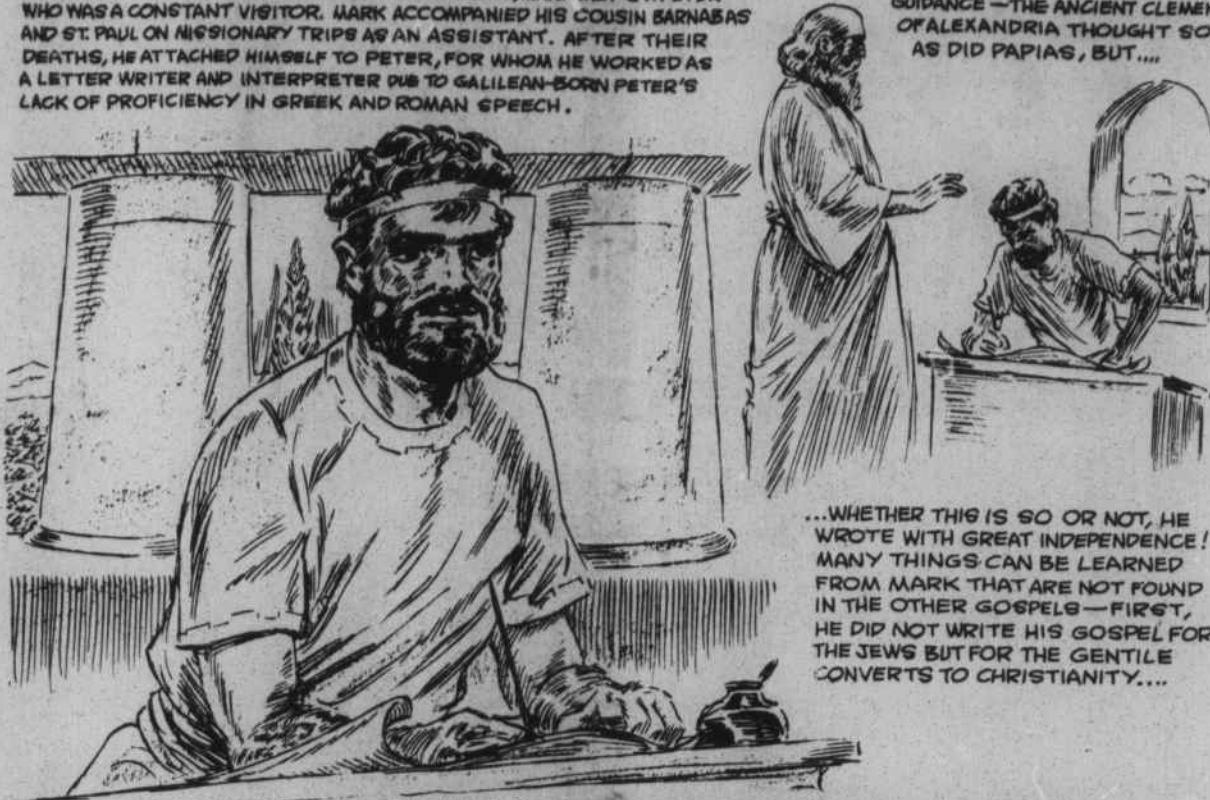


Facts About The **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

MARK'S GOSPEL—OR IS IT?

ST. MARK, AUTHOR OF THE SECOND GOSPEL, BELONGED TO A GREEK FAMILY FROM CYPRUS, COUSIN OF THE EVANGELIST BARNABAS, HIS SURNAME WAS MARK—GIVEN NAME, JOHN. HIS MOTHER, MARY, WAS A WOMAN OF WEALTH, IN WHOSE HOME IN JERUSALEM, MARY MET ST. PETER WHO WAS A CONSTANT VISITOR. MARK ACCOMPANIED HIS COUSIN BARNABAS AND ST. PAUL ON MISSIONARY TRIPS AS AN ASSISTANT. AFTER THEIR DEATHS, HE ATTACHED HIMSELF TO PETER, FOR WHOM HE WORKED AS A LETTER WRITER AND INTERPRETER DUE TO GALILEAN-BORN PETER'S LACK OF PROFICIENCY IN GREEK AND ROMAN SPEECH.

BECAUSE MARK WROTE HIS GOSPEL WHILE AT ROME WITH PETER, MANY AUTHORITIES FELT IT WAS DONE WHOLLY UNDER PETER'S GUIDANCE—THE ANCIENT CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA THOUGHT SO, AS DID PAPIAS, BUT....



...WHETHER THIS IS SO OR NOT, HE WROTE WITH GREAT INDEPENDENCE! MANY THINGS CAN BE LEARNED FROM MARK THAT ARE NOT FOUND IN THE OTHER GOSPELS—FIRST, HE DID NOT WRITE HIS GOSPEL FOR THE JEWS BUT FOR THE GENTILE CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY....

...THIS IS EVIDENT IN HIS MANNER OF TAKING TIME TO EXPLAIN CERTAIN THINGS WHICH NEEDED NO EXPLAINING TO JEWS—SUCH AS THE FACT THE "JORDAN IS A RIVER," THE PHARISEES "USED TO FAST," THE MOUNT OF OLIVES IS "OVER AGAINST THE TEMPLE," AT PASSOVER MEN "EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD"—MARK ALSO TOOK THE TROUBLE TO POINT OUT THAT MATTHEW WAS "LEVI, SON OF ALPHEUS, PETER WAS A NAME GIVEN TO SIMON BY JESUS, THAT JESUS WAS A "CARPENTER"! ALL THESE THINGS WERE COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO JEWS OF THAT DAY BUT NOT TO GENTILES. WHENEVER MARK USED ARAMAIC WORDS, HE STOPPED TO TRANSLATE THEM FOR THE GENTILE READER. IN ALL, MARK TOOK GREAT CARE TO SHOW THE HUMAN SIDE OF JESUS—HE COULD BE TIRED (IV:38), VERY ANGRY (III:5), HE COULD SIGH (VII:34, VIII:12), AND BE "GREATLY AMAZED" AND "SORE TROUBLED" (XI:37). ABOVE ALL, MARK PRESENTED JESUS AS THE MAN ON EARTH, WORKING AS GOD'S SERVANT!

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