

# ARE YOU READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS?

Mark 1:1-13

The opening lines of Mark's Gospel are magnetic. He wastes no time getting to the point. With his single-sentence introduction, we are drawn like a moth to a flame. His terse, rapid-fire style of writing grabs our attention and captures our curiosity. Such an atmosphere of breathless excitement rivets us to the narrative, making it impossible for our minds to drift. Mark is about to tell us the greatest story ever told—we dare not miss one word! Just as the opening words of Genesis catapult us back to the beginning of creation . . . Mark's opening words announce "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ." With that, he quickly reminds us of the prophet's prediction that a messenger would be sent, and a voice in the wilderness would be used to clear the way for His coming—then, *bang!*—without further ado, the Baptizer is waist-deep in the Jordan River, preaching repentance, and baptizing many people from Judea. One day, out of the blue, John looks into the face of One who needs no repentance . . . it is Jesus! Following His baptism—*boom!*—we find Him out in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. Stay alert! This story could change your life.

## I. Unpacking the First Sentence of the Story (v.1)

- When?
- What?
- Who?

## II. Introducing the Main Characters in the Narrative (vv. 2-11)

- A prophet from ancient times \_\_\_\_\_
- A preacher in the wilderness \_\_\_\_\_
- A carpenter from Nazareth \_\_\_\_\_
- A voice from the heavens \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Enduring the Temptations of the Enemy (vv. 12-13)

- The setting and duration of the attacks
- The presence of beasts and angels

## IV. Understanding the Lessons from the Scriptures

- The story:
- The characters:
- The enemy:

**WRITER:**  
John Mark (with Peter as a source)

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

**DATE:**

Earliest Gospel Account  
(precise date uncertain—A.D. 50–70?)

**PURPOSE:**

To Encourage Suffering Believers  
by Pointing Them to Jesus

**TURNING POINT:**

Mark 8:29–31

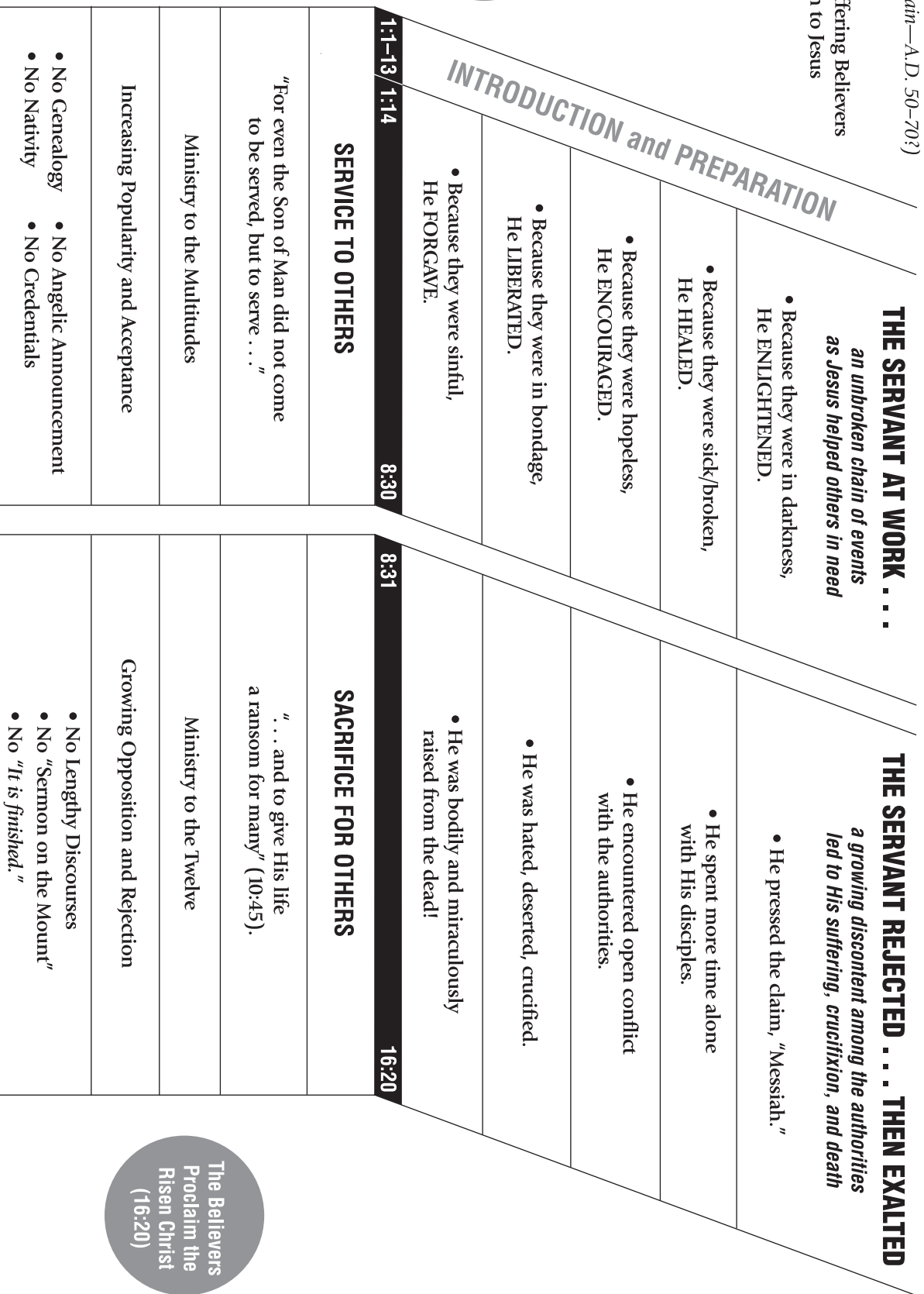
**KEY VERSE:**

Mark 10:45

**KEY TERM:**

“Immediately”

The Baptizer  
Announces  
the Coming  
Christ  
(1:7)



The Believers  
Proclaim the  
Risen Christ  
(16:20)