The Ending of Mark in Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Alexandrinus

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Images taken from https://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/ and https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/codex-alexandrinus

## **Codex Sinaiticus**

Codex Sinaiticus dates to the fourth century. It is written on vellum (writing material made from calf or antelope skin—also called parchment) in Greek. It contains part of the Old Testament and Apocrypha along with all of the New Testament, part of the Shepherd of Hermas, and the Epistle of Barnabas. It is housed in the British Museum.

The journey of codex Sinaiticus from Saint Catherine's Monastery (at the foot of Mount Sinai) to the British Museum is intriguing. Tischendorf (a lecturer at the University of Leipzig) in the mid nineteenth century, discovered that Saint Catherine's Monastery had a number of ancient manuscripts. With the help of the czar of Russia, Alexander II (protectorate of the Greek church), Tischendorf was able to bring the codex Sinaiticus to Saint Petersburg. Some historians will note that it is unclear whether the codex was stolen, gifted, or borrowed and then later purchased with a donation from the czar. In 1933 the British Museum purchased the codex from the cash strapped Russian government for £100,000.

## Codex Alexandrinus

Codex Alexandrinus dates to the middle of the fifth century. It is also written on vellum (writing material made from calf or antelope skin—also called parchment) in Greek. It contains the Old Testament, 3 and 4 Maccabees, Psalm 151, the Psalms of Solomon, 1 and 2 Clement, and the majority of the New Testament (most of Matthew, a good deal of 2 Corinthians and a few chapters from John are missing). It is housed in the British Museum.

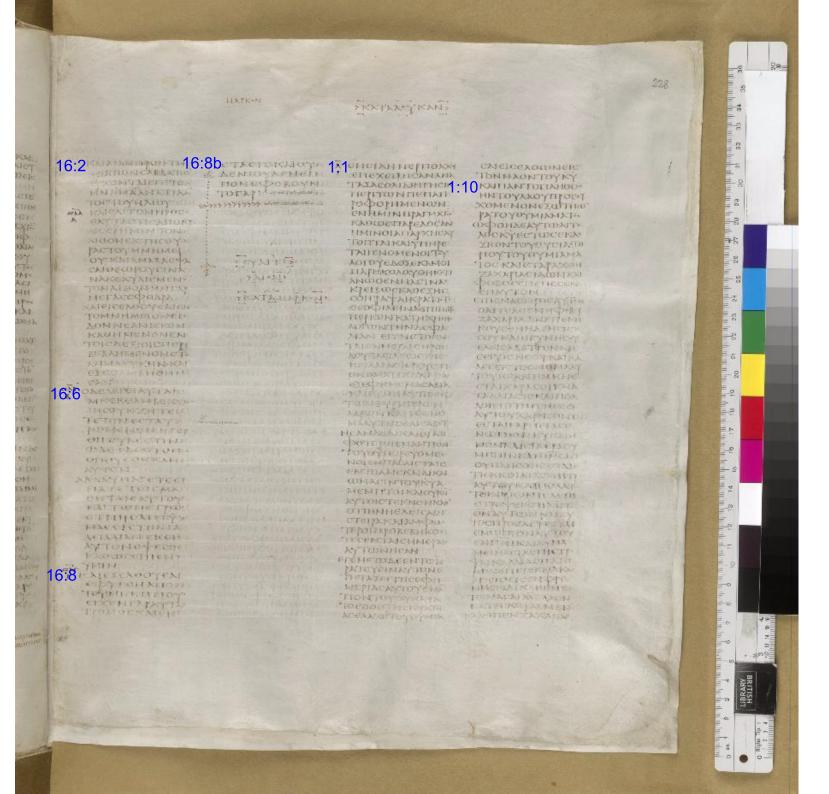
Cyril Lucar (patriarch of Constantinople) gave codex Alexandrinus to Sir Thomas Roe (English ambassador to Turkey) as a gift to King James I. Unfortunately, the codex arrived after the death of King James. Prior to being the patriarch of Constantinople, Lucar was the patriarch of Alexandria, where he likely acquired the codex.

## **Bibliography**

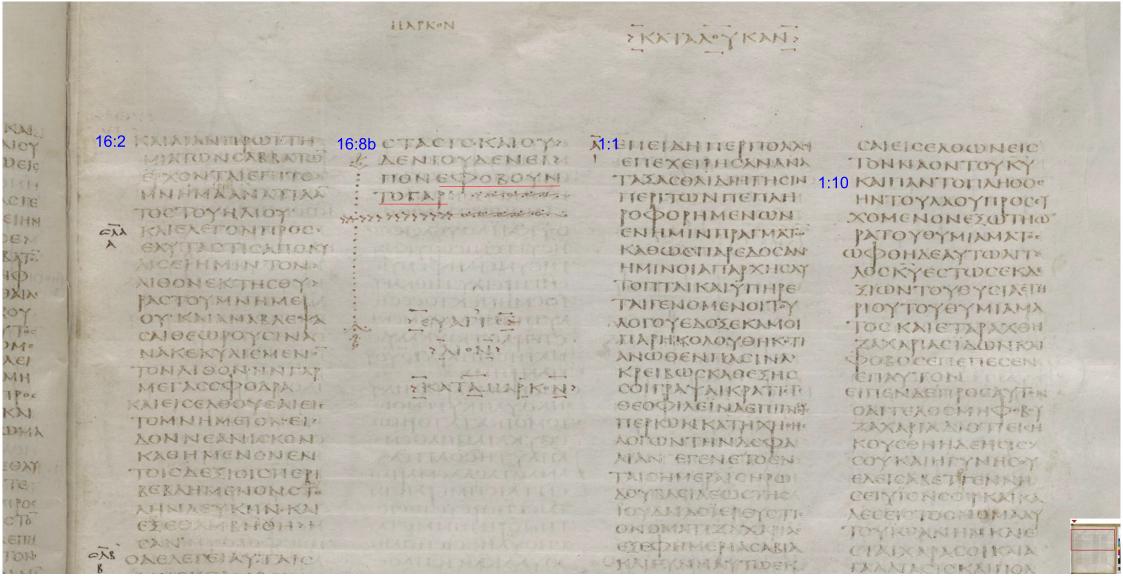
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Mark 16:4 through Luke 1:18 in Codex Sinaiticus (folio 228).



Zoomed in view of top portion of Mark 16:4 through Luke 1:18 in Codex Sinaiticus (folio 228).

Last two words of Mark 16:8 are underlined in red. in modern Greek letters and εφοβογντο ΓΑΡ in Uncial letters; translated as "for they were afraid."

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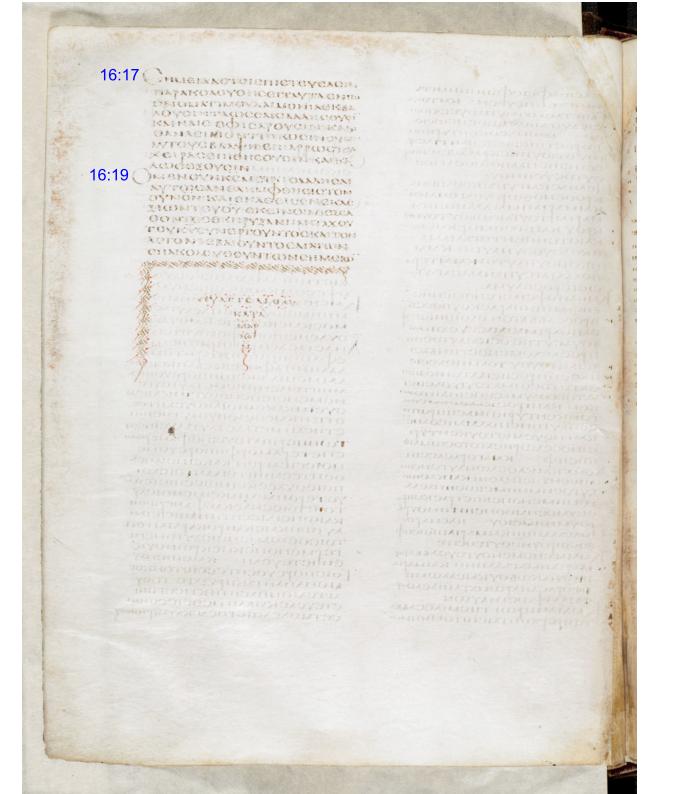
Mark 15:38 through 16:16 in Codex Alexandrinus (folio 18r).

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CICL BINE YYLYYDY COOL ... O LECOM KYOOCEMENYMIN. MEXEVOORGYIEDALOUXILOUA MITIMETOY CIXCEPACATERETO MOCKAICKCTACIC KAROYAGNI Z OYACHCITIONCOOBOYNTOIXP 16:9 A RECTACACT PORT PATTICER STOT EQUARISTRED TO PARAPIXEHAME SAAHNH'AOHCEKKEBAHKEICHB ANIMONIA EKERRITIOPEYOEICA AUDITERENIOICN ETXYTOYTE MOMENTOTCHENOUYCERICARIONAL OYCINKYSCESSEOSXKOYCXN1.CC CTHCAN METALETRY TRAYCINERY . ACOMITEC DISTA S. LOACING CONTROLLOS. CHELELYWOLD SHIP OLE LOVIE MOTCE CAPPOINT KARE MOMENTES CONTECNIHITEIRANTOICEOR HOJOOKYEEKCINOICEINGLERCE ACLEBOHYEZHXKEINEHOIGK TOTO LOICENYCKYC DYNCLMON. KYICHUCIZICEMILIMAIIICLEIM AYTONIKAICKAIIPORAPAIAHOIT "LOICOEXCYMENOICY LONELH LEDMENGRICHERLOAK GENTECTEYCAN 16:15 FAR CHIERRY LOSCHOLGAGENLGGGIG. B.OMPROC PIONOVASYNDANCHIBAXXAG J.O.C.A. ALLCH LESS COLORIS CTEVENCENTRAINTEGESCCUON CETATOXEXPICTRICXCKXTXKPIONCOT.

Zoomed in view of Mark 16:8 through 16:16 in Codex Alexandrinus (folio 18r).

Last two words of Mark 16:8 are underlined in red.
in modern
Greek letters and
εφοβογντο Γλρ in Uncial letters; translated as "for they were afraid."



Mark 16:16 through 16:20 in Codex Alexandrinus (folio 18v).