

The Composition in Outline

Maurice W. Lusk, III

In the following, the first chapter of Mark is broken down into the various scenes making up the first Act of the Gospel. After each scene (including the editorial comment) a list of the literary features are listed. Using the information given thus far, the reader should attempt to identify the literary features making up the scenes. You should first identify the players and get them on stage. Then determine the stage setting in terms of time and place, identify the action of the players, the script or dialogue of the players, and the themes that give meaning and interpretation to the scene. It is useful to create a worksheet as follows. (A blank copy of *A Story Analysis Worksheet* may be found on the menu page of *Storycraft and Bible Study*).

Part One (1:1-8:26): Jesus' the Galilean Prophet

Act One (1:1-13): Preparation for the Messianic Ministry.

Scene One (1:1-8): The Forerunner.

Editorial Comment: Mark opens his scene in 1:1-3 with an interpretative comment intended to identify John as the forerunner of the Messiah, thus setting the stage for the entrance of Jesus.

Players: John the Baptist, the whole of the Judean countryside, the people of Jerusalem.

Stage Setting: In the desert region, the Judean countryside, the Jordan River.

Action: John is preaching and baptizing in the Jordan River, people from the whole Judean countryside and from Jerusalem were going out to hear him, were confessing their sins, and were being baptized.

Script: John's message: see verse 7.

Themes: the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3 by the appearance of John, preparation of the way for the Lord (the coming of God), confession of sins, baptism of repentance, John's clothing is similar to that of Elijah the prophet, the announcement that someone special was to come after him, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Interpretation and Application: This aspect of story analysis will be addressed in the lessons on the menu page under the headings of "*Interpretation of the Stories,*" and "*Application of the Story to Our Story.*"

OUTLINE OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK (A *Compositional Analysis*)

*In order to give the reader an example to follow in developing his or her own skills in identifying the various parts of a composition (i.e., **Scenes, Acts, and Parts**), an outline of the Gospel of Mark, broken into its various compositional parts, acts, and scenes is given as follows.*

There are two major "Parts" to this composition, with seven Acts in Part One, and eight Acts in Part Two. Part One runs from 1:1-8:30 and Part Two from 8:31-16:20. The Gospel of Mark in outline format is as follows.

PART ONE (1:1-8:30): JESUS' THE GALILEAN PROPHET

Act One (1:1-13): Preparation for the Messianic Ministry

Scene One (1:1-8): The Forerunner

Scene Two (1:9-11): Jesus' Baptism

Scene Three (1:12-13): The Satanic Temptations

Act Two (1:14-45): Period of Popularity

Scene One (1:14-15): Preaching in Galilee

Scene Two (1:16-20): Call of Four Fishermen

**Scene Three (1:21-28): Exorcism in the
Synagogue of Capernaum**

Scene Four (1:29-31): Peter's Mother-in law Healed

Scene Five (1:32-34): Many are Healed (a summary statement)

Scene Six (1:35-39): Jesus Departs and Preaches throughout Galilee

**Scene Seven (1:40-45): Heals a Leper, Great Numbers
Come to Him**

Act Three (2:1-3:6): Beginnings of Controversy

**Scene One (2:1-12): Jesus Heals and Forgives Sins -
Controversy Erupts**

**Scene Two (2:13-14): Jesus Teaches the Multitudes
and Calls Matthew**

Scene Three (2:15-17): Jesus Eats with Sinners

Scene Four (2:18-22): Controversy over Fasting

Scene Five (2:23-28): Controversy over the Sabbath

Scene Six (3:1-6): Jesus Heals in the Synagogue on the Sabbath

Acts Four (3:7-35): Jesus Withdraws and the Crowds Follow

Scene One (3:7-12): Great Multitudes from Galilee and Judea Seek Him

Scene Two (3:13-19a): Call of the Twelve

Scene Three (3:19b-30): Jesus Accused of Being in League with Beelzebub

Scene Four (3:31-35): Jesus' Mother and Brothers Search for Him

Act Five (4:1-34): Jesus the Storyteller

Scene One (4:1-2): Jesus Begins to Teach in Stories

Scene Two (4:3-9): Story of the Sower

Scene Three (4:10-20): Explains the Story of the Sower

Scene Four (4:21-25): Story of the Lampstand

Scene Five (4:26-29): Story of the Seed Growing Secretly

Scene Six (4:30-32): Story of the Mustard Seed

Scene Seven (4:33-34): Summary Statement about Jesus as a Storyteller

Act Six (4:35-6:6a): Jesus the Miracle Worker

Scene One (4:35-41): Jesus Stills the Storm

Scene Two (5:1-20): Jesus Heals the Garasene Demoniac

Scene Three (5:21-24): Jairus Asks Jesus to Heal His Daughter

Scene Four (5:25-34): A Woman Touches His Robe
and Is Healed

Scene Five (5:35-43): Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter

Scene Six (6:1-6a): Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth

**Act Seven (6:6b-8:30): Final Days of
the Galilean Ministry**

Scene One (6:6b-13): Sending Out the Twelve

Scene Two (6:14-29): The Death of John the Baptist

Scene Three (6:30-31): Return of the Twelve

Scene Four (6:32-44): Feeding of the 5,000

Scene Five (6:45-52): Jesus Walks on the Water

Scene Six (6:53-56): Healing in Genesaret,
the Crowds Throng Him

Scene Seven (7:1-23): Controversy with the
Pharisees and Scribes of Jerusalem

Scene Eight (7:24-30): The Syro-Phoenician Woman
Seeks Jesus

Scene Nine (7:31-37): Healing of the Deaf Man with
a Speech Impediment

Scene Ten (8:1-10): Feeding of the 4,000

Scene Eleven (8:11-13): The Pharisees Seek a Sign

Scene Twelve (8:14-21): Denouncement of the Pharisees
and King Herod

Scene Thirteen (8:22-26): Healing of the Blind Man at Bethsaida

Scene Fourteen (8:27-30): Peter Confesses Jesus to be the Christ

**PART TWO (8:31-16:20): JESUS THE SUFFERING SERVANT
SET HIS FACE TOWARD JERUSALEM TO DIE**

**Act One (8:31-9:32): Jesus Begins
to Speak of His Death**

Scene One (8:31-9:1): Jesus Foretells His Death
and Resurrection

Scene Two (9:2-10): The Transfiguration

Scene Three (9:11-13): Jesus Gives Details of His Death

Scene Four (9:14-29): Jesus Confronts the Satanic Forces

Scene Five (9:30-32): Jesus Again Speaks of His Death

Act Two (9:33-10:52): Training of the Twelve

Scene One (9:33-37): Teaching Concerning True Greatness

Scene Two (9:38-41): Teaching Concerning the
Power of His Name

Scene Three (9:42-50): Teaching Concerning the Power of Sin

Scene Four (10:1-12): Teaching Concerning Divorce

Scene Five (10:13-16): Teaching Concerning
the Wonder of Children

Scene Six (10:17-22): Teaching Concerning Wealth

Scene Seven (10:23-31): Teaching Concerning Discipleship

Scene Eight (10:32-34): Jesus Again Speaks of His Death

Scene Nine (10:35-45): James and John Seek Positions of Power

Scene Ten (10:46-52): Blind Bartimaeus Cries Out to Jesus

**Act Three (11:1-12:44): Jesus Confronts The Jewish
Leaders of Jerusalem**

Scene One (11:1-11): The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Scene Two (11:12-14): Jesus and the Unfruitful Fig Tree

Scene Three (11:15-19): Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Scene Four (11:20-25): The Lesson of the Unfruitful Fig Tree

**Scene Five (11:27-33): Jesus' Authority Questioned by the Jewish
Leaders**

**Scene Six (12:1-12): Jesus' Story of the Vineyard and
the Murdered Son**

**Scene Seven (12:13-17): Debates with the
Pharisees and Herodians**

Scene Eight (12:18-27): Debate with the Sadducees

Scene Nine (12:28-34): Discussion with a Scribe on the Torah

Scene Ten (12:35-37): Discussion Concerning the Son of David

**Scene Eleven (12:38-40): Jesus Denounces the
Teachers of the Law**

Scene Twelve (12:41-44): Jesus' Teaches in the Temple Treasury

Act Four (13:1-37): The Apocalyptic Discourse

Scene One (13:1-2): The Setting for the Discourse

Scene Two (13:3-4): The Disciples Questions

Scene Three (13:5-8): Teaching Concerning False Messiahs

Scene Four (13:9-13): Speaks of Coming Persecutions

**Scene Five (13:14-20): Tells Them of the Coming of Rome
to Destroy Jerusalem**

**Scene Six (13:21-23): Teaching Concerning the Coming
of False Deliverers**

**Scene Seven (13:24-27): The Coming of the Son of Man in
Judgment on Jerusalem**

**Scene Eight (13:28-31): Warning to Watch for the
Signs of the Destruction**

Scene Nine (13:32-37): The Coming of the End of the World

Act Five (14:1-42): Jesus Prepares to Die

**Scene One (14:1-2): An Assassination Plot Contrived by
the Jewish Leaders**

Scene Two (14:3-9): Jesus Anointed for Burial at Bethany

Scene Three (14:10-11): Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Scene Four (14:12-16): Preparation for the Passover Meal

Scene Five (14:17-21): Jesus Foretells His Betrayal

Scene Six (14:22-25): The Last Supper with His Disciples

Scene Seven (14:26-31): Jesus and His Disciples Go to the Mount of Olives

Scene Eight (14:32-42): Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Act Six (14:43-15:15): Jesus' Arrest and Trials

Scene One (14:43-50): Jesus Arrested in the Garden by the Temple Security

Scene Two (14:51-52): Cameo of an Unknown Disciple (Mark?)

Scene Three (14:53-65): Jesus Taken to the Sanhedrin Council

Scene Four (14:66-72): Peter's Denial of Jesus

Scene Five (15:1-5): Jesus Taken to Pontius Pilate

Scene Six (15:6-15): Pilate Sentences Jesus to Death

Act Seven (15:16-16:8): Jesus Death, Burial, and Resurrection

Scene One (15:16-20): Jesus Beaten, Crowned with Thorns, and Taken to Golgotha

Scene Two (15:21): Simon of Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross

Scene Three (15:22-32): The Romans Crucify Jesus

Scene Four (15:33-41): Jesus Dies on the Cross

Scene Five (15:42-47): Jesus is Buried in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea

Scene Six (16:1-8): The Empty Tomb - the Angel Says
Jesus is Risen

**Act Eight (16:9-20): The Risen Jesus
Appears to his Disciples**

Scene One (16:9-11): Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Scene Two (16:12-13): Jesus Appears to Two Disciples
in the Countryside

Scene Three (16:14-18): Jesus Appears to the Eleven

Scene Four (16:19-20): Jesus Ascends into Heaven

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