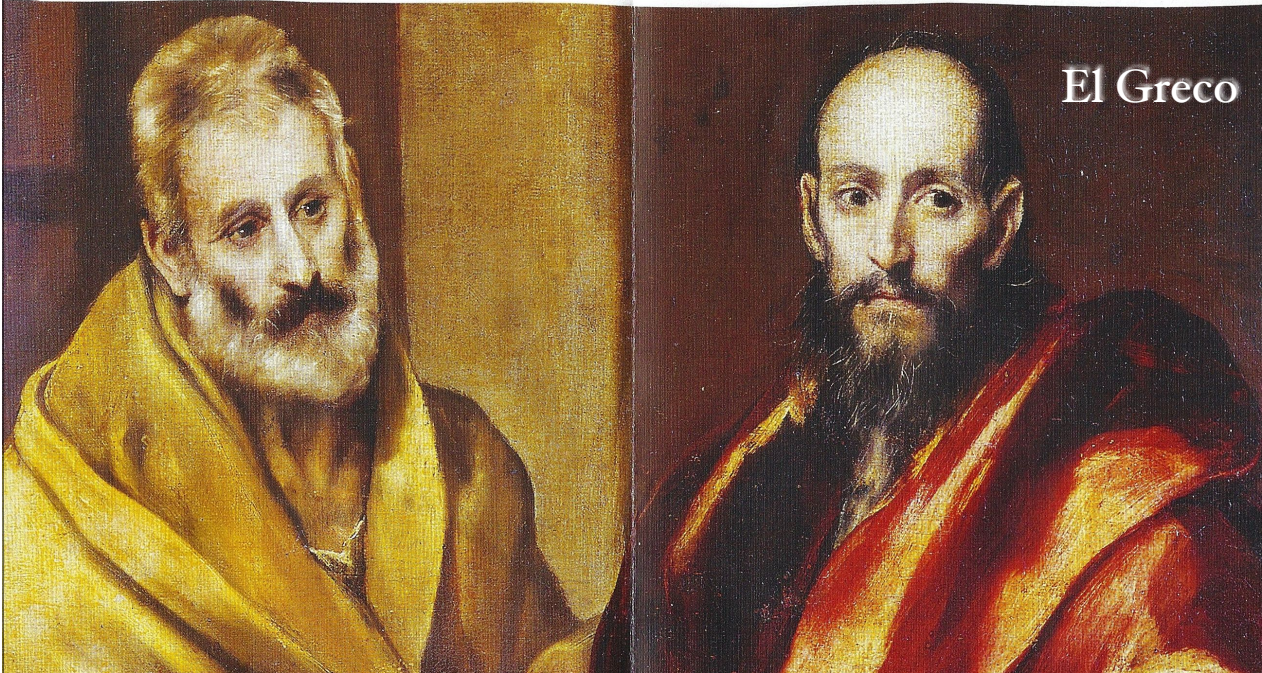


The Gospel according to MARK

The interpreter of Peter (Papias early 2nd century)



Oral Traditions circulating in the community
(especially Peter)

about what Jesus did and said
during his public ministry

Core Gospel

The way Jesus died + Post-crucifixion experiences
(Jesus' Spirit present and active in the community)

Composed in Rome just after Nero's persecution
for a broken and disillusioned community

The Risen Christ is the true Lord of the world, not Caesar

'Good News'

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus the Messiah,
the Son of God' (Mark 1:1).

- Proclaimed as the promised Messiah anointed with God's Spirit

'Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God
has come near; repent, and believe in the good news'(1:14-15).

- God is reigning
- Reconciliation (communion/life) is possible
IF we accept God's offer (= Repentance)

Communion is a liberation from all that binds us

The Baptist

‘One who is stronger is coming after me ...
I have baptised you with water.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit’(1:7-8)

Jesus

‘If Satan has risen up against himself, his end has come.
No one can enter a strong person’s house and plunder his property
without first tying up the strong man;
then, indeed, the house can be plundered’(3:26-27).

Jesus’ Divinity : Baptism

Jesus’ humanity : trials in the wilderness

Mark 1:21-28 (The Good News heals)

Jesus entered the Capernaum synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

A man with an 'unclean spirit is healed

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority!

Mark 6:30-34 (Jesus' teaching)

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while ...

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them at some length.

Mark 1:40-45 (embracing the outsiders)

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you want to, you can make me clean."

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "Of course I want to. Be made clean!"

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean ...

He went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country. People, however, came to him from every quarter.'

Mark 4:35 - 5:43

The Power of Incarnate Love

2. Pondering, Sharing



3. Sharing with people who had never met Jesus!



1. Pondering, Sharing

Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ...

Who will separate us from the love of Christ [the promised Messiah]?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in the Messiah Jesus our Lord.

In Jesus we see that

1. External chaos cannot separate us from God's love
2. Internal chaos cannot separate us from God's love
3. Sickness and Death cannot separate us from God's love

In Jesus, God the Creator and Redeemer
is offering Salvation

3. Mark 6:1-3

Rejected by the Jewish Leaders

Jesus left that place and comes to his hometown,
and his disciples follow him.

On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded. They said,
“Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?”

And they took offence at him.

3. Mark 6:4-6

The Messiah is rejected

Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour,
except in their hometown, and among their own kin,
and in their own house.”

And he could do no deed of power there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people
and cured them.

HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR UNBELIEF.

Guard us, O Lord (singles)