

Who was Mark?

When I was a boy, I remember being taught that biblical scholars believed that Mark was possibly a lad that tagged along with the disciples and his lunch was used in the feeding of the five thousand. Today leaders teach that scholars believe that Mark only recorded that which Peter described to him, thus excusing him from being an eye witness. I searched the Bible to see if there was any evidence recorded that could substantiate the possibility of that which I was taught when I was young to be a possibility.

John whose surname was Mark was could possibly have been the lad referred to in John who had the five loaves and two fishes used in the feeding of the five thousand. This lad must have frequented following the disciples and Jesus to have been prepared with a lunch when the multitude had nothing. Matthew and Luke simply recall the disciples saying that 'we have five loaves and two fishes'. Marks' recount of that story goes into more detail than the others. After Jesus had ascended and persecution started, Mark's mothers' home became a meeting place. When Peter was led out of prison by the angel, he went straight to her place where they were praying. After recounting his story to those that were present he departed. When Paul and Mark's cousin Barnabas came back from Jerusalem they took Mark with them. Mark had abandoned them and later when Barnabas wanted to take Mark again, an argument arose between Paul and Barnabas and they separated.

When Paul was in Athens with Silvanus and Timothy he wrote his letters to the Thessalonians. Timothy was ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians.

Peter had been told by Jesus that as he got old he would lose his mobility. Peter wanted to go to Babylon, so it is likely that Silvanus and Mark came to join him for support. In Peter's first letter to the churches in the area where Timothy is bishop, he reveals that Silvanus and Mark are with him. In his next letter he reveals that he has not long to live. Sometime thereafter Peter dies and his bones are placed in an ossuary, bearing his name "Shimon Bar Yonah", in a sepulchre on the Mount of Olives.

After Paul is imprisoned in Rome by Nero a second time just before his death, he says that only Luke is with him and that he would like Timothy to take Mark and bring him to him because he could use him.

John Mark writes the book of Mark. The book of Mark is the shortest of the Gospels including usually just brief summaries of events throughout the life of Jesus.

In conclusion, there is no biblical evidence excluding Mark from being the lad that had the five loaves nor from being the lad that ran away when accosted at Jesus betrayal but there is also no historical evidence to substantiate either.

Five loaves and two fishes

⁹There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes:
but what are they among so many? (*John 6:9*)

¹⁷And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. (*Matthew 14:17*)

¹³But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. (*Luke 9:13*)

Mark 6:36-44 is Marks description. Mark is named eight times in the New Testament

Peter comes to Marks house

¹¹And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

¹²And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. (*Acts 12:11-12*)

¹⁷But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. (*Acts 12:17*)

Barnabas, Mark's cousin

¹⁰Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) (*Colossians 4:10*)

²⁵And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark. (*Acts 12:25*)

³⁷And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

³⁸But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

³⁹And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; ⁴⁰And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. (*Acts 15:37-40*)

Paul in Athens with Silvanus and Timothy

¹Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2
Thessalonians 1:1-2)

2 Thessalonians footnote: The second *epistle* to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.

2 Timothy footnote: The second *epistle* unto Timotheous, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians, was written from Rome, when Paul was brought before Nero the second time.

Jesus predicts Peters death

¹⁷He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

¹⁸Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst:

but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.

¹⁹This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. (*John 21:17-19*)

Peter in Babylon

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (*1 Peter 1:1*)

¹²By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

¹³The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. (*1 Peter 5:12-13*)

¹³Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

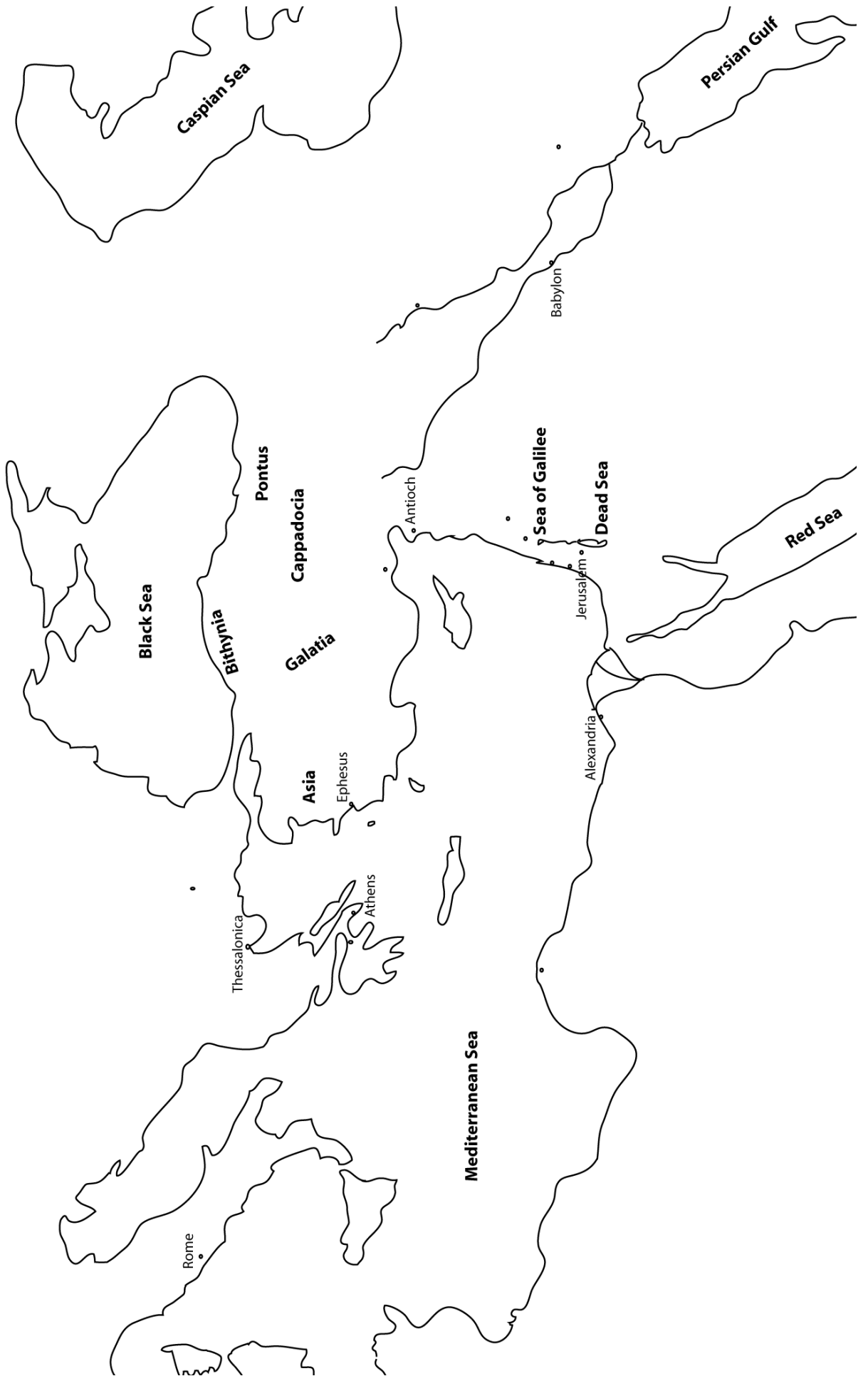
¹⁴Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. (*2 Peter 1:13-14*)

Paul just before death

⁶For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (*2 Timothy 4:6*)

¹¹Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee:

for he is profitable to me for the ministry. (*2 Timothy 4:11*)



Caspian Sea

Persian Gulf

Black Sea

Pontus

Cappadocia

Galatia

Asia

Ephesus

Antioch

Sea of Galilee

Dead Sea

Jerusalem

Alexandria

Babylon

Red Sea

Thessalonica

Athens

Mediterranean Sea

Rome