



Through the Eyes of Mark: His World, His Gospel

by Jack Ciano

"This is not an evangelical lecture on what to believe nor does it offer a theological position. Through this analytical deconstruction of the Gospel According to Mark readers will gain insights into Mark's world, the historical events, and the worldview of first-century citizens that shaped his writing. In brief, I invite readers to set aside their schematic beliefs and to look behind the scenes to see

what Mark saw and experienced in his world that led him to write that particular narrative, at that particular time, and in that particular format." From the *Introduction*

Readers will:

- Learn how the historical, political, cultural, and theological realities of Mark's world and his audience are subtly reflected in Mark's Gospel.
- Discover how Mark interwove well-recognized Greek literary themes into his Gospel.
- Gain insight into connotations in the gospel that were familiar to Mark's original audience but go unrecognized by modern readers.
- Recognize how that first gospel both formed and was formed by the beliefs and attitudes of the original Christians.

"Through the Eyes of Mark" is must reading for students of religion, enlightening for general readers, and a fresh addition to the field of Markan studies.

"Jack has gifted us with a powerful tool in biblical study and preaching. While time travel is not possible, Jack's careful research and straightforward writing transports the reader on an enjoyable trip to the first century. This journey to better understand Mark's world is a welcome addition to my library."

Richard Wilcox, pastor, Somerton Friends Meeting, Somerton, VA.

"In this book, Jack Ciano guides the reader through the mystery of the first written gospel. He asks, "Why this gospel, in this form, at this time? To answer these questions, Ciano strips away 2000 years of cultural and theological interpretation to offer the reader a concise view of the gospel as it was intended for its original time and audience."

Mark Sills, founding Executive Director, FaithAction International House, NC

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