

Silence or Speaking out with Signs

Mark 16:15-20

Where Mark's gospel ends at, 8 or 20

- Reasons for accepting the shorter ending after verse 8:
 - Older manuscripts
 - Style / vocabulary change
 - Abrupt open-ending as chapter 1 and earlier silence motif
- Reasons for accepting the longer ending up through verse 20:
 - Majority of manuscripts / broader geo. distribution
 - More positive for ever-faithful women and fits with Matt. 28:8
 - Predictions of resurrection seem to demand Jesus' appearance
 - Consider endings in Deut. 34, Jer. 52

Preachers commissioned, 15-16

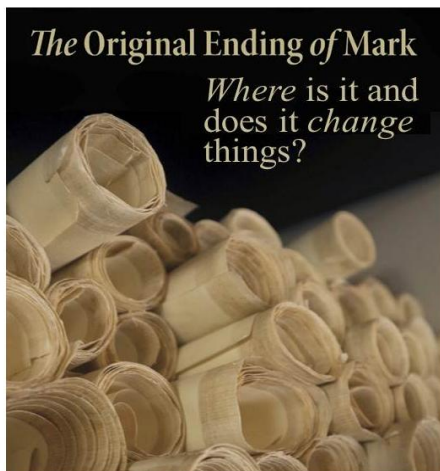
Commission sounds similar to Matt. 28:18,19, and message is much like Jn. 3:18,36 (belief → baptism, see Acts 16:31-35). Fulfilling of their commission alluded to in 20a, Col. 1:6.

Preachers empowered, 17-18,20

Fulfillment of empowerment seen in 20b and in Acts 2:43, 5:12. Illustrations of power = exorcisms (Acts 5:16), snake bite (Acts 28:3-6), healings (Acts 3:6-8), tongues (Acts 2:1-4), poison (?).

Where Jesus ends up, 19

Ascends to God's right hand, Lk. 24:51, Eph. 1:20, Heb. 1:3



Which of Mark's two possible endings do I most readily identify with?