

REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

Intercalation (AKA Markan Sandwich)

Intercalation is a literary strategy that the author of Mark uses to teach lessons. It is called a Markan sandwich because it tells one story that is abruptly interrupted by another, but then returns to the original story to teach the reader a moral lesson.

Structure

- Story 1a
 - o Presented as a normal narrative
 - o Often something shocking happens
- Story 2
 - o Interrupts story 1
 - o An entirely different story
 - o Often teaches a moral lesson
- Story 1b
 - o A return to the first story
 - o Often Jesus teaches a lesson that coincides with both stories.

Example: The Fig Tree in Mark 11:12-25

- The fig tree
 - o Jesus goes to a fig tree because he is hungry.
 - o The tree only has leaves and no fruit, so Jesus curses it, saying that no one will ever eat from it again.
- Jesus cleanses the temple
 - o Money changers were selling doves for sacrifice on the temple grounds.

- This angered Jesus because he wanted God's temple to be a place of worship, not business.
- So, he overturned their tables and chased the money changers away.
- Return to the fig tree
 - Jesus and his disciples leave the temple and Peter points out the tree that Jesus withered earlier.
 - Jesus uses the tree as an example to tell his disciples that through prayer anything can happen, as long as they ask God.

The story of the fig tree uses intercalation to tell the reader about the total power that God gives people through prayer, as well as giving an example of what kinds of injustices anger Jesus.