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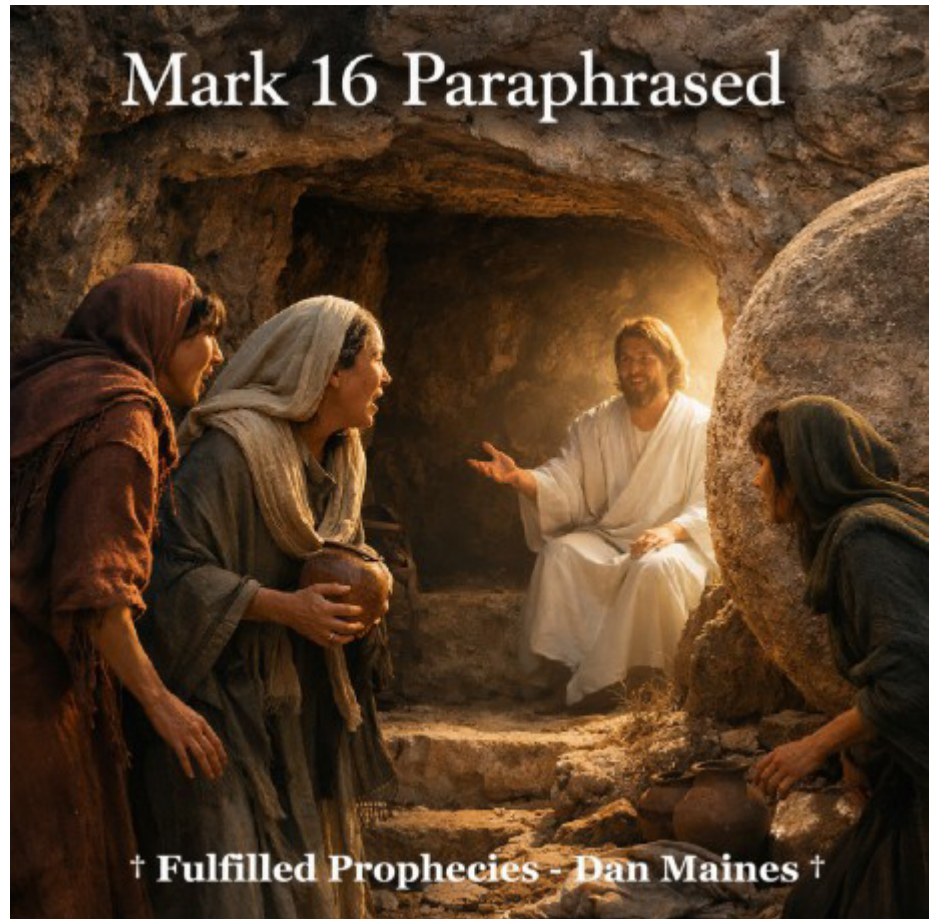
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## Mark 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Mark 16 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Mark closes his Gospel by showing that the resurrection of Jesus was not hidden, it was announced, witnessed, and preached immediately.

† The events recorded here happened shortly after the crucifixion when the tomb was discovered empty and the message began spreading among the disciples.

† Early Christians constantly pointed to the empty tomb as the

foundation of their faith (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

### **Mark 16:1**

After the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and place them on Jesus' body.

† The women expected a body to be there, which shows they were not anticipating a resurrection (Luke 24:1).

† Their actions confirm the burial was real and the tomb location was known.

† **Josephus** records Jewish burial customs that included spices and perfumes for honoring the dead (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 17.8.3).

### **Mark 16:2**

Very early on the first day of the week, just after the sun came up, they went to the tomb.

† The timing shows the women came at the earliest possible moment after the Sabbath restrictions ended.

† This early visit also explains why the tomb discovery was witnessed by multiple people (John 20:1).

† **Eusebius** later noted that the resurrection was proclaimed publicly in Jerusalem where the tomb could be checked (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.39).

### **Mark 16:3**

On the way they were asking each other who would move the heavy stone away from the entrance of the tomb.

† This concern proves the stone was known to be large and difficult to move.

† Their worry also shows they had no expectation that the tomb would already be open.

† **Clement of Alexandria** commented that the women came in simple devotion without knowing what God had already done (Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 6).

## **Mark 16:4**

But when they arrived and looked up, they saw the stone had already been rolled away, and it was extremely large.

† The moved stone was the first visible evidence that something had happened.

† The Gospel writers emphasize the size to show it wasn't easily moved by human effort.

† **Irenaeus** used this event as evidence that the resurrection was a public historical event (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.10).

## **Mark 16:5**

When they entered the tomb they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were shocked and afraid.

† The young man is described as a messenger announcing what had happened.

† White garments were commonly associated with heavenly messengers in Jewish writings.

† **Eusebius** records that early Christians understood this figure as an angelic witness to the resurrection (Ecclesiastical History 1.2).

## **Mark 16:6**

He told them not to be afraid. He said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth who had been crucified, but he had risen and was no longer there. He told them to look at the place where his body had been laid.

† The empty location itself became evidence that Jesus had risen.

† The message connects the crucifixion directly with the resurrection.

† **Irenaeus** emphasized that the resurrection was proclaimed first at the empty tomb (Against Heresies 3.11).

## **Mark 16:7**

He told them to go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was going ahead of them into Galilee and they would see him

there just as he had told them before.

† This instruction confirms Jesus had already predicted these events earlier (Mark 14:28).

† Peter is specifically mentioned, showing restoration after his denial.

† **Clement of Alexandria** wrote that the resurrection message was meant to restore and strengthen the disciples (Stromata 5).

### **Mark 16:8**

The women ran from the tomb trembling and amazed, and at first they said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.

† Fear and amazement were natural reactions to the unexpected discovery.

† This moment shows the emotional shock before the message spread further.

† **Eusebius** noted that despite the fear, the resurrection message quickly spread throughout the early church (Ecclesiastical History 2.1).

### **Mark 16:9**

After rising early on the first day of the week, Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene, the woman he had freed from seven demons.

† Mary Magdalene became one of the first witnesses of the risen Christ.

† Her testimony shows how the risen Jesus revealed himself to followers who had been transformed by him.

† **Irenaeus** records this appearance as one of the earliest testimonies of the resurrection (Against Heresies 3.11).

### **Mark 16:10**

She went and told those who had been with him while they were mourning and crying.

† The disciples were grieving because they believed Jesus was dead.

† Her report shows that the first proclamation of the resurrection came through eyewitness testimony.

† **Eusebius** said the apostles eventually confirmed this testimony through their own encounters with Christ (Ecclesiastical History 3.24).

### **Mark 16:11**

But when they heard that he was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

† The disciples initially doubted the report.

† This detail shows the resurrection story was not created by believers expecting it.

† **Clement of Alexandria** observed that the apostles needed direct evidence before they were convinced (Stromata 6).

### **Mark 16:12**

After that Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the countryside.

† This likely refers to the encounter described on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

† These appearances confirmed that the resurrection was witnessed by multiple individuals.

† **Irenaeus** noted that many saw Christ alive after the crucifixion (Against Heresies 3.12).

### **Mark 16:13**

They returned and told the others, but they did not believe them either.

† Multiple testimonies were initially doubted.

† This strengthens the credibility of the narrative because disbelief is openly recorded.

† **Eusebius** wrote that repeated appearances eventually convinced the apostles (Ecclesiastical History 1.13).

### **Mark 16:14**

Later Jesus appeared to the eleven while they were eating and corrected them for their unbelief and stubborn hearts because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he rose.

† Jesus confronted their doubt directly.

† The correction prepared them for their role in proclaiming the message.

† **Irenaeus** said the apostles were transformed from doubters into bold witnesses (Against Heresies 3.13).

### **Mark 16:15**

He told them to go into the whole world and announce the good news to every creature.

† This instruction launched the global mission of the early church.

† The message of Christ was meant to reach every nation.

† **Eusebius** records that the apostles carried this message across the Roman world (Ecclesiastical History 3.1).

### **Mark 16:16**

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

† Faith in Christ became the dividing line between acceptance and rejection of the message.

† Baptism served as the public expression of belief in the early church.

† **Clement of Alexandria** wrote about baptism as the sign of entering the new life in Christ (Stromata 7).

### **Mark 16:17**

These signs would accompany those who believed: they would drive out demons in his name, speak in new languages,

† These signs confirmed the authority of the early gospel message.

† They served as proof that the apostles were sent by Christ.

† **Irenaeus** testified that miraculous signs accompanied the early church's preaching (Against Heresies 2.32).

### **Mark 16:18**

They would pick up snakes safely and even if they drank something poisonous it would not harm them. They would place their hands on the sick and they would recover.

† These signs symbolized protection and healing that accompanied the early mission.

† The miracles confirmed the divine authority of the message being preached.

† **Eusebius** wrote about many miraculous works attributed to the apostles in the early church (Ecclesiastical History 2.3).

### **Mark 16:19**

After speaking with them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

† This marks the completion of his earthly mission.

† Sitting at God's right hand symbolizes authority and rule.

† **Irenaeus** wrote that Christ ascended and reigns with the Father (Against Heresies 3.16).

### **Mark 16:20**

The disciples went out and preached everywhere while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message through the signs that followed.

† The gospel spread rapidly across the Roman world.

† The message was confirmed through both preaching and divine confirmation.

† **Eusebius** documented how Christianity spread throughout the empire in the first centuries (Ecclesiastical History 2.2).

### **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded burial customs and the context of first century Judea (Antiquities of the Jews).

† Irenaeus described the resurrection appearances and apostolic preaching (Against Heresies).

† Eusebius preserved early church history and apostolic testimony (Ecclesiastical History).

† Clement of Alexandria discussed early Christian teachings and practices (Stromata).

### **How It Applies To Us Today**

† The resurrection reminds us that Christ's victory over death

changed everything.

† The apostles carried the message across the world, and that same gospel still transforms lives today.

† The empty tomb continues to stand as the foundation of the Christian faith.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why did the women go to the tomb with spices?

**A:** They expected to honor a dead body because they did not yet understand the resurrection (Luke 24:1).

**Q:** Why is the empty tomb important?

**A:** It became the first evidence that Jesus had risen (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

**Q:** Why did the disciples doubt the reports at first?

**A:** They were grieving and did not expect a resurrection (Luke 24:11).

**Q:** What was the purpose of the signs that followed the apostles?

**A:** They confirmed that the message came from God (Hebrews 2:3-4).

**Q:** Why did Jesus send the disciples to preach to the world?

**A:** The gospel was meant for every nation (Matthew 28:19-20).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Mark 16

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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