

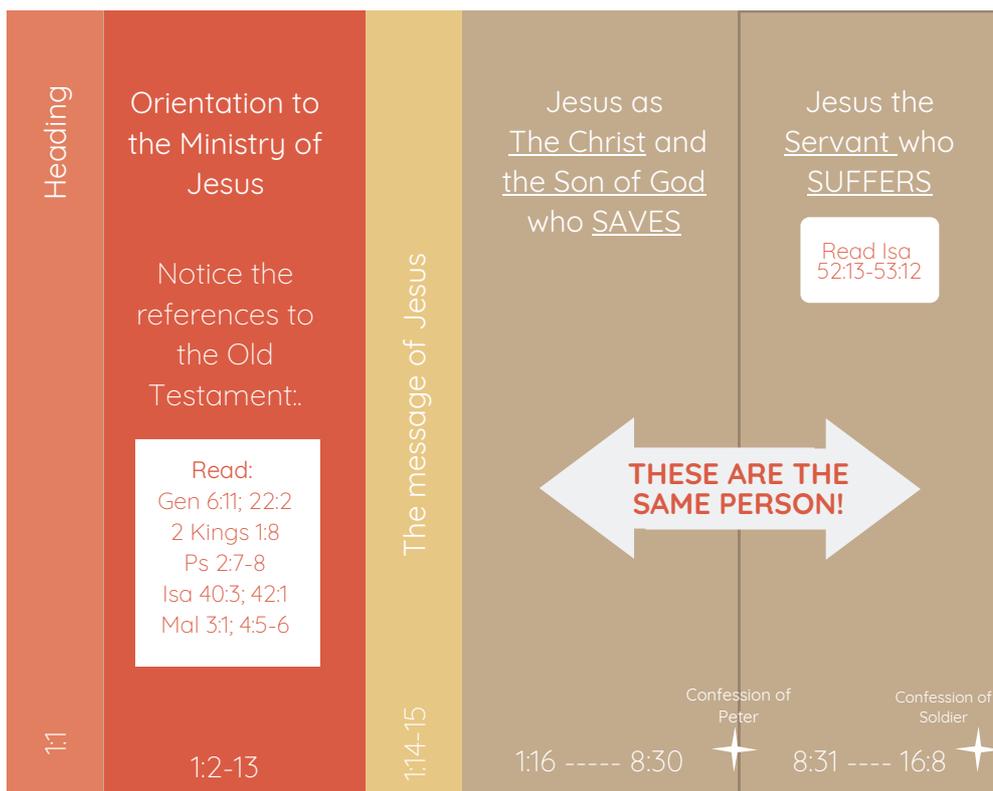


# MARK

THE WAY TO WHOLENESS

- **Author:** The early church attributes the book, without contradiction, to the authorship of Mark (Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, 126). Papias, an early Christian leader, wrote between A.D. 120-130 that the book was John Mark's reliable account of Peter's testimony (Witherington, *The Gospel of Mark*, 22).
- **Place and Date:** Most scholars speculate that the book was written in Rome during Nero's persecution of Christians, about A.D. 64 (Keener, 126).
- **Purpose:** The book seems to encourage followers of Jesus in their endurance through a time of intense persecution. John Mark seems to want to assure these followers that— although it is true that Jesus was executed as a criminal— he is, indeed, the Christ and Son of God. It seems that John Mark, consequently, wants to encourage these followers to remain faithful to Jesus, and to follow him on his way of service and suffering unto death, hoping in God's future vindication via their own resurrection.

## The Gospel of Mark at a Glance





## Section Notes

- 1:1: The heading announces that Mark is intended to be understood as “the good news” (i.e., “the gospel”) of Jesus, who is the Christ and Son of God.
- 1:2-13: Through references to the Old Testament, the orientation suggests that Jesus is the promised Christ and Son of God who saves from a spiritual– not geographical– exile of sin and death under the power of Satan by means of his identification with humanity while also remaining faithful to God, resulting in a death and resurrection that makes him the way of salvation in his giving of the Holy Spirit to his followers.
- 1:14-15: The remainder of Mark explains that the kingdom of God has come to humanity in the person of Jesus by means of his death and resurrection on our behalf– the good news in which we are called to trust as we wholeheartedly follow him.
- 1:16-8:30 and 8:31-16:8: The Christ and Son of God who saves is– also– the Servant who suffers. What seems like paradoxical identities and missions is perfectly united into the one identity and mission of Jesus of Nazareth; his reign is characterized as service, and he saves by means of his suffering!
- [16:9-20 is not present in our oldest manuscripts. See the note in your Bible.]