

Did Mark Write 16:9-20?

Mark Wrote his Gospel: Prox. 55 a.d.

Oldest Greek Manuscript Copies: Codex B 430 a.d. and Codex A 480 a.d.

Leaves about 400 years where we have no Greek Manuscript copies since Mark wrote his Gospel

Premise:

If Mark did not write verses 9-20 then there would be no witnesses older than Codex A & B that would include verses 9-20.

Specifically there would be no translations into other languages from the Greek text that would include 16:9-20 and there would be no quotations from early church fathers from verses 9-20.

Is that the case?

Three Primary Witnesses Since we do not have the Original Autograph of Mark

#1-Greek Manuscript Copies

2 very old manuscripts do not have verses 9-20

But the overwhelming majority of Greek manuscripts younger than A & B have verses 9-20

#2-Translations into other languages that are older than A & B

1-Syriac Peshito from the 2nd Century contains 9-20

2-Jerome's Latin Vulgate, prox. 382 a.d. has 9-20 (Jerome claims to have consulted many texts)

3-Gothic translation from Ulphilas, 350 a.d. has 9-20

4- From fourth century (to which codex a & B are ascribed) five Greek writers, one Syriac, and two Latin fathers besides the Vulgate, Gothic and Memphitic (Egyptian) versions (eleven authorities in all) testify to familiar acquaintance with this portion of Mark's Gospel.

#3-The Writings of the Early Church Fathers

-Chrysostom wrote around 400 AD and he quotes the last 2 verses of Mark 16 and states that this is the end of Mark's Gospel.

-Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan (AD 374-397) freely quotes from this portion of Mark. Citing v.15 four times, vs.16-17 and 18 three times and v. 20 once.

-Jerome lived 331-420 AD He was a professed editor of the NT and as such had vast resources and facilities at his disposal. Besides giving the last 12 verses a place in the Vulgate, the Latin translation of the NT, he also quotes Mark 16:14 as well as v. 9 in his writings

-Nestorius quotes v. 20, **Cyril of Alexander** accepts his quote adding a few more verses himself. They both wrote prior to AD 430.

To quote a few.

Conclusion based on the Witnesses: So based on witnesses older than Codex A & B we can safely say that the Textus Receptus, the text of the KJV and the NKJV is correct and accurately represents what Mark wrote.