

A Study of Mark 16

I. Outline. From Headings in NJKV

1. The Resurrection of Jesus (Mark 16.1-8; cf., Matthew 28.1-8; Luke 24.1-9).
2. The Appearances of Jesus (Mark 16.9-18; cf., Luke 24.13-48; John 20.1-10).
3. The Ascension of Jesus (Mark 16.19-20; cf., Luke 24.49-53; Acts 1.9).

II. Summary.

This wonderful chapter shows us the brevity with which Mark writes. He covers the Resurrection, Post-Resurrection appearances, and the Ascension of Jesus in twenty verses. How blessed we are to have a **RISEN SAVIOR** about which Mark writes here. He is **RISEN!** That is the best news that anyone has ever been asked to pass on to others. How blessed were those women to be given the charge to go tell the disciples and Peter about it. That Peter's name was specifically mentioned perhaps is a means of reassuring Peter that, even though he had denied the Lord, the Lord still loved Him and wanted him to continue the great work of spreading the gospel message. The explanation the angel gave for the tomb being empty is **STILL** the only valid one. Verse 19, in 14 English words, tells about the ascension of Jesus back to heaven. What it must have been like to have been privileged to be present for that wondrous occasion!

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Christ.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here:

<https://maplehillchurchofchrist.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/15bibleperiods.pdf>

IV. Words/Phrases to Study

1. 16:1... **MARY, THE MOTHER OF JAMES, AND SALOME.** Women who visited the tomb of Jesus on that First Day of the Week: (1) Matthew 28.1... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (which would be the mother of James); (2) Mark 16.1... Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome; (3) Luke 24.10... Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, others; (4) John 20.1... Mary Magdalene. [Thomas Constable, *The Expository Notes of Dr. Constable*, an e-Sword Module]. |||| “Mark telescopes the account. He is not concerned about the detail but the basic facts. He tells us first that these three had to buy more spices once the Sabbath was over. They had discovered that they did not have sufficient, but the arrival of the Sabbath had cut short their plans and nothing could be done on the Sabbath. So they waited until after sunset on that day and then went out and purchased what they needed. We should perhaps note the love revealed by their actions. The body had now been dead for over a day, and by the time they reached it a day and a half, yet they were determined that He should be anointed, come what may. He says nothing about Mary Magdalene, the youngest and most agile, leaving the others in their preparation, going on ahead to discover what was happening at the tomb, and her subsequent experiences and her meeting up with Jesus Himself (John 20.1-18). For what he was concerned about was the experience of the whole band of women who had shared the vigil at the cross. (Whether Mary rejoined them again at an stage we do not know)” [Peter Pett, *Commentary Series on the Bible*, an e-Sword Module].
2. 16.2... **THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK**—“As to the time when these women came: Mark says ‘when the sun was risen,’ Matthew 28:1 ‘at dawn,’ Luke ‘at early dawn,’ and John ‘while it was still dark.’ Probable solution: although it was still dark when the women started out, the sun had risen when they arrived at the tomb” [William Hendriksen, *Baker’s New Testament Commentary*, 1975, an e-Sword Module].

3. 16.3... **WHO SHALL ROLL US AWAY THE STONE**—“Their concern was the removal of the heavy stone that blocked their entrance into the tomb. They evidently knew nothing about the sealing of the tomb and the posting of the guard there (Matthew 27:62-66)” [Constable].
4. 16.4... **IT WAS VERY GREAT**—“This does not mean that the greatness of the stone was the reason of their anxiety and questioning, although this was doubtless true, but that its size enabled them to notice the position even in the early morning. A vivid touch peculiar to Mark. An angel had removed it (Matthew 26:2)” [Matthew Riddle, *A Popular Commentary on the New Testament*, Edited by Peter Schaff, an e-Sword Module].
5. 16.5... **THEY SAW A YOUNG MAN SITTING ON THE RIGHT SIDE, CLOTHED IN A LONG WHITE GARMENT**—“An angel in Mat_28:5, two men in Luke 24. These and like variations in details show the independence of the narrative and strengthen the evidence for the general fact of the resurrection. The angel sat upon the stone (Matthew 28:2), probably at first. Mark here speaks of the young man sitting on the right side (*kathēmenon en tois dexiois*) inside the tomb. Luke has the two men standing by them on the inside (Luke 24:4). Possibly different aspects and stages of the incident” [A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, an e-Sword Module].
6. 16.9... **MARY MAGDALENE, OUT OF WHOM HE HAD CAST SEVEN DEVILS**—“This is the fourth time that Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the last two chapters of Mark (15:40,47; 16:1). Mark states that she was the person out of whom he had driven seven demons. This indicates the supernatural healing of Christ in Mary's life. It also explains her devotion to him to the very end. John tells us that Mary Magdalene stayed around the tomb after the appearance of the angels to the women (John 20:11–18). She was the first believer to see the risen Christ” [Cooper, Rodney L. (2000-06-15). *Holman New Testament Commentary - Mark: 2* (Kindle Locations 6415-6418). B&H Publishing. Kindle Edition].
7. 16.12... **HE APPEARED IN ANOTHER FORM UNTO TWO OF THEM**—“The words ‘in another form’ are literally, ‘in a different outward expression or appearance.’ Swete says: ‘The words must be explained as contrasting the Magdalene’s impression (v. 9) with that received by the two: to her He had seemed to be a gardener (John 20:15), to them He appeared in the light of a fellow-traveller.’ The Greek word ‘form’ is the same as that used in the account of the Transfiguration, but Swete says that there was clearly nothing in the Lord’s appearance to distinguish Him from any other wayfaring man” [Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English Reader* (Mk 16:12). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans].
8. 16.14... **UPBRAIDED THEM WITH THEIR UNBELIEF AND HARDNESS OF HEART**—“Chided—probably rebuked them sharply for their lack of faith regarding His resurrection—in the face of so much evidence” [C.E.W. Dorris, *A Commentary on the Gospel According to Mark*, Gospel Advocate, 1973, p. 386.
9. 16.16... **HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED**—“...the salvation promised must include at least the forgiveness of sins, whatever it may be supposed to include in addition to this. It really includes no more than this, and is equivalent to the promise of pardon to all who believe and are baptized. If any man’s mind revolts at the idea of placing baptism in such a connection with salvation or the forgiveness of sins, let him remember that it is Jesus who has placed it in this connection, and that when our minds revolt at any of His words or collocation of words, it is not His fault but ours. It is always the result of some misconception on our part” [J.W. McGarvey, *The New Testament Commentary, Volume I--Matthew and Mark*, Gospel Light, Delight, AR, 1875, p.].
10. 16.20... **CONFIRMING THE WORD WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING**—“The promise is, not that these signs shall follow for any specified time, nor that they should follow each individual believer; but merely that they shall follow, and follow ‘the believers’ taken as a body. They did follow the believers during the apostolic age—not every individual believer, but all, or nearly all, the organized bodies of the believers. This was a complete fulfillment of what was promised. He who claims that the promise included more than this presses the words of the promise beyond what is necessary to a

full realization of their meaning; and he who affirms that the signs do yet follow the believers, should present some ocular demonstration of the fact before he asks the people to believe his assertion. Signs were intended to convince the unbelievers, and they were always wrought openly in the presence of the unbelievers: let us see them, and then we will believe. Paul's expectation was that prophesying, speaking in tongues, and miraculous knowledge, would vanish away (1 Corinthians 13.8), and so they did with the death of the apostles and of those to whom they had imparted miraculous gifts" [J.W McGarvey, p. 374].

V. Lessons & Applications.

- **PETER'S FAITH RENEWED...** (Mark 16.1-8; 1 Peter 1.3-5). "**LESSONS LEARNED:** (1) The women came to the tomb with the intention of rendering a service of love. They were given the responsibility and the opportunity of rendering a far greater service than they expected to render. When we are willing to do what we can, the opportunity for greater service will be accorded us. (2) Perhaps no greater message has ever been couched in fewer words than those of the angel, 'He is risen.' These words have carried more hope, kindled more joy, brought more comfort, and stirred deeper emotions than any other three words that man or angels could utter. (3) What would you give for a house and a lot in a city that is incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, and where your every temporal necessity would be supplied? We have a better proposition that that offered to us in the eternal inheritance reserved for us in heaven. How much are you willing to give for that place to live?" [Roy H. Lanier, Sr., *Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1956, p. 286].
- **JESUS AND THE RESURRECTION...** (Mark 16.1-13). "**QUESTIONS:** (1) What did Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome do after the Sabbath had passed? (2) What did these three women want to do with the spices they purchased? (3) When did these followers of Jesus go to the garden tomb? (4) What obstacle did they discuss that might hamper their mission? (5) What did the women find when they arrived at the tomb, and whom did they encounter in the tomb? (6) What was the angel's message and commission to the three ladies? (7) What was the initial response of the women to their encounter with the angels? (8) On what day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead, and to whom did Jesus first appear after His resurrection? (9) To whom did Jesus later appear? (10) What was the response of the other disciples when they were told that Jesus had risen from the dead and had been seen by their friends?" [Editor: ???, *Companion Annual Lesson Commentary*, 2006-2007, p. 128].
- **HOW TO ENTER THE CHURCH...** (Mark 16.15-16). "**POINTS FOR EMPHASIS:** (1) Effect of the Law of Moses on Jew and Gentile. (2) Termination of the Law. (3) Significance of the words 'limited' and 'great' as applied to the commissions under which the disciples labored. (4) Significance of this lesson and purpose. (5) Difference between being 'added' by the Lord to the church and 'joining' one of our own 'choice.' (6) Items of the commission as recorded by Matthew. (7) Meaning of 'going' and 'disciplining.' (8) Significance of the word 'into' in connection with baptism. (9) What the exact statement that should be used in baptizing. (10) Duty toward those baptized. (11) Conditions named by Mark. (12) Manner in which denominational preachers pervert this. (13) Two additional facts learned from Luke. (14) Sum of all taught in three accounts. (15) Events leading up to the Day of Pentecost. (16) Peter's sermon on that day; the inquiry it elicited; the answer. (17) Proof that baptism is not 'because of remission'" [Guy N. Woods (reprint of the 1946 issue, slightly edited), *Companion Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1994-1995, p. 81]
- **THE GREAT COMMISSION...** (Mark 16.15-16). "No one account gives the Great Commission completely, and likely all are records of different occasions of our Lord's charging of His disciples. Matthew's account emphasizes the responsibility of disciples in the evangelizing the world; Mark's account emphasizes the part of both the preacher and the sinner if the latter is to be saved; and Luke emphasizes the necessity of the death of Christ for man's salvation, and of

the preaching of repentance and remission of sins in His name—preaching by His authority in order that sinners might repent and submit to His authority so as to enjoy remission of sins. Summarizing, we have this: (1) The necessity of the death of Christ for sins; (2) the necessity of faith, repentance, and baptism for remission of sins on the part of the sinner; (3) the responsibility of followers of Christ to disciple all nations, preaching the gospel to the whole creation; (4) the authority of Christ, namely, all authority in heaven and on earth, for the above mentioned preaching and obedience; and (5) condemnation for those who refuse to yield themselves that that authority” [Rex Turner, Sr., *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1979-80, pp., 228-229].

- **THE GREAT COMMISSION...** (Mark 16.15-16). “**CONCLUDING LESSONS:** (1) Taking the truth to the world is a great responsibility. (2) All men are amenable to the gospel. (3) Men are lost without obeying the gospel. (4) To preach Jesus is to preach the message of the New Testament. (5) The last twelve verses of Mark are inspired and are a part of the Gospel of Mark. **DRL Note:** For an excellent treatment of this matter see: B.J. Clarke, in *Studies in Mark*, Edited by Dub McClish, 2002, Annual Denton Lectures, pp., 615-660. (7) A Christian may have a hardened heart. (8) It is impossible for the Bible NOT to be true. **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** (1) What must we do if we carry the truth to the world as did the early Christians? (2) How important is certainty to proclamation of truth? (3) Why does the Lord rebuke unbelievers? (4) What is the duty of the faithful regarding The Great Commission? (5) What is the responsibility of the hearers?” [Leslie G. Thomas, *Companion Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1984-85, pp., 167-68].
- **BAPTISM...** (Mark 16.16). “**GENERAL INFORMATION ON BAPTISM:** (1) **Subject of Baptism:** (a) The believer (Mark 16.16). (b) Men and women (Acts 8.12). (c) Penitent believers (Acts 2.38). (d) Those who have confessed Christ (Acts 8.37-38). (e) Those who are determined to live no longer in sin (Romans 6.3-4). (2) **Action of Baptism:** (a) Meaning of Greek verb *baptize*—‘to dip, immerge, submerge,—to cleanse by dipping’ (Thayer). (b) It is a washing of the whole body (Acts 22.16; Hebrews 10.22; Titus 3.5). The Greek word in these passages *always* means the washing of the whole body. (c) Burial and resurrection (Romans 6.4: Colossians 2.12). (d) Immersion requires ‘going down into’ and ‘coming up out of,’ but sprinkling and pouring do not (Matthew 3.16; Acts 8.38-39). (3) **Purpose of Baptism:** (a) To effect union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28.19). (b) To be saved (Mark 16.16). (c) To obtain remission of sins (Acts 2.38). (d) To wash away sins (Acts 22.16). (e) To be born of water and Spirit (John 3.5). (f) To get into Christ where we enjoy every spiritual blessing (Galatians 3.27: Ephesians 1.3). (g) To become dead to sin (to sever relationship with sin, Romans 6.3-5). (h) To get into the one body where, and only where, we enjoy spiritual life (1 Corinthians 12.13). (i) To be saved (1 Peter 3.21)” [Roy H. Lanier, Sr, *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1953, p. 63].
- **THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST...** (Mark 16.19-20). “**LESSONS LEARNED:** (1) Joy and fear often are mingled in this life, just as they were mingled in the last meeting of Christ and His apostles. (2) We have hope in preaching and teaching the Gospel because a living and reigning Christ is behind the Gospel. (3) Christ came to Earth to save men, and He left Earth blessing His disciples. (4) Just as the apostles bore witness of Christ by preaching His resurrection, the church must preach the same Gospel. (5) We may be as sure that Christ will come the second time as we are that He came the first time” [H. Leo Boles, *Companion Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1996-97, originally appeared in the 1945 TALC, p. 213].
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT’S GIFTS TO THE EARLY CHURCH AND HIS AID TO THE CHRISTIANS...** (Mark 16.20). “**LESSONS LEARNED:** (1) The Spirit’s work in revealing and confirming truth ended in the first century. (2) No one can work miracles today. (3) We have a far greater blessing with a completed Bible than when they had ‘in part’ spiritual gifts.(4) Our help from the Holy Spirit comes through His revelation to us, the Bible. (5) Good mental health comes from avoiding the works of the flesh and adding the Spirit’s fruit to our lives” [Robert R. Taylor, Jr., *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1991-1992, p. 94].

VI. Questions.

True or False

- 01. _____ Jesus said that he that believeth shall be saved.
- 02. _____ There is no mention of signs confirming the word in this chapter.
- 03. _____ The women who visited Jesus’ tomb had to struggle to roll away the stone.
- 04. _____ The women ran away from the tomb afraid.
- 05. _____ The day Jesus arose was the first day of the week.

I Found it in Verse(s)

- 06. _____ Disciples were upbraided for unbelief.
- 07. _____ Snake handling.
- 08. _____ Sweet spices used for anointing.
- 09. _____ He is risen.
- 10. _____ Mary named who had been demon-possessed.

Short Answer

- 11. Jesus told His disciples to preach the gospel to whom:

- 12. Where Jesus sat when He had ascended:

- 13. The time of day the tomb of Jesus was found empty:

- 14. To whom the women were told to deliver a message:

- 15. To whom did Jesus appear first? _____

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Mark 15 Questions... **01**—True (22); **02**—True (35); **03**—True (39); **04**—False (10); **05**—True (14); **06**—26; **07**—34; **08**—43; **09**—5; **10**—11; **11**—Cyrenian (21); **12**—saved, cannot, save (31); **13**—Joseph of Arimathaea (53); **14**—Barabbas (7); **15**—purple (17).

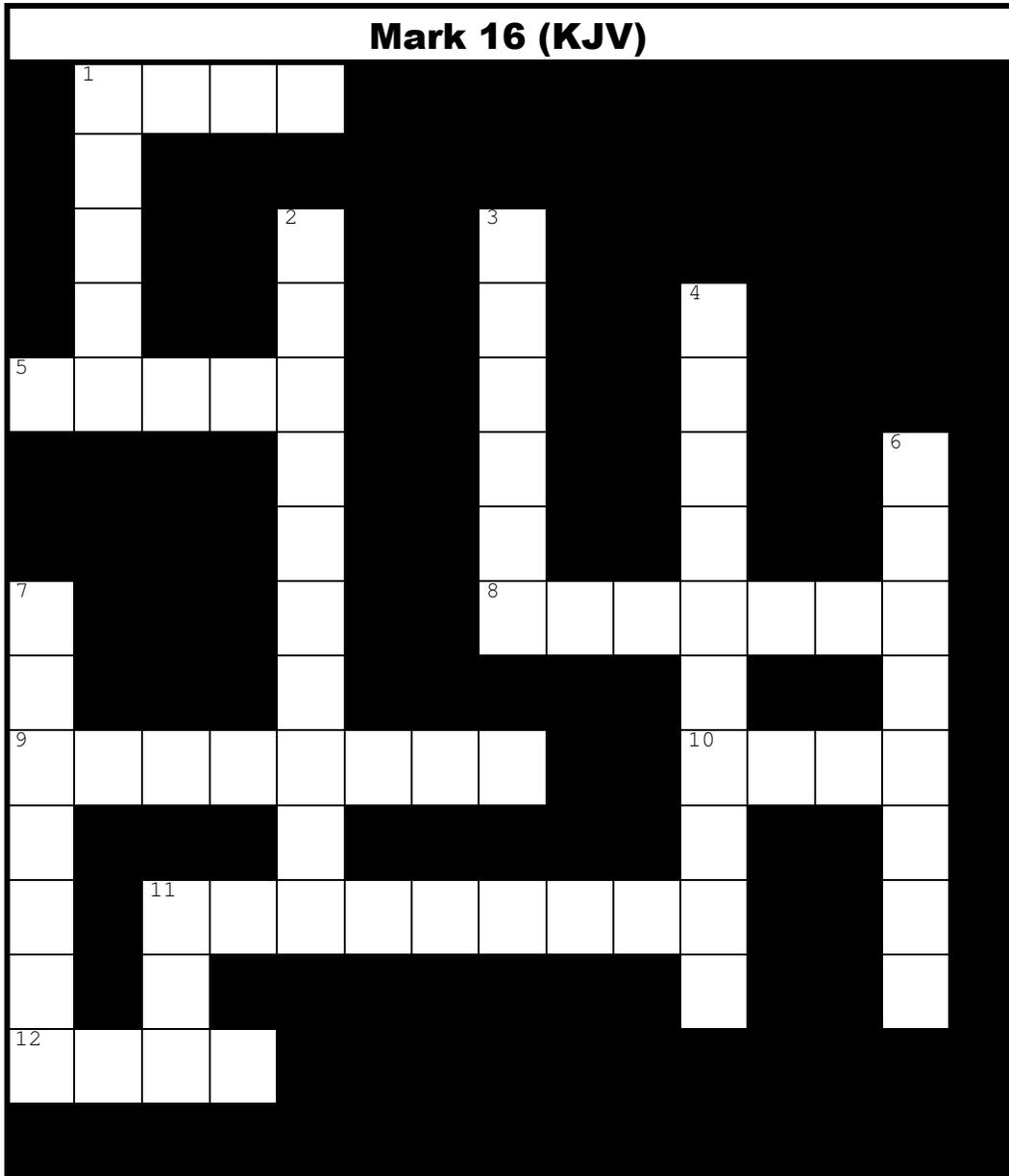
ANSWERS to Mark 16 Questions... **01**—False (16); **02**—False (20); **03**—False (4); **04**—True (8); **05**—True (9); **06**—14; **07**—18; **08**—1; **09**—6; **10**—9; **11**—every creature (15); **12**—at the right hand of God (19); **13**—very early in the morning (2); **14**—Jesus’ disciples and Peter (7); **15**—Mary Magdalene (9).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL

G G J L A H W B N W E N T
 B F I R S T I E E A R L Y
 N R I S E N U L I M I M A
 B E E N P S I I T A G H N
 U V W J U B S E H G H A I
 F E B E L I E V E D T C S
 P R E A C H E E R A I A A
 M Y L B H S N T O L D S I
 H A F F R I G H T E D T D
 B W O D E V I L S N O H O
 L A L A P P E A R E D I V
 V Y L N J E S U S T O N E
 V R O L L H A N D E L G R
 P I W E E K M A R Y F J Y

AFFRIGHED	APPEARED	AWAY	BEEN	BELIEVE
BELIEVETH	CAST	DEVILS	EARLY	EVERY
FIRST	FOLLOW	HAND	JESUS	MAGDALENE
MARY	NEITHER	PREACH	RIGHT	RISEN
ROLL	SAID	SEEN	SEPULCHRE	STONE
THING	TOLD	VERY	WEEK	WENT

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.



ACROSS

- 01) There shall ye see Him, as he ____ unto you.
- 05) Jesus had cast out ____ devils from Mary Magdalene.
- 08) Jesus went before the disciples into this place.
- 09) He that believeth and is ____ shall be saved.
- 10) Drinking any deadly thing would not ____ the disciples.
- 11) Jesus appeared to this Mary.
- 12) Jesus sat on the right ____ of God.

DOWN

- 01) It had been rolled away.
- 02) Signs were used for ____ the word.
- 03) The women appeared at the sepulchre before the sun's ...
- 04) The young man in white told the women, "Be not ____."
- 06) Jesus said to preach the gospel to every ____.
- 07) When this was past, the women brought spices.
- 11) The women fleeing the sepulchre said nothing to any ____.

IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...

Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!

W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?

W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...

W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...