

A BIT MORE MARK

Mark wastes no time in getting down to business; a single-sentence introduction and not a digression to be found from beginning to end. An event has taken place that radically changes the way we look at and experience the world, and he can't wait to tell us about it. There's an air of breathless excitement in nearly every sentence he writes. The sooner we get the message, the better off we'll be, for the message is good, incredibly good: God is here and He's on our side.

The bare announcement that God exists doesn't particularly qualify as new. Most people in most centuries have believed in the existence of God or gods. It may well be, in fact, that human beings in aggregate and through the centuries have given more attention and concern to divinity than to all their other concerns (food, housing, clothing, pleasure, work and family for example) put together.

That God is here right now, and on our side, actively seeking to help us in the way we most need help – *this* qualifies as news. For common as belief in God is, there is also an enormous amount of guesswork and gossip surrounding the subject, which results in runaway superstition, anxiety and exploitation. So Mark, understandably, is in a hurry to tell us what happened in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus – the Event that reveals that truth of God to us, so that we can live in reality and not illusion. He doesn't want us to waste a minute of these precious lives of ours ignorant of this most practical of all matters – that God is passionate to save us.

Summary from 'The Message' Bible (Eugene H Peterson)