed to lead the reader into the text as well as guide one into further study if that is desired. References throughout are designed to tell the reader where useful additional discussion can be found. The introduction is purposefully selective, dealing with core issues of how Mark became important to Gospel study as well as issues of author, date, and setting. The list of suggested readings is organized by passage unit, so that study in a given passage is facilitated by the presence of its support materials. Not all the passages listed in the suggested readings are cited in the discussion in the text, so these lists truly supplement the passage discussion by pointing to a wider array of resources.

I worked through Mark with a collection of major commentaries at hand. They were my discussion partners for the book. You will see them referred to regularly, as one of my goals was to reflect the discussion they raise about the book. Issues of meaning and historical background are my focus in the commentary. The goal was to allow the reader quick access to the major issues that a passage raises.

I want to thank Cambridge University Press for the invitation to contribute to the *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* series. Ben Witherington was kind enough to ask me to write on Mark and was an encouragement along the way. I also need to thank my intern, Heather Zimmermann, who worked diligently in running down references as well as carefully and thoughtfully reading the draft. Her ability to ask good questions and think through what I was saying has enhanced what I have said. Her contribution mirrors what I have experienced during more than three decades of teaching – that excellent students make teaching a joy and stimulate learning. So I dedicate the commentary to my students who have taught me so much. I hope many of them will find this commentary useful and see it as an expression of appreciation for their own dedicated commitment to learn more about Mark.

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## Abbreviations



This list contains only works and periodicals cited in the commentary. Standard abbreviations have been used for ancient works as well as for works noted in the suggested readings.

ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
ATR	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BDAG	Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>
BDF	Blass, Debrunner, Funk, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament</i>
BECNT	<i>Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament</i>
BETHL	<i>Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium</i>
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
BRev	<i>Bible Review</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBR	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
CM	<i>Christianity in the Making</i>
EKKNT	<i>Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>
ET	English translation
GfC	<i>Geschichte des frühens Christentums</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
IRT	<i>Issues in Religion and Theology</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>

JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KTU	<i>Keilalphabetische Texte aus Ugarit</i>
LSJ	Liddell, Scott, Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i>
NIGTC	<i>New International Greek Testament Commentaries</i>
NLT	<i>New Testament Library</i>
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
PRR	<i>Princeton Readings in Religion</i>
ResQ	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
SBLSymS	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series</i>
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
TLZ	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
WBC	<i>Word Biblical Commentary</i>
WUNT	<i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift für des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
ZNTHG	<i>Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>