

**Zeitschrift:** Theologische Zeitschrift  
**Herausgeber:** Theologische Fakultät der Universität Basel  
**Band:** 27 (1971)  
**Heft:** 4

**Artikel:** The Text and the Language of the Endings to Mark's Gospel  
**Autor:** Elliott, James Keith  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-878650>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 23.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# The Text and Language of the Endings to Mark's Gospel.

An article, recently published by Professor Kurt Aland, indicates that there are several major errors in the citation of the manuscript evidence for the longer and shorter endings to Mark's gospel in the apparatus criticus of currently available printed editions of the Greek New Testament<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.

As the *text* for these verses is so often the subject for discussion and as textual variants in these verses are to be taken into account below in analysing the distinctiveness of the language and style, the full citation of the evidence for the verses occurring after Mark 16, 8 is presented here. Much of the information in the apparatus has been kindly provided for me by the Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung in Münster. The evidence is as follows.

1) The *longer* ending (Mark 16, 9–20) is included in the following MSS.:

A C D E H K M S U W X Y Γ Δ Θ Π Σ Φ Ω 047 055 0211 f 13 28 33 274  
(text) 565 700 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1230 1242 1253 1344 1365 1546  
1646 2148 2174 etc.

Lect. 60 69 70 185 547 883.

Lat. (vt. aur c d<sup>supp.</sup> ff<sup>2</sup> l n o q) (vg). Syr. (c p h pal) Cop. (sah boh fay)  
Gothic (MS. lacks 12–20) Arm.<sup>MSS.</sup> Geo.<sup>B</sup> Diat. (Arabic, Italian and Old  
Dutch).

Justin?, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Aphraates, Apostolic Constitutions, Didymus, Hippolytus, Marinus (as quoted by Eusebius), Epiphanius.

2) The *longer* ending is included in the following MSS. *marked* with asterisks, or obeli, or with a critical note added:

f<sup>1</sup> 137 138 1110 1210 1215 1216 1217 1221 1241 (vid) 1582.

3) The following MSS. add the *shorter* ending *before* the *longer* ending:

<sup>1</sup> K. Aland, Bemerkungen zum Schluß des Markusevangeliums: Neotestamentica et Semitica. Studies in honour of Matthew Black edited by E. E. Ellis and M. Wilcox (1969), pp. 157–180. Aland points out particularly errors in the editions of Merk, Bover, Nestle and the United Bible Society.

L Ψ 099 (incomplete up to συντόμως) 0112 (omits πάντα... μετὰ δὲ) 579  
274 (mg).

Lect. 1602.

Syr. (h<sup>mg</sup>.) Copt. (sah<sup>MSS</sup>. boh<sup>MSS</sup>.) Eth.<sup>MSS</sup>.

4) Lat. (vt. k) reads *only* the *shorter* ending after Mark 16, 8:  
Lat. [vt. a] may also have originally contained the shorter ending only.

5) The following MSS. of Mark *end* at 16, 8:

¶ B (a large space follows 16, 8) 304 (2386 and 1420 have a page missing at this point).

Syr. (s) Arm.<sup>8</sup> MSS. Eth.<sup>3</sup> MSS. Geo.<sup>1</sup>, A.

Clement, Origen, Eusebius, MSS. according to Eusebius, Jerome, MSS. according to Jerome<sup>2</sup>.

## 2.

The other main problem concerning these endings which is often the subject of discussion is their *language* and style.

A recent discussion is found in an article by Eta Linnemann in which it is claimed that Mark 16, 15–20 is original to Mark and forms part of the actual ending to the gospel<sup>3</sup>. Linnemann maintains a) that the theology of these verses is consistent with the theology of canonical Mark<sup>4</sup>, and b) that both Matt. 28, 18–20 and Luke 24, 44–53 knew of Mark 16, 15–20. One section of the article devoted to the linguistic and stylistic characteristics of Mark 16, 15–20 concludes: «Aus dem sprachlich-stilistischen Befund läßt sich kein Einwand erheben gegen die These, daß Mk. 16, 15–20 den ursprünglichen Schluß des Evangeliums enthält.»<sup>5</sup>

Linnemann's discussion in this section of the article is however too facile based as it is on a refutation of Morgenthaler's arguments

<sup>2</sup> The Coptic evidence has been cited largely from P. Kahle, The End of St. Mark's Gospel. The Witness of the Coptic Versions: Journ. Theol. Stud. N. S. 2 (1951), p. 49–57. I am informed that Pater Quecke S. J. is now at work on the Coptic versions of Mark, and Professor Bruce Metzger on the Ethiopic MSS. of the longer ending of Mark.

<sup>3</sup> Eta Linnemann, Der wiedergefundene Markusschluß: Zs. Theol. Ki. 66 (1969), pp. 255–287.

<sup>4</sup> Linnemann (n. 3) strongly refutes V. Taylor's arguments for a late date for the ending found in his commentary The Gospel according to St. Mark (1952), pp. 610–614.

<sup>5</sup> Linnemann (n. 3), p. 264.

in his "Statistik".<sup>6</sup> For instance, to disprove Markan authorship of 9–20 Morgenthaler argues that the number of examples of καὶ (especially καὶ consecutive) in the longer ending is lower than the average for canonical Mark whereas the total number of occurrences of δέ is greater than in Mark. Arguments of this type based on averages and percentages can all too easily be questioned as in fact Linnemann does successfully. Similarly, Morgenthaler argues that the longer ending is non-Markan because of the absence of foreign words. This too is an easy point for Linnemann to destroy. In choosing Morgenthaler's evidence, Linnemann has selected a simple target because the evidence in the "Statistik" for the secondary nature of the longer ending is by no means exhaustive. If Linnemann had tried to argue against the full evidence it would have proved impossible to maintain that part of the longer ending belonged to the original gospel.

Surprisingly though a thorough discussion of the language and style is not readily accessible.

Commentaries on Mark usually give detailed exegesis of the contents of the longer and shorter endings to the gospel, but the problems connected with the language and style are often dismissed with a statement such as Cranfield's, "In style and vocabulary they (the verses of the longer ending) are obviously non-Markan".<sup>7</sup> This is typical. Taylor, for instance, also sees it "unnecessary to examine in detail the almost universally held conclusion that 16, 9–20 is not an original part of Mk", because according to him this detail can be found in discussions by Hort, Swete and Lagrange<sup>8</sup>. But these older works do not present a full discussion of the language of the verses. Consequently, there is to my knowledge no thoroughgoing analysis of the language and style of these endings compared with New Testament language in general or with Mark's gospel in particular. Similarly, although there are numerous discussions published on the documentary evidence for the verses after Mark 16, 8, the variants in MSS. containing the longer and shorter endings are not usually taken into account when considering the language and style.

<sup>6</sup> R. Morgenthaler, *Statistik des neutestamentlichen Wortschatzes* (1958), § 10, *Wortstatistik und Echtheitsfragen*, pp. 58–60, Beispiel 1: Mk. 16, 9–20.

<sup>7</sup> C. E. B. Cranfield, *The Gospel according to St. Mark* (1959), p. 472.

<sup>8</sup> Taylor (n. 4), p. 610.

## 3.

The discussion below attempts to remedy these deficiencies.

*The Distinctive Features of the Longer Ending, Mark 16, 9–20.*

In these notes the name of Mark refers to the author of Mark 1, 1–16, 8 only.

V. 9

ἐφάνη. – This is the only occurrence in the New Testament of this verb with reference to the Resurrection appearances although it is used of Elijah re-appearing in Luke 9, 8 (cf. Num. 23, 4 LXX where it is used of God). According to Legg's apparatus, the Greek uncial D avoids this verb and reads ἐφανέρωσεν but this is clearly a misreading by D due possibly to assimilation to 12 or 14 where φανερώ occurs.

παρ' ἡς ἐκβεβλήκει. – This is likely to be the original reading and is a combination not found elsewhere in the Greek New Testament. Several MSS. read ἀφ' ἡς ἐκβεβλήκει but this variant is secondary. ἀπό has been introduced to the text by assimilation to Luke 8, 2 ἀφ' ἡς δαιμόνια ἐπτὰ ἐξεληλύθει although it is also possible that some scribes avoided παρά because like the International Critical Commentary they too found this preposition “strange”.<sup>10</sup>

V. 10

ἐκείνη. – ἐκείνος as a pronoun is common in the Johannine writings (e.g. John 1, 8. 18. 33). It is however not characteristic of Markan style although it is a feature of this ending (see v. 11, 13, 20). κάκεῖνοι in v. 11 for instance is not used of the disciples in Mark.<sup>11</sup>

πορευθεῖσα. – The verb πορεύομαι found in Matt., Luke, John and Acts is not a Markan word. It is however found three times in this longer ending, v. 10, 12, and 15<sup>12</sup>. Mark does not use the simple form of this verb. At Mark 9, 30 the variant reading representing the simple verb is secondary, for scribes tended to remove the prefixed prepositions of compound verbs<sup>12</sup>, and παρεπορεύοντο should therefore be read at Mark 9, 30. Another significant

<sup>9</sup> S. C. E. Legg, *Novum Testamentum Graece. Evangelium secundum Marcum* (1935), *ad loc.*

<sup>10</sup> E. P. Gould, *The Gospel according to Saint Mark* (1896), *ad loc.*

<sup>11</sup> This unity of language in Mark 16, 9–20 makes it difficult to uphold Linnemann's (n. 3) arguments that 15–20 can be treated separately when refuting Morgenthaler's linguistic points. The textual arguments brought forward by Linnemann are successfully dismissed in another article by K. Aland, *Der wiedergefundene Markusschluß?: Zs. Theol. Ki.* 67 (1970), pp. 3–13.

<sup>12</sup> C. H. Turner, *Markan Usage*, 9: *Journ. Theol. Stud.* 29 (1928), 275–289, p. 288.

difference from Markan usage is that Mark tends to reserve the compounds of πορεύεσθαι for the present tense, and uses ἔλθεῖν for the aorist. Here, however, πορεύεσθαι appears in the aorist (cf. also the firm example of the aorist in v. 15).<sup>13</sup> The v. l. ἀπελθοῦσα here read by K Π 42 131 229 253 481 517 579 892 etc. is to be rejected as secondary. As we have seen, πορεύομαι belongs to Pseudo-Mark's vocabulary and it is firmly established in all MSS. at v. 15. The v. l. has probably been introduced into the text through assimilation to 13 where ἀπαγγέλλω follows as here.

τοῖς μετ' αὐτοῦ γενομένοις is also an unusual way of referring to the disciples and is not found elsewhere in the New Testament (cf. κἀκεῖνοι above).

πενθοῦσι. – The verb πενθέω is non-Markan.

## V. 11

ἔθεάθη. – θεάομαι is a non-Markan verb also. It occurs again in 14 in the middle voice.

ἡπίστησαν. – ἀπιστέω is also non-Markan. Once more the unity of the language of this ending is demonstrated because the verb also occurs in v. 16. At both 16 and here variants are found (D reads καὶ οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν αὐτῷ at 11 and 115 reads μὴ πιστεύσας at 16) but these are plainly secondary readings intended to avoid the less usual verb ἀπιστέω.

## V. 12

μετὰ ταῦτα is found in Luke and John but not in Mark.

ἔφανερώθη. – φανερόω is not used by Mark of Jesus' resurrection appearances although it occurs again in the same context in this section at 14. The v.l. ἔφάνη read by Θ at v. 12 is to be rejected. Θ is notoriously inaccurate when deviating in this section. See the errors of this MS. in reading πορευθέντες in 13, αὐτοῖς in 11 and λαλήσωσι in 17.

ἔτερα. – There is no firm example of ἔτερος in Mark<sup>14</sup>.

μορφῇ. – μορφή does not occur elsewhere in the gospels.

## V. 14

ὕστερον does not occur in Mark. It is not part of his vocabulary as can clearly be demonstrated at Mark 12, 6 which contains ἔσχατον whereas the parallel in Matt. 21, 37 reads ὕστερον.

ἔνδεκα. – This is the only reference to the eleven disciples in Mark 1, 1 – 16, 20.

ώνειδισεν. – This is the only example in the New Testament of δίνειδίζω used of Jesus rebuking the disciples.

<sup>13</sup> See further G. D. Kilpatrick, πορεύεσθαι and its compounds: *ibid.* 48 (1947), pp. 61–63.

<sup>14</sup> See J. K. Elliott, The use of ἔτερος in the New Testament: *Zs. ntl. Wiss.* 60 (1969), p. 140f.

ἀπιστίαν . . . καὶ σκληροκαρδίαν. — This is the only place in the New Testament where these faults are levelled at the disciples.

The so-called Freer logion found after 14 in the Greek uncial W and part of which is found in Greek MSS. known to Jerome has no claim to being original either to Mark's Gospel or to the longer ending. The vocabulary differs sharply from both: ὅρος and προσλέγω are hapaxes in the Greek New Testament; ἄφθαρτος, δεῖνα, ὑποστρέφω, ἀμαρτάνω, ἀποκαλύπτω and ἀπολογέομαι do not occur in Mark 1, 1–16, 8 or in 16, 9–20; ὁ Χριστός is not the designation of Jesus by the author of the longer ending.

### V. 15

ἄπαντα. — There is no firm example of the form ἄπας in Mark although it occurs as a variant in Mark 1, 27; 8, 25; 11, 32.

κτίσει. — This is the only occurrence in the Gospels of κτίσις used in the sense of the sum of what is created rather than the creative act<sup>15</sup>. κτίσις in the latter sense is found at Mark 10, 6; 13, 19.

### V. 16

κατακριθήσεται. — The passive forms of κατακρίνω are not found in Mark.

### V. 17

σημεῖα. — The plural of σημεῖον is not found in Mark in the sense of miracles or wonders regarded as a sign of the divine act although it is frequently plural in John with this meaning (e.g. John 2, 11. 23, 3, 2; 6, 2. 14). See also the same usage in v. 20.

The separation of ταῦτα and σημεῖα is not characteristic of normal New Testament word order. Similarly, the use of ταῦτα with anarthrous σημεῖα differs from the usual usage in the gospels although N. Turner points to examples of the omission of the article after οὗτος in Acts 1, 5; 24, 21<sup>16</sup>. Of this example he says ταῦτα here may be construed as the object of the participle as in fact certain scribes (C<sup>3</sup> RW 565 etc.) possibly indicate by placing ταῦτα next to τοῖς πιστεύσασιν.

παρακολουθήσει. — παρακολουθέω in the sense “to result” differs from the meaning in the rest of the New Testament (e.g. Luke 1, 3; I. Thess. 4, 6; II. Tim. 3, 10). This reading is however to be preferred to ἀκολουθήσει (read by C\* L ψ 892 and others) because ἀκολουθέω occurs as a compound verb in 20. The variant reading the simple verb is explicable on stylistic grounds. It can be demonstrated in many other places in the apparatus to the Greek New Testament that scribes tended to avoid compound forms.

<sup>15</sup> This is the interpretation of A. Plummer, *The Gospel according to St. Mark* (1914), *ad loc.*

<sup>16</sup> N. Turner, *A Grammar of New Testament Greek* by J. H. Moulton, 3. *Syntax* (1963), p. 259.

## V. 18

ὅφεις. — ὅφις does not occur in Mark.

καν in the sense “and if” is not found in canonical Mark. At Mark 5, 28; 6, 56 it is merely an intensification of simple καί (in the sense “even”, “at least”).

θανάσιμον. — θανάσιμος occurs only here in the whole of Biblical Greek, although it is found in the apocryphal Acts of John. Biblical Greek prefers the poetic θανατηφόρος (which occurs five times in the LXX and in James 3, 8).

βλάψη. — βλάπτω is not found in Mark.

ἐπιθήσουσιν. — This is the only occurrence of ἐπιτίθημι, ἐπί + Accusative, in Mark. In Mark 5, 23 the verb is followed by the dative direct, despite the parallel in Matt. 9, 18 which reads ἐπί + Accusative.

καλῶς ἔξουσιν. — This classical phrase is not found elsewhere in the New Testament.

## V. 19

μὲν οὖν. — This combination is not found in Mark. οὖν itself is rare in Mark there being only two firm examples according to C. H. Turner<sup>17</sup>.

ό... Κύριος as a Christological title is not found in Mark<sup>18</sup> although it occurs again in 20. The v. ll. adding either Ἰησοῦς alone after Κύριος (in C\*LΚΔ fam. I, 565 etc.) or Ἰησοῦς Χριστός after Κύριος (in W Lat. [vt. o] Copt [boh. MSS]) are secondary. The expansion of divine titles is a characteristic of scribal activity<sup>19</sup>.

ἀνελήμφθη. — ἀναλαμβάνω is not found in Mark. The verb is used of the ascension only in Acts 1, 2. 11. 22; I. Tim. 3, 2. Elsewhere in the New Testament this meaning is conveyed by ἐπαρθῆναι (Acts 1, 9), ἀναβῆναι (John 6, 62; 20, 17), πορευθῆναι εἰς οὐρανόν (I. Pet. 3, 22), or διεληλυθέναι τοὺς οὐρανούς (Heb. 4, 14).

## V. 20

ἐκήρυξαν πανταχοῦ. — This expression is not found elsewhere in the gospels.

τοῦ Κυρίου συνεργούντος... σημείων. — The extended genitive absolute found here is a rare New Testament usage. συνεργέω is not found elsewhere in the gospels and is found nowhere else in the New Testament with Jesus as

<sup>17</sup> C. H. Turner, *Markan Usage*, 7: *Journ. Theol. Stud.* 28 (1927), 9–22, p. 20f.

<sup>18</sup> *Pace* Linnemann (n. 3), p. 281, who wishes to take Mark 11, 3 as a parallel to the usage of δ Κύριος here. Mark 11, 3 however is clearly not an example of Κύριος as a Christological title. This interpretation is enforced if χρείαν ᔁχω at 11, 3 is used absolutely as at Mark 2, 25 and if αὐτοῦ is seen as a postpositional possessive, i.e. “its master has need”.

<sup>19</sup> J. K. Elliott, *The Greek Text of the Epistles to Timothy and Titus*, = *Studies and Documents* 36 (1968), especially p. 204f.

subject (if ὁ θεός is read at Rom. 8, 28). It is a Pauline word. So too are βεβαιώ and ἐπακολουθέω neither of which is found elsewhere in the gospels<sup>20</sup>.

*The Distinctive Features of the Shorter Ending, after Mark 16, 8.*

In this section the following *words* do not occur in canonical Mark: συντόμως, ἔξαγγέλλω, σωτηρία, ἀνατολή<sup>21</sup>, ἄρχι (or μέχρι, if the reading of Ψ is accepted as original), and ἀφθαρτος (which occurs in the Freer logion).

The following *phrases* are peculiar to this ending:

οἱ περὶ τὸν Πέτρον, ἔξαποστέλλω τὸ κήρυγμα, ἡ αἰώνιος σωτηρία.

δύσις is a New Testament hapax. The perfect participle of παραγγέλλω is found nowhere else in the New Testament. The adjective ἱερός is found elsewhere only at II Tim. 3, 15. μετὰ ταῦτα is not found in canonical Mark although it occurs at 16, 12 (see above).

James Keith Elliott, Leeds

---

<sup>20</sup> It will be seen from the above that the statement in The International Critical Commentary (n. 10), p. 303, that in the longer ending 19 words and 2 phrases are not found in canonical Mark represents an undercount. Morgensthaler's figure (n. 6), p. 59, that 16 of the 92 different words in the longer ending are not found in canonical Mark is also low.

<sup>21</sup> Note that ἀνατολή occurs in the plural at Matt. 24, 27; Luke 13, 29 where δυσμή is also plural. The v.l. ἀνατολῶν here in 274 mg. is plainly secondary as the singular parallels the singular δύσεως.