

*SNSF MARK16 second international conference – 2-3 June 2022, online  
org. Claire Clivaz and Mina Monier (DH+, SIB, Lausanne)  
and Dan Batovici (KU Leuven, BE)*

## **Hapax Legomena in Mark's Longer Ending: A Linear Regression Analysis of Markan Vocabulary**

Jermo van Nes, ETF (Leuven, BE)

### **Abstract**

Scholarly decisions on the ending of Mark are usually based on both external considerations in terms of the history of the manuscript tradition as well as internal considerations in terms of language and style. With regard to the latter, scholars continue to list linguistic differences and similarities between Mark's ending and the rest of the Gospel. One element concerns the number of unique words (hapax legomena or hapaxes). Typical for discussions like these is the absence of a reasoned definition of hapaxes and an interpretative model showing the significance of their numbers in the ending of Mark in comparison to the rest of the Gospel.

Focusing on the Greek Longer Ending of Mark (16:9-20) in its traditional form as witnessed by the Majority Text (171 words), this paper aims to (1) define hapaxes properly, (2) identify all hapaxes in Mark 16:9-20 and 1:1-16:8 by means of Logos Bible software, (3) divide Mark 1:1-16:8 into pericopes of 150-200 words, and (4) determine by means of linear regression analysis whether or not Mark 16:9-20 has significantly (in the statistical sense of the word) more hapaxes in its text. The graphic outcome may either verify or falsify the secondary character of Mark's longer ending. In case of the latter, the argument of hapaxes should no longer be used in discussions on the literary (in)authenticity of this passage as it could be either a sign of genuineness or a sign of skillful imitation.