Freer Logion

The ending of Mark in this codex is especially noteworthy because it includes a unique insertion after Mark 16:14, referred to as the "Freer Logion".

Κακεινοι απελογουντο λεγοντες ότι ο αίων ουτος της ανομίας και της απίστιας υπό τον σατανάν έστιν, ο μη έων τα (τον μη έωντα?) υπό των πνευματών ακαθάρτα (-των?) την αληθείαν του θέου καταλάβεσθαι (+ και?) δυναμίν. δια τουτό αποκάλυψον σου την δικαιόσυνην ηδη, έκεινοι έλεγον τω χρίστω. και ο χρίστος έκεινοις προσελέγεν ότι πέπληρωται ο όρος των έτων της έξουσιας του σατανά, άλλα έγγιζει άλλα δείνα. και υπέρων εγώ αμαρτησαντών παρεδοθην είς θανατόν ινα υποστρέψωσιν είς την αληθείαν και μηκέτι αμαρτησωσίν ίνα την εν τω ουρανώ πνευματικήν και αφθάρτον της δικαιόσυνης δοξαν κληρονομησωσίν.[21]

Translation:

And they excused themselves, saying, "This age of lawlessness and unbelief is under Satan, who does not allow the truth and power of God to prevail over the unclean things of the spirits [or: does not allow what lies under the unclean spirits to understand the truth and power of God]. Therefore reveal thy righteousness now" - thus they spoke to Christ. And Christ replied to them, "The term of years of Satan's power has been fulfilled, but other terrible things draw near. And for those who have sinned I was delivered over to death, that they may return to the truth and sin no more in order to inherit the spiritual and incorruptible glory of righteousness which is in heaven. [22]

This text is not found in any other manuscript, but was partially quoted by <u>Jerome</u>:

et illi satisfaciebant dicentes: Saeculum istud iniquitatis et incredulitatis substantia (sub Satana?) est, quae non sinit per immundos spiritus veram Dei apprehendi virtutem: idcirco iamnunc revela iustitiam tuam.[21]