

and expanded the spacing between letters and words. As concerning the column after Mark 16:8 (that is, the third column of Figure 3a), he resumed his normal spacing of letters and words. Why? (And, remember, the **same** scribe wrote Vaticanus and Sinaiticus in this section!)

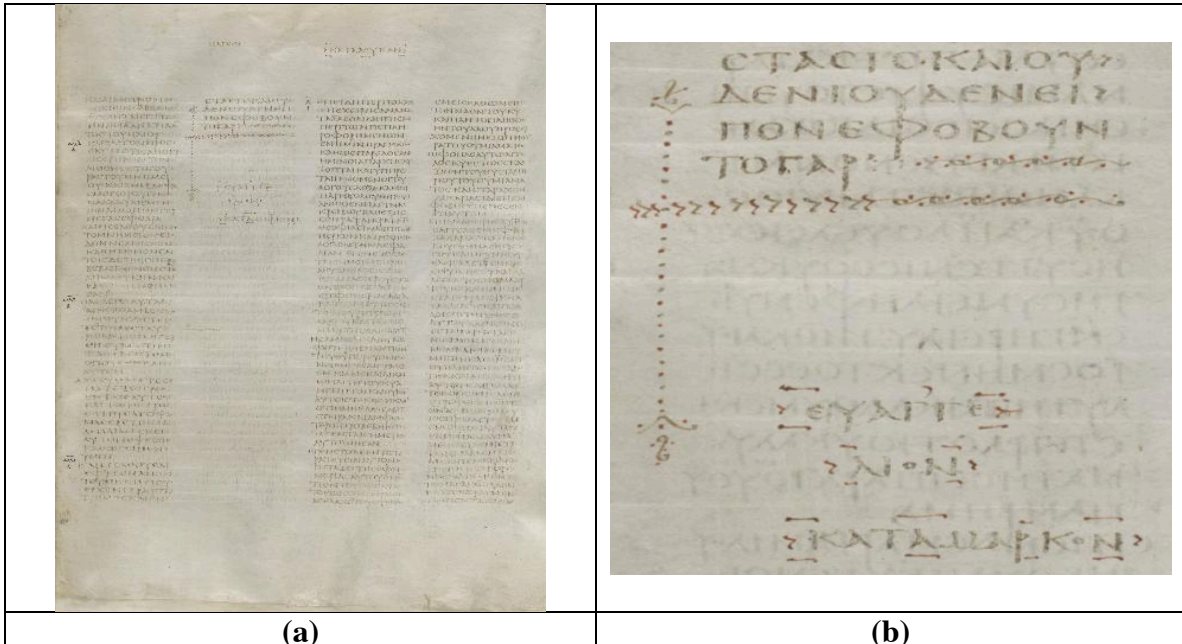


Figure 3. *Codex Sinaiticus*, Mark 16:1 – 16:8 / Luke 1:1 – 1:18. (Quire 77, Folio 5 r)

- (a) Notice the large conspicuous blank space filling most of the second column. Mark 16:9-20 belongs in this gap but is obviously absent.
- (b) A closeup of the second column in (a), where *Sinaiticus* closes Mark at 16:8, the final words being “ΕΦΟΒΟΥΝΤΟΓΑΡ” (*ephobounto gar*, “for they were afraid”). A series of doodles and arrows follow these words. After a space, the bottom reads “ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ ΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΡΚΟΝ” (*euaggelion kata markon*, “gospel according to Mark”), thus signifying the conclusion of Mark in *Sinaiticus*. Luke begins at the very top of the third column in (a).

Images source: [CodexSinaiticus.org](http://CodexSinaiticus.org)

Let us look at *Sinaiticus* in Figures 4 and 5 to see this bizarre phenomenon even more closely. Something is just **not** right about this so-called “independent” “oldest and best” witness—and if its scribe was dishonest, that would make Vaticanus equally liable to doubt (for it was the same scribe). Remember, on page 1078, *Halley’s Bible Handbook* praises *Sinaiticus* for being “the **most precious** writing in existence.” Let us see how true it is... literally.