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# Mackay's "John's Relationship with Mark: An Analysis of John 6 in the Light of Mark 6 and 8" - Book Review

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## **JOHN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MARK: AN ANALYSIS OF JOHN 6 IN THE LIGHT OF MARK 6 AND 8.**

By Ian D. Mackay. *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament II*, 182. Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2004. Pp. x + 343. \$97.50, ISBN 978-3-16-148426-1.

In this detailed analysis of the relations between John 6 and Mark 6 and 8, Mackay builds a case for the Johannine evangelist's familiarity with Mark. While the case for Johannine-Markan connections might more plausibly be argued as a factor of "interfluence" (rather than "influence" in only one direction—the Markan toward the Johannine) between the oral stages of these traditions, Mackay nonetheless identifies echoes of Markan patterns within the Johannine narrative. As the closest contacts between John and Mark are still not identical, derivation, in my judgment, is not a plausible inference. Still, Mackay shows how Johannine familiarity with at least some of the Markan text is arguable. Mackay thus speculates that the Johannine evangelist may have heard the Gospel of Mark read in a meeting for worship, and this seems realistic. Of the many works on Johannine-Synoptic relationships in recent decades, this is one of the few that has changed my mind on the subject. While it does not overturn Gardner-Smith's and M. Smith's convictions regarding John's autonomous origin, it suggests that John's autonomy is unlikely to have been an isolated one. Rather, if the Johannine evangelist was familiar with much of Mark's rendering, the Johannine differences may be even *more* interesting than the similarities. Might they suggest John's completing, or even correcting Mark?

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