

## Diagramming Mark as a Whole

1/20

### I. Identify main units and subunits

I divide Mark into four major blocks as follows.

Prologue	Galilee	On the Way to Jerusalem	Jerusalem
1:1 1:15	1:14 8:21	8:22 10:52	11:1 16:8

Let me explain my choices. As you will see, my choice of major blocks for the bulk of the narrative rests on observations related to geography, atmosphere, and pace of the narrative. I will justify these choices in greater detail as we cover them in the course.

#### 1. Prologue 1:1-15

- 1:1-3 begins with something of a title for the whole (1:1) then OT quotations that establish the interpretive framework for the whole
- Between 1:15 and 1:16 we have a sharp break. 1:1-15 tells about JB, about J's baptism, a voice from heaven and so on. All are events of great significance and about which we are given insight. When we get to v. 16, we are on the shores of the Sea of Galilee with common fishermen. We've left the world (seemingly, at least) of significant events leading up to v. 15.
- So 1:1-15 have a character that sets them sharply apart from what follows beginning at v. 16.

#### 2. Galilee 1:14-8:21

- Jesus' ministry is upbeat, with a few hints of trouble and opposition.
- All the action takes place, in rapid-fire fashion in and around Galilee.
- The pace, atmosphere, and locale give this section its unity.

#### 3. On the Way to Jerusalem 8:22-10:52

- Up to this point Jesus, his disciples, and the crowds have been bouncing around Galilee in Ricochet Rabbit style. That action moves fast, sometimes with no clear sense of where they are or how they got there. Jesus heals people and teaches, and is almost always surrounded by crowds.

- Beginning at 8:22, the pace begins to slow and Jesus, while still with crowds, is seen more often with his disciples with more focused teaching.
- With the question/answer at 8:29, the atmosphere of the gospel changes from upbeat to predictions of Jesus' death in Jerusalem. A focus on Jesus' pending death dominates this section.
- As we will see when we get to this section in a few weeks, the section as a whole is held together by several distinct primary structures that give it unity.

#### 4. Jerusalem 11:1-16:8

- At 11:1, we have arrived on the outskirts of Jerusalem.
- Now the pace slows to a crawl. The remaining chapters take only a short period of time.
- The atmosphere is dark. Opposition to Jesus' is at its height. The crowds and Jesus' disciples abandoned him. Jesus is left on his own.