## THE LAST TWELVE VERSES OF MARK: THEIR GENUINENESS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

### ISBN 9780649025053

The Last Twelve Verses of Mark: Their Genuineness by Ivan Panin

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## **IVAN PANIN**

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Their Genuineness Established

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## THE LAST TWELVE VERSES OF MARK.

- 1. The last twelve verses of the Gospel according to Mark are omitted by Tischendorff, and marked as an Interpolation by Westcott & Hort. Tregelles and Alford retain them, but not as a genuine portion of Mark. Weiss has them only in the margin. These editors thus agree in ejecting this passage from Scripture. The Revisers of 1881 separate these verses from the rest of the Gospel by an unusual space, and call attention in a note to the fact that "the two oldest manuscripts and some other authorities omit" them; though they might have added the equally pertinent fact, that writers earlier than the oldest manuscripts show their acquaintance with these verses.
- 2. On the other hand Dean J. W. Burgon has written a book of some 350 octavo pages in which he contends with great learning, ability, and zeal, for the genuineness of these verses; and he is followed here by Scrivener and Miller. But as the difference between these three and those critical editors resolves itself into one about methods of recension of the New Testa-

ment text, Dean Burgon's elaborate defence involves a previous question, which has so far hopelessly divided the two camps of New Testament textual critics now for over a third of a century. And until this previous question is settled, Dr Burgon's book is convincing only to those who already agree with him even before reading it.

- 3. As the matter, therefore, now stands, the last twelve verses of Mark are now only tolerated in the New Testament by professional critical scholarship. If some New Testament students still hold to the genuineness of these verses, it is on subjective grounds: which, however, can have no force with those who ask for objective proof: for demonstration rather than opinion, however expert.
- 4. In the following pages it is purposed to submit the passage itself, rather than its documentary accusers and defenders, to a rigid examination. It is purposed to take it, as it were, into the innermost secret police chamber, and there compel it to give as full an account of itself as can be obtained therefrom by all legitimate means.
  - 5. Before listening to the testimony of this

passage concerning itself, the reader needs to be reminded of the following facts: (1) The passage falls into the following natural divisions, recognized as such in the Revised Version: (a) Appearance of the risen Christ to Mary, and the disciples' disbelief thereof verses 9-11; (b) Subsequent appearances of Christ - verses 12-18; (c) Conclusion of the narrative. There are thus in this passage at least three natural logical divisions: made, be it observed, not by the present writer, but by the Revisers, to mention no others. But in addition to these natural divisions, there are also natural, logical subdivisions. Thus verses 9-11, which form the first division of the Revisers, fall in their turn into three natural subdivisions: verse 9 forming the one, verse 10 the second, and verse II the third. In like manner verses 19-20, the last division of the Revisers. fall in their turn into two natural subdivisions: verse 19 forming one, and verse 20 the other. (2) From another point of view this passage consists of two other great divisions: Simple Narrative; and the speech of the risen Christ in verses 15-18. (3) The Greeks had no separate symbols, corresponding to our Arabic figures, for expressing numbers. They made use

of the letters of their alphabet instead; and its twenty-four letters accordingly stand for the following numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800. That is to say: the Greek letters a,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\zeta$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\iota$ ,  $\kappa$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\xi$ , o,  $\pi$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\chi$ ,  $\psi$ ,  $\omega$ , in addition to expressing the sounds a, b, c, etc., express also the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. Every Greek word, in addition to expressing some idea, thus stands also for a sum in arithmetic obtained by adding the numbers for which its letters stand. Thus Inσούς stands for Jesus; but also for 888, the sum of 10, 8, 200, 70, 400, 200, the numeric values of the letters making up that word. Each Greek word (and the same is true of the Hebrew, in which the Old Testament is written, Greek being the language of the New), phrase, sentence, passage, or book, has thus its NUMERIC VALUE. (4) If in the above list of the 24 letters of the Greek alphabet (and the same is true of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet) the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. up to 24 (up to 22 in Hebrew), be placed before the 24 letters in their order, the number before each letter is its And the sum of the place val-PLACE VALUE. ues of the letters of which it consists is the

Place Value of that word. The place value of Inoovs, Jesus, is thus 87, the sum of 9, 7, 18, 15, 20, and 18: the place values of its six letters. Every Greek and Hebrew word has thus two values: its numeric and its place value.

6. We may now proceed with the examination of the passage itself: what can it tell us of its descent, its character, its destiny?

Here is the passage as it stands in Westcott & Hort, followed by the translation of the American Revisers conformed to that text.

## MARK 16:9-20.

## I. Text.

- 9 Αναστάς δε πρωί πρώτη σαββάτων εφάνη πρώτον Μαρία τη Μαγδαληνή παρ' ής εκβε-
- 10 βλήκει έπτά δαιμόνια, εκείνη πορευθείσα απήγγειλεν τοις μετ' αυτοῦ γενομένοις πευθοῦσι
- 11 και κλαίουσιν, κα' 'κεῖνοι ακούσαντες ὅτι ζη και εθεάθη ὑπ' αυτῆς ηπίστησαν.
- 12 Μετά δε ταθτα δυσίν εξ αυτών περιπατοθσιν εφανερώθη εν ἐτέρα μορφη πορευομένοις εις
- 13 αγρόν. κα' κείνοι απελθόντες απήγητιλαν τοις
- 14 λοιποῖς · ουδέ εκείνοις επίστευσαν. "Τστερον δε ανακειμένοις αυτοῖς τοῖς ἔνδεκα εφανερώθη

και ωνείδισεν την απιστίαν αυτών και σκληροκαρδίαν ότι τοις θεασαμένοις αυτόν εγηγερμένον
εκ νεκρών ουκ επίστευσαν. και είπεν αυτοις 15
Πορευθέντες εις τον κόσμον άπαντα κηρύξατε
το ευαγγέλιον πάση τη κτίσει. ὁ πιστεύσας 16
και βαπτισθείς σωθήσεται, ὁ δε απιστήσας
κατακριθήσεται. σημεία δε τοις πιστεύσασιν 17
ακολουθήσει ταθτα, εν τφ ονόματι μου δαιμόνια
εκβαλούσιν, γλώσσαις λαλήσουσιν, και εν 18
ταις χερσίν όφεις αρούσιν κα' 'ν θανάσιμον τι
πίωσιν ου μη αυτούς βλάψη, επί αρρώστους
χείρας επιθήσουσιν και καλώς έξουσιν.

Ό μεν ουν κύριος Ιησούς μετά το λαλήσαι 19 αυτοίς ανελήμφθη εις του ουρανόν και εκάθισεν εκ δεξιών του θεού. εκείνοι δε εξελθόντες εκή- 20 ρυξαν πανταχού, του κυρίου συνεργούντος και τον λόγον βεβαιούντος διά των επακολουθούντων σημείων.

## 2. Translation,

Now when he was risen early on the first 9 day of the week he appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told them that had 10 been with him as they mourned and wept. And they when they heard that he was alive, 11 and had been seen of her, disbelieved.