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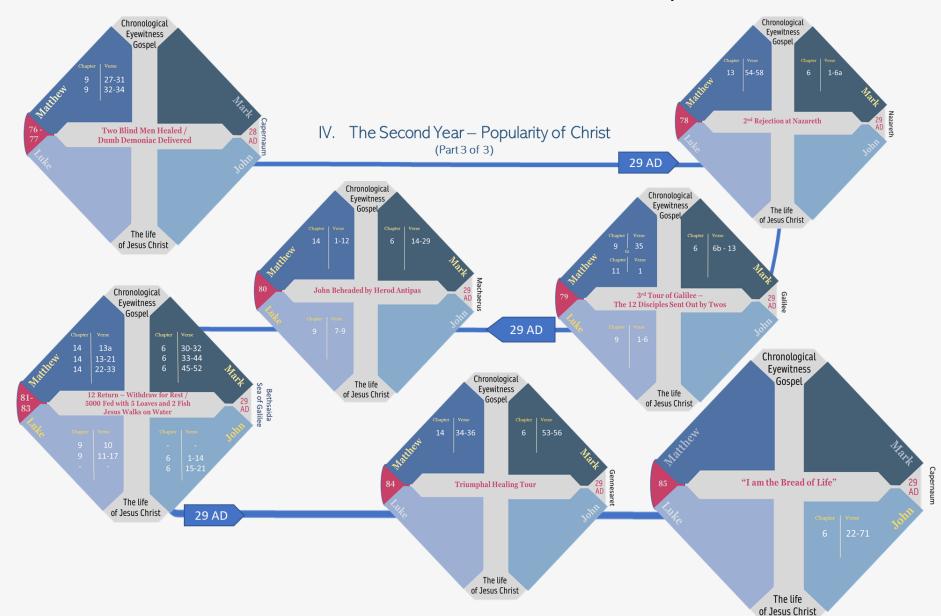
The Second Year — Popularity of Christ

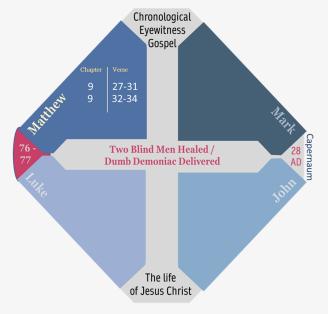
(Part 3 of 3)



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 5





IV. The Second Year - Popularity

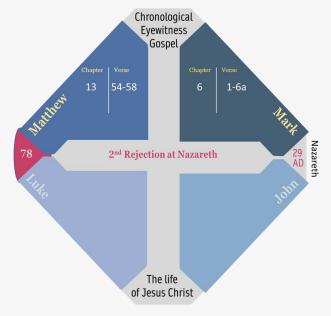
After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?" "Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do."

Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't tell anyone about this." But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.

When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn't speak was brought to Jesus. So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!" they exclaimed.

But the Pharisees said, "He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons."



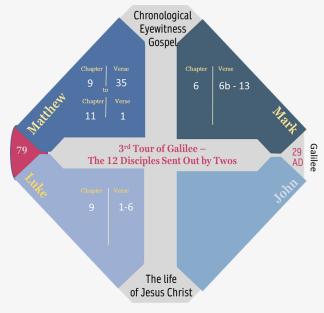
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?"

Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary his mother, and his brothers James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?" They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

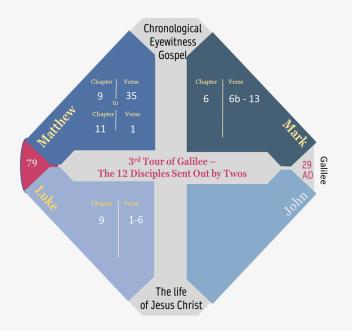
Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And so he did only a few miracles there, amazed at their unbelief.



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues, and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

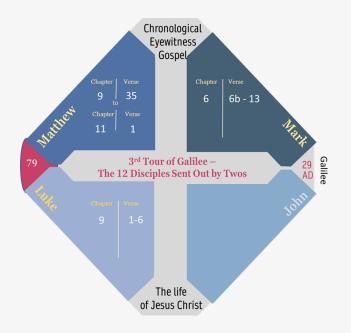
Jesus called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. "Take nothing for your journey," he instructed them. "Don't take a walking stick, a traveler's bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes." He allowed them to wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes.



Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions:

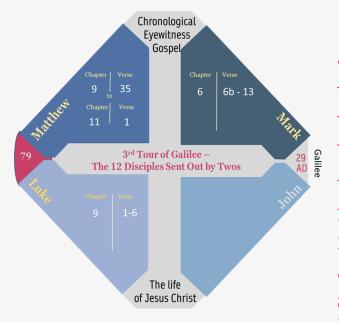
"Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God's lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

"Don't take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality because those who work deserve to be fed.



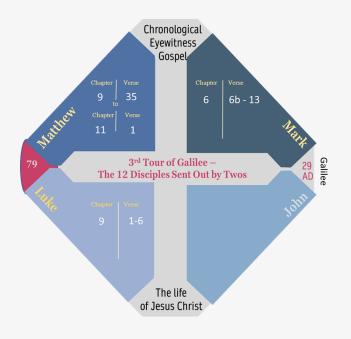
"Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town.

"When you enter the home, give it your blessing. If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. But if any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate. I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.



"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

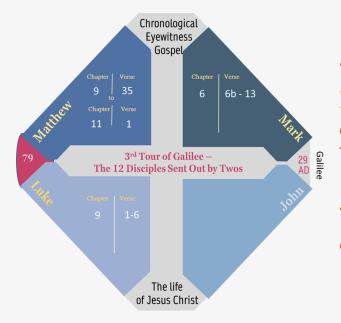
"A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.



"Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

"But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

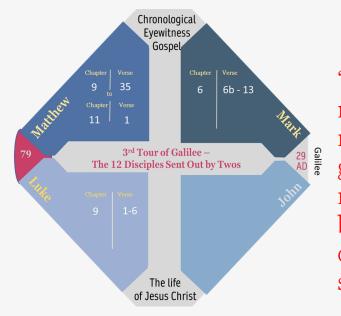


"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

"Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

'I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!'

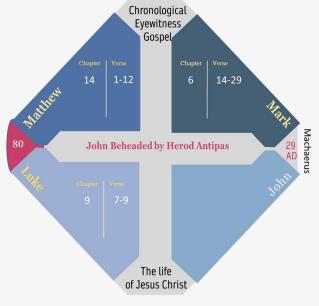
"If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.



"Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

So the disciples went out and began their circuit of the villages, preaching the good news and telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. They cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.

When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.

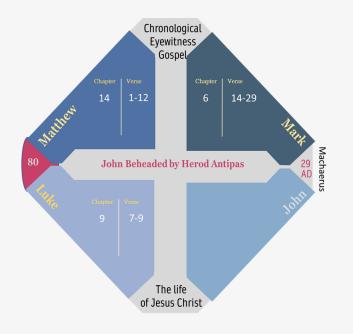


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard about Jesus and everything Jesus was doing, he was puzzled. He said to his advisers, "This must be John the Baptist, the man I beheaded raised from the dead! That is why he can do such miracles."

Some of his advisers said, "He's the prophet Elijah." Still others said, "He's a prophet like the other great prophets of the past."

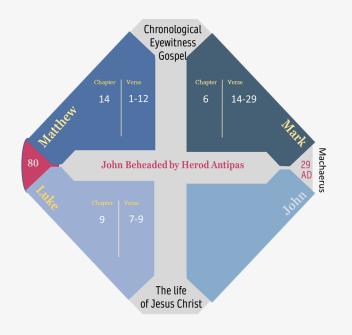
"I beheaded John," Herod said, "so who is this man about whom I hear such stories?" And he kept trying to see him.



Earlier, Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias (the former wife of Herod's brother Philip). She had been his brother Philip's wife, but Herod had married her.

John had been telling Herod, "It is against God's law for you to marry your brother's wife." So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But without Herod's approval she was powerless, for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him.

Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet. Herod himself was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.



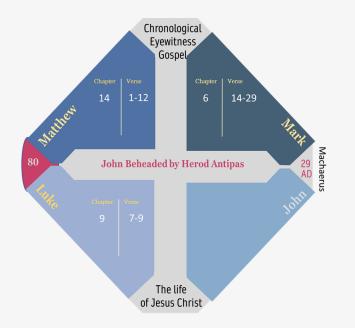
Herodias's chance finally came on Herod's birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests.

"Ask me for anything you like," the king said to the girl, "and I will give it to you." So he promised with a vow to give her anything she wanted. He even vowed, "I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!"

At her mother's urging, the girl said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a tray!"

She went out and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?"

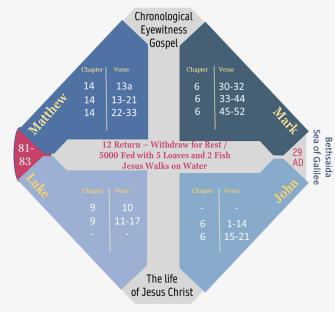
Her mother told her, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!"



So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, "I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!"

Then the king deeply regretted what he had said, but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn't refuse her. So he immediately issued the necessary orders and sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John's head and bring it to him.

The soldier beheaded John in the prison, and his head was brought on a tray and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.

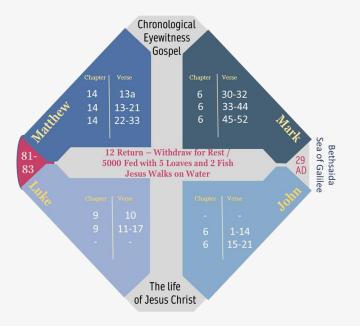


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone.

Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat, so they slipped quietly away by boat for a quiet place toward the town of Bethsaida, where they could be alone.

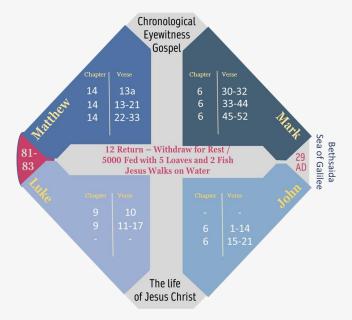
But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them.



After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. The crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him.

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) He soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him, so he began teaching them many things. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.



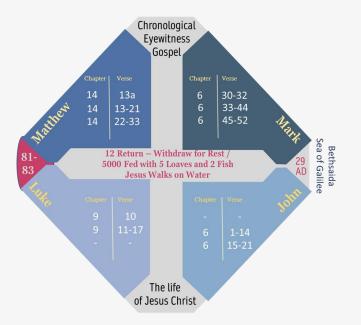
Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages for lodging for the night and to buy something to eat. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.""

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"



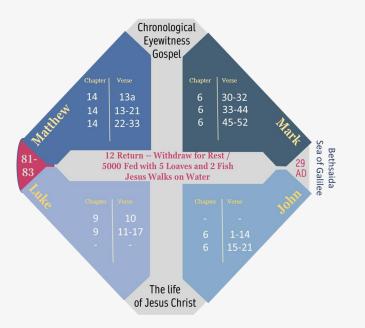
"How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out."

Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

Bring them here," he said.

Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

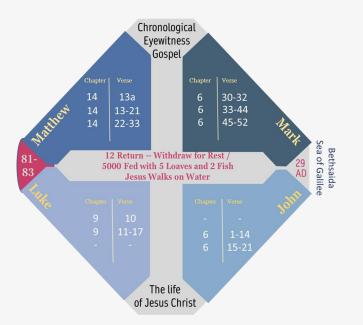
"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)



Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, gave thanks to God, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. They all ate as much as they wanted.

After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps of leftovers left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves and fish.

A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

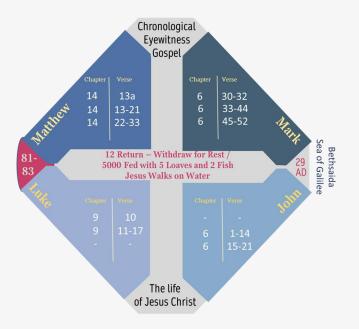


When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"

When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake to Bethsaida, while he sent the people home.

After telling everyone good-bye and sending them home, he slipped away into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

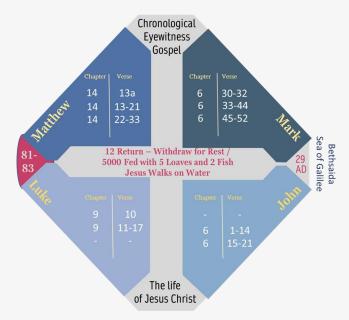
Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves.



That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum.

Late that night, about three o'clock in the morning, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves.

They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them, but when they saw him walking on the water they cried out in terror thinking he was a ghost. They were all terrified when they saw him.



They were terrified, but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here!"

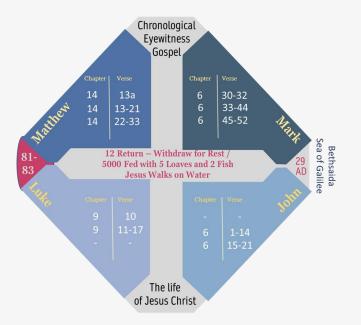
Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

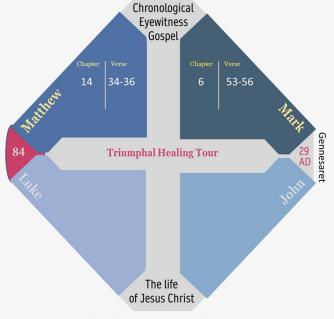
When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.



They were totally amazed, for they still didn't understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves.

Their hearts were too hard to take it in.

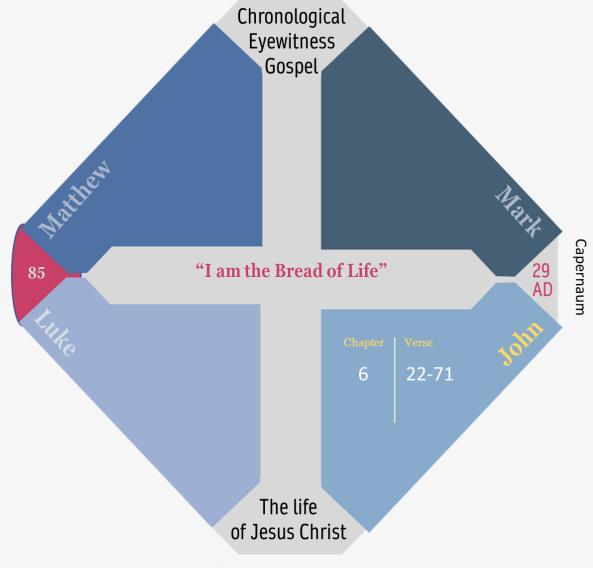
Then they were eager to let him in the boat and immediately they arrived at their destination.



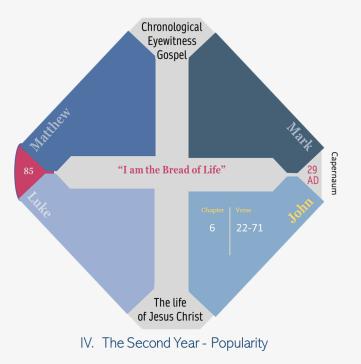
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. They brought the boat to shore and climbed out. The people recognized Jesus at once.

When the people recognized Jesus, the news of his arrival spread quickly throughout the whole area, and soon people were bringing all their sick to be healed. They ran throughout the whole area, carrying sick people on mats to wherever they heard he was. Wherever he went—in villages, cities, or the countryside—they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.



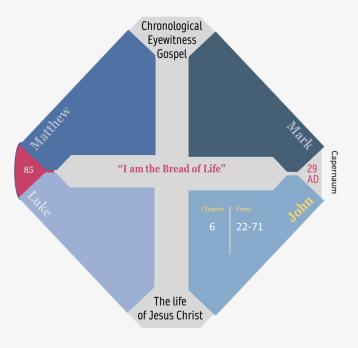
IV. The Second Year - Popularity



The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him.

They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

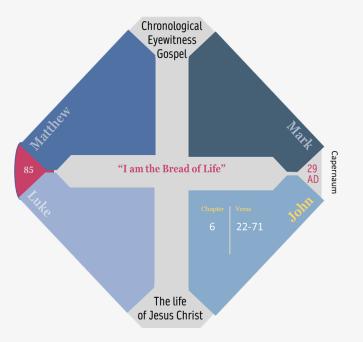


They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

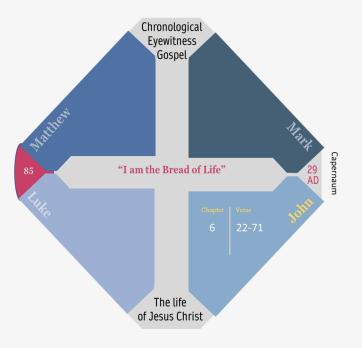
They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."



"Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

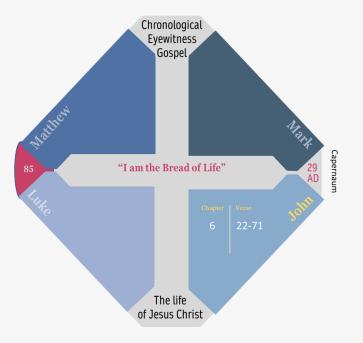


Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

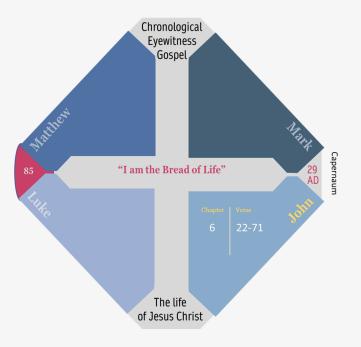
But Jesus replied, "Stop complaining about what I said. For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.

As it is written in the Scriptures, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)



"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. Yes, I am the bread of life! Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

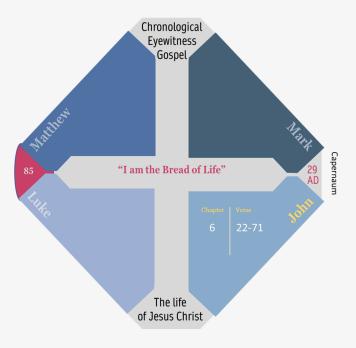


So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day.

"For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

"I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me.

"I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever."



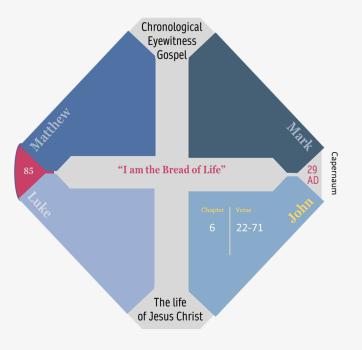
He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again?

"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.)

Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me."



At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?"

Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

Then Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil."

He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

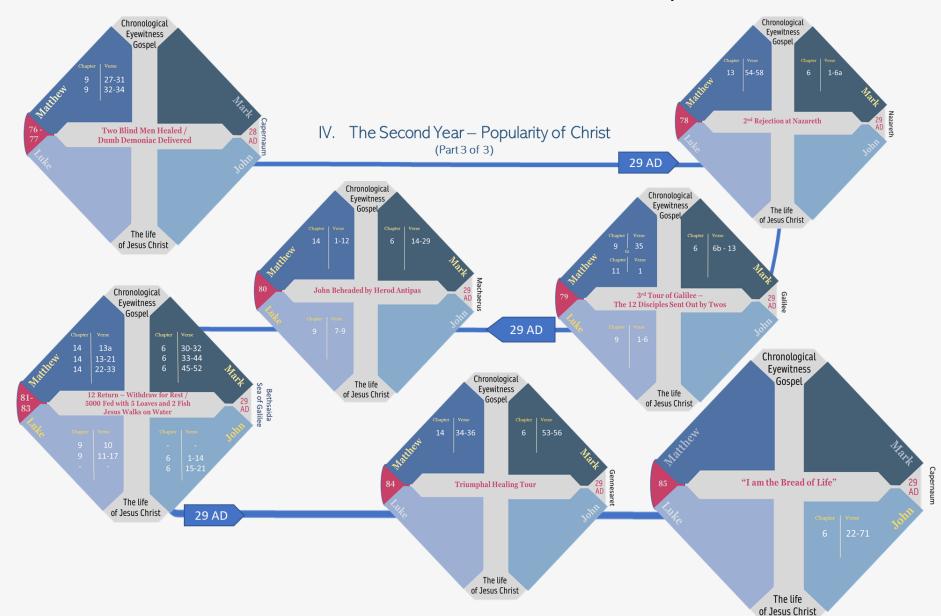
The Second Year — Popularity of Christ

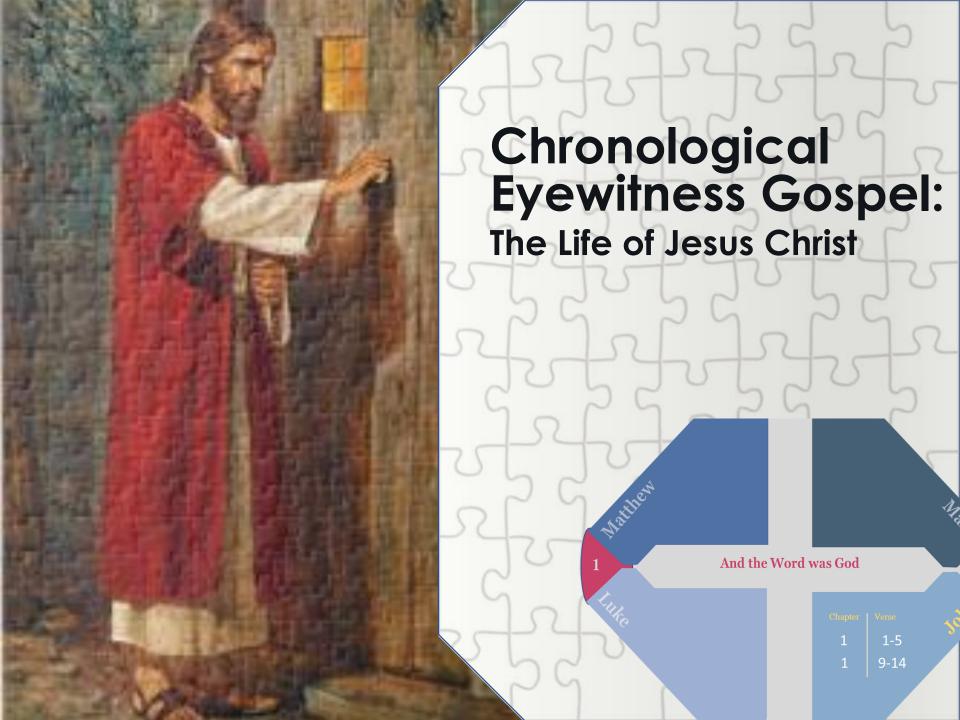
(Part 3 of 3)



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 5





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