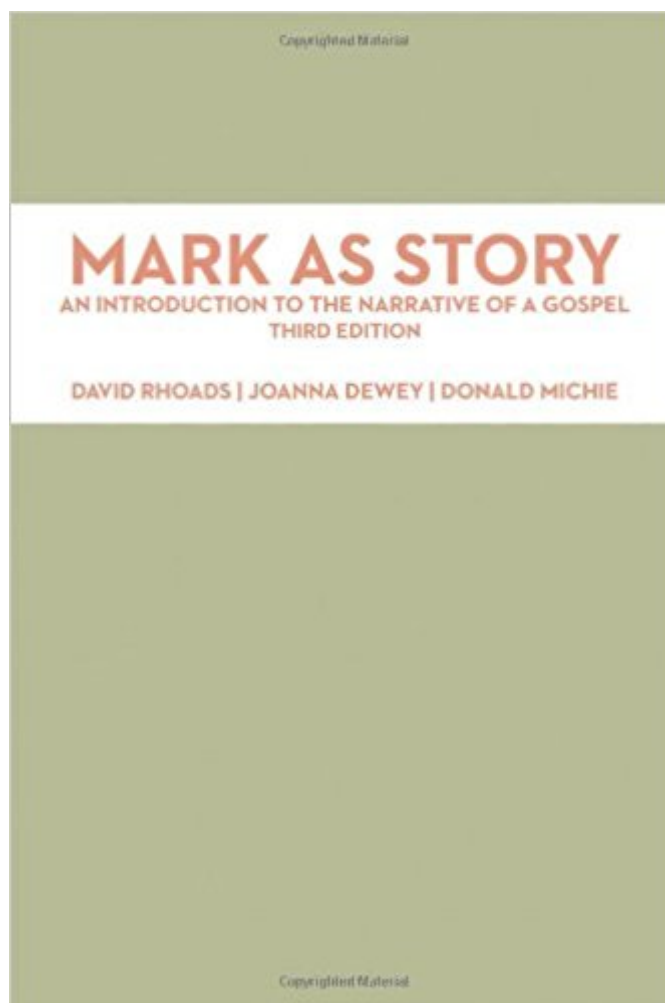


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Mark As Story: An Introduction To The Narrative Of A Gospel



Synopsis

For thirty years, *Mark as Story* has introduced readers to the rhetorical and narrative skill that makes Mark so arresting and compelling a story. Rhoads, Dewey, and Michie have helped to pioneer our appreciation of the Gospels, and Mark in particular, as narratives originally created in an oral culture for oral performance. New in this edition are a revised preface and an afterword describing the significant role *Mark as Story* has played in the development of narrative criticism. Chapters discuss the Gospel's genre, narrator, settings, plot, characters (Jesus, authorities, disciples, "the people"), and implied reader, with final reflections on "the ethics of reading" and exercises in literary and narrative analysis well suited for the introductory classroom. *Mark as Story* is the ideal resource for readers encountering Mark's Gospel for the first time and for those long familiar with the Gospel to rediscover the skill and immediacy it conveys.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Rhoads is Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and the author of *The Challenge of Diversity: The Witness of Paul and the Gospels* (1996) and *Reading Mark: Engaging the Gospel* (2004); editor of *From Every People and Nation: The Book of Revelation in Intercultural Perspective* (2005); and coeditor of *The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary* (2011), all from Fortress Press. Joanna Dewey is the Harvey Guthrie Jr. Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies and Former Academic Dean at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., the author of *Disciples of the Way: Mark on Discipleship* (1976) and *Markan*

Public Debate (1980), and editor of *Orality and Textuality in Early Christian Literature* (1994). Donald Michie is Professor of English Emeritus at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Using the method of narrative criticism, the authors make clear, in simple and direct language, what the "good news" meant for Mark and the communities he was writing for. As a non-Christian, this book really helped me get my head around the concept of "the rule (kingdom) of God" and how some people in the 1st century understood Jesus' role (and those who followed his teachings) in the "kingdom's" realization on Earth. As for the book as a whole, preeminent New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell writes in the Afterword: "What Rhoads and Michie's *Mark as Story* accomplished better than any other book of which I am aware is simply this: it explains what happens in the story (the plot, the characters, the settings) and how the story is told (the tone, the rhetoric, and the role of the narrator). It reveals the basic meaning of the Gospel of Mark in a manner that corresponds quite closely to what most people, most of the time, mean when they talk about "the meaning of a story." I highly recommend this book.

This is a great analysis of the Gospel of Mark as well as introduction to narrative criticism. Be aware that this book is not organized as a commentary. Instead, it is much more interested in the matters of narrative criticism and examining the story aspect of Mark. It uses accessible language. It is really a quick read, and I would recommend it for a variety of uses (narrative criticism, study of Mark, character study, etc)

In giving my evaluation of *Mark As Story*, I will begin with my general reaction; then, I will discuss one of the main catalysts of thought. It took me the course of the book to really warm up to *Mark As Story*. I was, perhaps, hyper-critical of the first couple of chapters, especially of the "story world" and their use of the "rule of God." By the end of the book, I gained a better understanding of the "story world" concept and the wording "rule of God." *Mark As Story* is now, perhaps, one of my favorite books, which is largely the result of my favorite chapters: the conclusion, which analyzes the audience and its role, and the epilogue, "Reading as a Dialogue: the Ethics of Reading." After reading these chapters and reflecting on the preceding chapters, I have realized that I concur with the interpretive method of the authors. The approach they posit reminds me of the theological

interpretation that is the subject of Joel Green's Practicing Theological Interpretation. It also seems to provide a median between the historical-critical approach and the "devotional" approach. I also concur with their purpose in writing the book--enhancing "the experience of the story as story" and the ability of the story to transform the audience (8). Mark as Story maintains the integrity of the text, attempting to provide an accurate interpretation and analysis of Mark without jettisoning the authority of the text or its "theology." For the extended review check out Christ My Redeemer at Wordpress.

This book has given me a better understanding of the Gospel of Mark. It gave insight about the narrator and helped me look at things described in the book differently. Now it all makes sense. A must read, especially for someone learning the word.

This book was a seminary requirement and I loved it! Easy to read, informative, and eye opening!

Easy to read

The book was in excellent condition and exactly what I needed!

A unique look into the gospel. As if "watching" a play.

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