

# Early Testimony to the Authorship of Mark

*Papias* (130 A.D.)

"This also the presbyter said: Mark having become the **interpreter of Peter**, wrote down accurately, though not in order, whatsoever he remembered of the things said or done by Christ. For he neither heard the Lord nor followed him, but afterward, as I said, he followed Peter, who adapted his teaching to the needs of his hearers, but with no intention of giving a connected account of the Lord's discourses, so that Mark committed no error while he thus wrote some things as he remembered them. For he was careful of one thing, not to omit any of the things which he had heard, and not to state any of them falsely." --Eusebius, *H.E.* 3.39.15

*Ireneus* (180 A.D.)

"Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter." --*Adv. Haer.* 3.1.2

*Tertullian* (200 A.D.)

". . . that which Mark published may be affirmed to be Peter's whose interpreter Mark was." -- *adv. Marc.* 4.5

*Clement of Alexandria* (200 A.D.)

"The Gospel according to Mark had this occasion. As Peter had preached the Word publicly at Rome, and declared the Gospel by the Spirit, many who were present requested that **Mark**, who had followed him for a long time and **remembered his sayings**, should write them out. And having composed the Gospel he gave it to those who had requested it. When Peter learned of this, he neither directly forbade nor encouraged it." -- *Hypotyposes* (Eusebius, *H.E.* 6.14.5-7)

*Origen* (220 A.D.)

"The second is by Mark, who composed it according to the instructions of Peter." -- *Comm. On Matt.* (Eusebius, *H.E.* 6.25.5)

*Justin Martyr* (130 A.D.)

"And when it is said that He changed the name of one of the apostles to **Peter**; and when it is **written in the memoirs of Him** that this so happened, as well as that He changed the names of other two brothers, the sons of Zebedee, to Boanerges, which means sons of thunder." -- *Dial.* 106