



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ

Matthew

1

Luke

And the Word was God

Chapter	Verse
1	1-5
1	9-14

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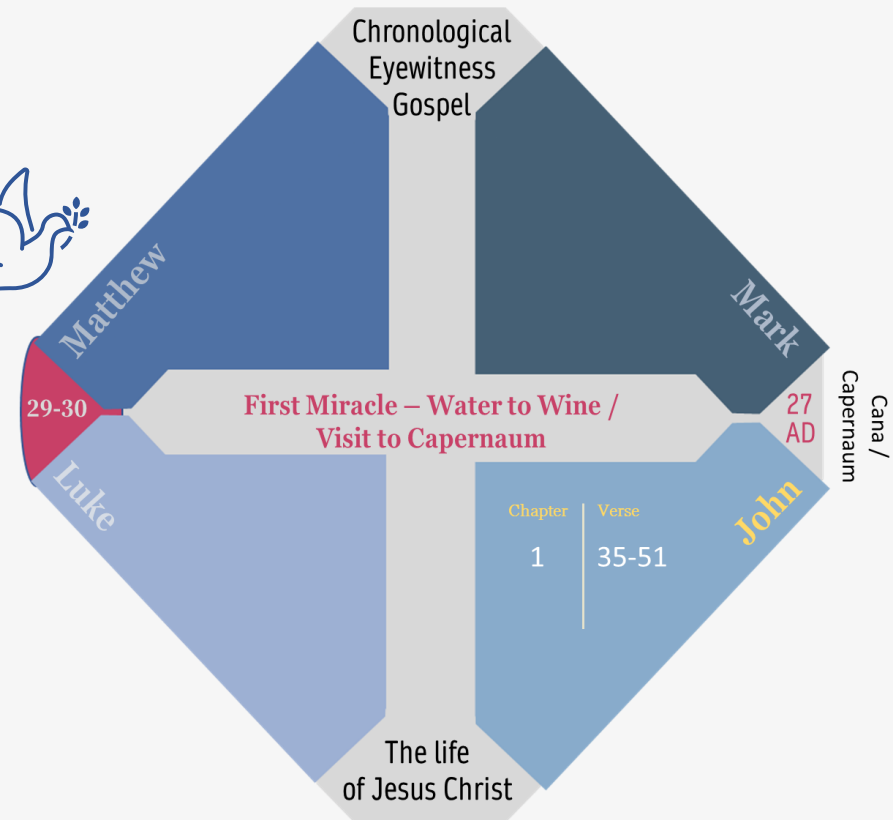
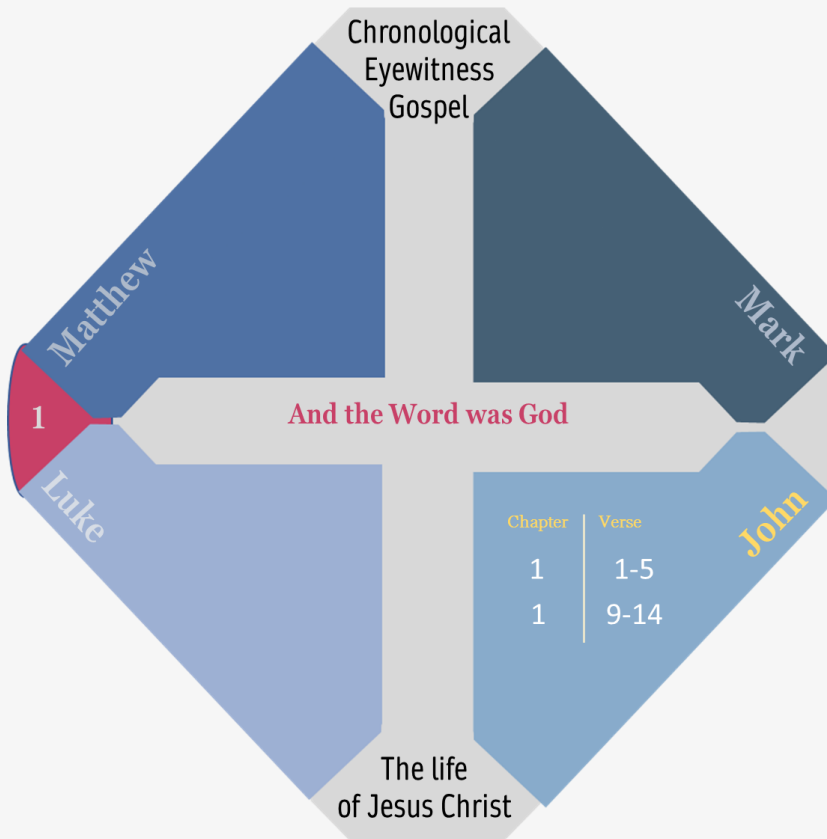
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BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY



A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

Welcome to the **Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ.**

3 Points before getting started:

1) The Chronological “Map” that makes this work possible is from a comprehensive dissertation from the late Dr. Floyd Nolan Jones.

**CHRONOLOGICAL COMPENDIUM
OF THE
RECORDED EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS
AND
HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS**

EVENT IN OUR LORD'S LIFE	SCRIPTURE	LOCATION	MATT.	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL: ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY						
A. Pre-birth Events						
1. Annunciation	Lk 1:26-38					1:26-38
2. Birth	Lk 2:1-7					1:29-35
3. Circumcision	Lk 2:21					1:36-38
4. Presentation	Lk 2:22					1:39-41
5. Flight to Egypt	Mt 2:13-15					2:1-6
6. Herod's Massacre	Mt 2:16-18					2:7-9
7. Family Returns: Birth of Nazareth	Lk 4:1					2:10-12
B. Nativity & Youth of Jesus						
1. Nativity	Lk 1:11-24					2:13-24
2. Circumcision	Lk 2:21					2:25
3. Presentation	Lk 2:22					2:26-28
4. Flight to Egypt	Mt 2:13-15					2:1-6
5. Herod's Massacre	Mt 2:16-18					2:7-9
6. Family Returns: Birth of Nazareth	Lk 4:1					2:10-12
C. Youth & Ministry of Jesus						
1. Baptism	Lk 3:1-6					3:1-6
2. Temptation	Mt 4:1-11					4:1-11
3. Galilee Ministry	Mt 4:12-23					4:12-23
4. Nazareth Ministry	Lk 4:14-30					4:31-40
5. Capernaum Ministry	Mt 8:1-9					4:31-40
6. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:10-13					9:10-13
7. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:14-17					9:14-17
8. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:18-26					9:18-26
9. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:27-31					9:27-31
10. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:32-34					9:32-34
11. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:35-38					9:35-38
12. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:39-40					9:39-40
13. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:41					9:41
14. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:42					9:42
15. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:43					9:43
16. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:44					9:44
17. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:45					9:45
18. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:46					9:46
19. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:47					9:47
20. Ministry in the Galilee	Mt 9:48					9:48

Beginning of the Gospel Chapter 1

C. Youth and Ministry of Jesus:

JOHN 10:1

AD 24 IN THE BORNERS

LEAD 100

*John 1:10-11: the children and women among in spirit and was in the hearts of his day for showing our head.

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

MAT 3:1-2; MARK 1:6-8; LUKE 3:1-6; JOHN 1:6-8

MATTHEW 2	MARK 1	LUKE 3	JOHN 1
1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.	1:2-8 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.	3:1-6 Now in the fifth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abithina, and Annas high priest of the nation of the Jews, the word of the prophet came that Jesus should be called.	1:6-8 There came a man named John, whose name was John.
1:2 In the wilderness where John the Baptist was.	1:9-11 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:7-11 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:12-13 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:3 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:12-13 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:12-14 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:14-15 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:4 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:14-15 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:15-17 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:16-17 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:5 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:16-17 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:18-19 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:18-19 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:6 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:18-19 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:20-21 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:20-21 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:7 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:20-21 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:22-23 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:22-23 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.
1:8 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:22-23 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:24-25 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	1:24-25 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.

Beginning of the Gospel Chapter 1

MATTHEW 2	MARK 1	LUKE 3
1:1 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.	1:2-8 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.	3:1-6 Now in the fifth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abithina, and Annas high priest of the nation of the Jews, the word of the prophet came that Jesus should be called.
1:2 In the wilderness where John the Baptist was.	1:9-11 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:7-11 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:3 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:12-13 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:12-14 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:4 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:14-15 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:15-17 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:5 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:16-17 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:18-19 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:6 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:18-19 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:20-21 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:7 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:20-21 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:22-23 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
1:8 And he was baptizing in the Jordan.	1:22-23 And John was baptizing in the wilderness, and he had many disciples also.	3:24-25 And he answered, saying, I baptize with water. But he that shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Download the free academic white paper entitled **“An Analytical Red Letter Harmony of the Four Gospels”** by Dr. Floyd Nolan Jones

A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

Dr. Jones laid the roadmap for the chronological harmony. As a strong advocate of the King James translation for trusted precision, he presented his work like this:

Beginning of the Gospels		Chapter 1	
C. Youth and Ministry of John:			
AD 26 IN THE DESERTS		JOHN'S YOUTH	
LUKE 1:80		LUKE 1:80	
Luke 1:80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.			
JOHN THE BAPTIST BEGINS HIS MINISTRY			
AD 26 THE JORDAN		MAT. 3:1-12; MARK 1:3-8; LUKE 3:1-18; JOHN 1:6-8	
MATTHEW 3	MARK 1	LUKE 3	JOHN 1
<p>1:1a In those days came John the Baptist, c. in the wilderness of Judaea.</p> <p>1:1b preaching</p> <p>1:1c And saying, Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 1:1d For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying,</p>	<p>1:1a The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;</p> <p>1:1b John did baptize in the wilderness,</p> <p>1:1c and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.</p> <p>1:1d As it is written in the prophet, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.</p>	<p>2:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2:2 Anna and Caiphas being the high priests,</p> <p>2:3a the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.</p> <p>2:3b The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 2:3c He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.</p> <p>2:3d And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,</p> <p>2:3e up 1:23</p>	<p>1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.</p> <p>1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.</p> <p>1:9 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,</p> <p>1:10 And now also the one is laid unto the rest of the Jews: therefore every man which receiveth his baptism, and eateth into the fire,</p>

Beginning of the Gospels			Chapter 1
MATTHEW 3	MARK 1	LUKE 3	cp. John 1:23
<p>1:1 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>1:2 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and with a leather girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.</p> <p>1:3 There went out to him all the Jews of Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan.</p> <p>1:4 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.</p> <p>1:5 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 1:6 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 1:7 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.</p> <p>1:8 And now also the one is laid unto the rest of the Jews: therefore every man which receiveth his baptism, and eateth into the fire,</p>	<p>1:1 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>1:2 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey.</p> <p>1:3 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem,</p> <p>1:4 and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.</p> <p>1:5 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 1:6 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.</p> <p>1:7 And now also the one is laid unto the rest of the Jews: therefore every man which receiveth his baptism, and eateth into the fire,</p> <p>1:8 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? 1:9 He answered and said unto them, He that hath two coats,</p>	<p>1:1 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>1:2 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 1:3 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.</p> <p>1:4 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey.</p> <p>1:5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem,</p> <p>1:6 and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.</p> <p>1:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 1:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.</p> <p>1:9 And now also the one is laid unto the rest of the Jews: therefore every man which receiveth his baptism, and eateth into the fire,</p> <p>1:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? 1:11 He answered and said unto them, He that hath two coats,</p>	

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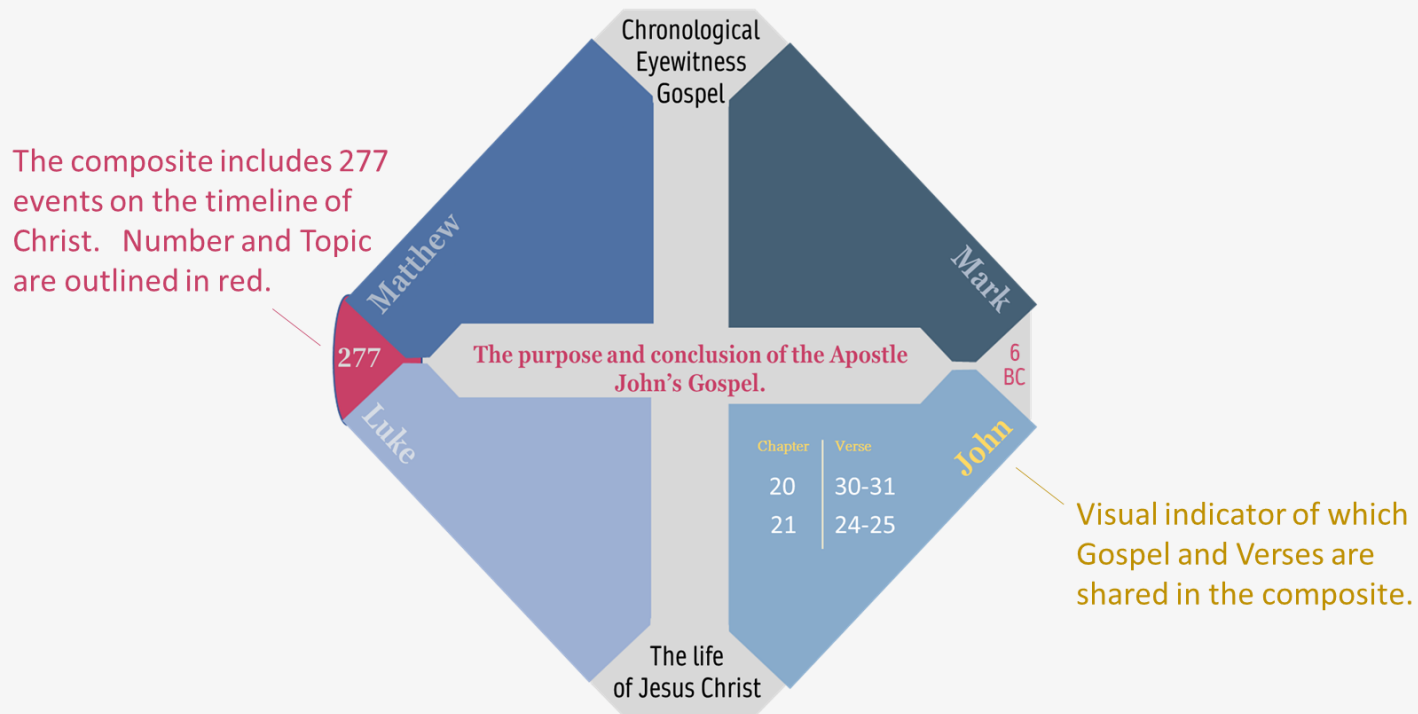
“An Analytical Red Letter Harmony of the Four Gospels”

By: Dr. Floyd Nolan Jones

A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

For a fluid story telling style, this work applies Dr. Jones' map to the New Living Translation to create a single composite text, so the four gospels become one testimony.

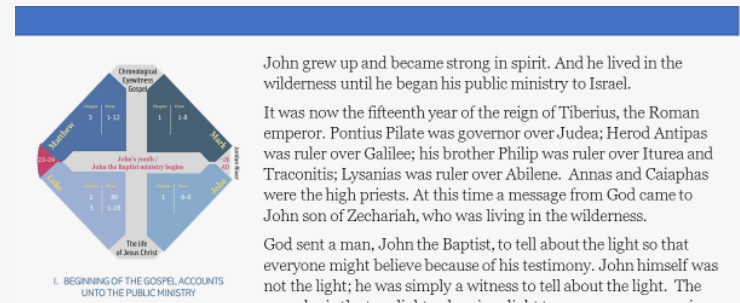
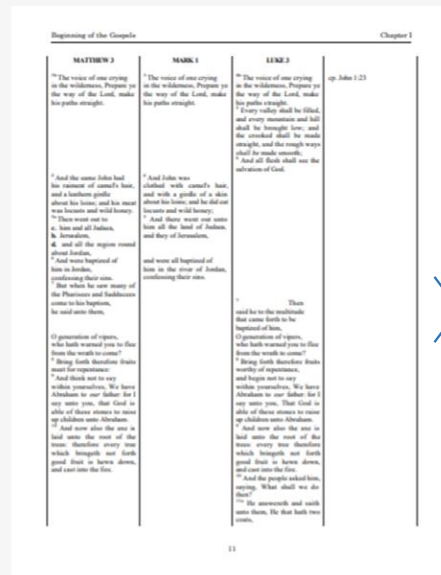
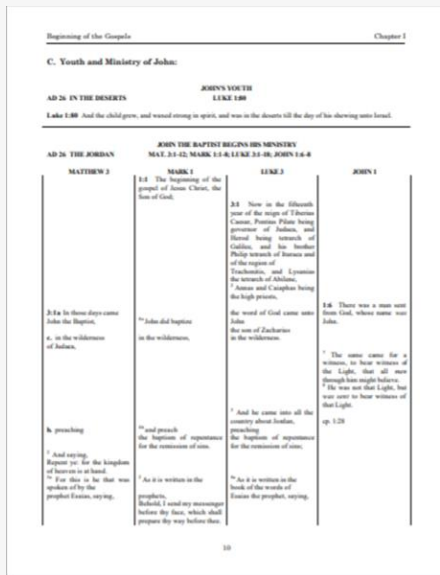
Eyewitness Testimony of Jesus Christ
as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John



A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

2. Every word of text in the resulting composite originates in the bible.

If a story is told in more than one gospel, then it is combined and condensed into a single account. When placed into a single composite gospel, the variants and details from the individual gospels harmonize and self-illuminate the story of Jesus Christ with remarkable clarity.



John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

"Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way.

He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!

Clear the road for him!"

A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

3. The Holy Bible is the source of truth.

This work is a composite of eyewitness testimony. It combines the testimony of the four gospels, into one single chronological testimony.

Some passages are more difficult to place than others, but most are easily placed. For “tweeners,” the text is placed into the narrative in such a way that intends to do no harm to the original meaning.

If there is any source of doubt, questions, or conflict, go to the Bible.

A composite gospel, retold in chronological order

This work shares the composite testimony of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John by utilizing text from the New Living Translation (NLT). The approach can apply to any translation, but this work used the NLT as the base text.

The original work from Dr. Jones is applied to the King James text for anyone interested in the placement of various scripture onto a cohesive timeline.

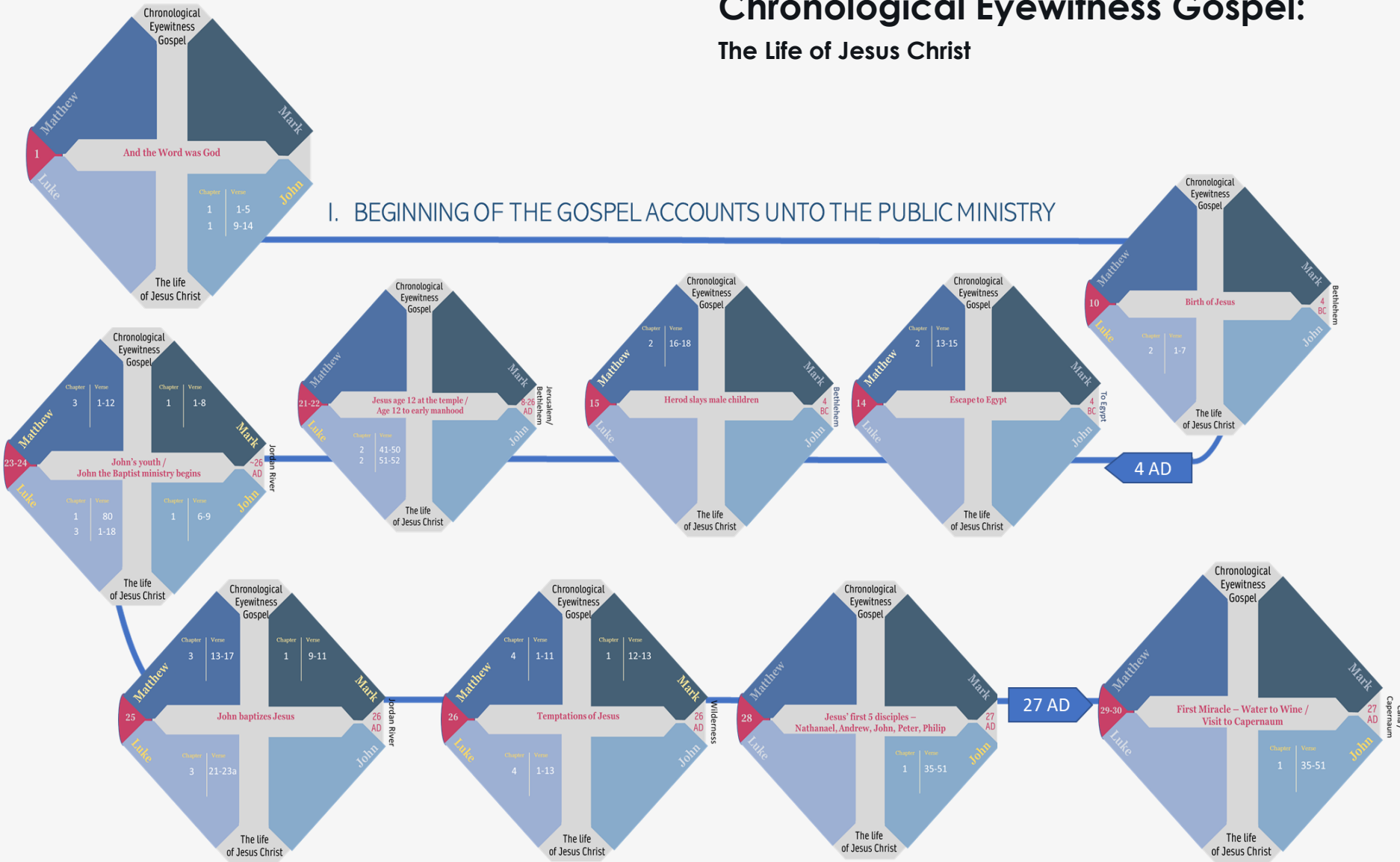
At times, for clarity, this work includes a footnote to clarify a translation, otherwise it uses the primary text from the NLT as published on BibleGateway.com.

Special thanks to BibleGateway.com; which made completing this work possible.

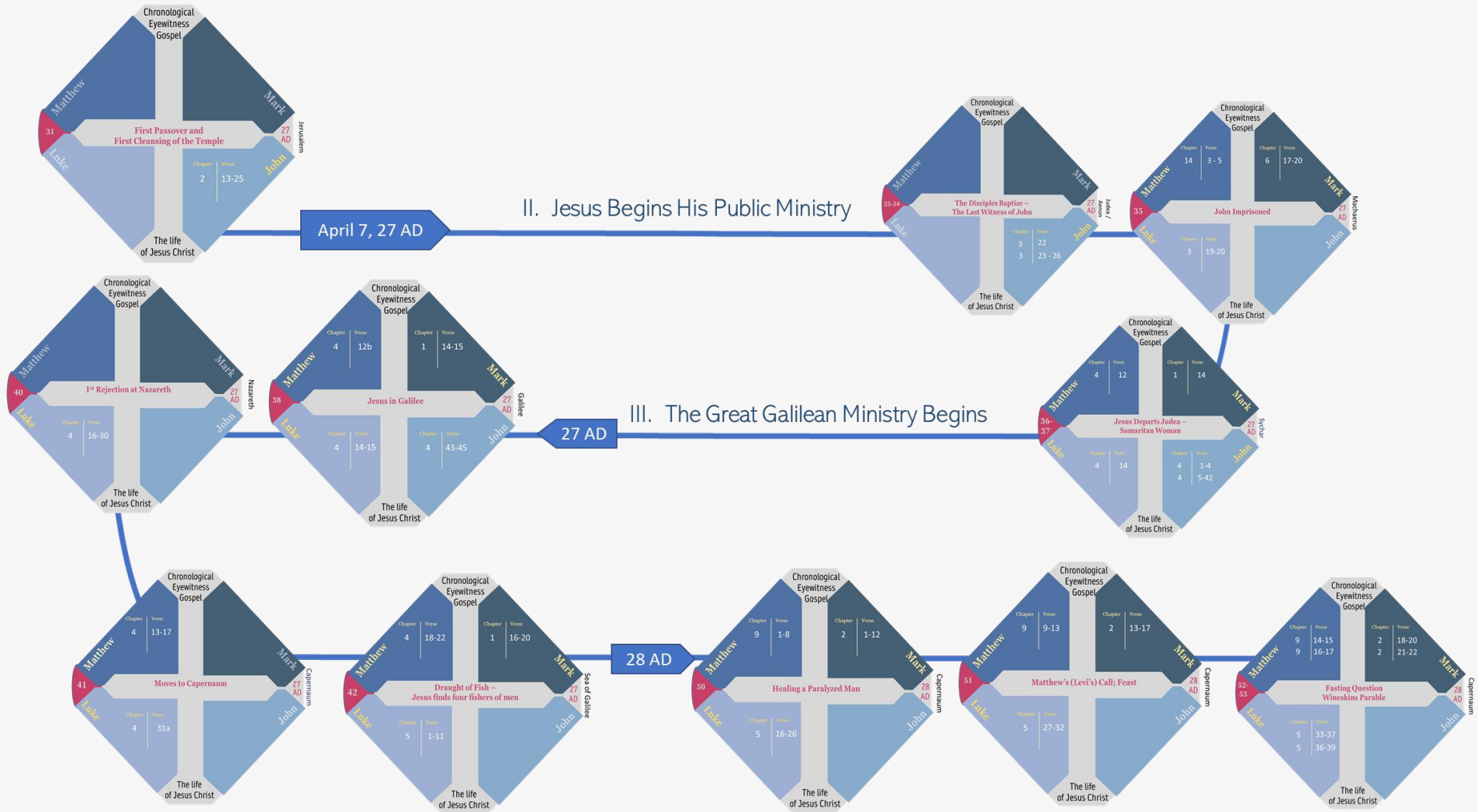
Most of all, thanks be to God. This is His preserved testimony and His Story, simply being told through a remix more than 2000 years later. It's all true, so you the reader can put your full trust in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ

I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY



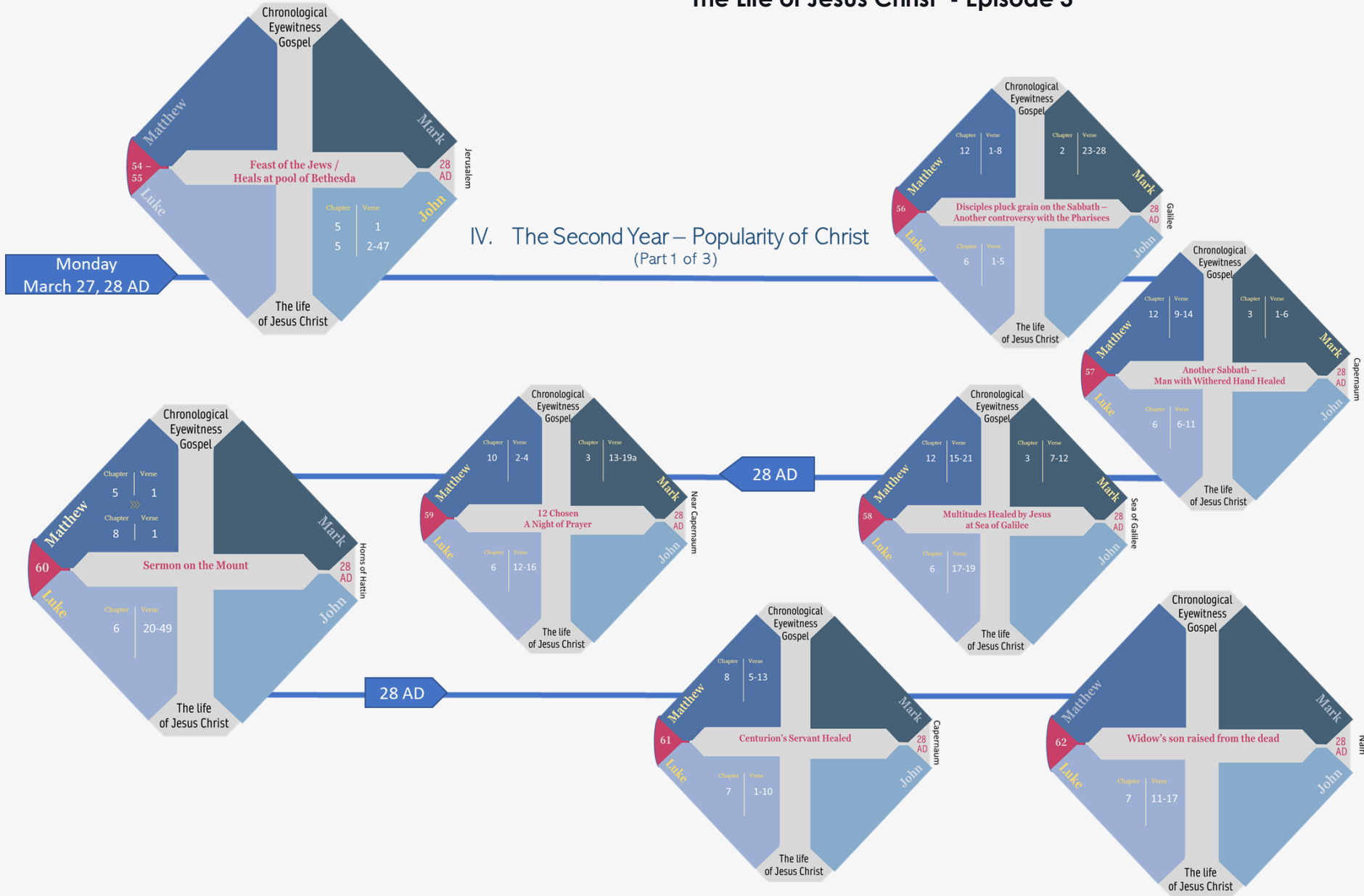
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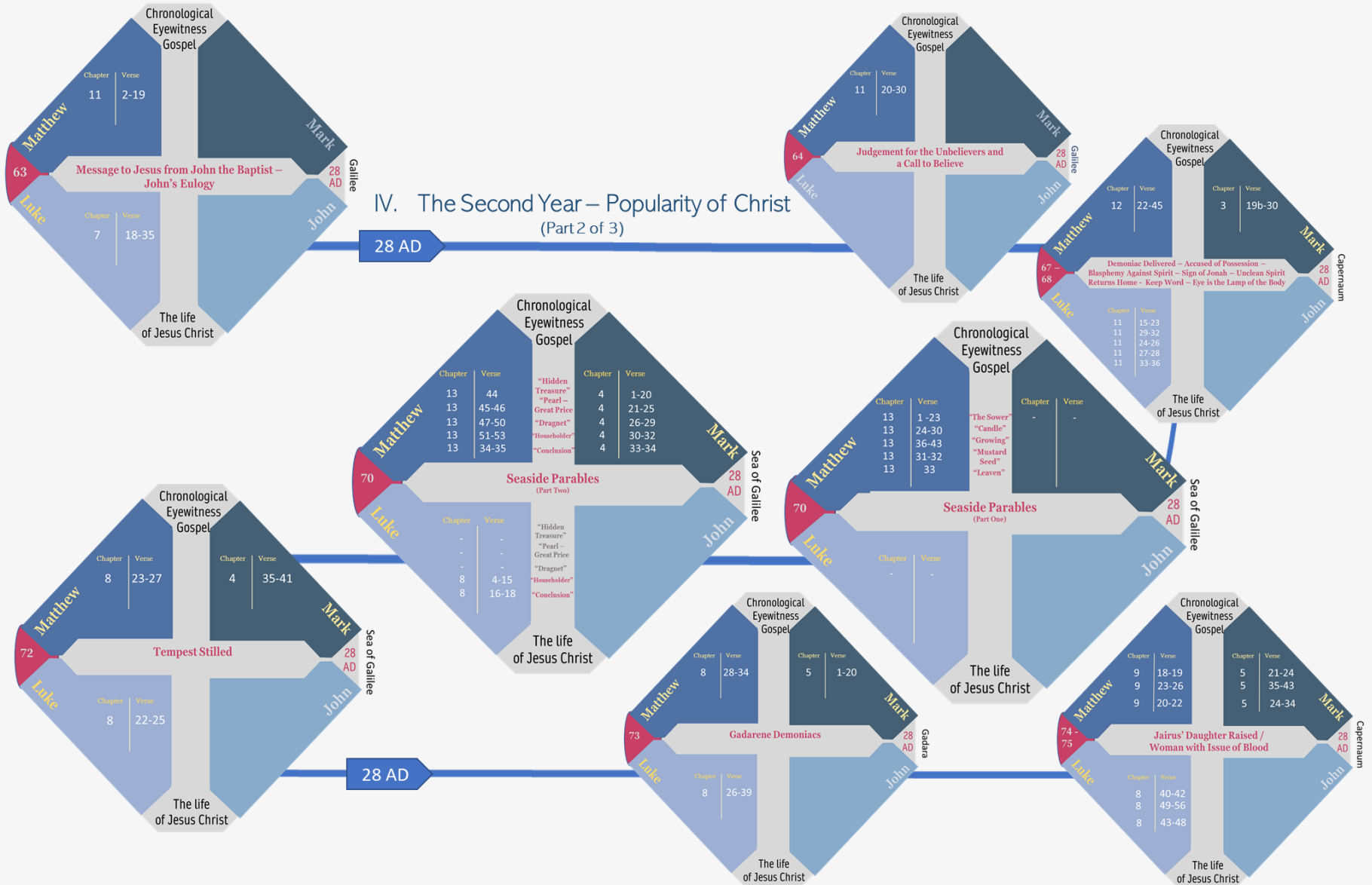
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IV. The Second Year – Popularity of Christ (Part 1 of 3)

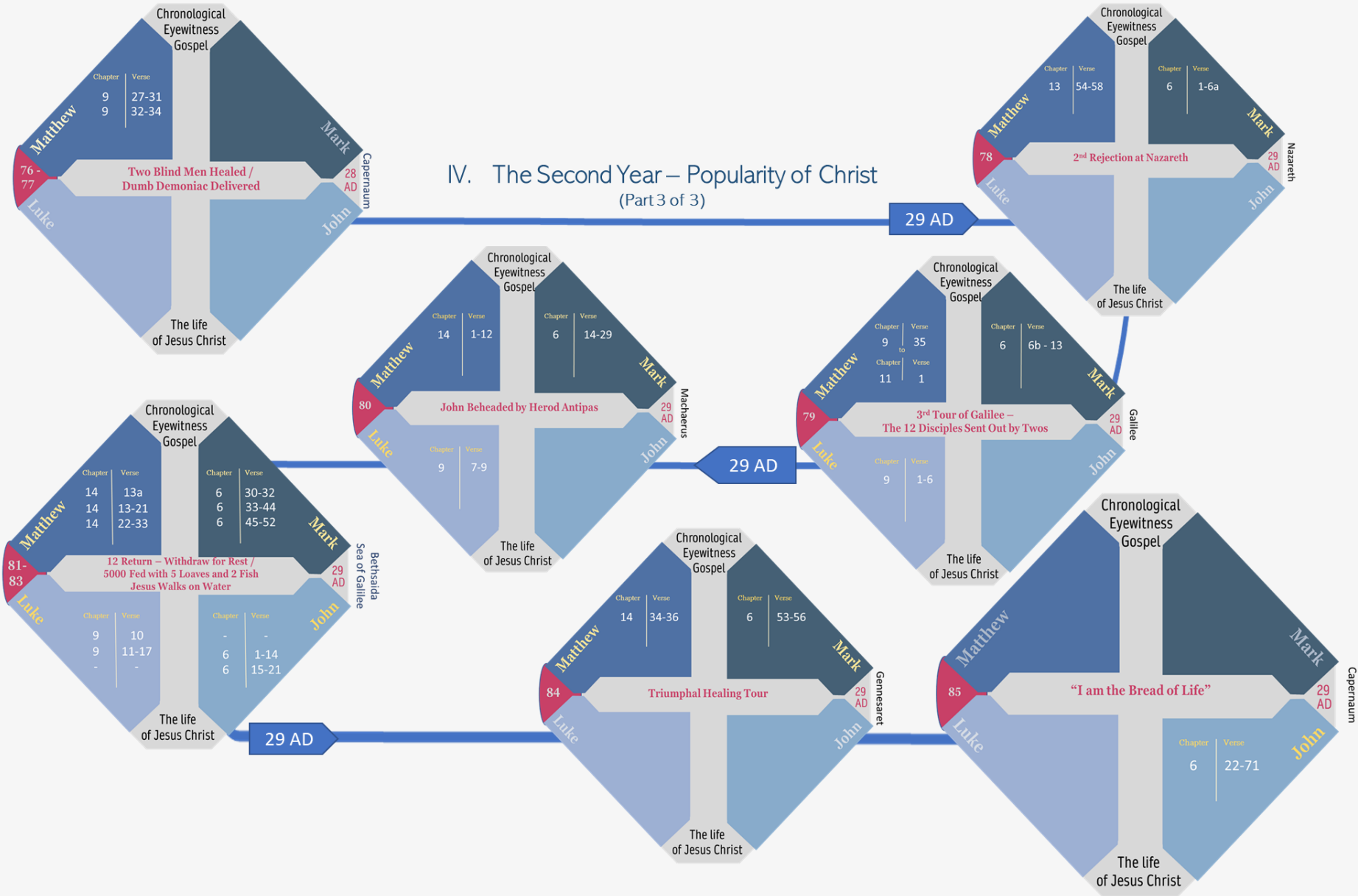


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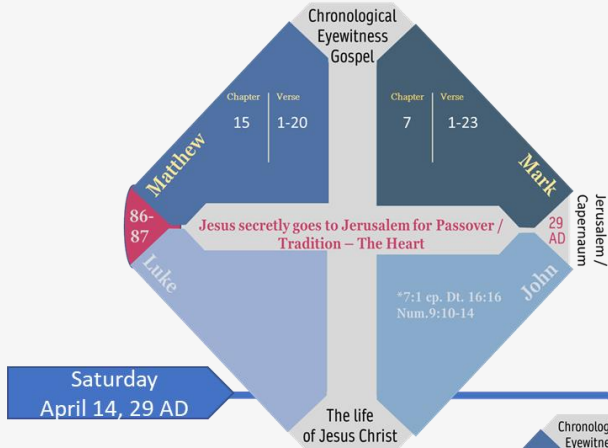
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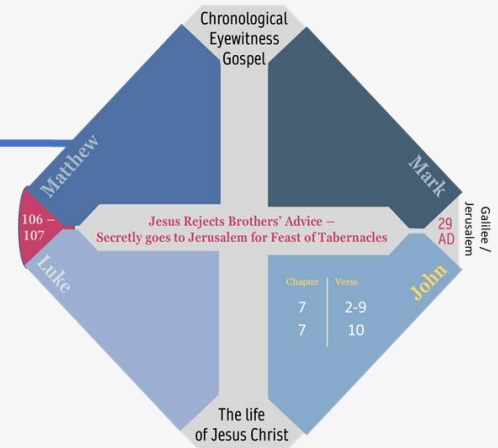
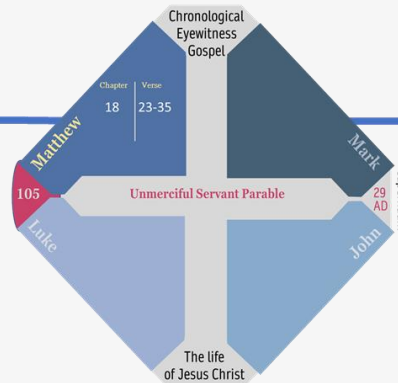
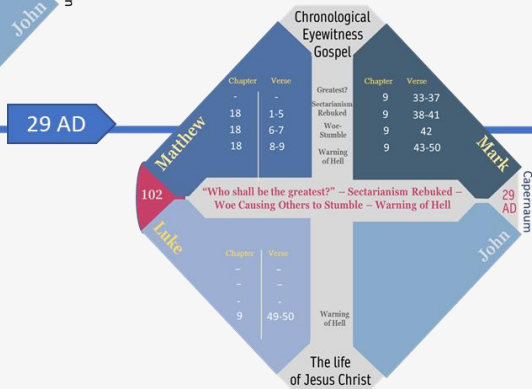
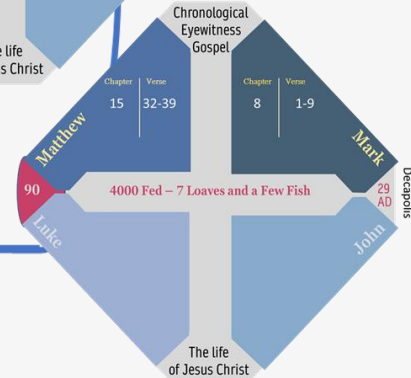
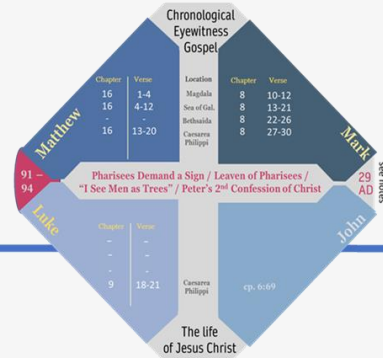
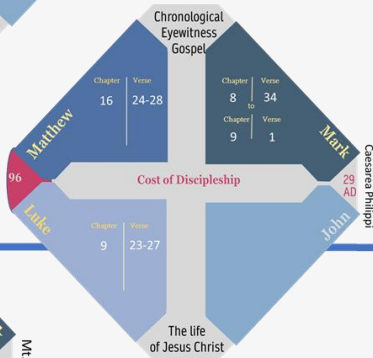
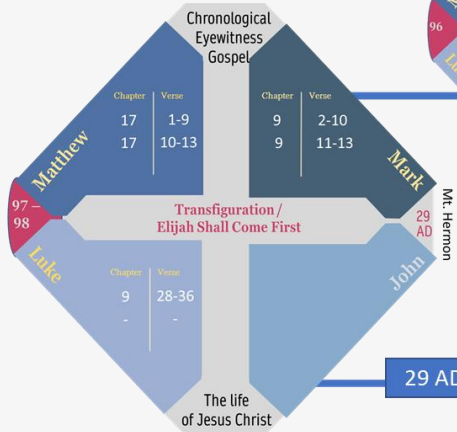
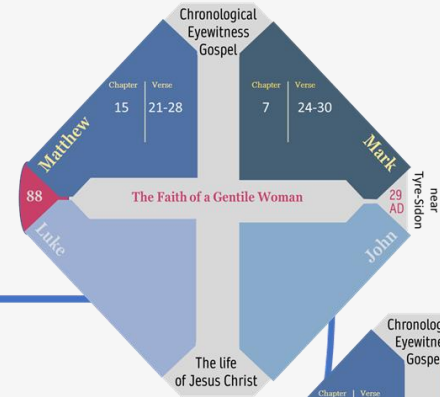


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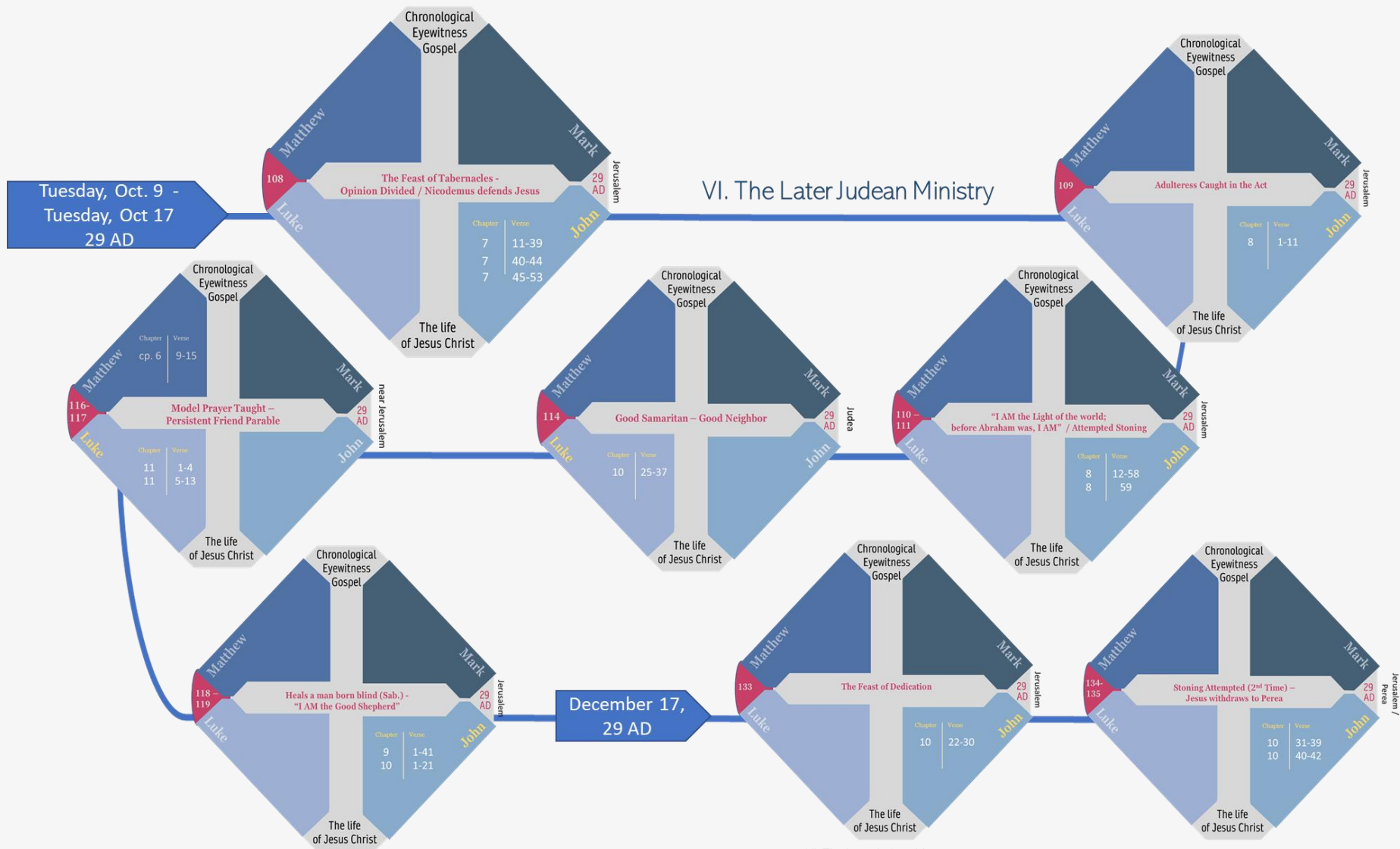


V. THE THIRD YEAR OF PUBLIC MINISTRY OPPOSITION - GALILEE



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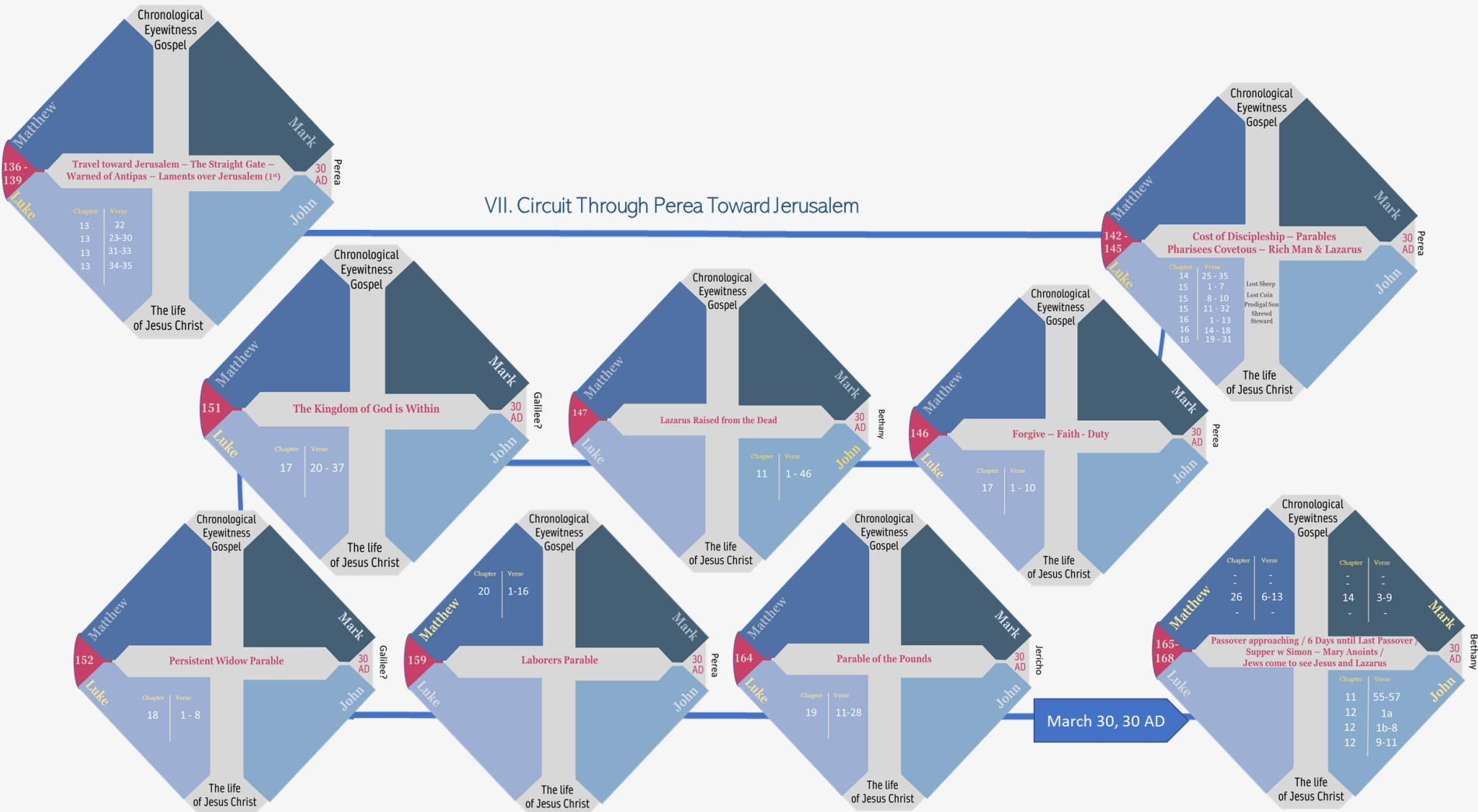
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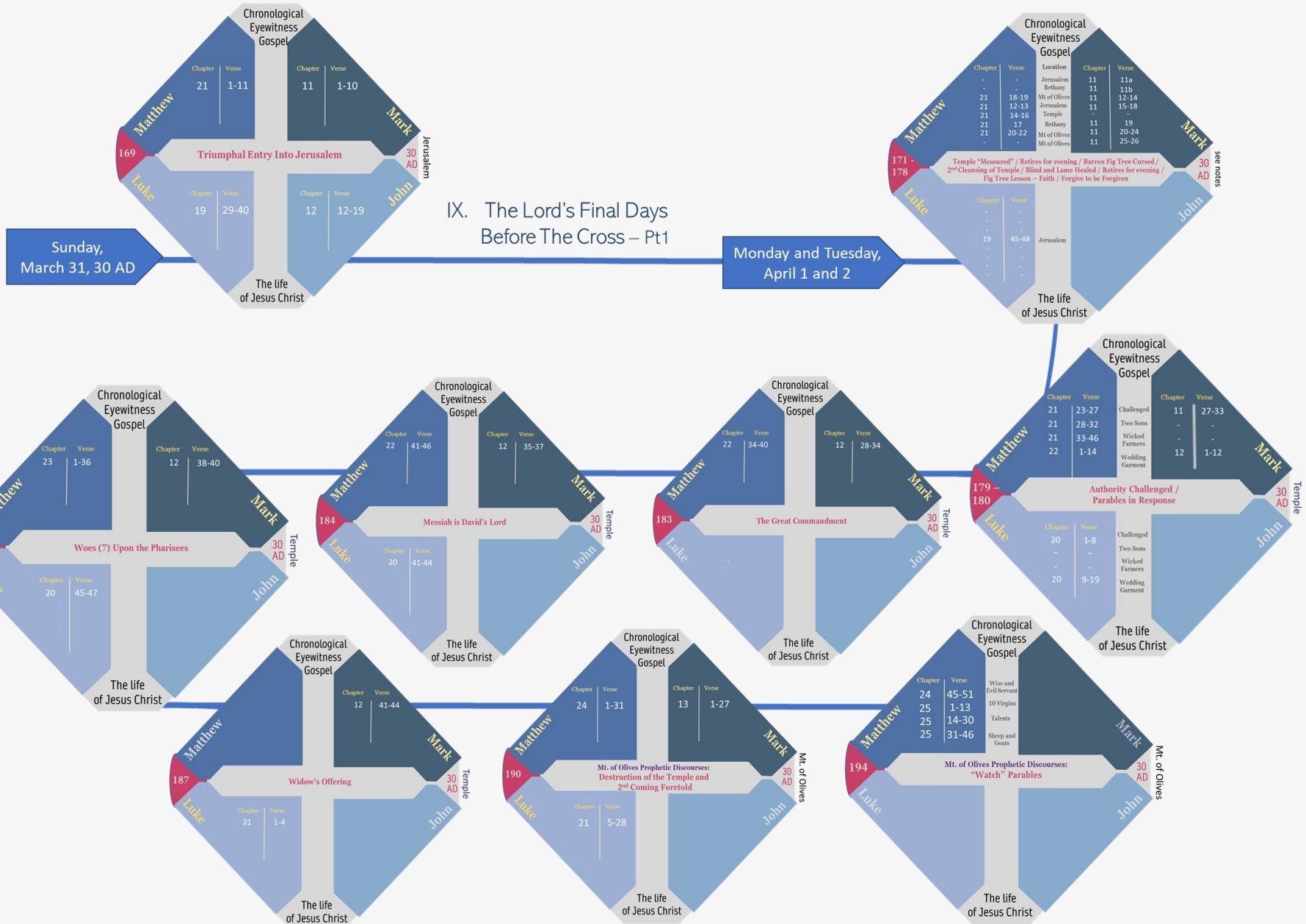
The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 8

VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem



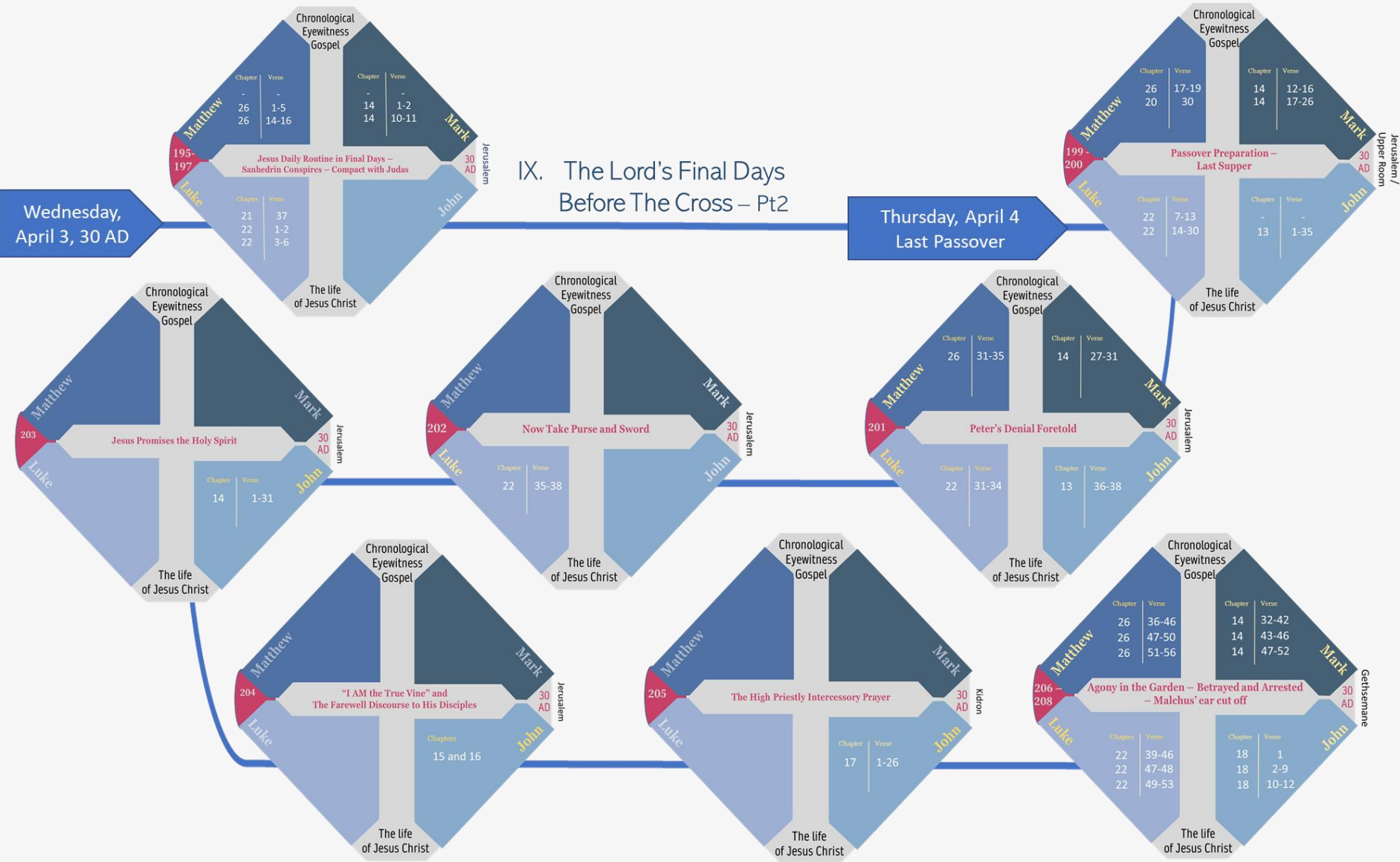
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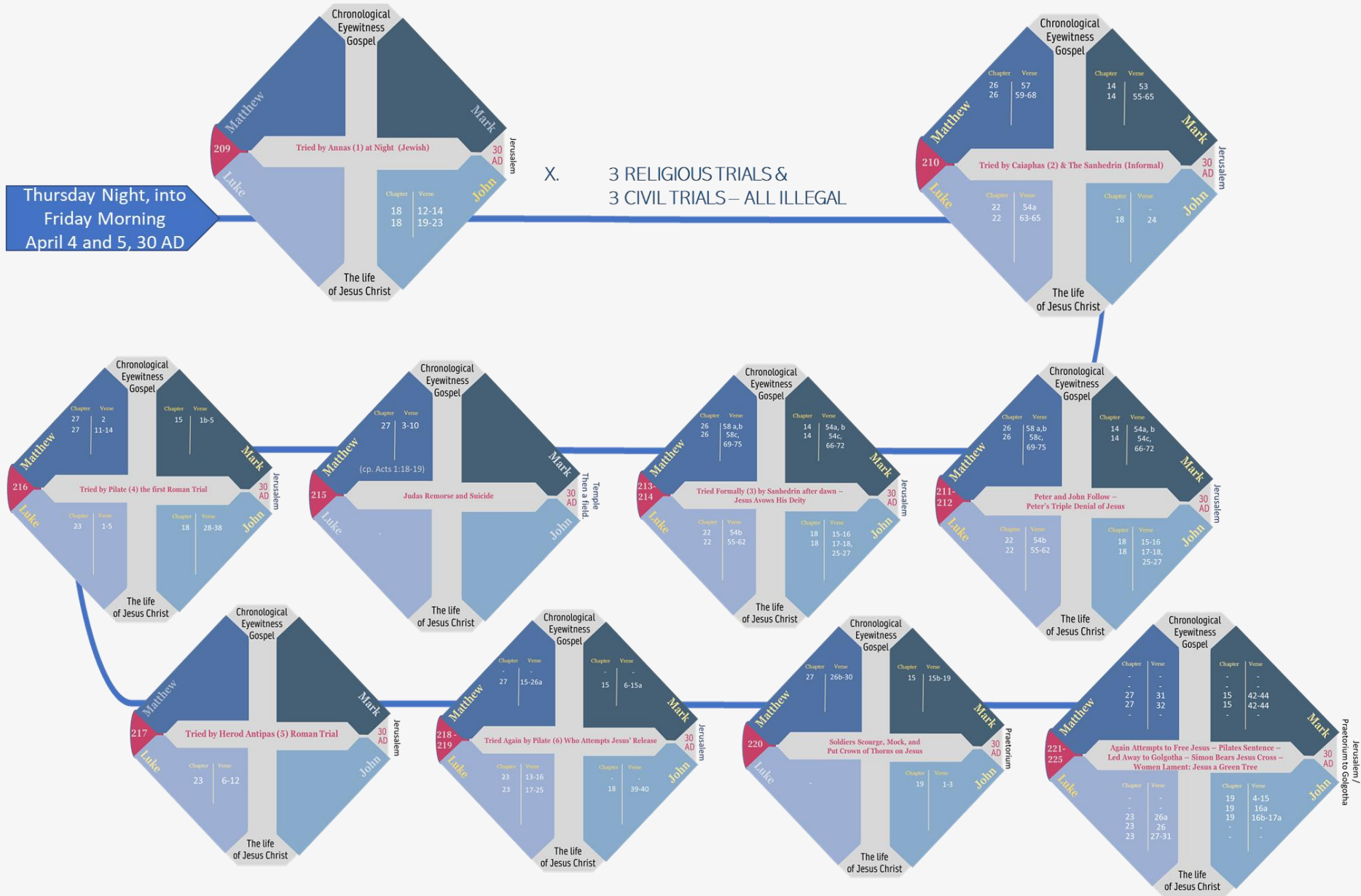
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IX. The Lord's Final Days Before The Cross – Pt2

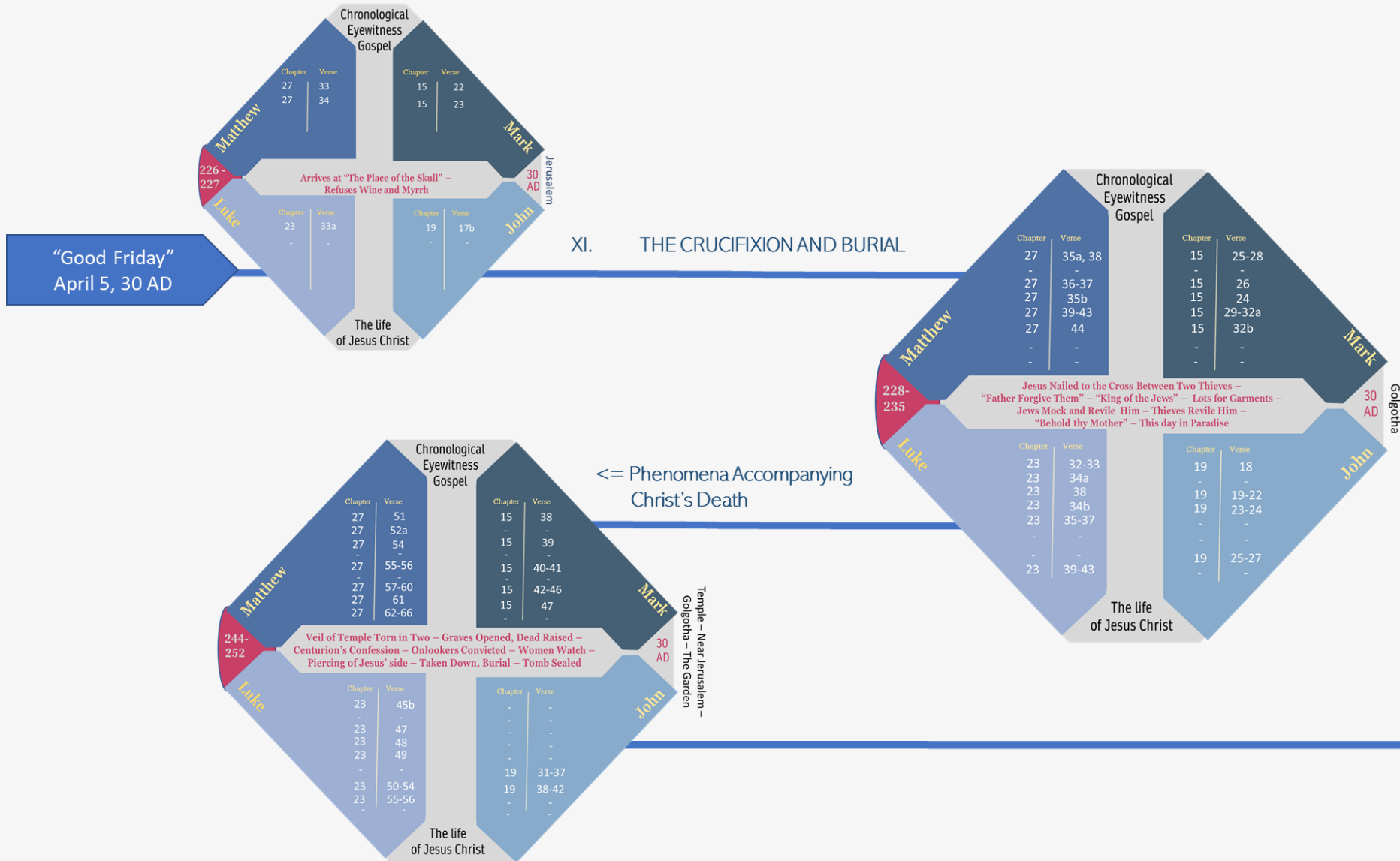


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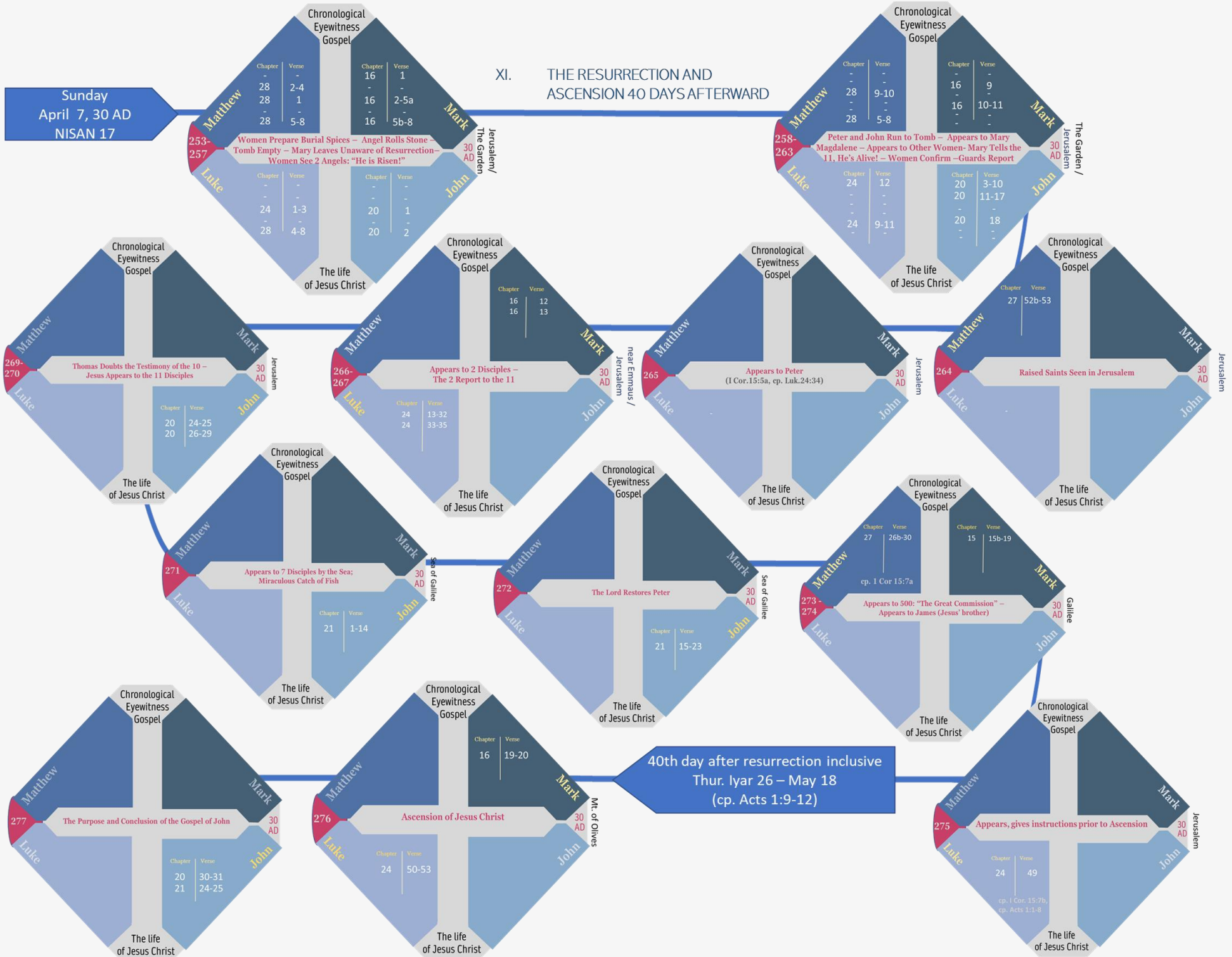
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Episode 11



Episode 11





Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ

Matthew

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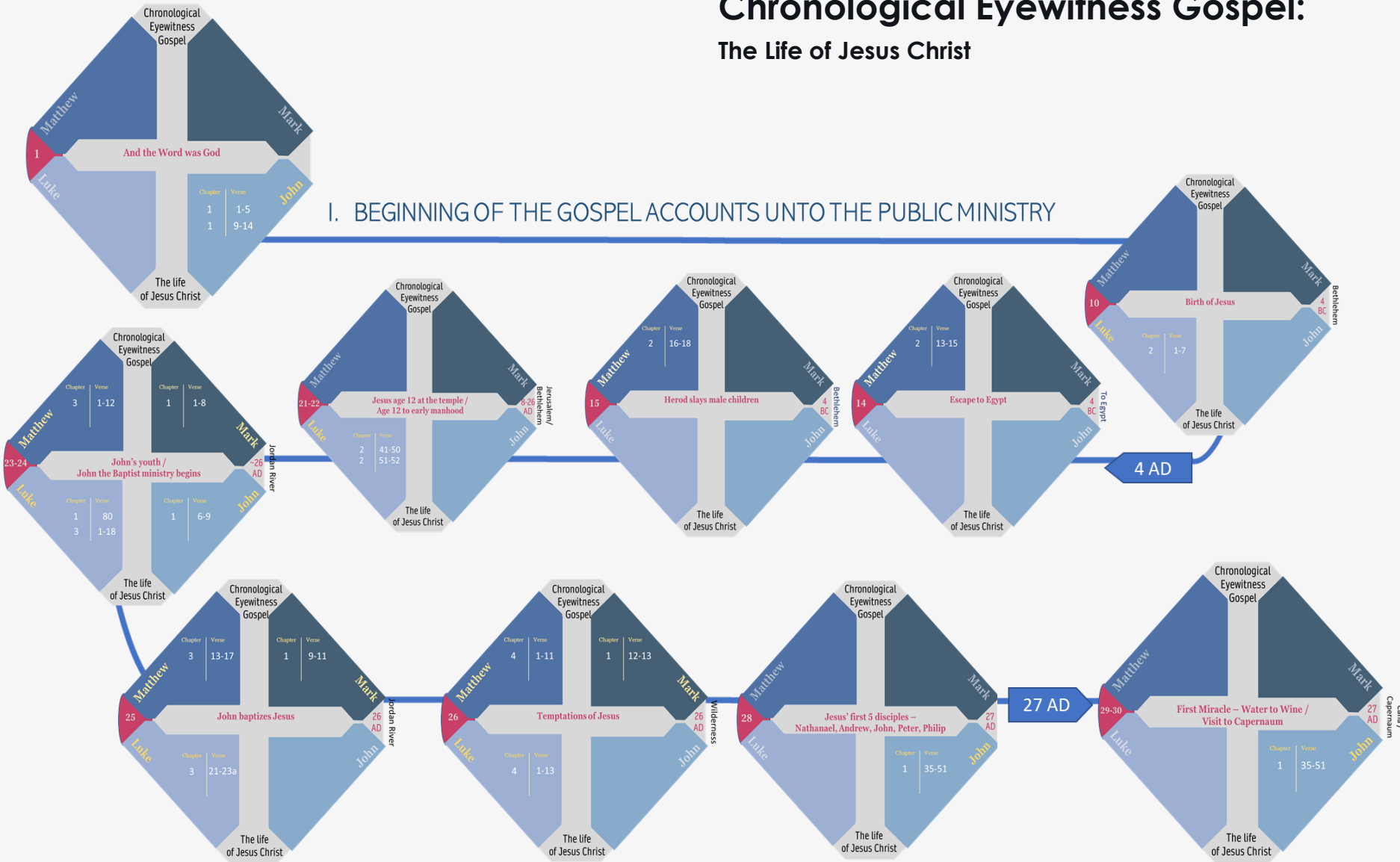
Luke

And the Word was God

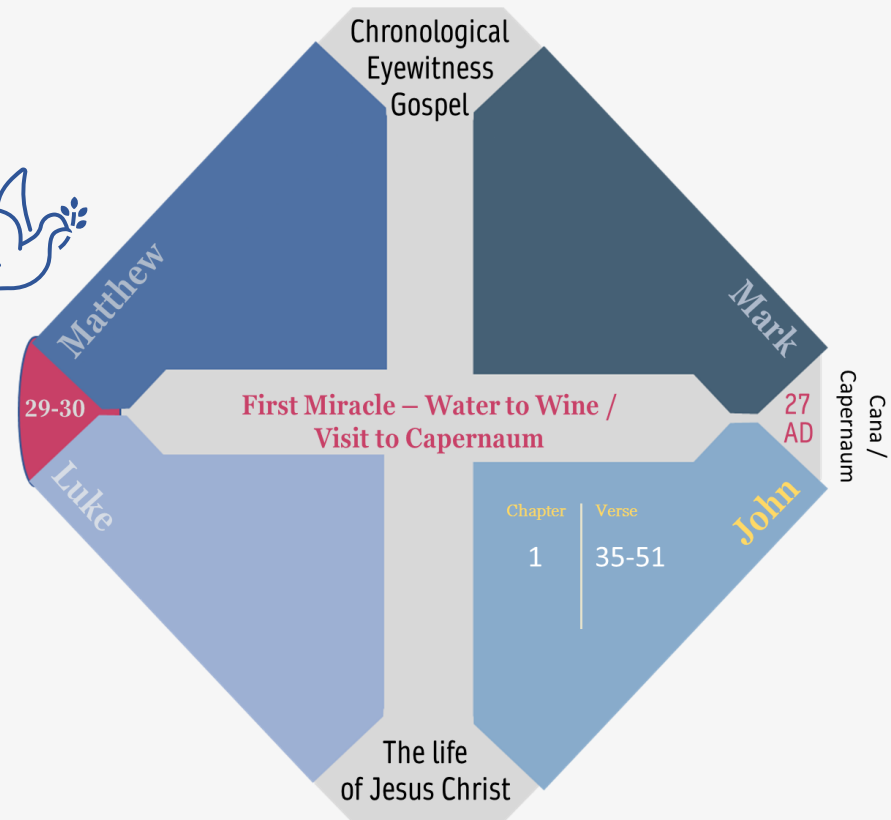
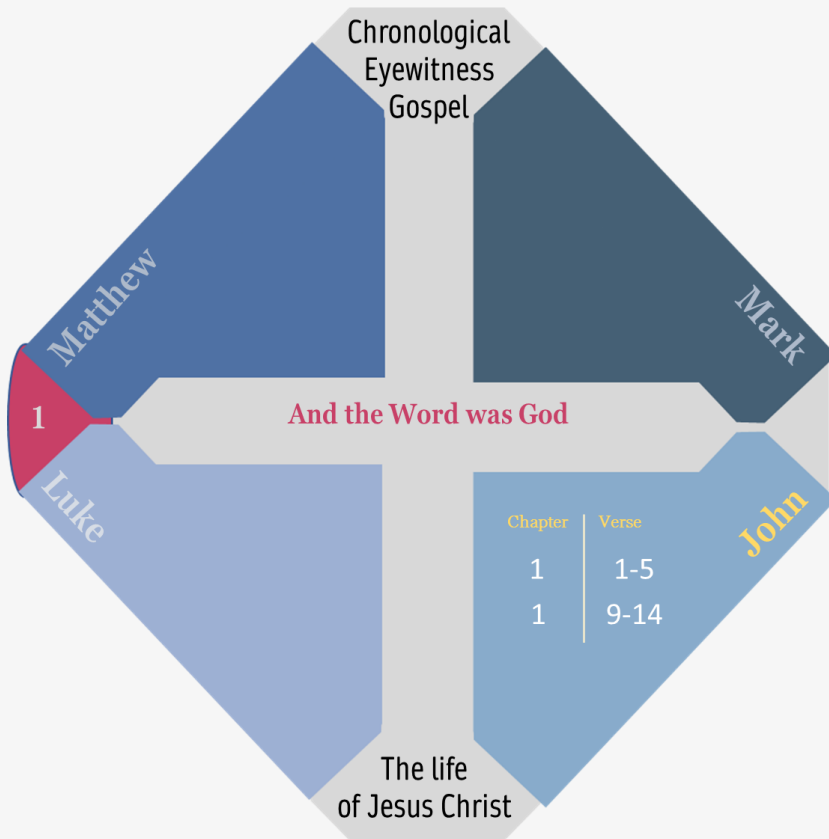
Chapter	Verse
1	1-5
1	9-14

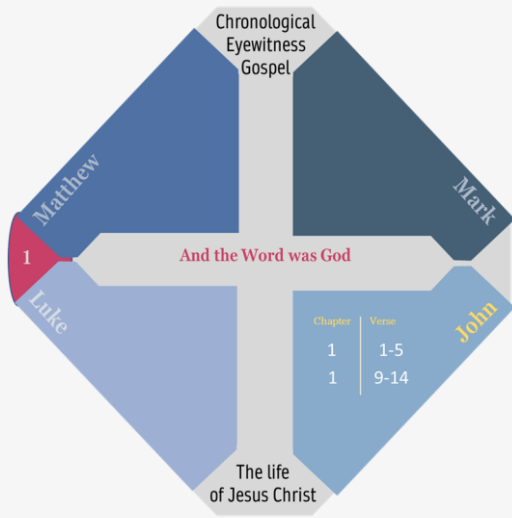
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ

I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY



BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY





I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

**God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.**

The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

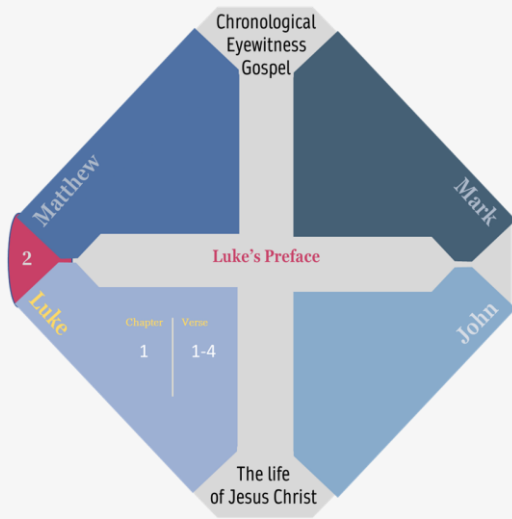
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

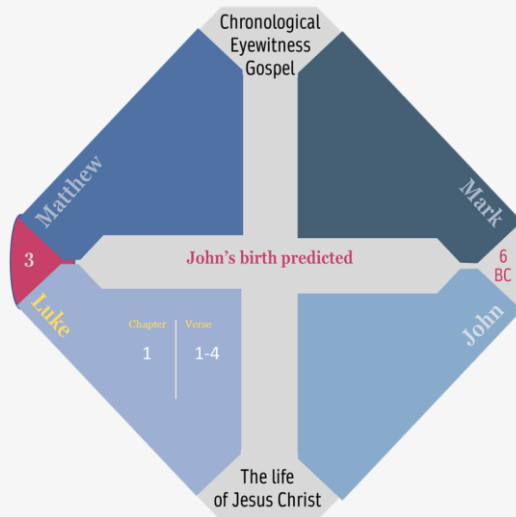
He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to **all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**

So, the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Episode 1



Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus (note to reader, Theophilus, used in Luke and Acts, is an honorable title that translates to “beloved friend of God”) so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

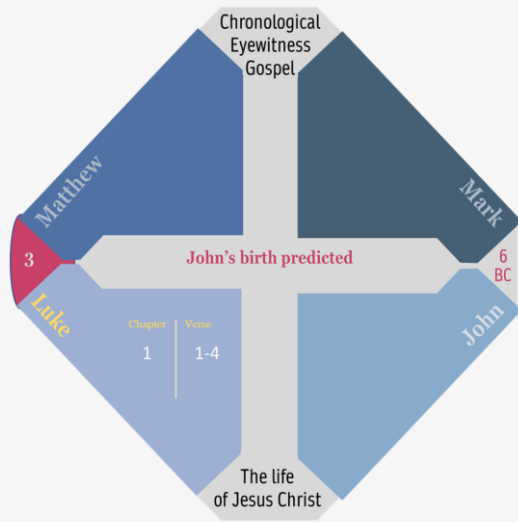


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

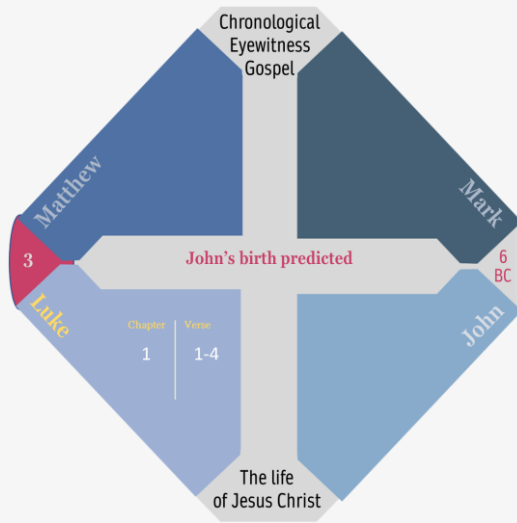
When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

Episode 1



While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”



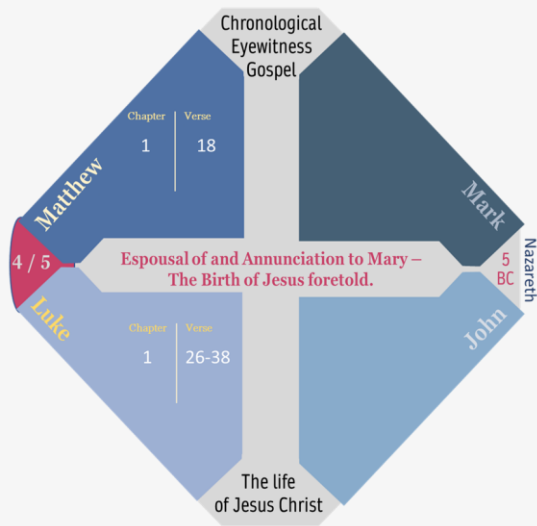
Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. When he finally did come out, he couldn’t speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.

When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

Episode 1

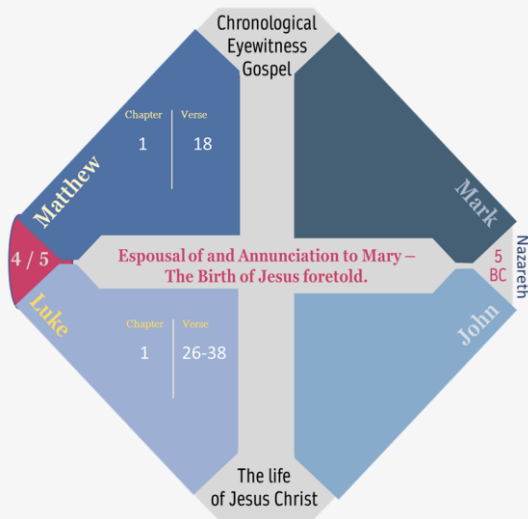


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Blessed are you among woman! The Lord is with you!"

Episode 1



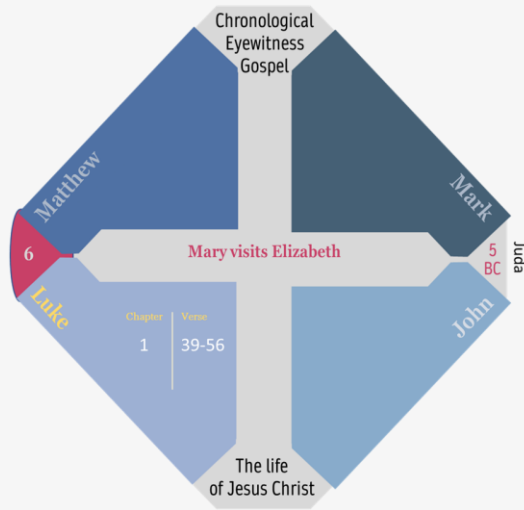
Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail.”

Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

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I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

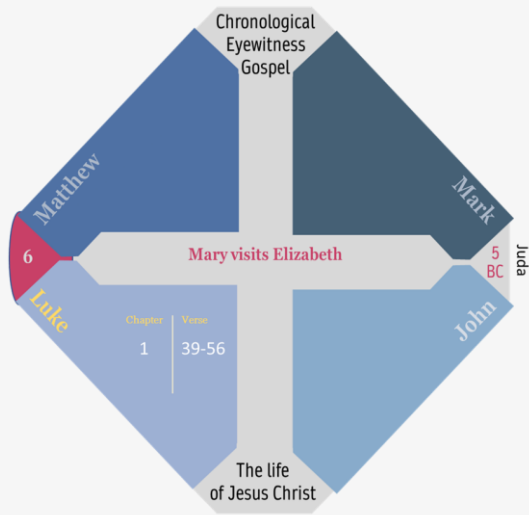
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,

and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy,

and he has done great things for me.

Episode 1



He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

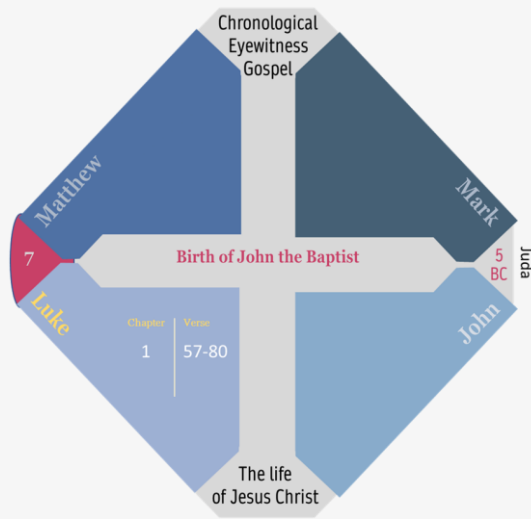
He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went
back to her own home.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

When it was time for Elizabeth’s baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

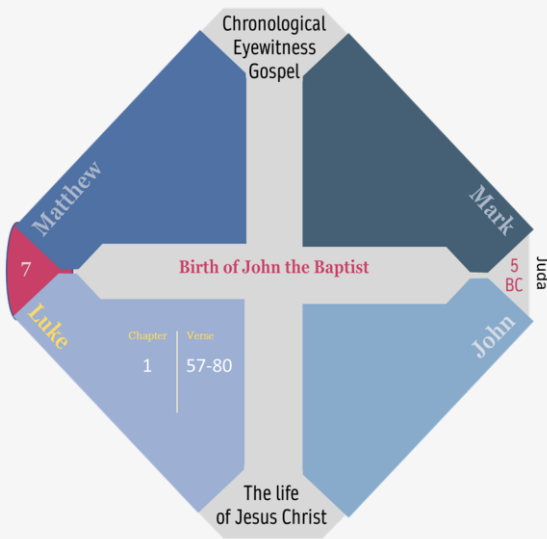
When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!”

“What?” they exclaimed. “There is no one in all your family by that name.” So they used gestures to ask the baby’s father what he wanted to name him. He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s surprise he wrote, “His name is John.” Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

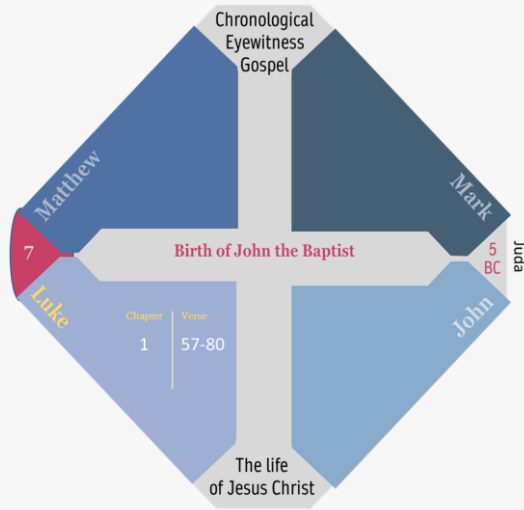
Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

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“Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.
He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,
just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.
Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.
He has been merciful to our ancestors
by remembering his sacred covenant—
the covenant he swore with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.
We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve God without fear,
in holiness and righteousness
for as long as we live.

Episode 1



“And you, my little son,

will be called the prophet of the Most High,

because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

You will tell his people how to find salvation

through forgiveness of their sins.

Because of God’s tender mercy,

the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

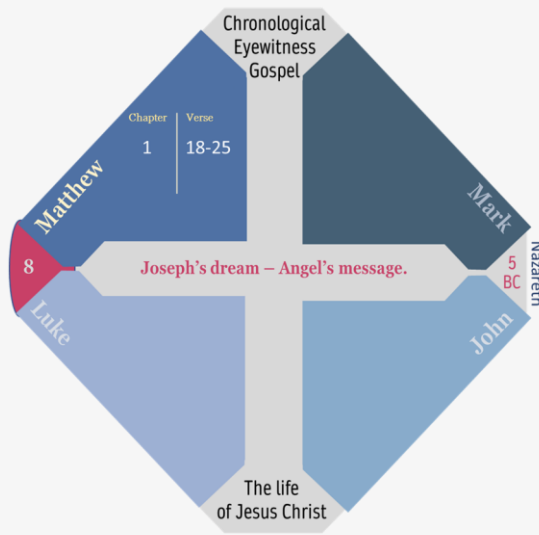
and to guide us to the path of peace.”

John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

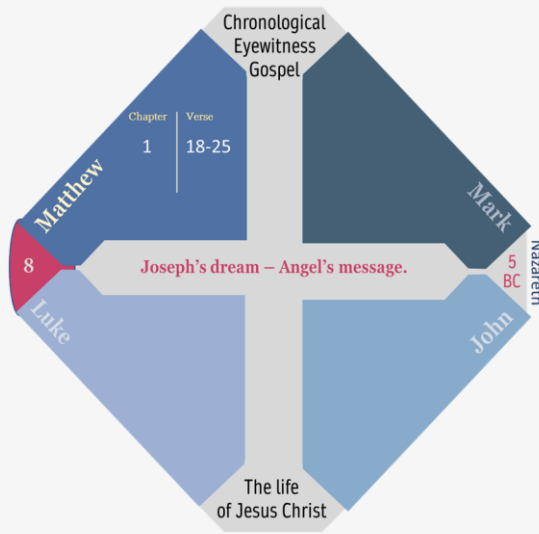
This is how Jesus the Messiah was born.

His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY



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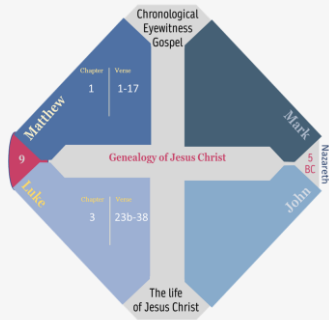
All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means ‘God is with us.’”

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. (Which means, “The Lord Saves.”)

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I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS
UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).

Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

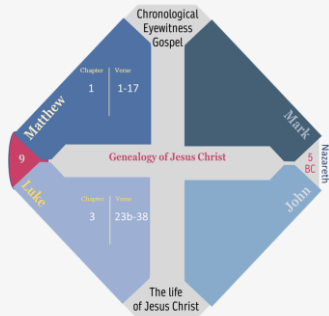
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.

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Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah.

Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).

After the Babylonian exile:

Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

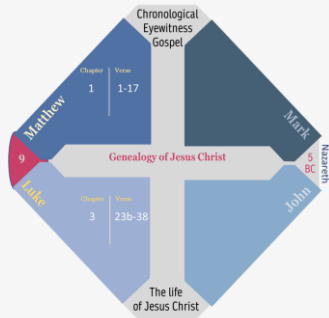
Eliakim was the father of Azor.

Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

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Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

Jesus was known as the son of Joseph.

Joseph was the son of Heli.

Heli was the son of Matthat.

Matthat was the son of Levi.

Levi was the son of Melki.

Melki was the son of Jannai.

Jannai was the son of Joseph.

Joseph was the son of Mattathias.

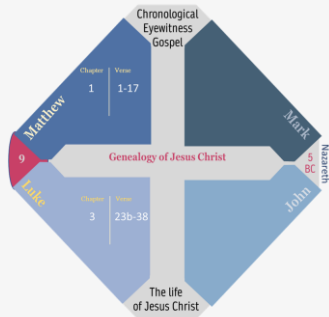
Mattathias was the son of Amos.

Amos was the son of Nahum.

Nahum was the son of Esli.

Esli was the son of Naggai.

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Naggai was the son of Maath.

Maath was the son of Mattathias.

Mattathias was the son of Semein.

Semein was the son of Josech.

Josech was the son of Joda.

Joda was the son of Joanan.

Joanan was the son of Rhesa.

Rhesa was the son of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the son of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the son of Neri.

Neri was the son of Melki.

Melki was the son of Addi.

Addi was the son of Cosam.

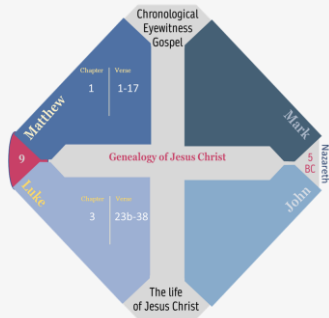
Cosam was the son of Elmadam.

Elmadam was the son of Er.

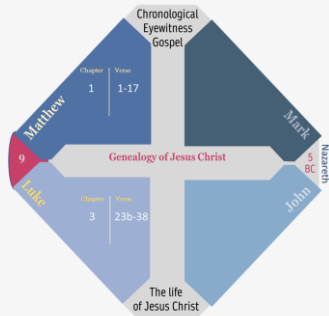
Er was the son of Joshua.

Joshua was the son of Eliezer.

Eliezer was the son of Jorim.

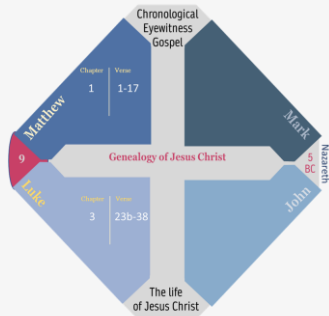


Jorim was the son of Matthat.
Matthat was the son of Levi.
Levi was the son of Simeon.
Simeon was the son of Judah.
Judah was the son of Joseph.
Joseph was the son of Jonam.
Jonam was the son of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the son of Melea.
Melea was the son of Menna.
Menna was the son of Mattatha.
Mattatha was the son of Nathan.
Nathan was the son of David.
David was the son of Jesse.
Jesse was the son of Obed.
Obed was the son of Boaz.
Boaz was the son of Salmon.
Salmon was the son of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the son of Amminadab.
Amminadab was the son of Admin.



Admin was the son of Arni.
 Arni was the son of Hezron.
 Hezron was the son of Perez.
 Perez was the son of Judah.
 Judah was the son of Jacob.
 Jacob was the son of Isaac.
 Isaac was the son of Abraham.
 Abraham was the son of Terah.
 Terah was the son of Nahor.
 Nahor was the son of Serug.
 Serug was the son of Reu.
 Reu was the son of Peleg.
 Peleg was the son of Eber.
 Eber was the son of Shelah.
 Shelah was the son of Cainan.
 Cainan was the son of Arphaxad.
 Arphaxad was the son of Shem.
 Shem was the son of Noah.

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Noah was the son of Lamech.

Lamech was the son of Methuselah.

Methuselah was the son of Enoch.

Enoch was the son of Jared.

Jared was the son of Mahalalel.

Mahalalel was the son of Kenan.

Kenan was the son of Enosh.

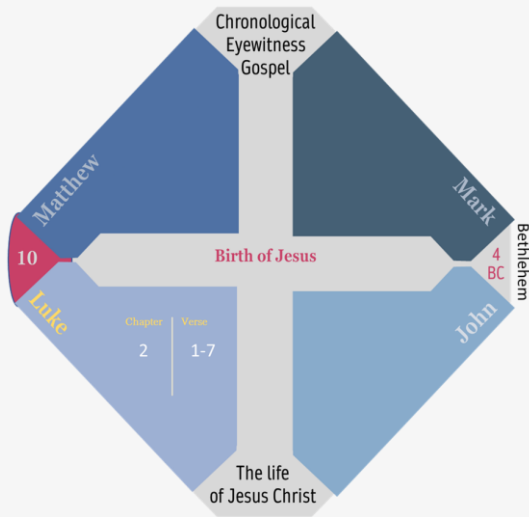
Enosh was the son of Seth.

Seth was the son of Adam.

Adam was the son of God.

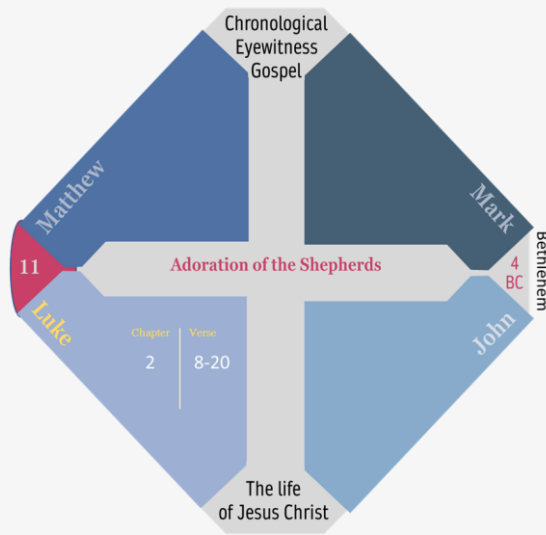
All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

Episode 1



At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

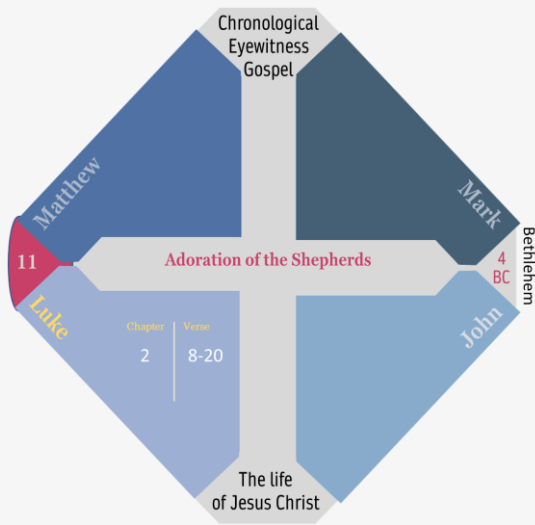
That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in highest heaven,

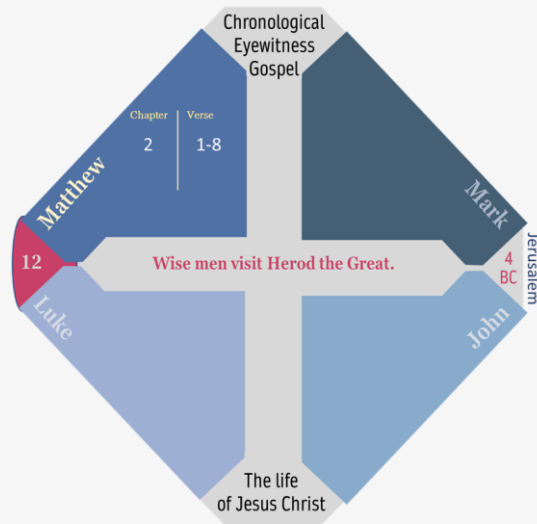
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Episode 1



When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

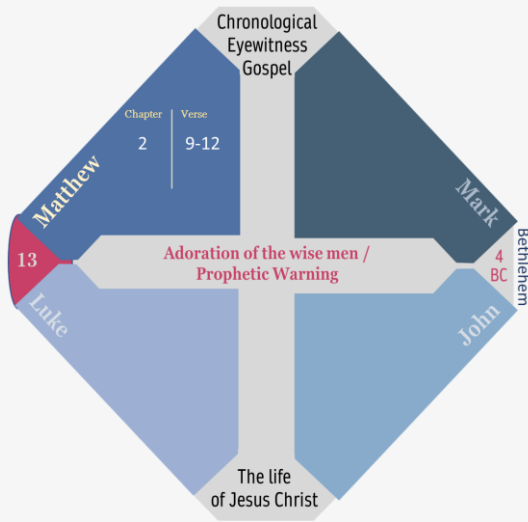
King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd
for my people Israel.’”

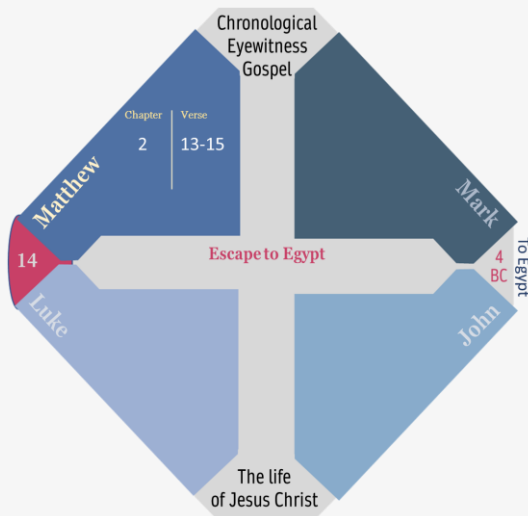
Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

Episode 1



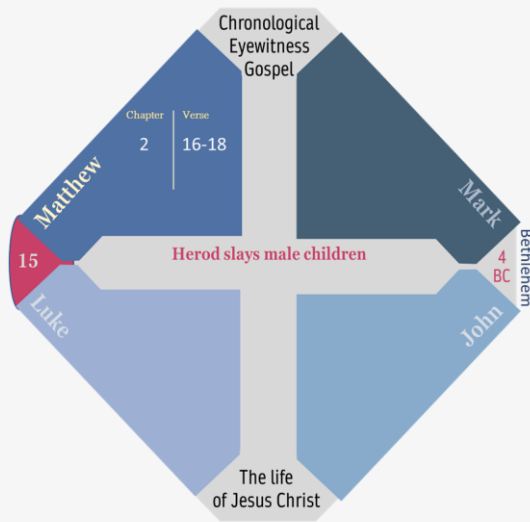
After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.



After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”



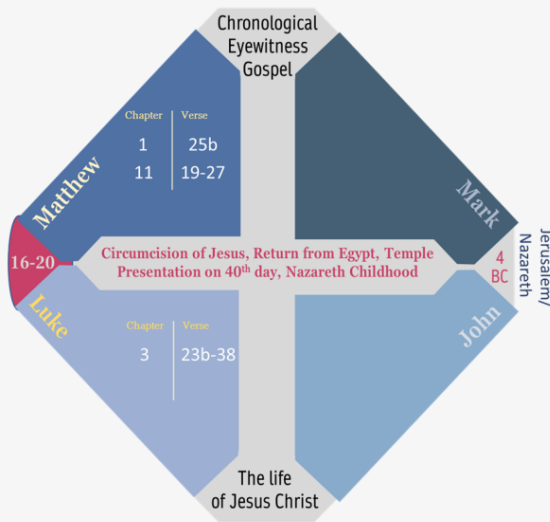
I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A cry was heard in Ramah—
weeping and great mourning.

Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.”

Episode 1



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

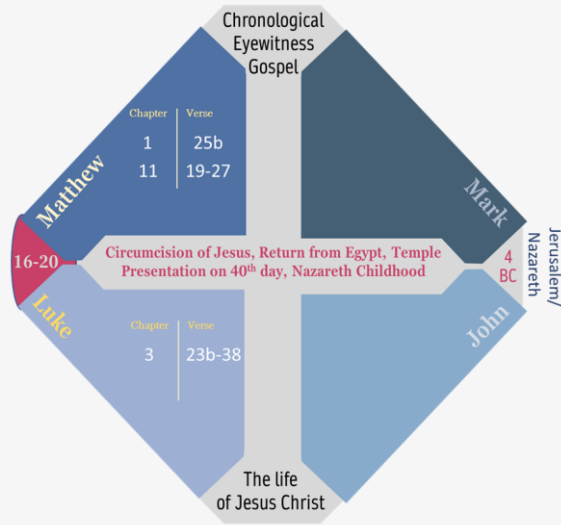
Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there.

It was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.” So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord — “either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Episode 1



At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout man and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.

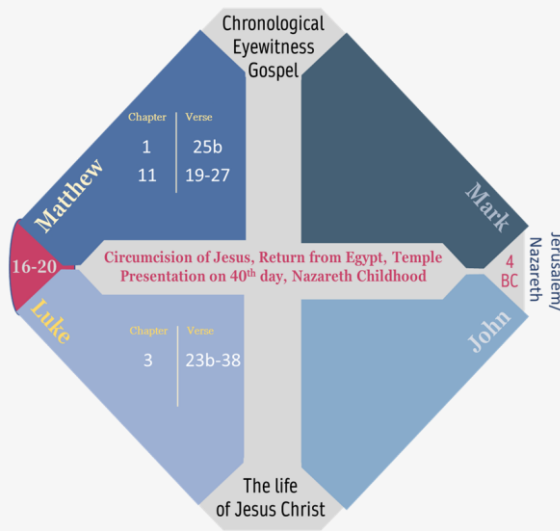
I have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared for all people.

He is a light to reveal God to the nations,

and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

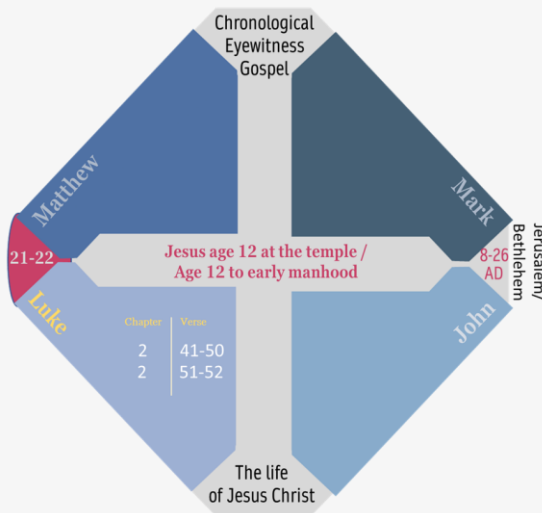


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. So the family went and lived in their hometown called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

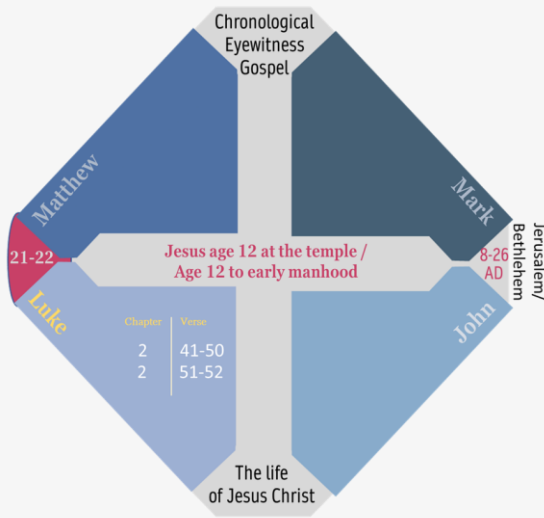


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Episode 1

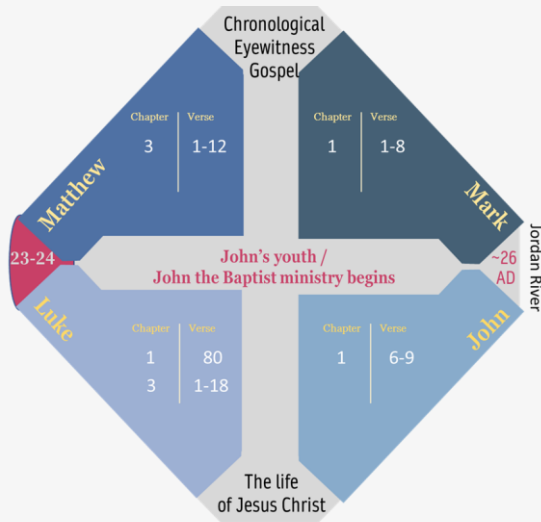


His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

"But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they didn't understand what he meant.

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

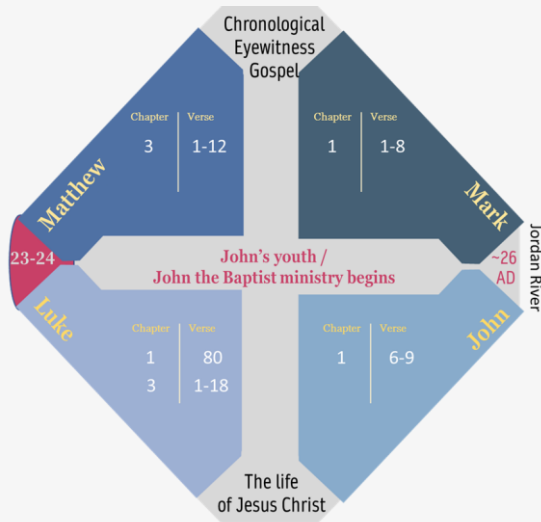


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTIL THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.



This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

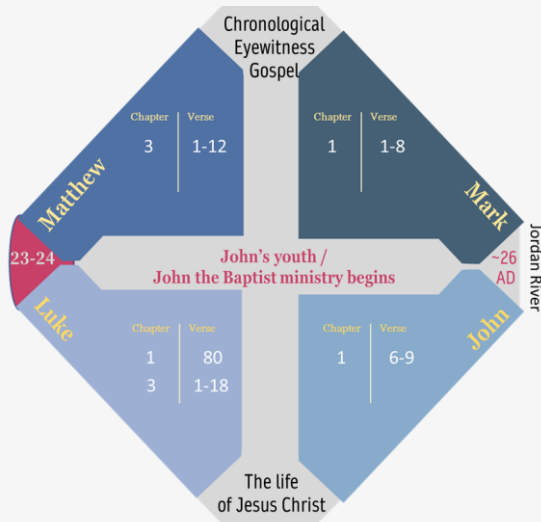
“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!

Clear the road for him!’”

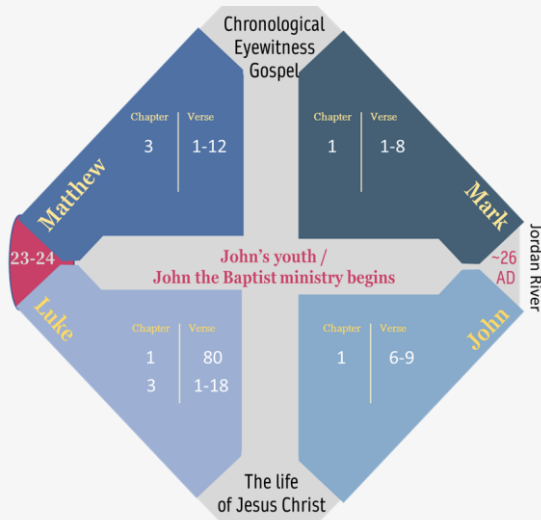
Episode 1



This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. And saying, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

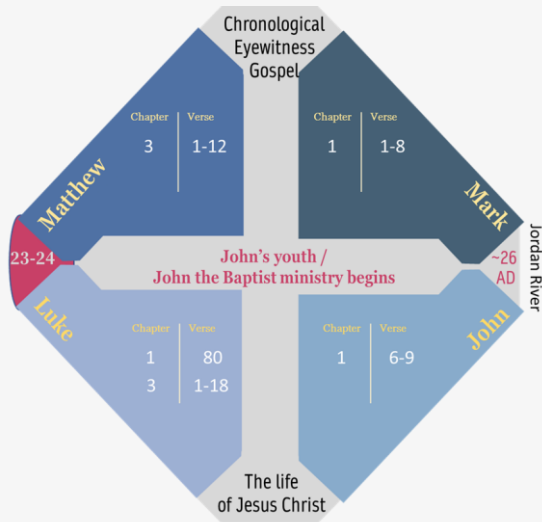
Episode 1



But when the crowds came to John for baptism, he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them.

“You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.”

Episode 1

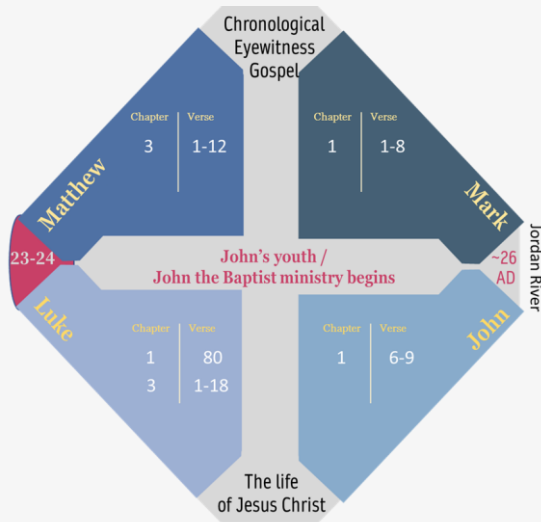


“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals.

“I indeed have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

“He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

Episode 1



The crowds asked, “What should we do?”

John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”

Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?”

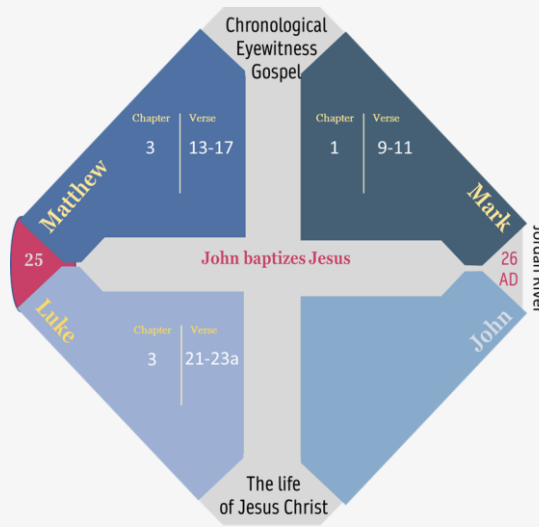
He replied, “Collect no more taxes than the government requires.”

“What should we do?” asked some soldiers.

John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.”

John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

Episode 1



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

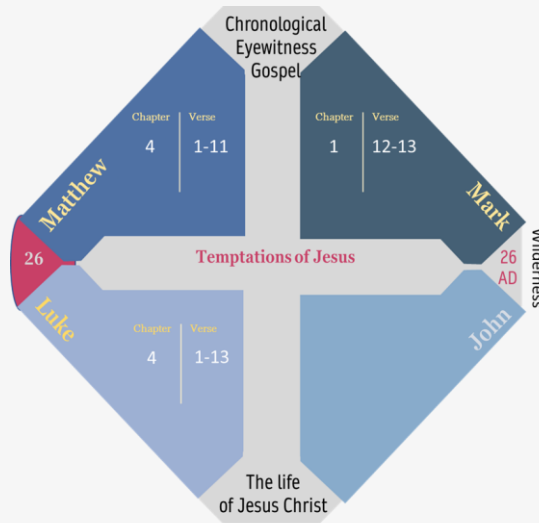
One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, as he was praying, the heavens were opened and he saw the Holy Spirit of God, in bodily form, descending like a dove settling and lighting upon him. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.

Episode 1



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River and was immediately led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was out among the wild animals and tempted by Satan the tempter, the devil, for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time. Forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

During that time, the devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

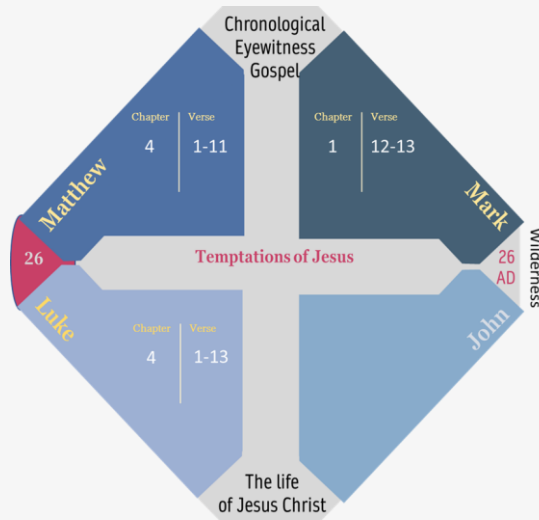
Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

‘He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

And they will hold you up with their hands

so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”

Episode 1



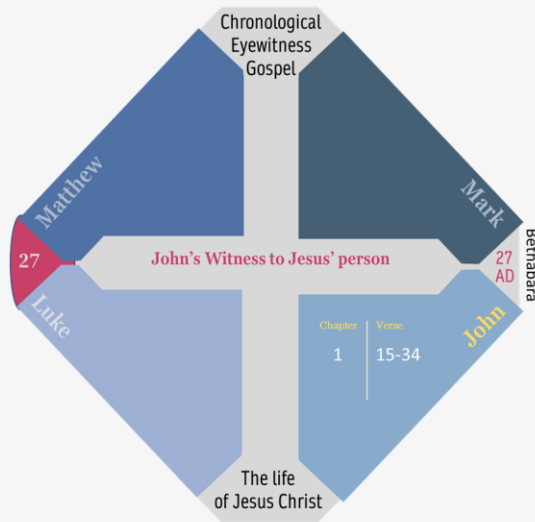
Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

Then the devil took him up to the peak of a very high mountain and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory in a moment of time. “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”

Jesus replied, “Get out of here, Satan, for the Scriptures say,

‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

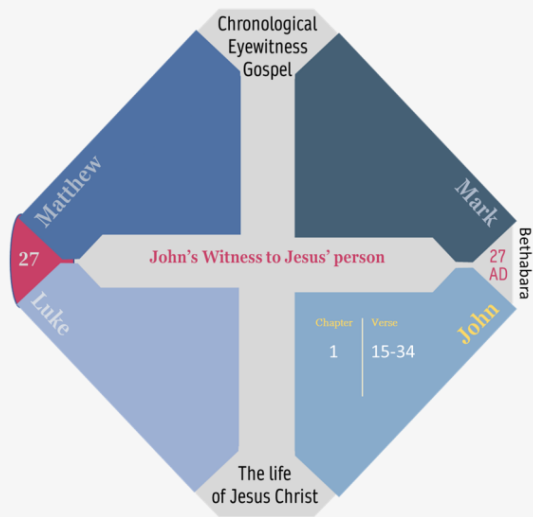
When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came, and angels came and took care of Jesus.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’”

From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS
UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

This was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, “Who are you?” He came right out and said, “I am not the Messiah.”

“Well then, who are you?” they asked. “Are you Elijah?”

“No,” he replied.

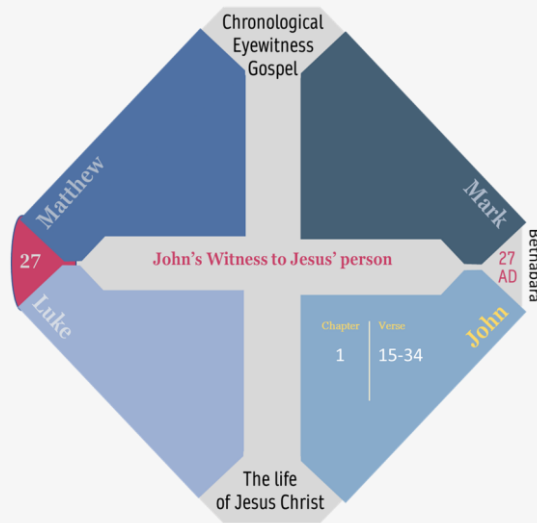
“Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”

“No.”

“Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Clear the way for the Lord’s coming!’”

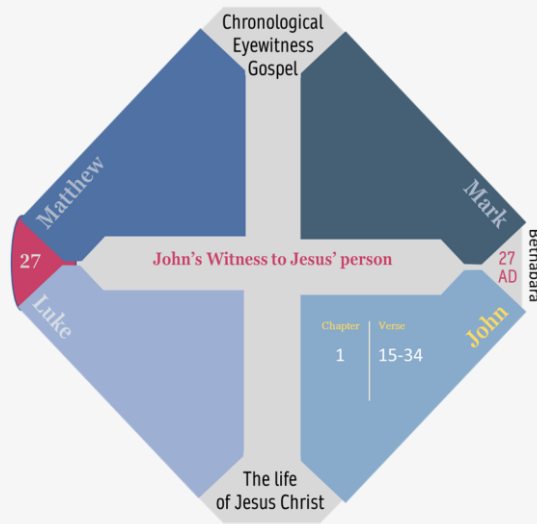


I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?”

John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”

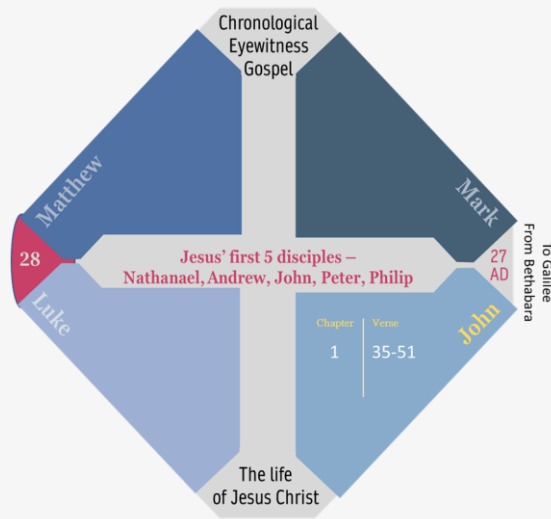
This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.”



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

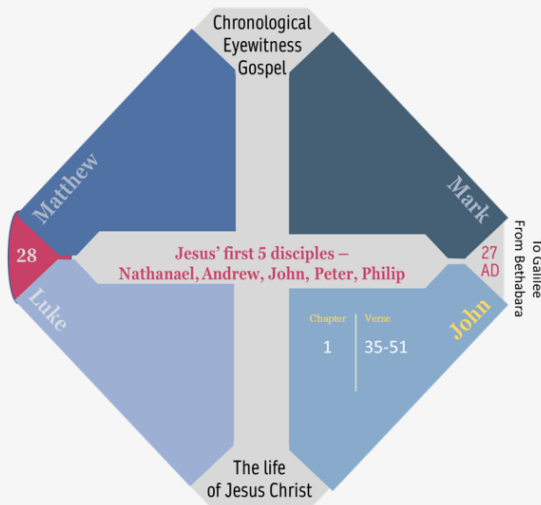
Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them.

They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

“Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ” and/or “anointed one”)

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter” and “Rock”).



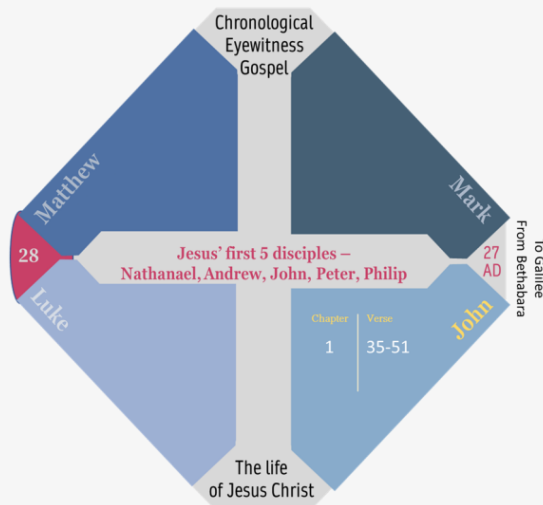
I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown.

Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.



I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

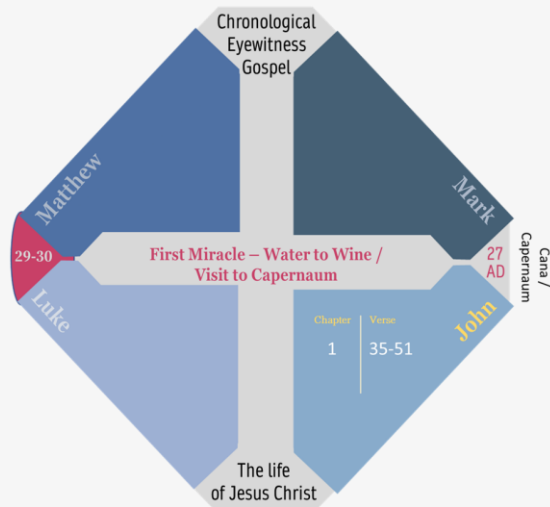
As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”



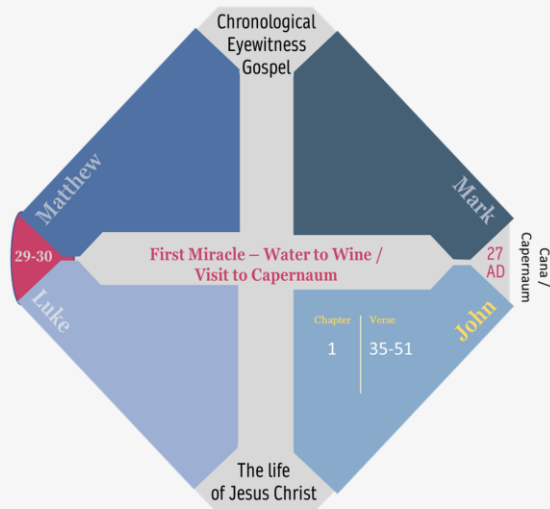
I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.



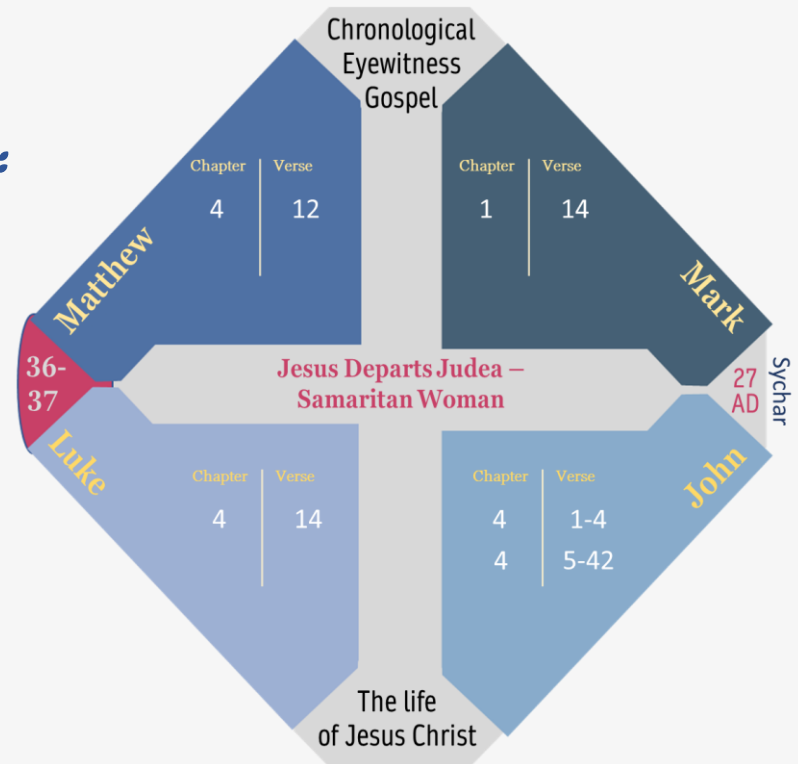
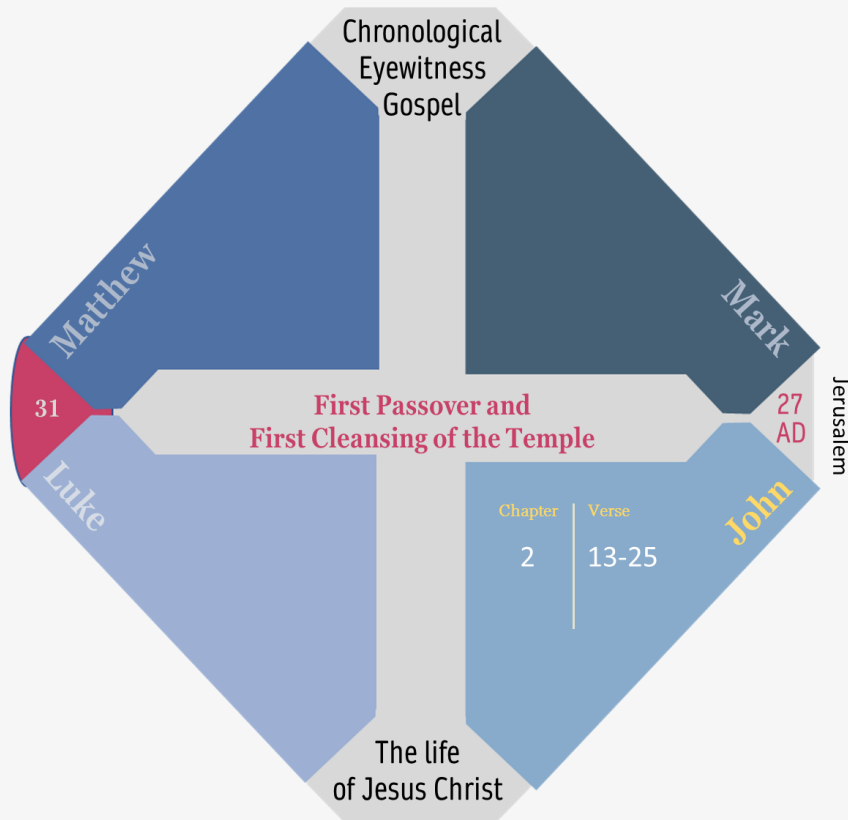
I. BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS UNTO THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”

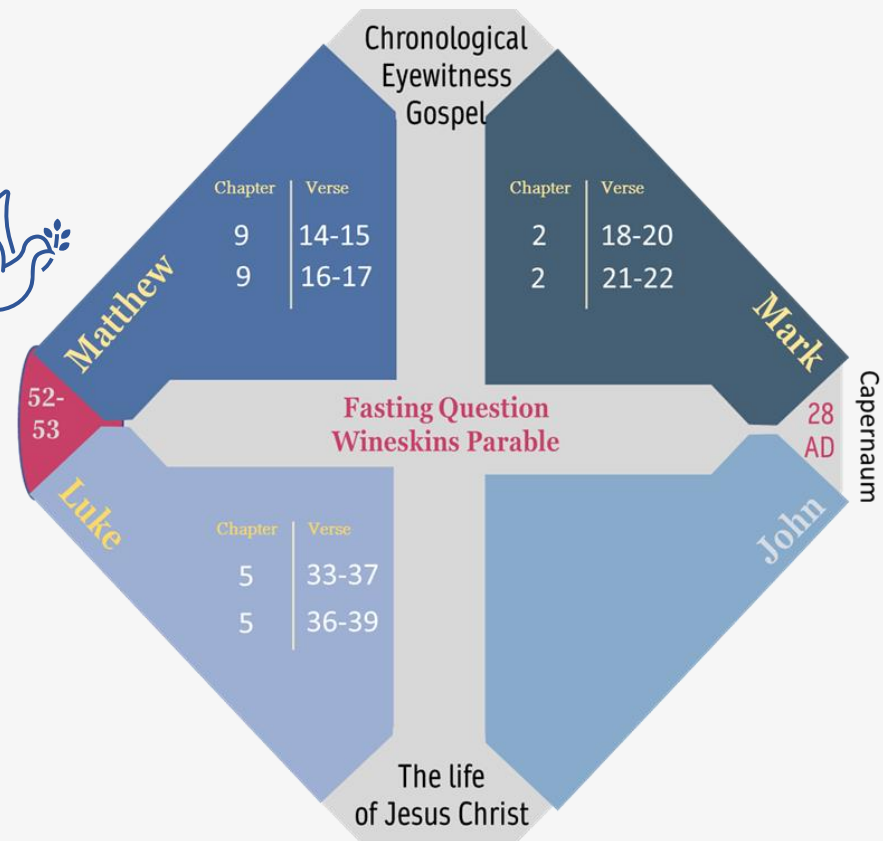
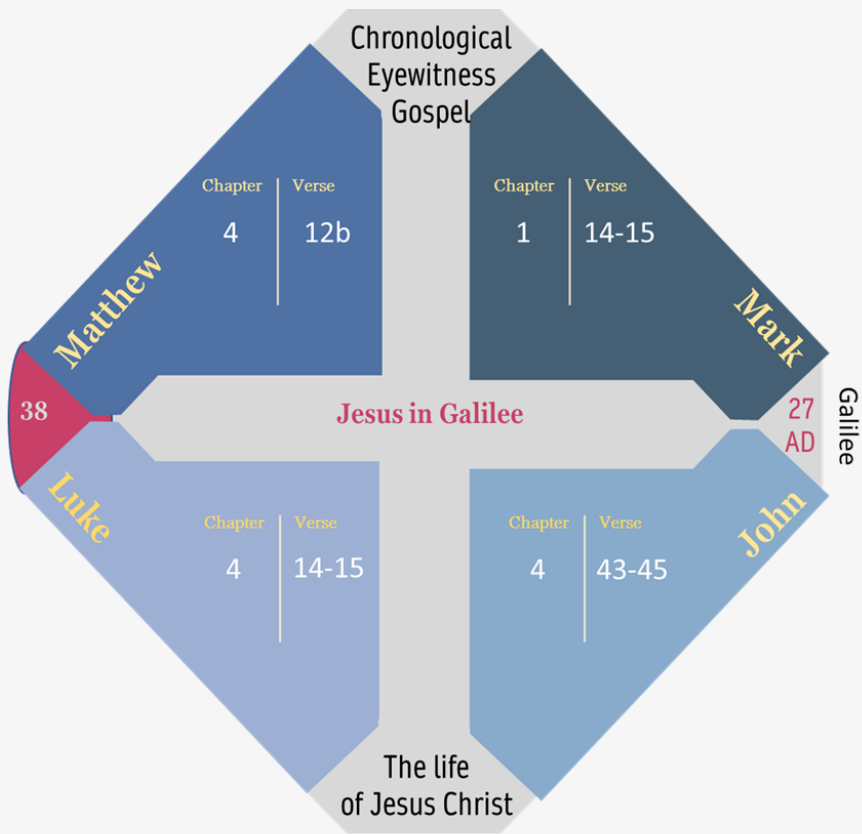
This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

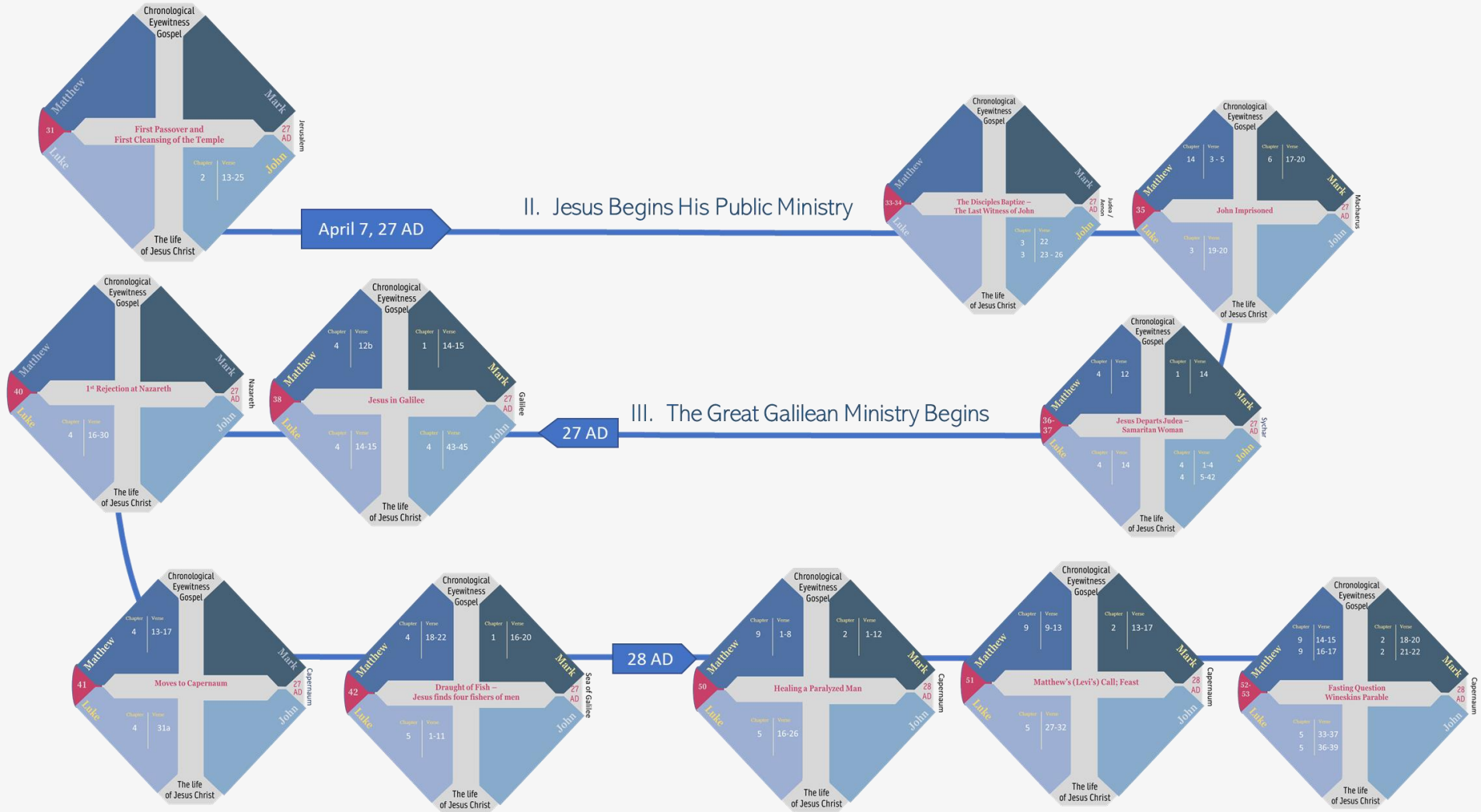
Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (Early Judean)

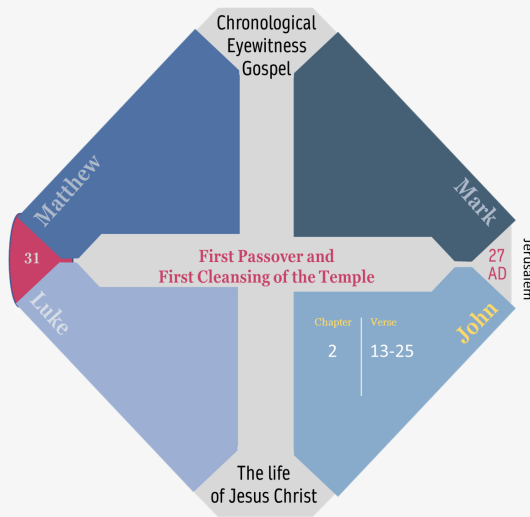


Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (Great Galilean Ministry)



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 2





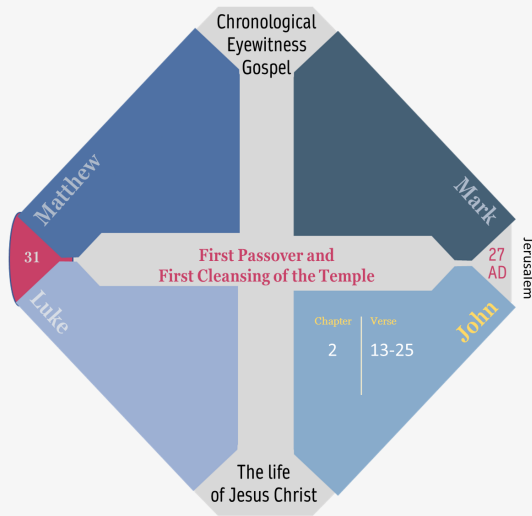
From 1st to the 2nd Passover
(Wed. April 7, 27 AD)

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, **“Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”**

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

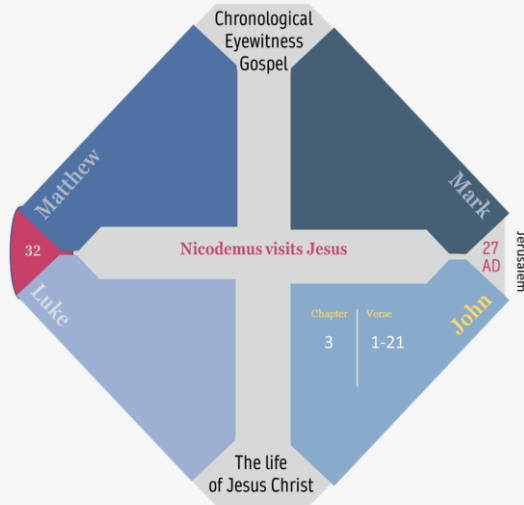
But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”



“All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

“What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” But when Jesus said, “this temple,” he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. But Jesus didn’t trust them because he knew all about people. No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person’s heart.



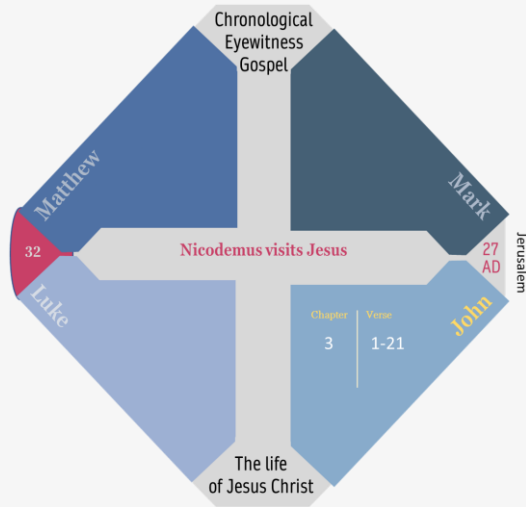
II. JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again (or born from above), you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

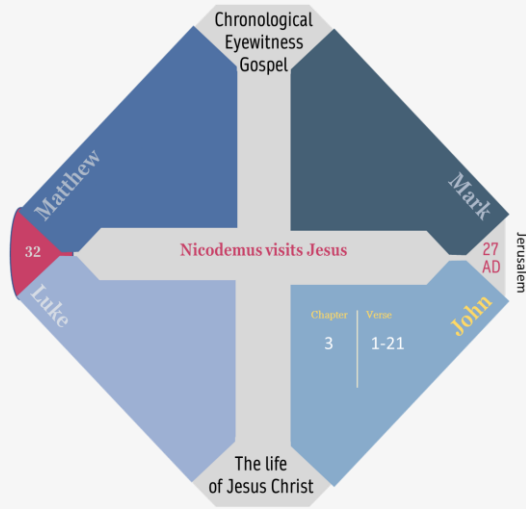
Jesus replied, “I assure you; no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”



“How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I assure you; we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

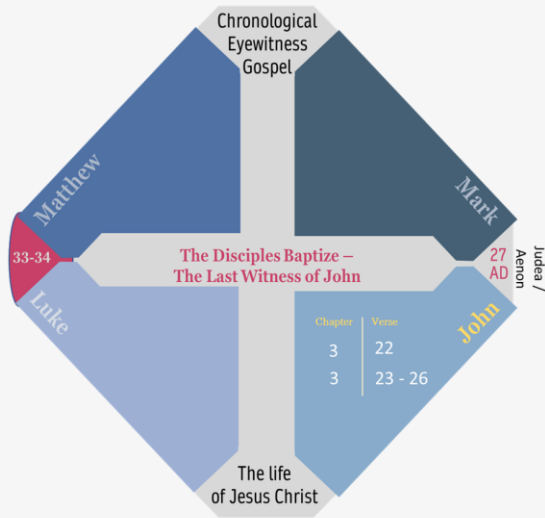
“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.



“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him.

“But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

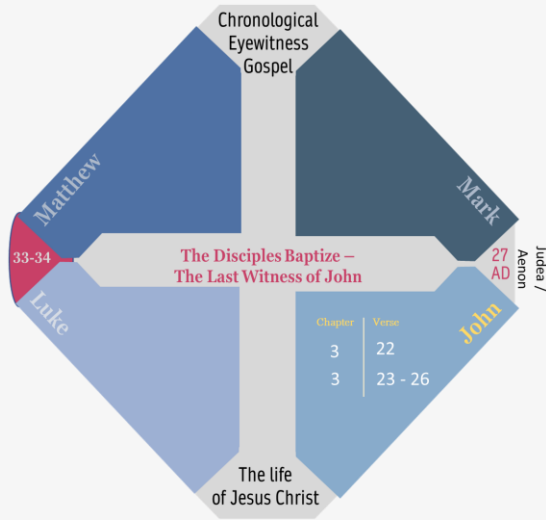
“All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”



II. JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

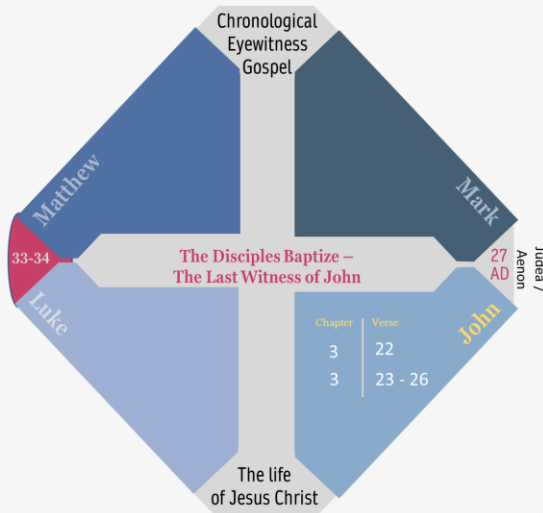
Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people.

At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. (This was before John was thrown into prison.) A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."



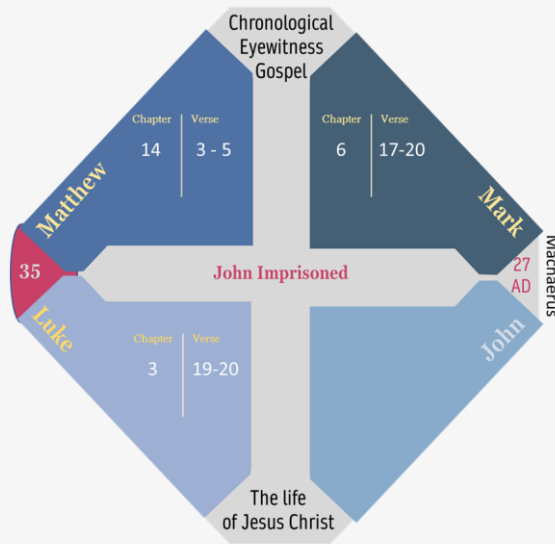
John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom’s friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

Episode 2



“He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. For he is sent by God.

“He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

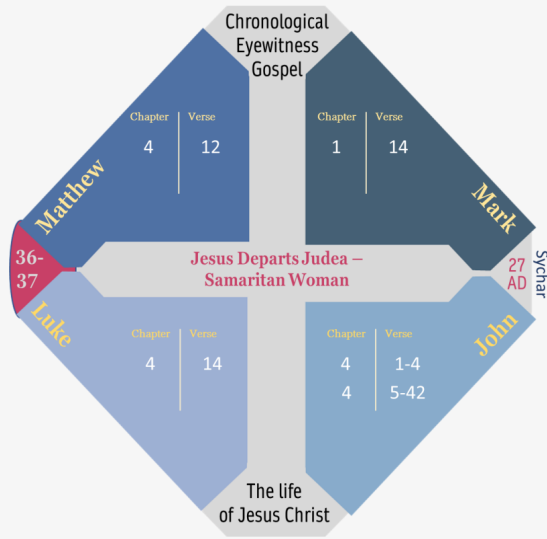


II. JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, and for many other wrongs he had done. So Herod had John arrested and put in prison, adding this sin to his many others, as a favor to his wife Herodias (the former wife of Herod's brother Philip).

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, and Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet.

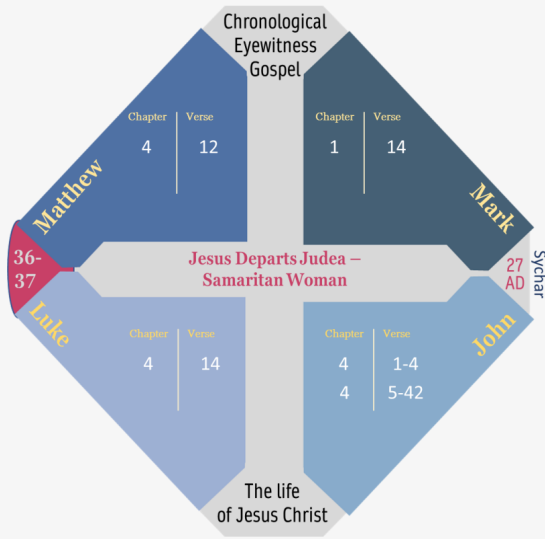
Also, Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.



II. JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, and he knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). He left Judea to return to Galilee, going through Samaria on the way.

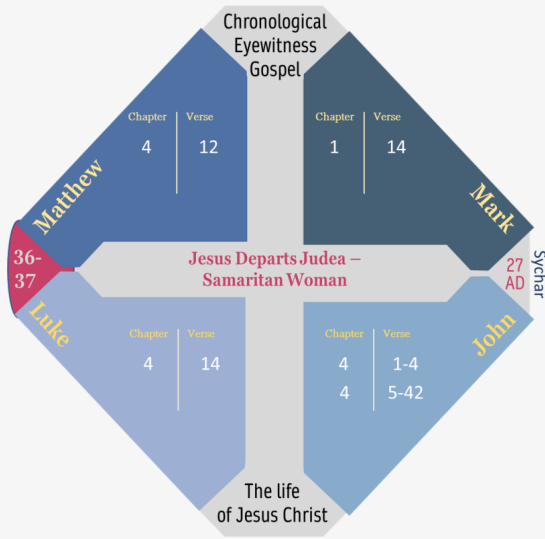
Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.



Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, **“Please give me a drink.”** He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

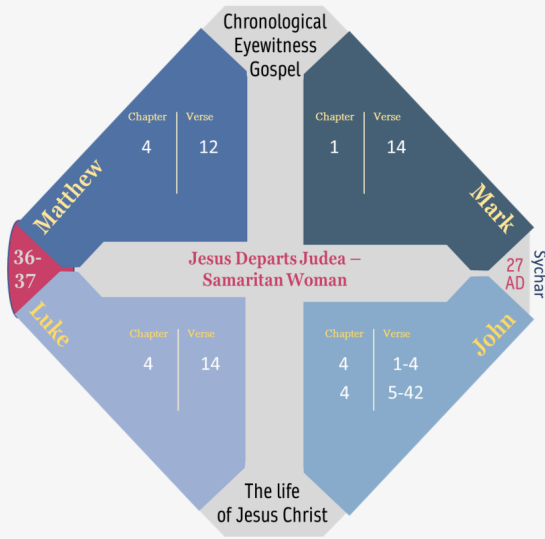
The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

Episode 2



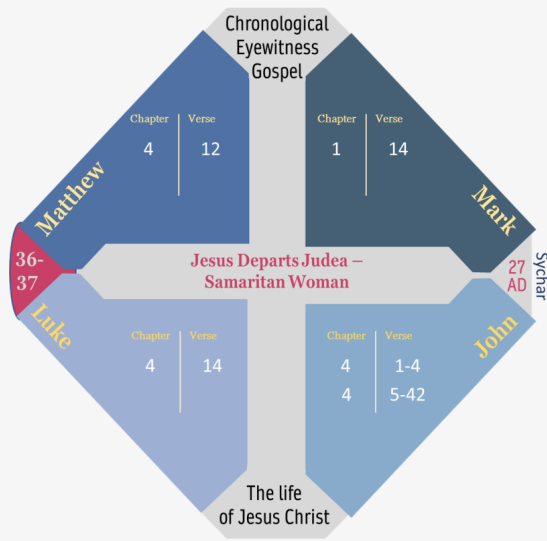
Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

“But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”



Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

“Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

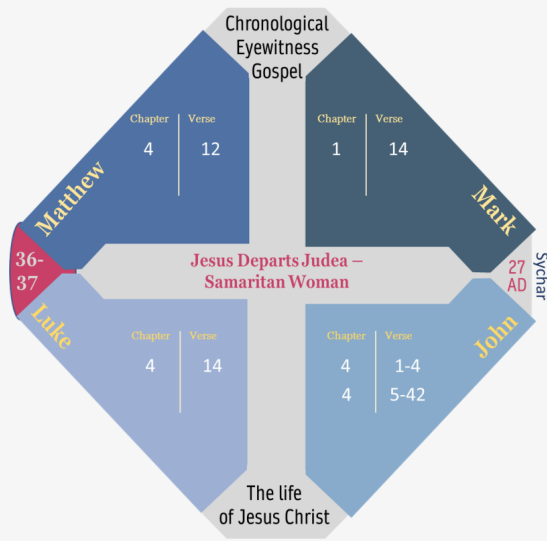


“Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

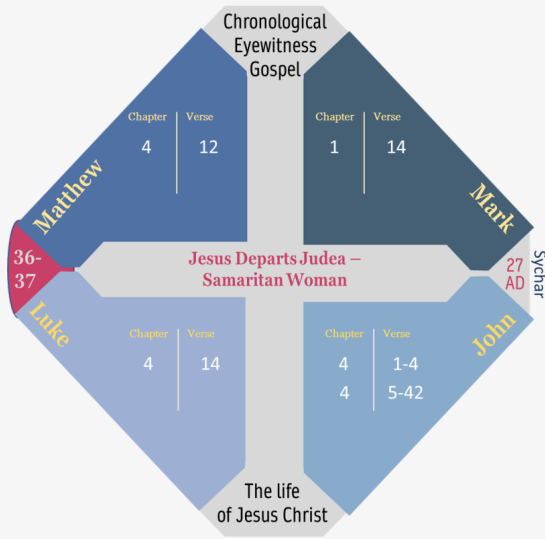
Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”



Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

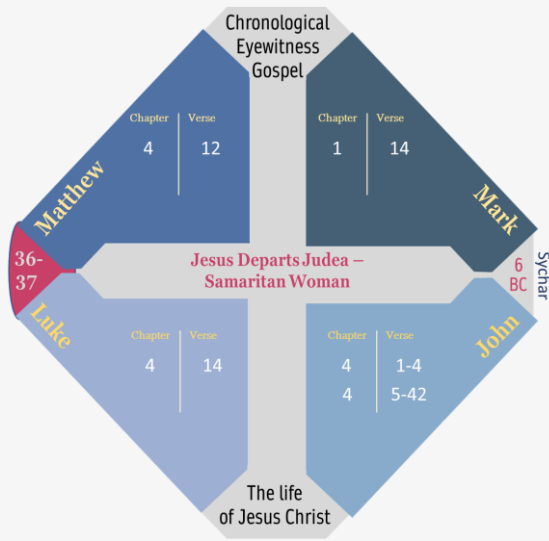
The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”



Then Jesus told her, **“I am the Messiah!”** [Footnote: or **“The I AM is here!”** or **“I am the LORD!”** or in Greek it reads **“I am, the one speaking to you.”**]

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

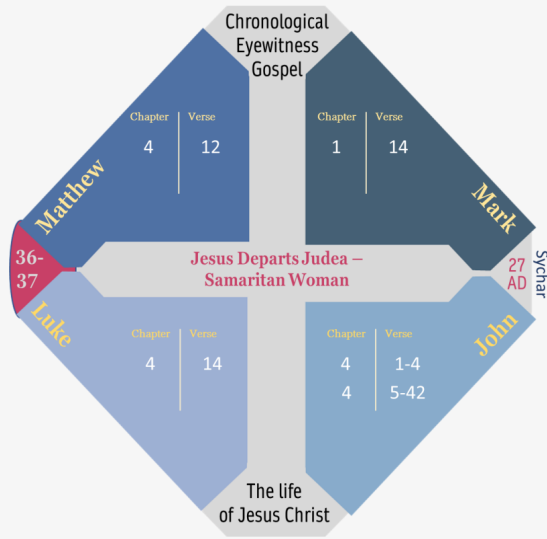
Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”



But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.”

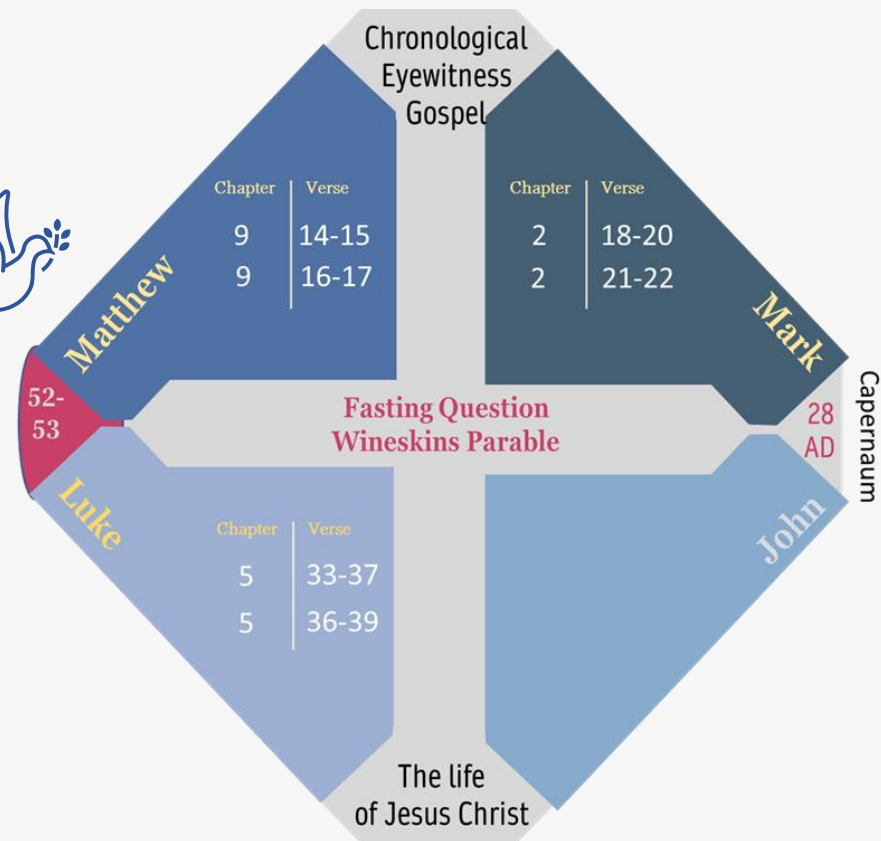
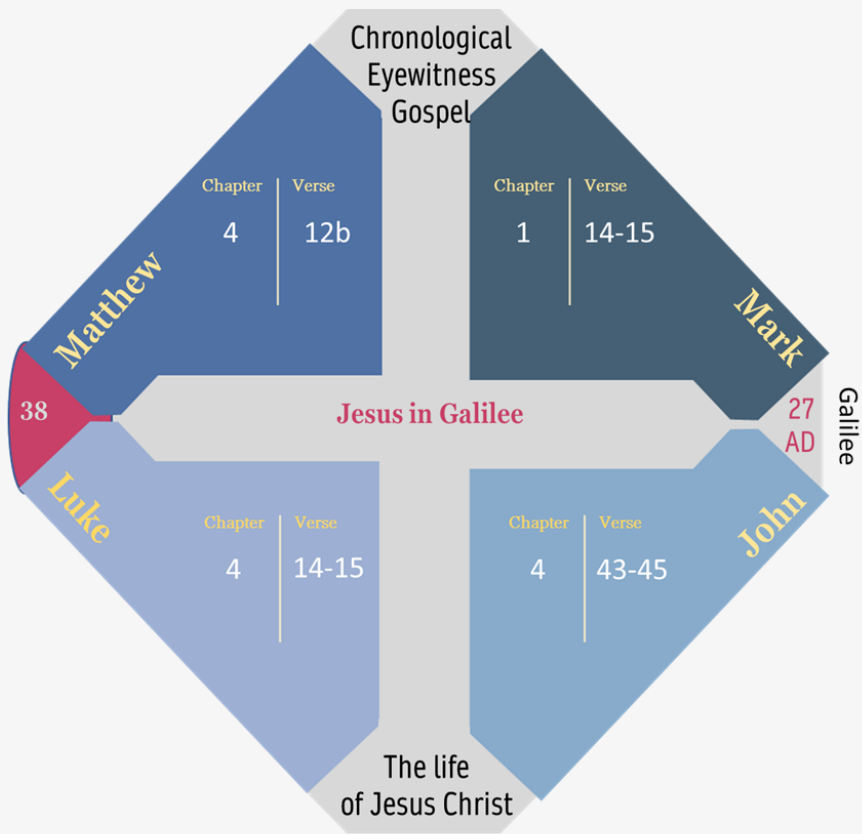
“Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other.

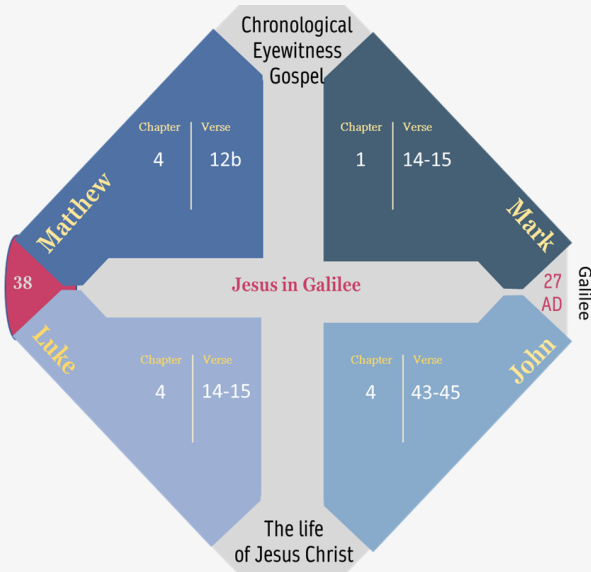
Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”



Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (Great Galilean Ministry)



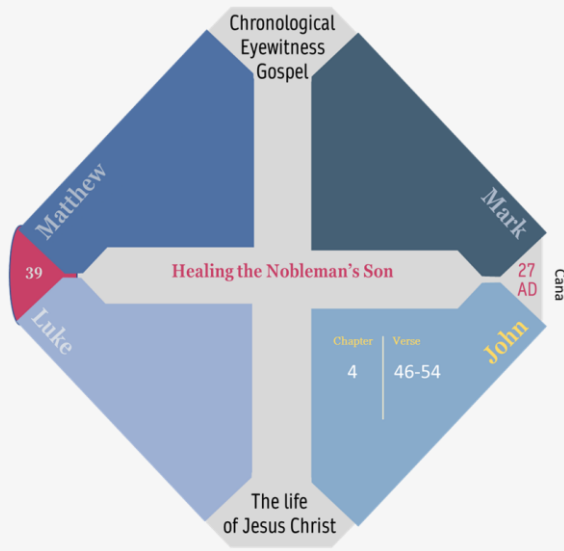


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power, where he preached God's Good News. **"The time promised by God has come at last!"** he announced. **"The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"**

Jesus himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone, and reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.



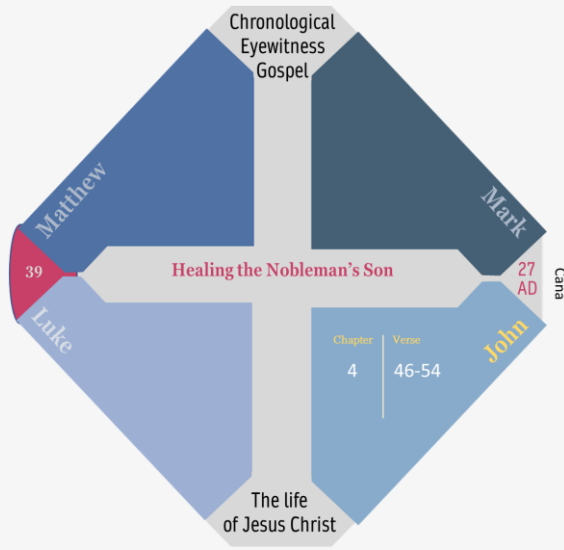
III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

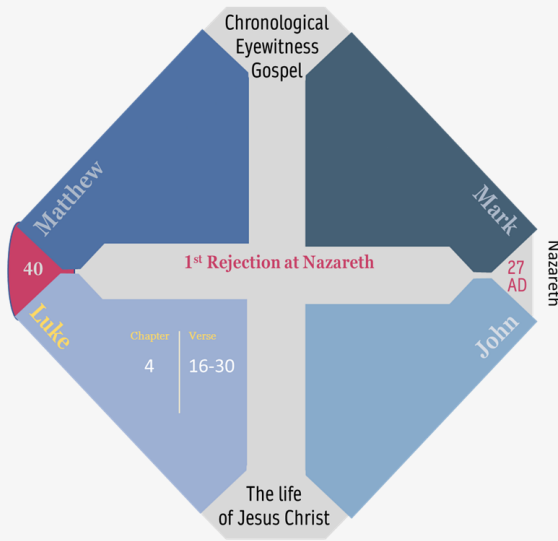
Jesus asked, “Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?”

The official pleaded, “Lord, please come now before my little boy dies.”

Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!” And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.



While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, “Yesterday afternoon at one o’clock his fever suddenly disappeared!” Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, **“Your son will live.”** And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

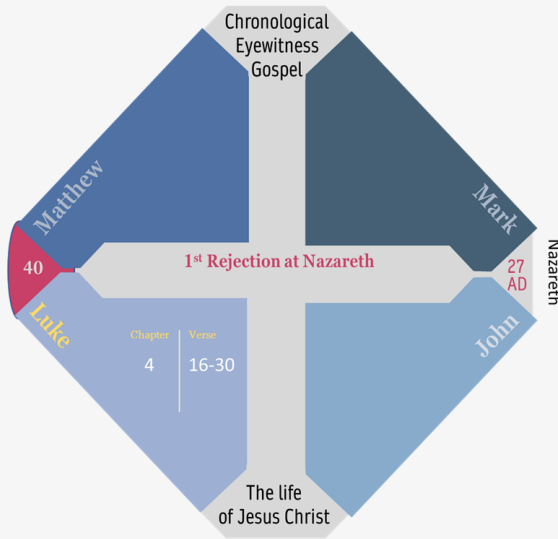


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

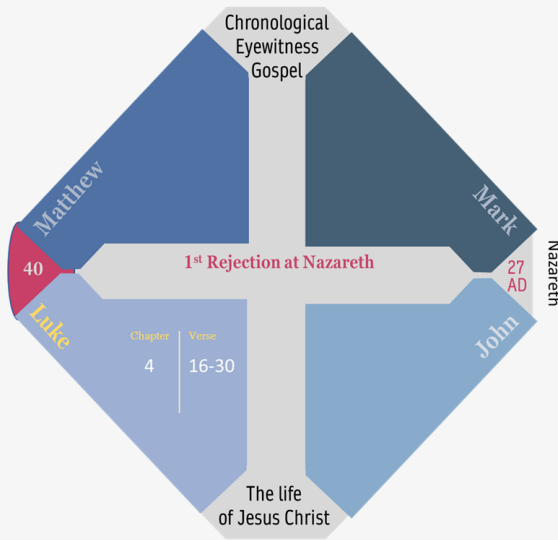
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
 that the blind will see,
 that the oppressed will be set free,
 and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

[Footnote: or “and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”]



He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. **“The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”**

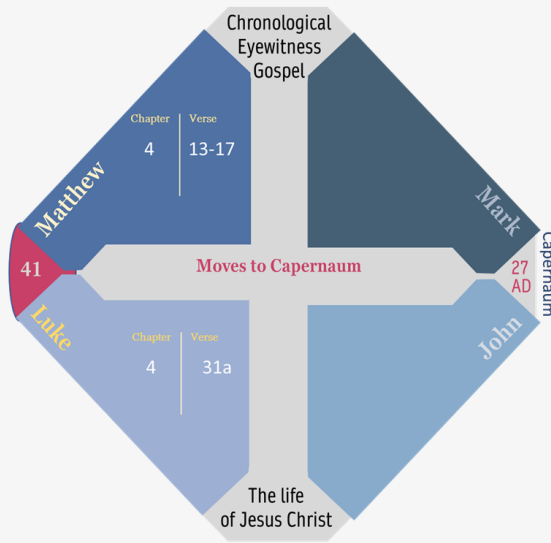
Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. “How can this be?” they asked. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”



Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’—meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’ But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

“Certainly, there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.



III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

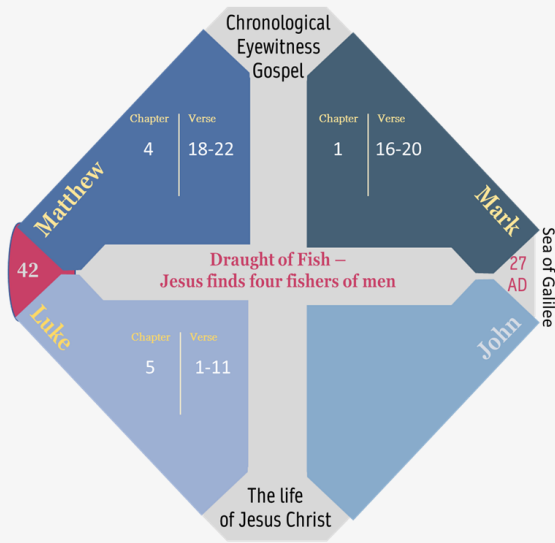
When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

“In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,
the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

[Footnote: or “the Kingdom of Heaven has come.”, or “is coming soon.”]

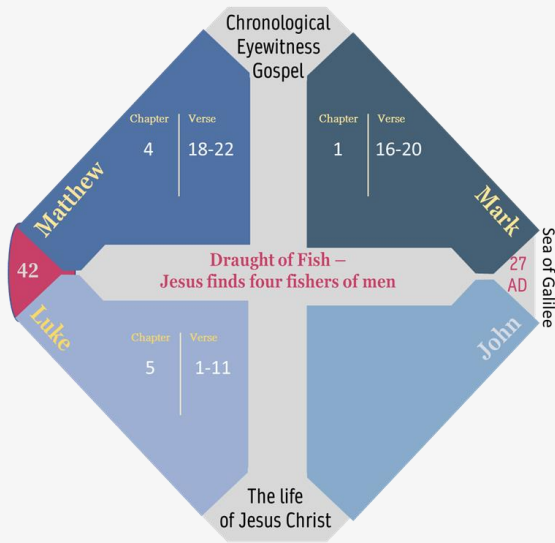


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. As Jesus was walking along the shore, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living.

Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

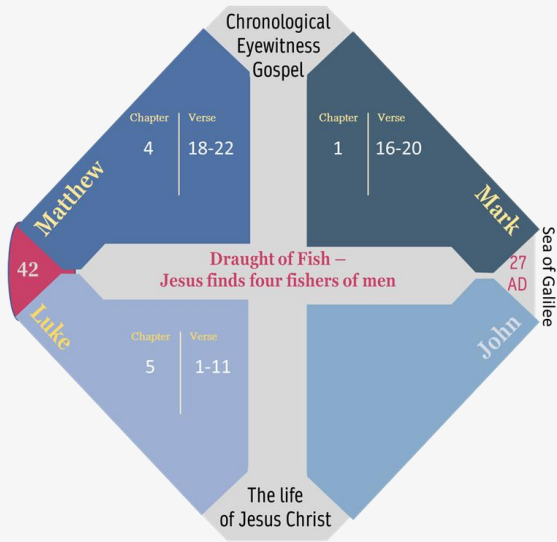
When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **“Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”**



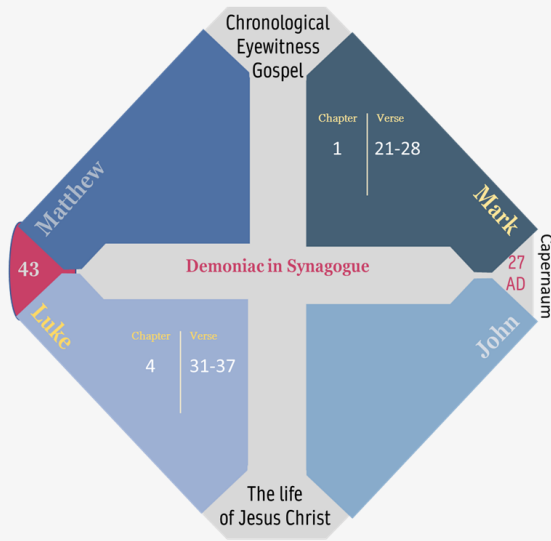
“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “**Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!**” And as soon as they landed, Jesus called out to them, “**Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!**” And they left their nets at once and followed him.



A little farther up the shore Jesus saw two brothers, Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets with their father. He called them come at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.



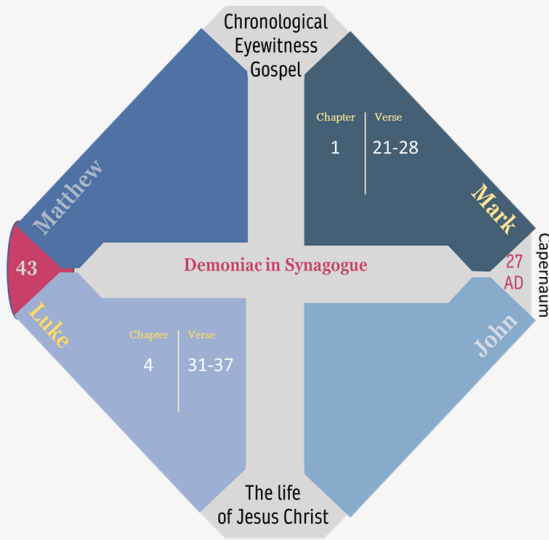
III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Jesus and his companions went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, where he taught in the synagogue there every sabbath day. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching and astonished at his doctrine, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

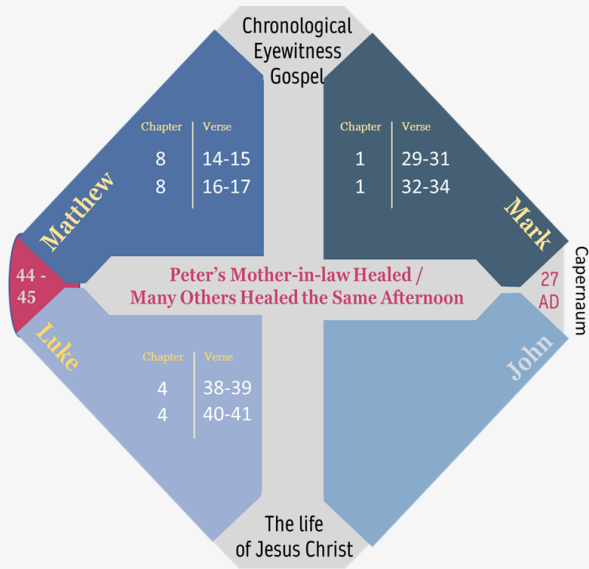
But Jesus reprimanded him. “**Be quiet! Come out of the man,**” he ordered. At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion to the floor as the crowd watched, and then came out of him without hurting him further.

Episode 2



Amazement gripped the people in attendance, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!”

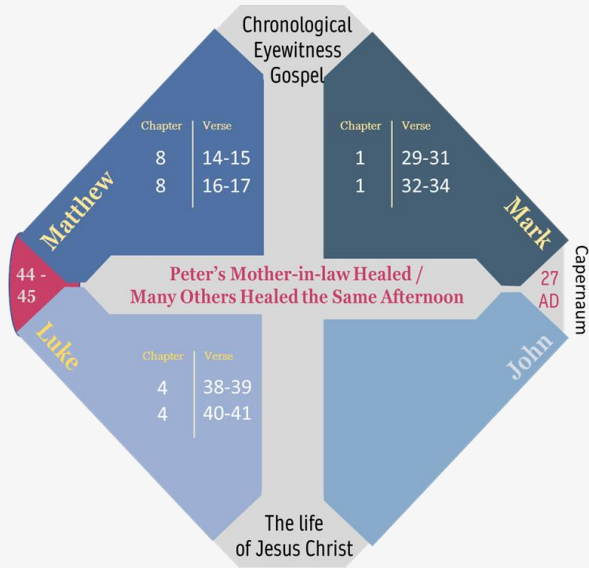
The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout every village in the entire region of Galilee.



III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon Peter's and Andrew's home. Now Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, rebuked the fever, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her immediately, and she prepared a meal for them.

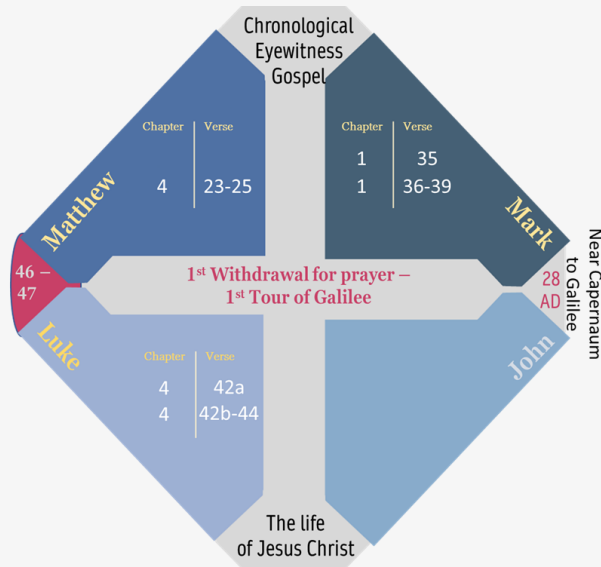
That evening as the sun was setting, they brought unto him all that were sick with various diseases and demon possessed. The whole town gathered at the door to watch and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed those who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak. Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.



He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick.

This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

“He took our sicknesses
and removed our diseases.”

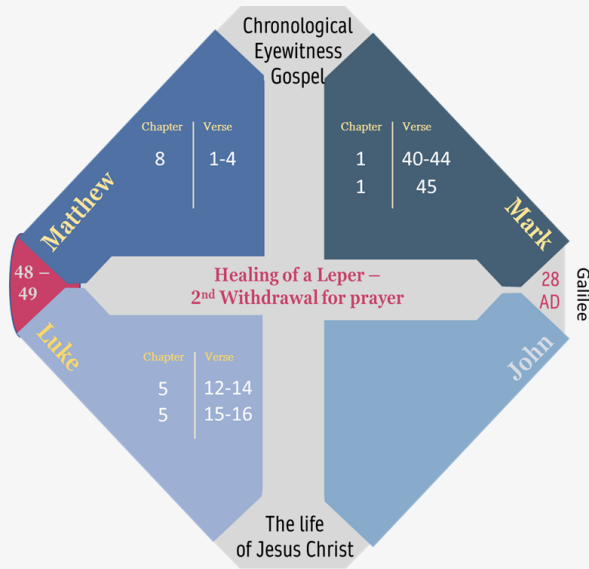


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

Later Simon and the others went out to find him. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. But he replied, **“I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.”**

So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee preaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

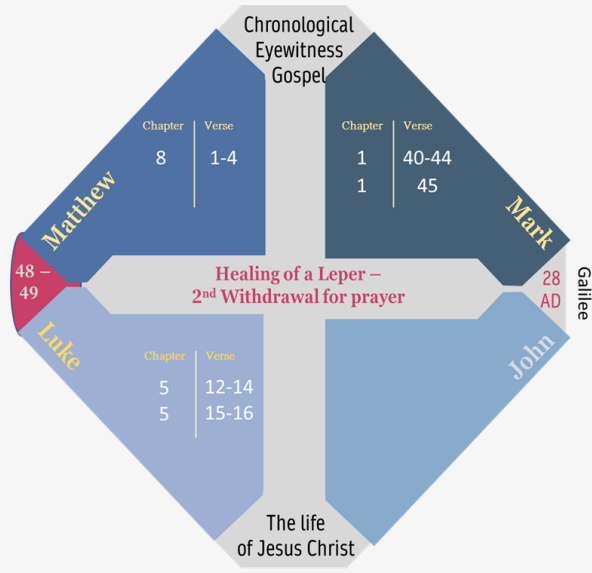


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. “Lord,” he said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: “Don’t tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

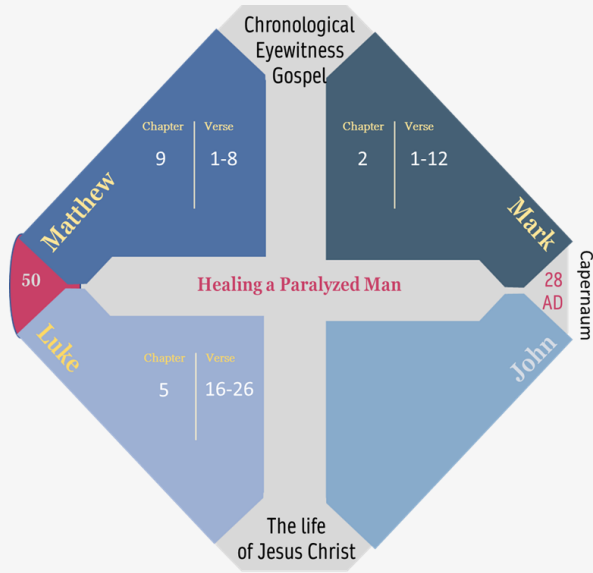
Episode 2



III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him. Despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases, so Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Episode 2

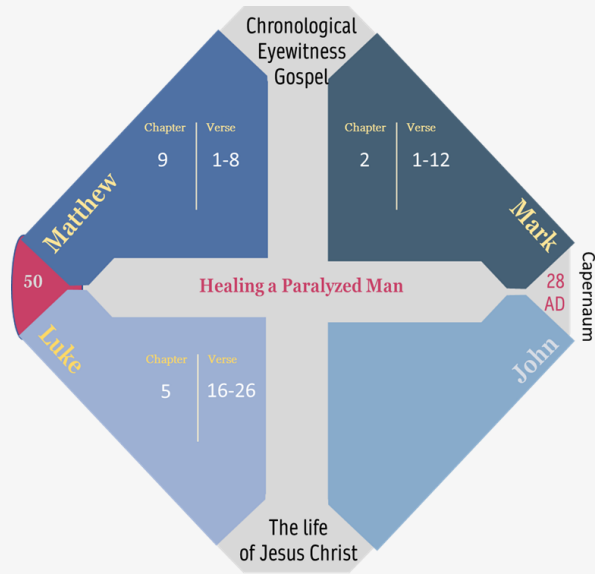


III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door.

One day while Jesus was preaching God's word to them, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby, and the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.)

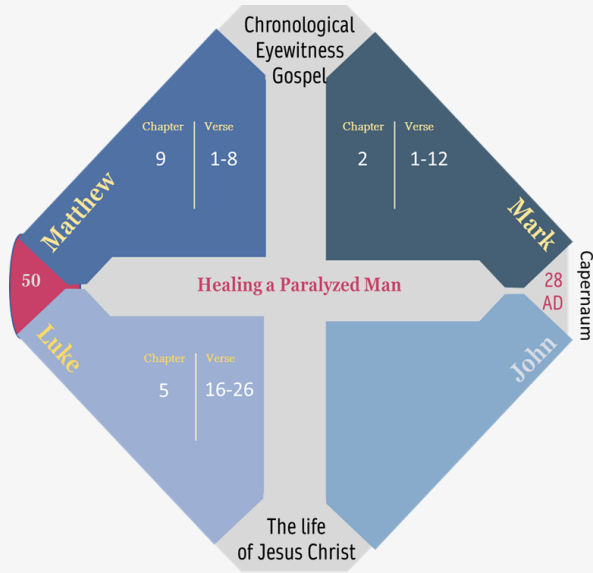


While he was preaching God’s word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat, but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles and dug a hole through the roof above his head and lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “**Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.**”

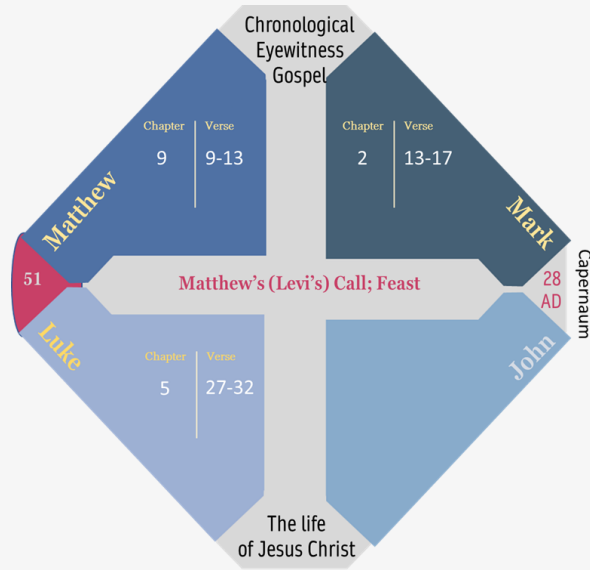
But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “**Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.**”



Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, **“Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”**

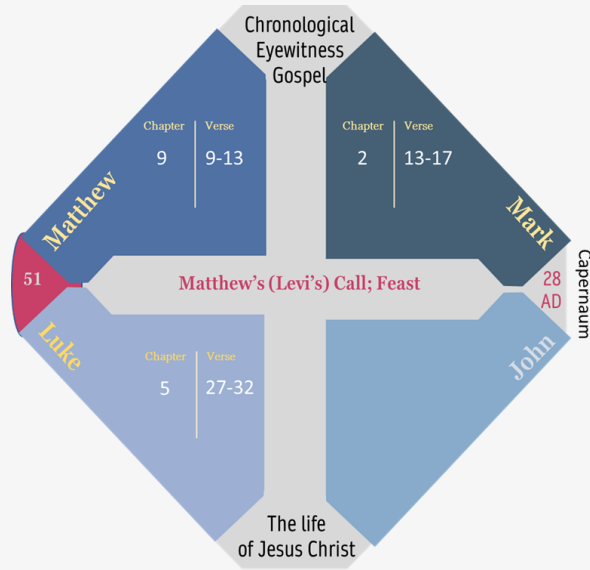
And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe. Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”



III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. **“Follow me and be my disciple,”** Jesus said to him. So Levi (a.k.a. Matthew) got up, left everything, and followed him.

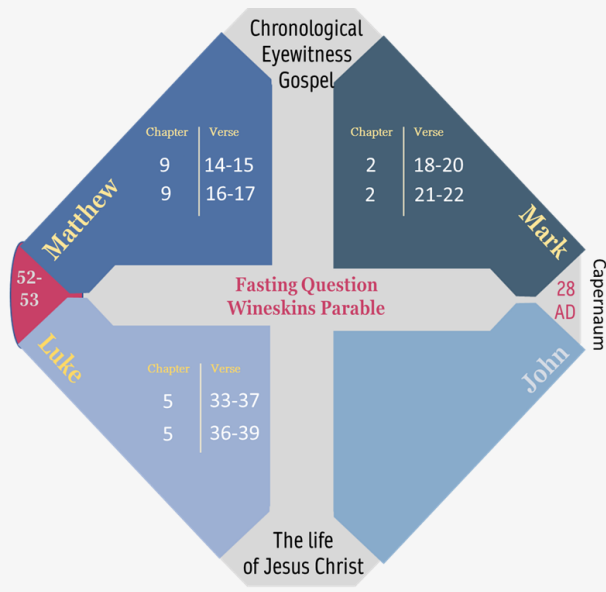
[Footnote: Levi was his name in Hebrew, but he more often went by his Greek name of Matthew. For harmonization, this text will simply refer to him as Matthew since they are interchangeable]



Later, Matthew held a banquet in his home and invited Jesus as the guest of honor along with his disciples and other dinner guests.

Many of Matthew's fellow tax collectors and other disreputable sinners also ate with them. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?"

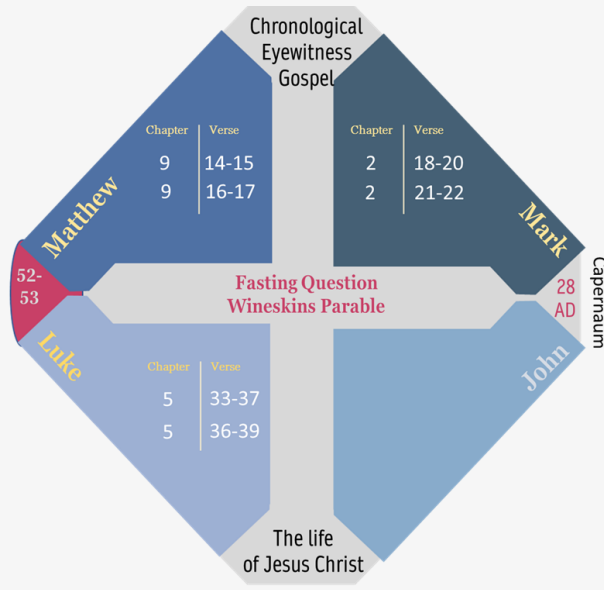
When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."



III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Once when John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, some people came to Jesus with questions, “John the Baptist’s disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking? Why don’t your disciples fast like John’s disciples and the Pharisees do?”

Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. They can’t fast while the groom is with them. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.



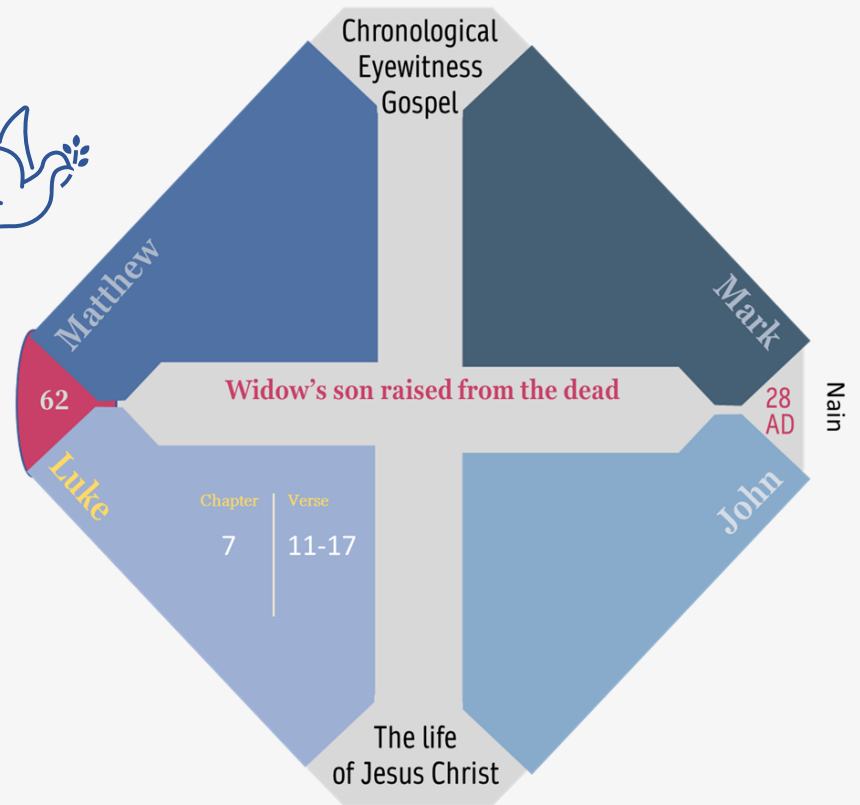
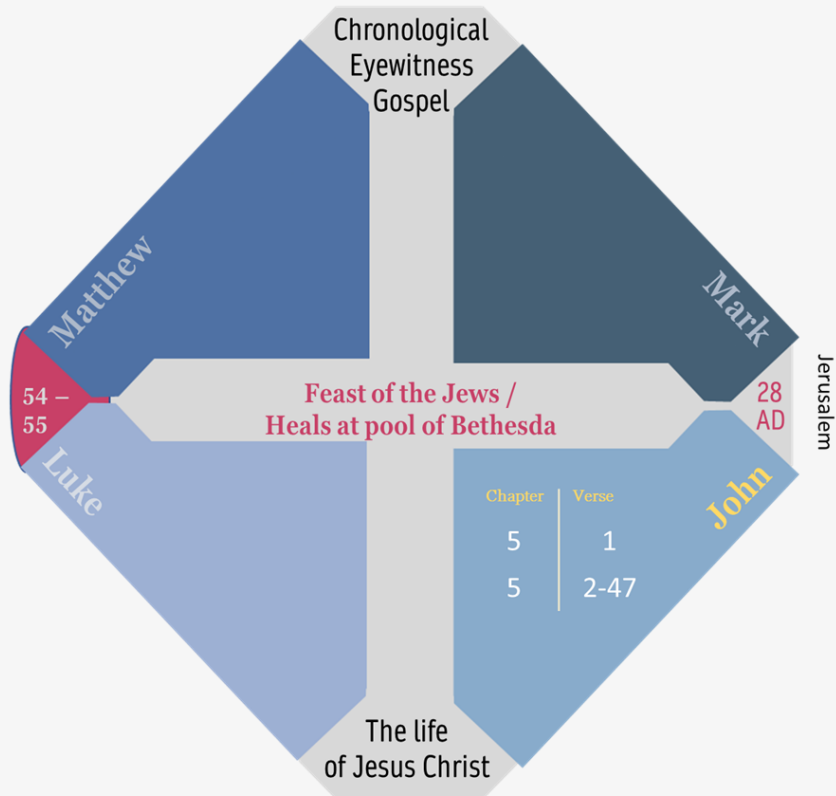
III. The Great Galilean Ministry Begins

Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment. The new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine, and ruining the skins, so both would be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine: ‘The old is better,’ they say.”

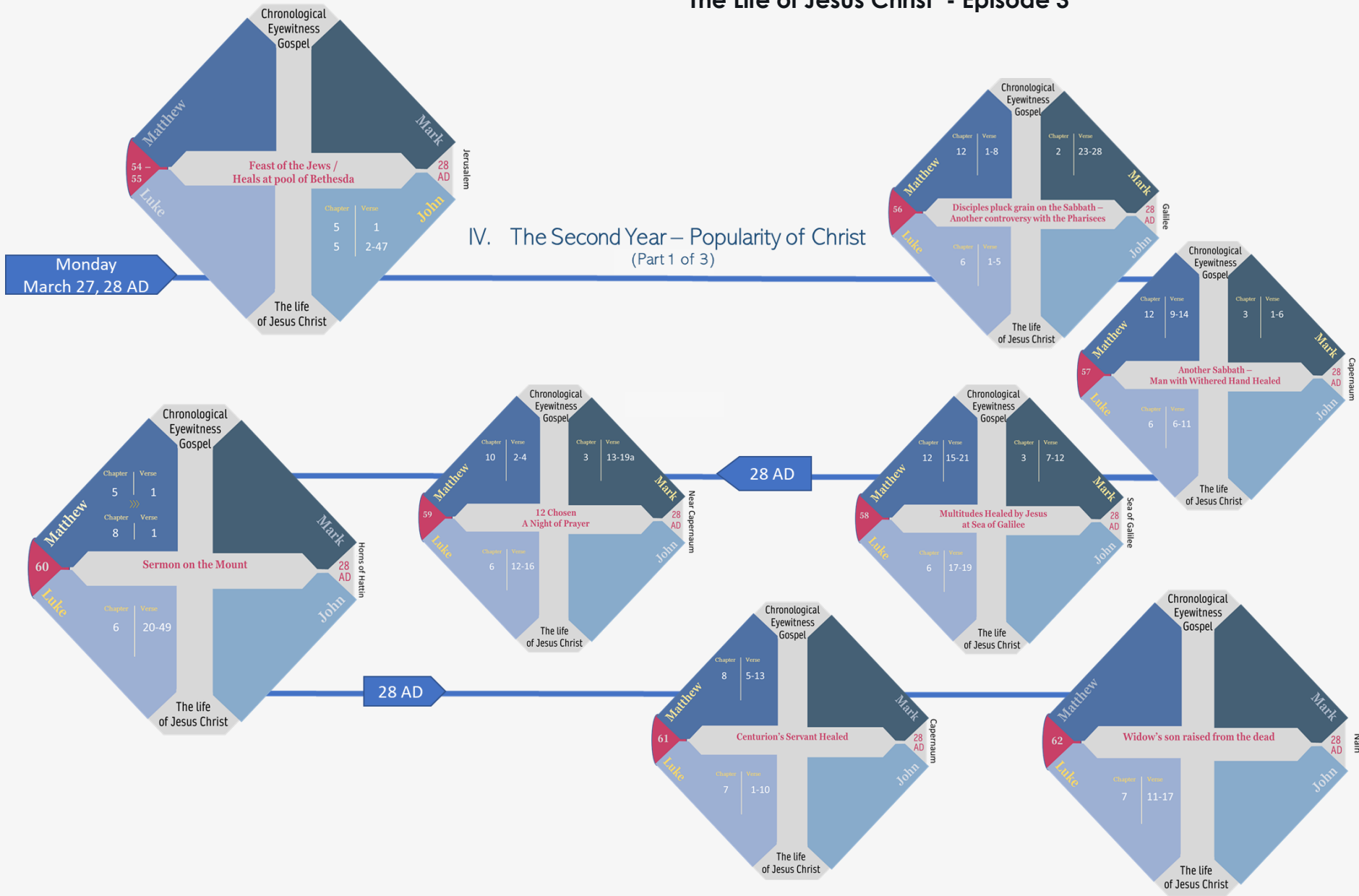
The Second Year – Popularity of Christ

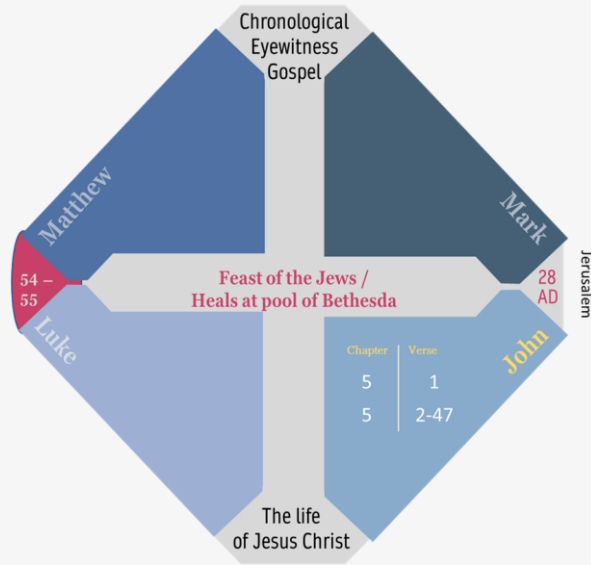
(Part 1 of 3)



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 3





IV. The Second Year - Popularity

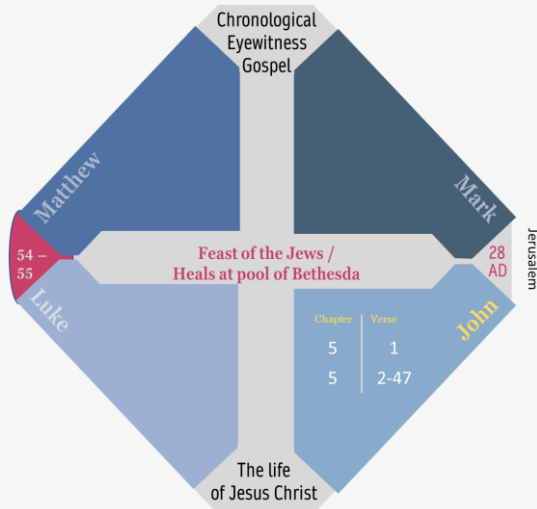
**From 2nd to the 3rd Passover
(Mon. March 27, 28 AD)**

Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days.

Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches. One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, **“Would you like to get well?”**

“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

Jesus told him, **“Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”**

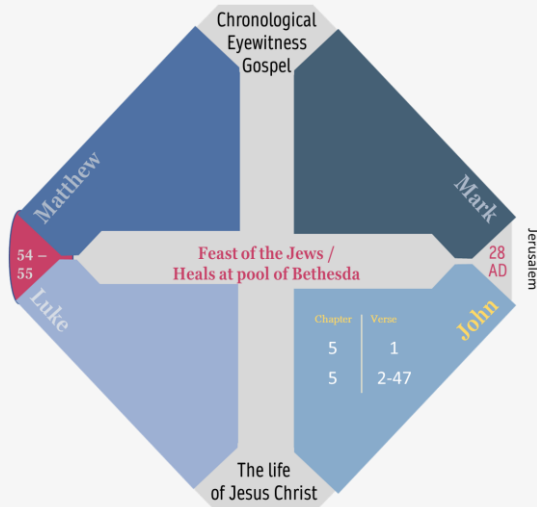


Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “**Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.**” Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.



So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.”

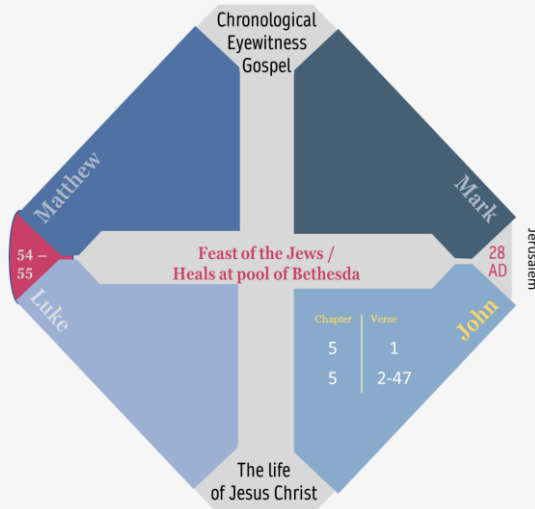
So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

So Jesus explained,

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.

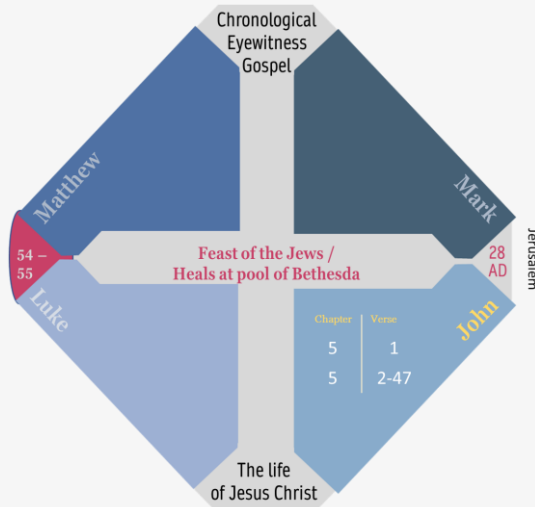
“In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished.

“For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.



“In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

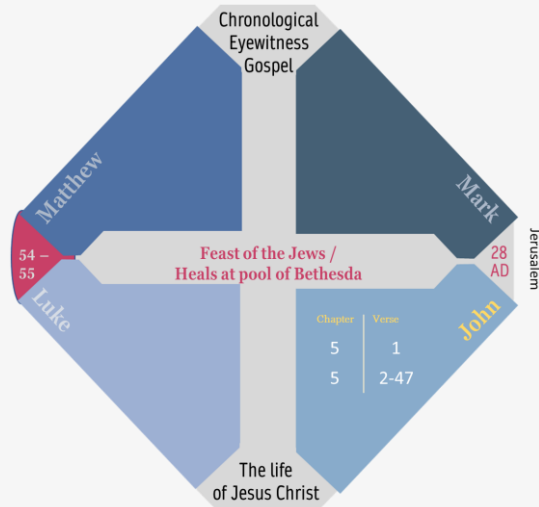


“And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.

”The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.

“Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

“I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because **I carry out the will of the one who sent me**, not my own will.

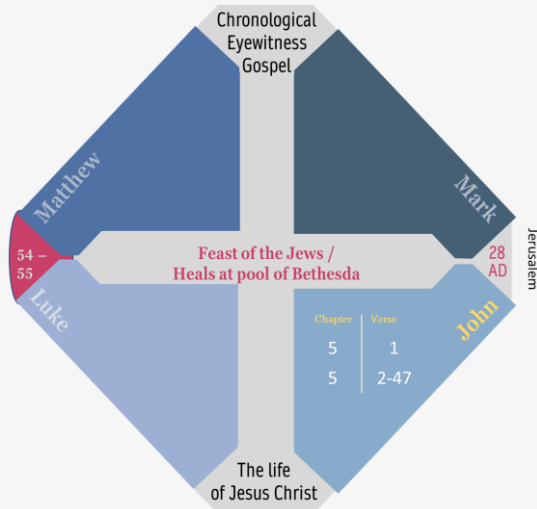


“If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true.

“In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true. Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.

“John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message. But **I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself.**

“You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

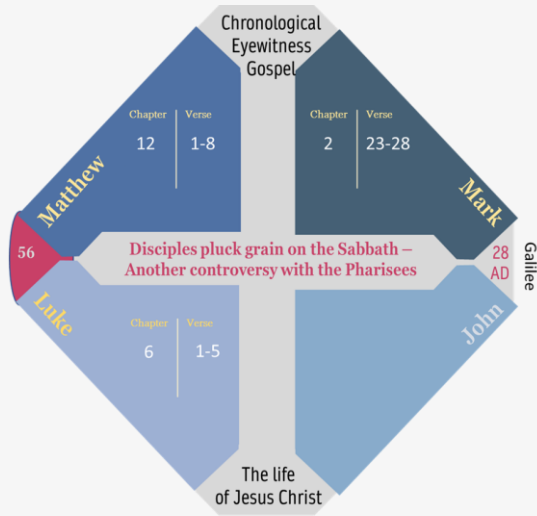


“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

“Your approval means nothing to me because I know you don’t have God’s love within you. For I have come to you in my Father’s name, and you have rejected me.

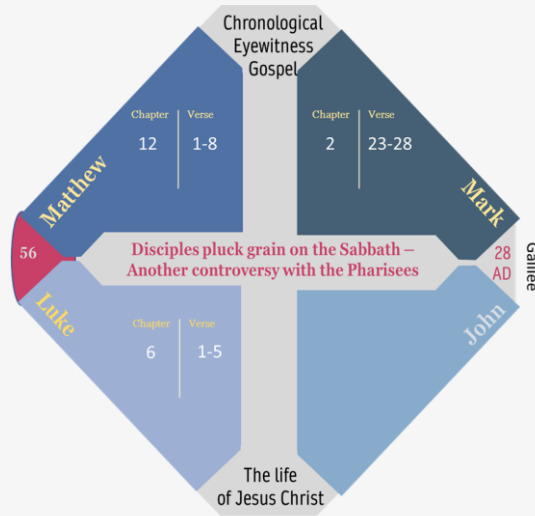
“Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. No wonder you can’t believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

“**Yet it isn’t I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you!** Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. But since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

On the following Sabbath day, Jesus was walking through some grain fields and his disciples were hungry, so they broke off some heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands and ate the grain. But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, “Look, why are your disciples breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?”

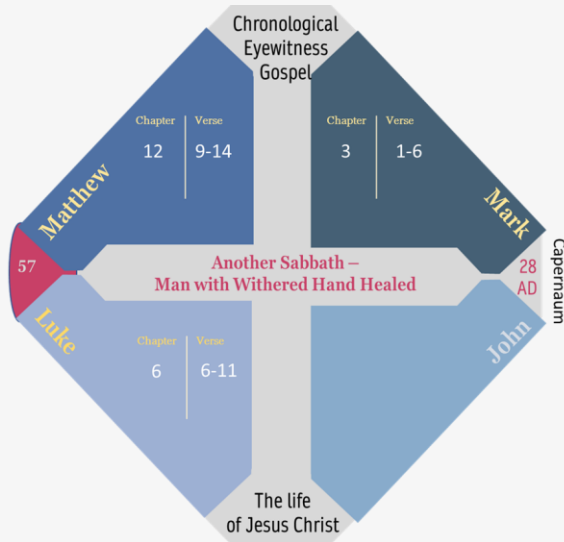


Jesus answering them said, “Haven’t you ever read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God, during the days when Abiathar was high priest, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions.”

“And haven’t you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath? I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple! But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’”

“The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.”

And Jesus added, **“The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!”**

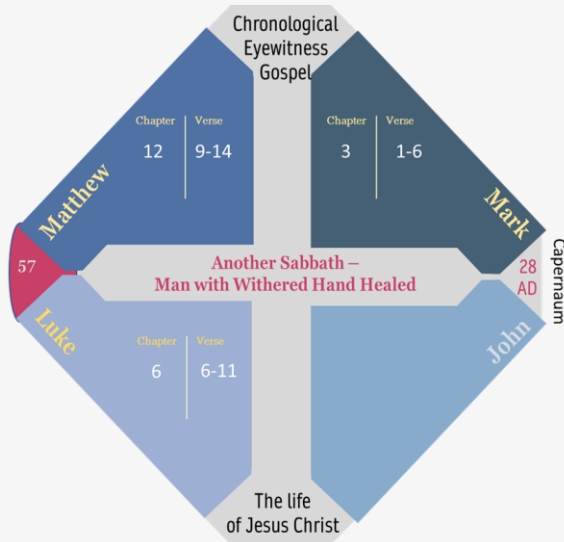


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

On another Sabbath day, Jesus went over to their synagogue, where he noticed a man with a deformed right hand while teaching. Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath

But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, **"Come and stand in front of everyone."** So the man came forward.

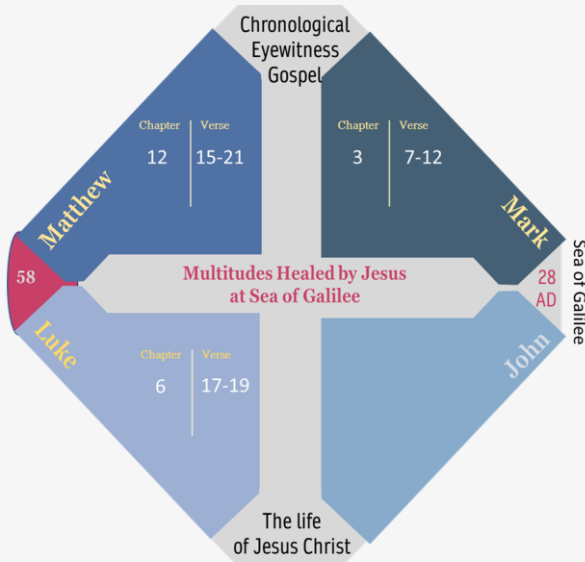
The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.)



Then Jesus said to his critics, “I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?” But they wouldn’t answer him.

And he answered, “If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn’t you work to pull it out? Of course you would. And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath.”

He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him. At once, the Pharisees went away and called a meeting with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

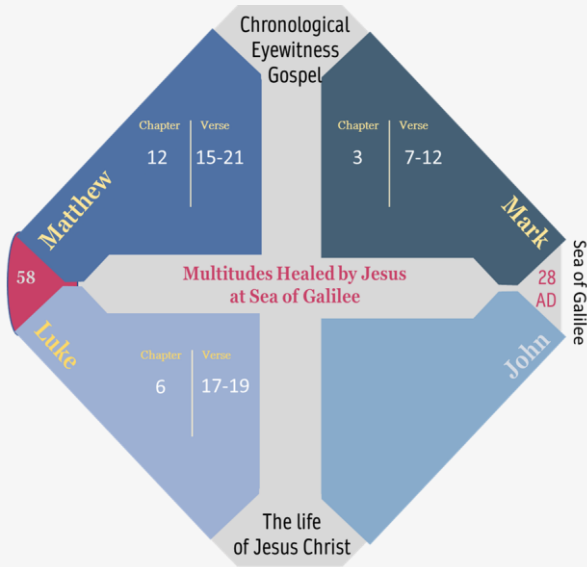


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area.

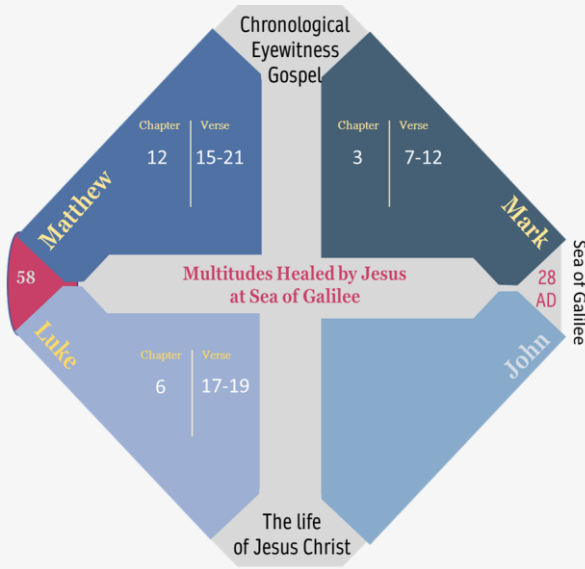
Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people that came from all over Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon.

The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.



Jesus instructed his disciples to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him. He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him. And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, “You are the Son of God!” But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was.

He healed all the sick among them, but he warned them not to reveal who he was. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him:



“Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen.

He is my Beloved, who pleases me.

I will put my Spirit upon him,

and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

He will not fight or shout

or raise his voice in public.

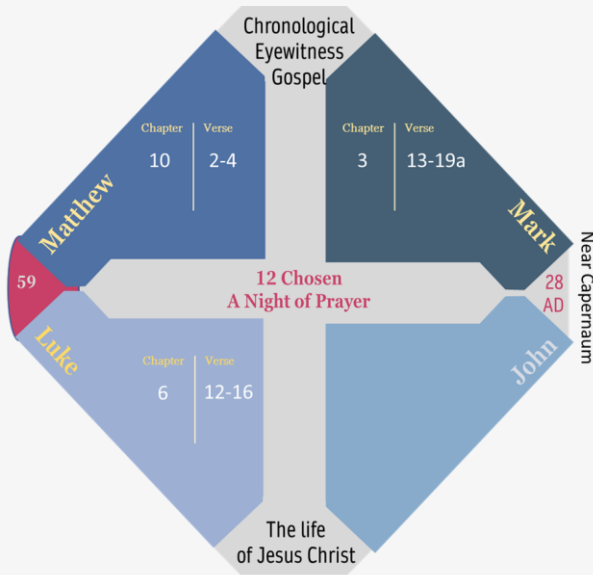
He will not crush the weakest reed

or put out a flickering candle.

Finally he will cause justice to be victorious.

And his name will be the hope

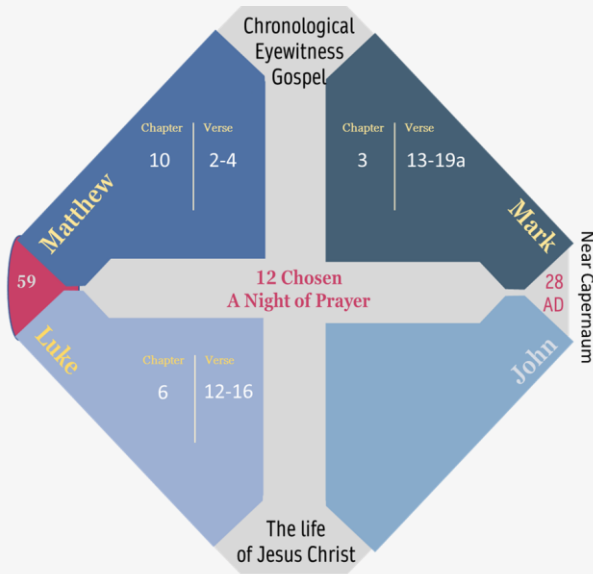
of all the world.”



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

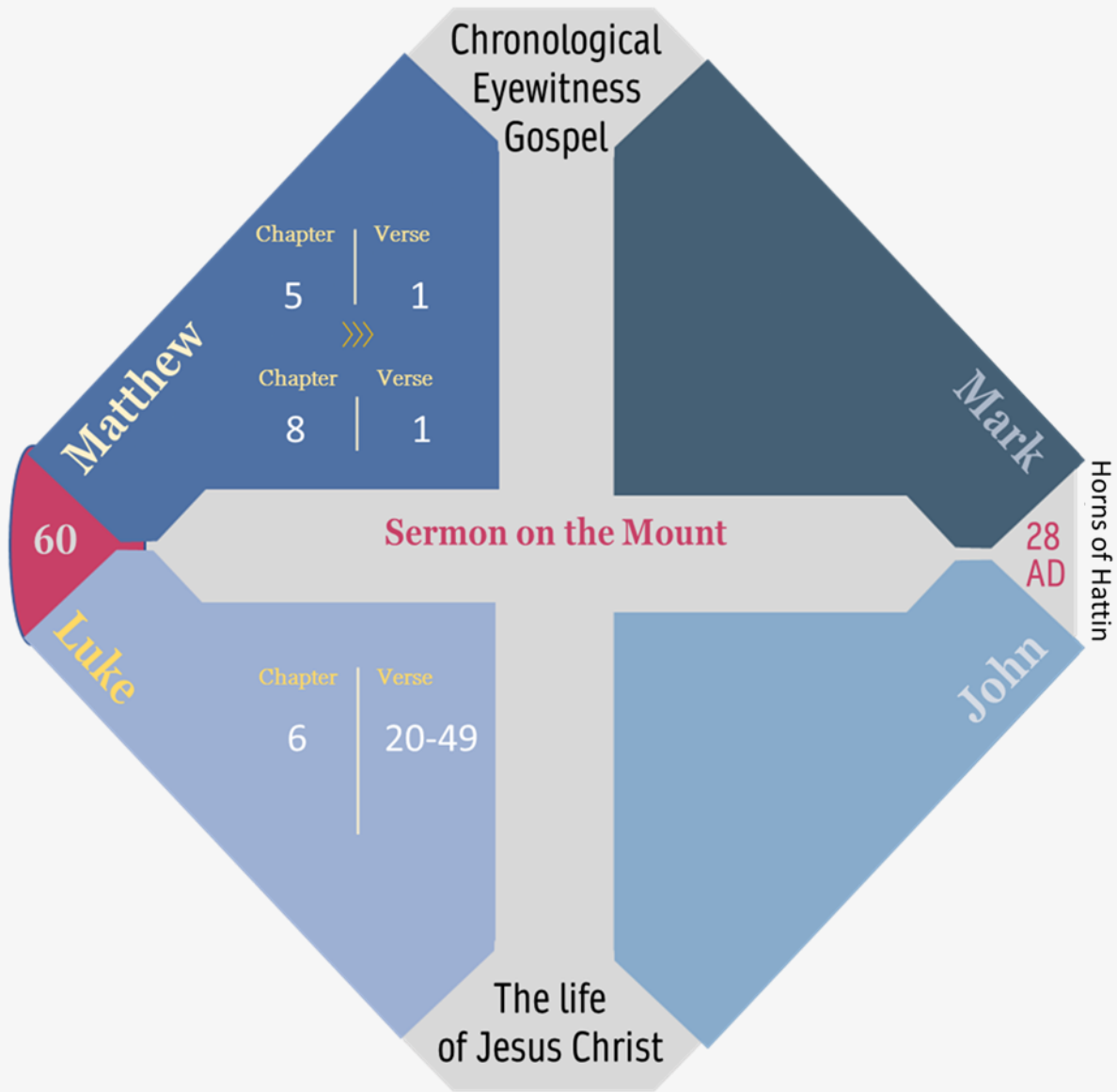
One day soon afterward Jesus went on a mountain to pray and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. They came to him, and he prayed to God all night.

At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons.

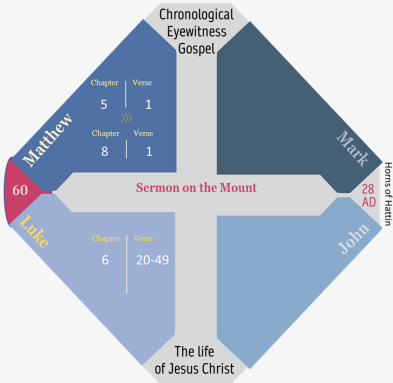


These are the twelve he chose:

- Simon (whom he nicknamed **Peter**),
- Andrew (Peter's brother),
- James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "**Sons of Thunder**"),
- Philip,
- Bartholomew,
- Matthew (the tax collector, also known as **Levi**, which is his name in Hebrew),
- Thomas,
- James (son of Alphaeus),
- Simon (who was called the zealot, or "the Cananean", which is an Aramaic term for Jewish nationalists),
- Judas (aka "**Jude**," a brother of James, also known by his formal name of Lebbaeus Thaddeus, so most of the time they referred to him as "**Thaddeus**")
- and Judas Iscariot (who was a **traitor** that later betrayed him).



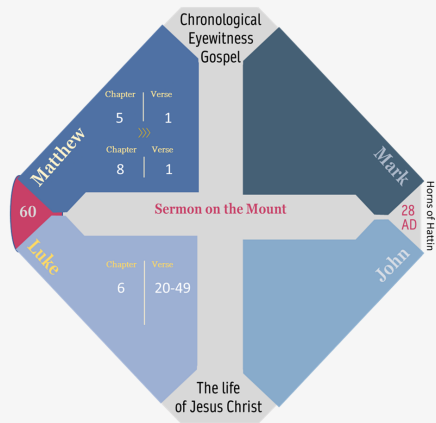
IV. The Second Year - Popularity



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

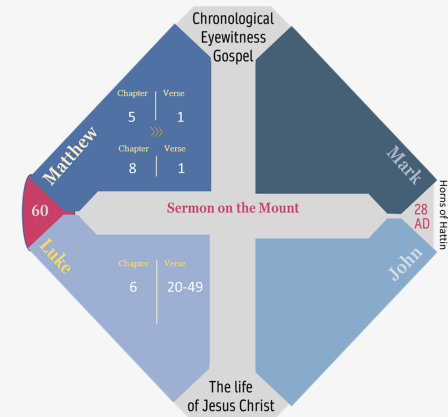
One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.

“God blesses you who are poor and realize your need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is yours.
God blesses you who mourn and weep now,
for you will be comforted and in due time you will laugh,
God blesses you who are humble,
for you will inherit the whole earth.
God blesses you who hunger and thirst for righteousness and justice,
for you will be satisfied.
God blesses you who are merciful,
for you will be shown mercy.
God blesses you whose hearts are pure,
for you will see God.
God blesses you who work for peace,
for you will be called the children of God.
God blesses you who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is yours.



“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man! When that happens, be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors persecuted the ancient prophets that same way.

“But what sorrow awaits you who are rich,
 for you have your only happiness now.
 What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now,
 for a time of awful hunger awaits you.
 What sorrow awaits you who laugh now,
 for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow.
 What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds.

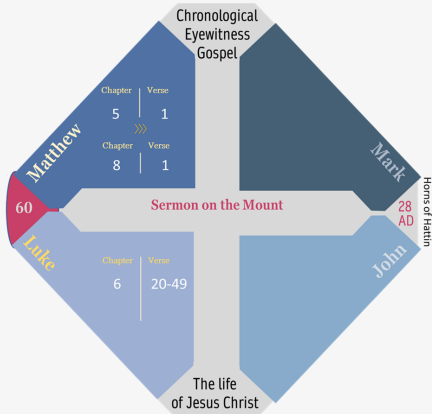


“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Episode 3

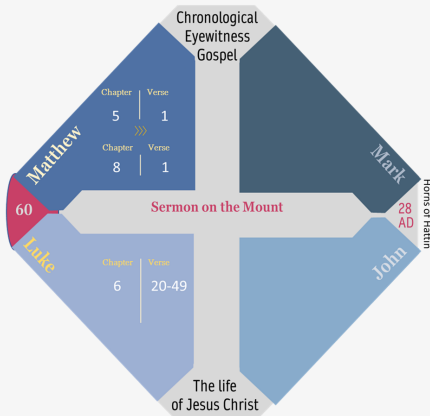


“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone without cause, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone or call them a fool, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

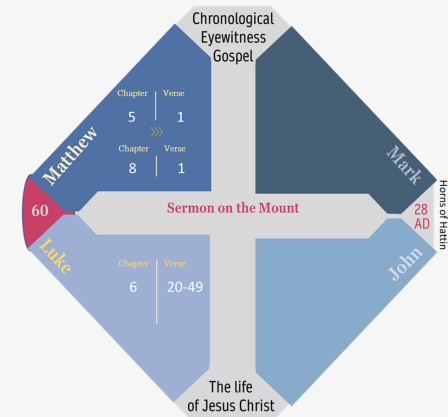
Episode 3



“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.

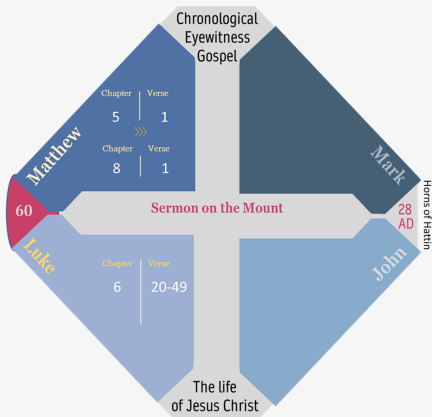
“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Episode 3



“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

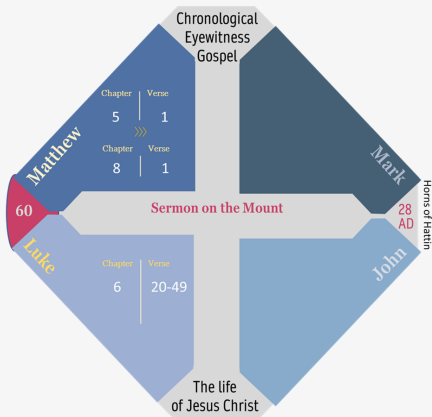


“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person!

“If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.

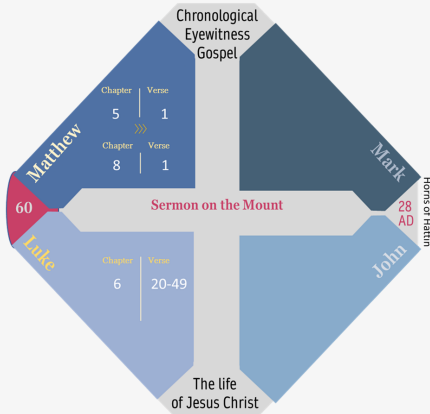
“Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back.

Episode 3



“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

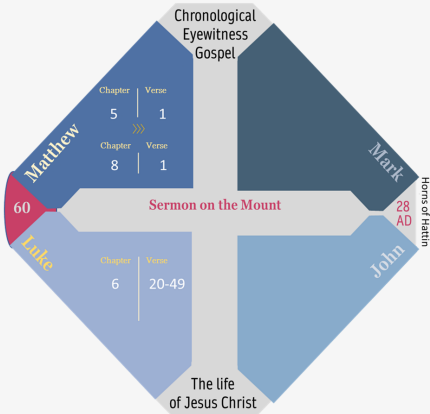
“Do to others as you would like them to do to you. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.



“If you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

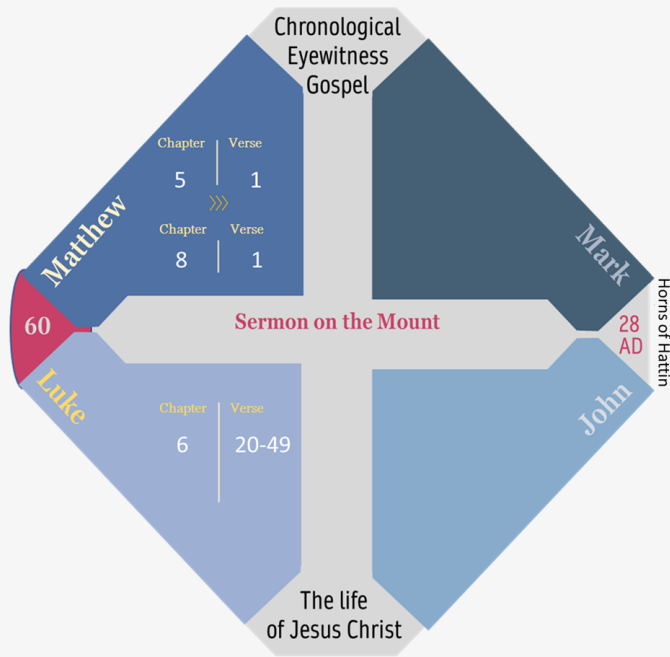
“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.



“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

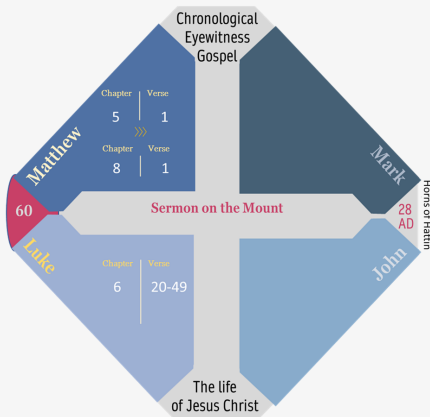
“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!



“Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
 may your name be kept holy.
 May your Kingdom come soon.
 May your will be done on earth,
 as it is in heaven.
 Give us today the food we need,
 and forgive us our sins,
 as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
 And don't let us yield to temptation,
 but rescue us from the evil one.

Episode 3

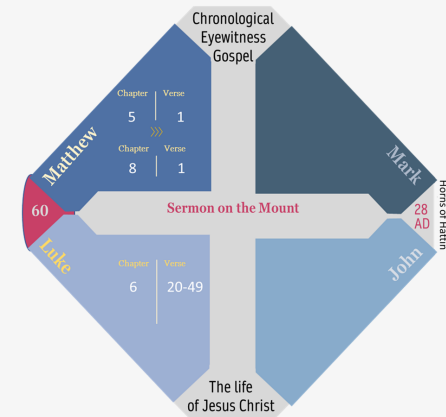


“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

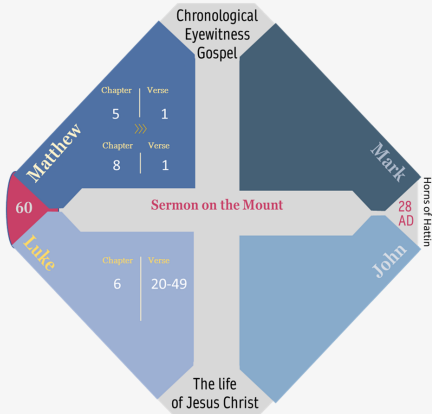
Episode 3



“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

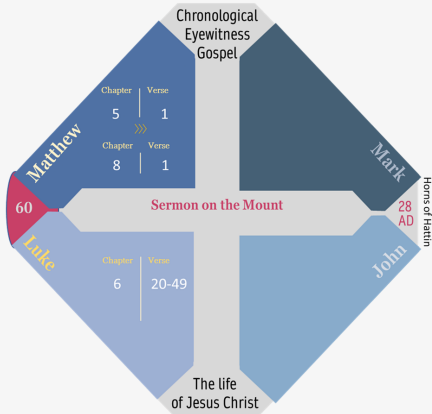
“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?



“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

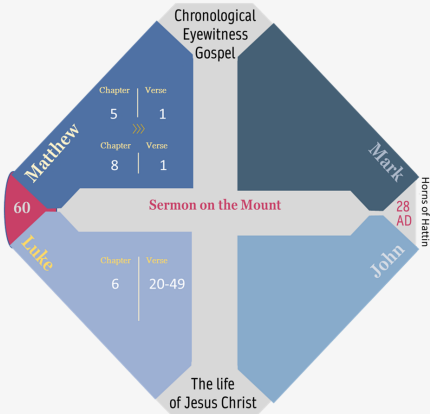
“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.



“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you.

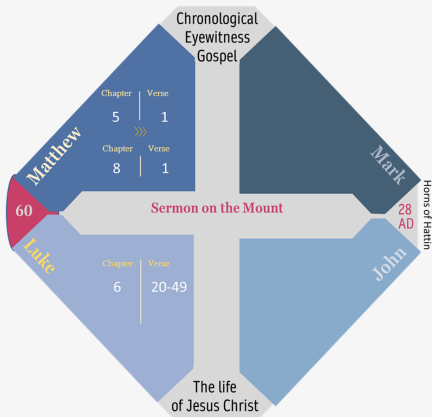
“Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”



Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? Students are not greater than their teacher, but the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

“Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

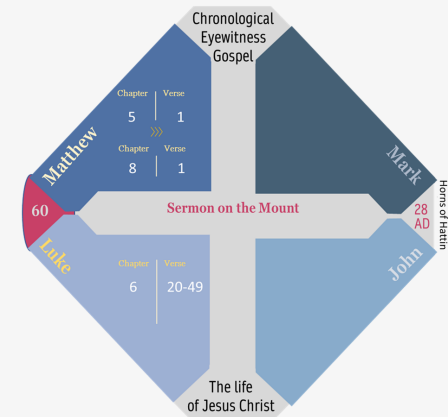


“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Episode 3

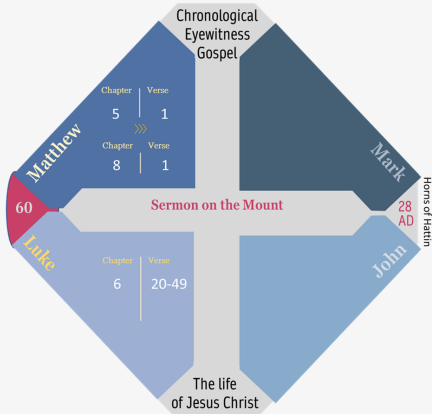


“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit.

“Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

Episode 3

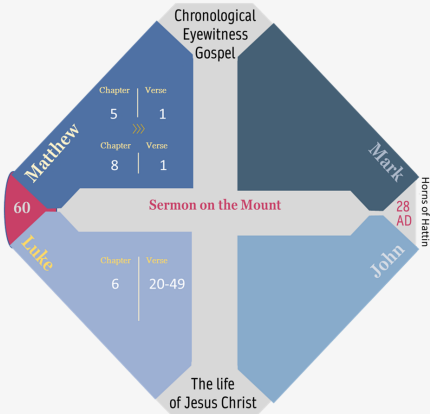


“A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

“On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who practice lawlessness.

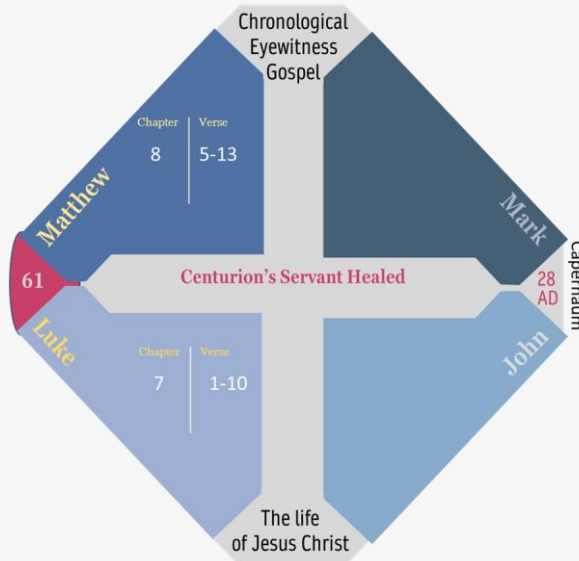


“I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

“It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a foolish person who builds a house right on the ground, on top of sand, without a foundation. When the wind beats against that house, and the floods sweep down, it will collapse with a mighty crash into a heap of ruins.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside.

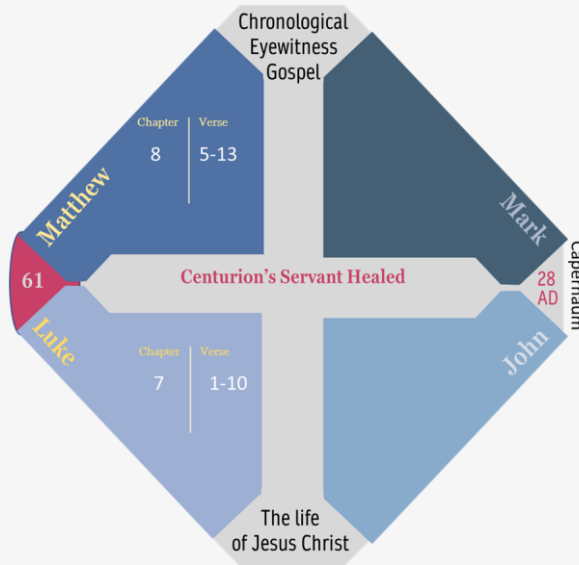


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum. At that time, the highly valued servant of a Roman officer was sick and near death. When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave. So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man.

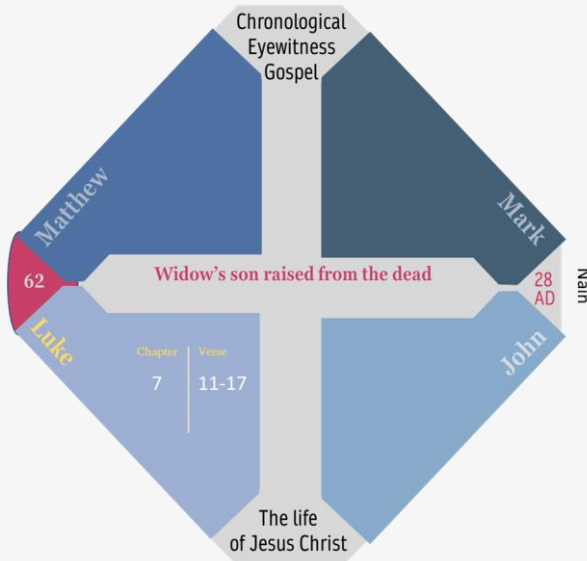
“If anyone deserves your help, he does,” they said, “for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us.”

So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, “Lord, don’t trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”



When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, “I tell you; I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!” And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Then Jesus provided his response to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour. When the officer’s friends returned to his house, they found the slave completely healed.



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her.

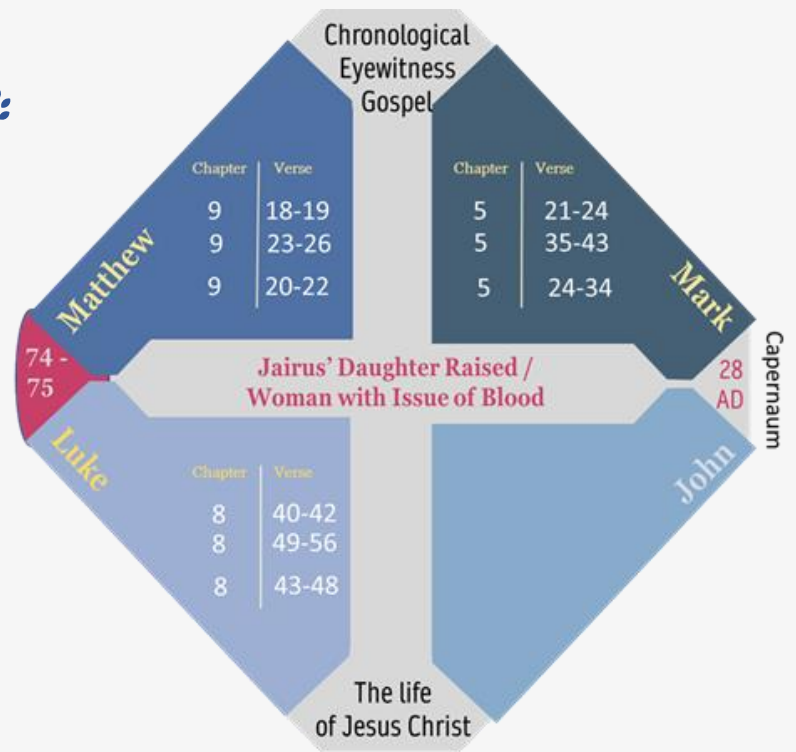
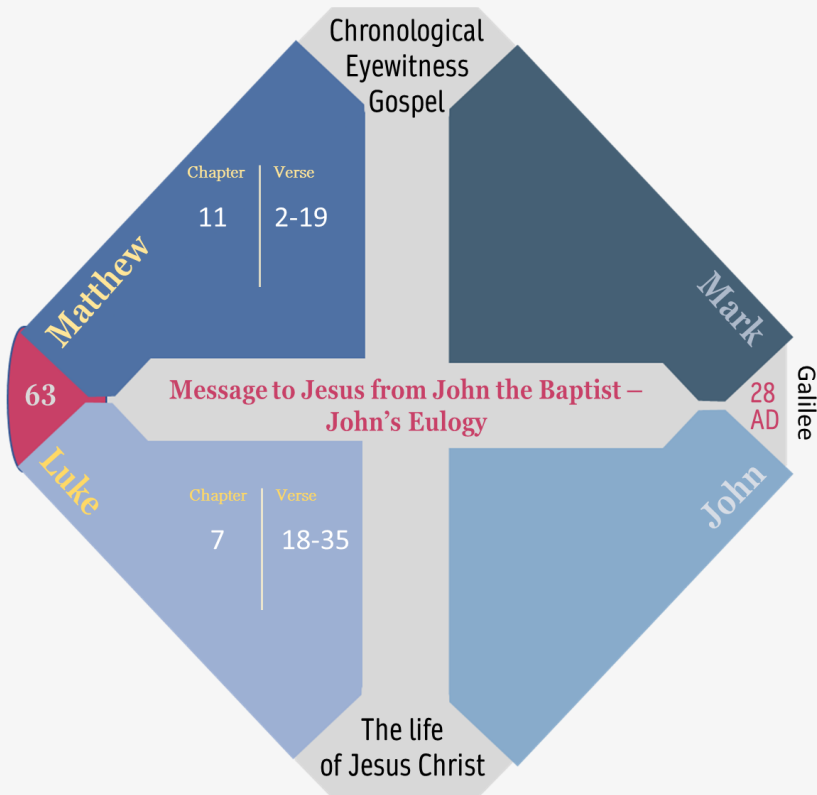
When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. **“Don’t cry!”** he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. **“Young man,”** he said, **“I tell you, get up.”**

Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

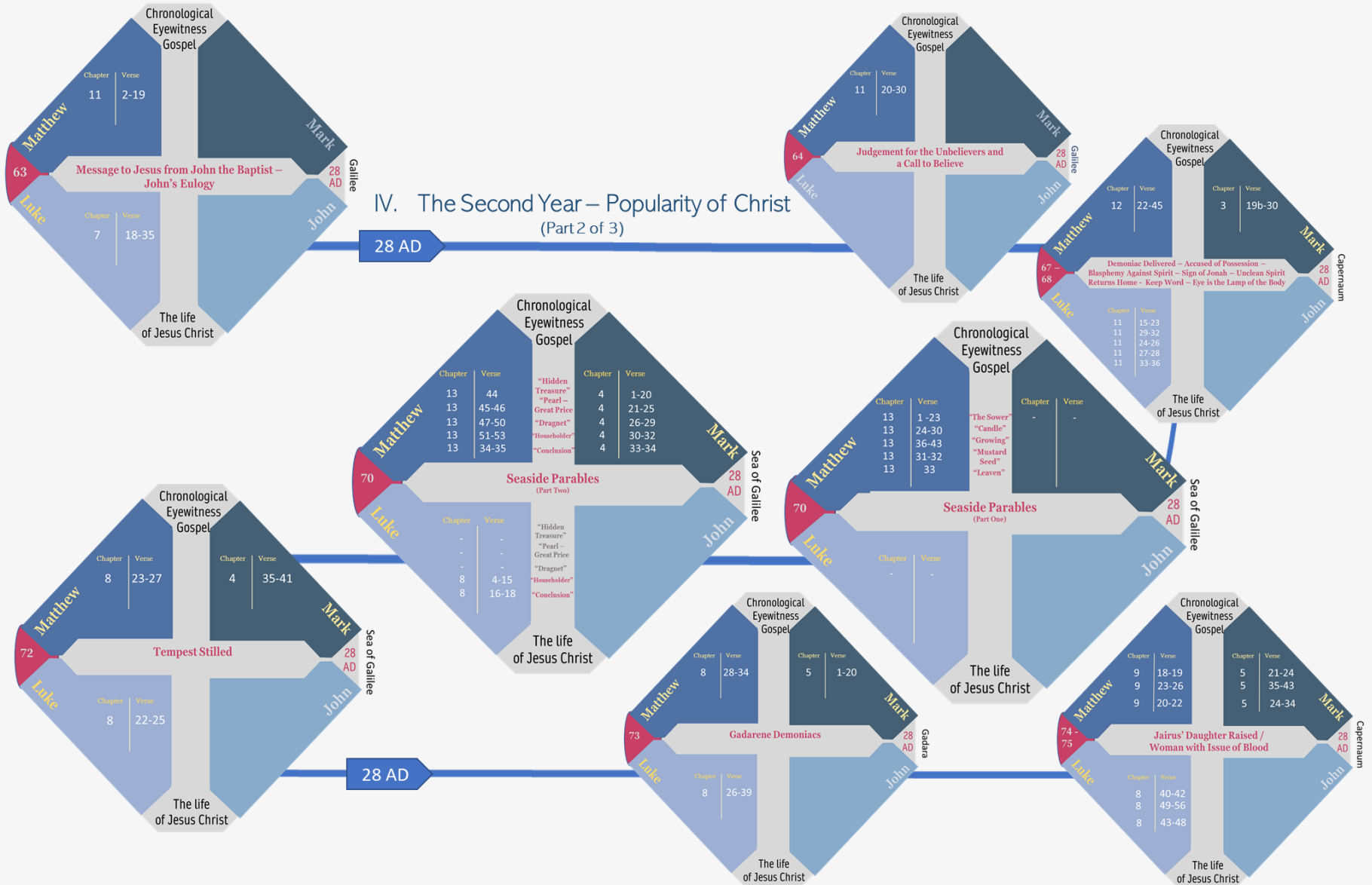
Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, “A mighty prophet has risen among us,” and “God has visited his people today.” And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

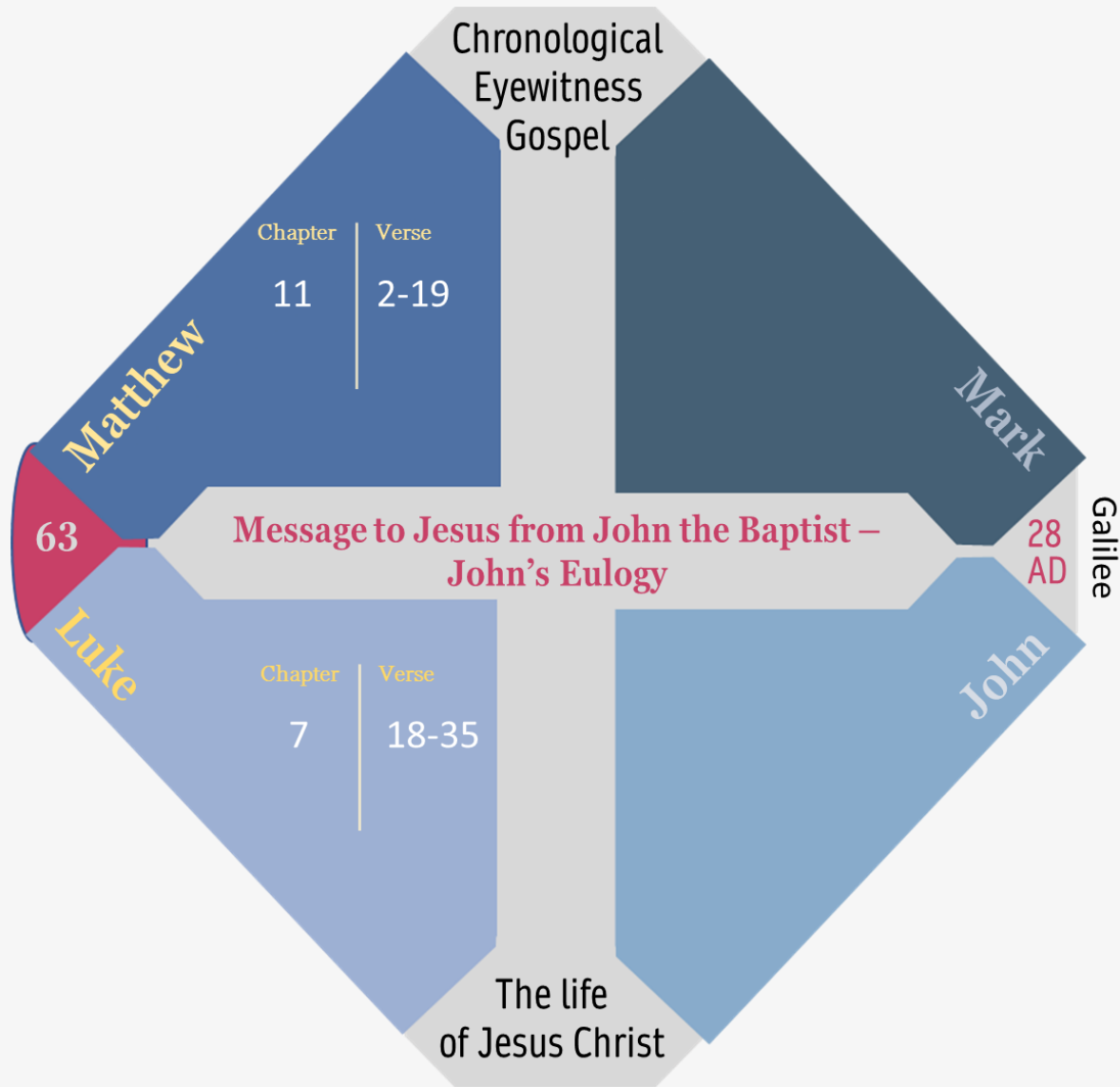
The Second Year – Popularity of Christ

(Part 2 of 3)

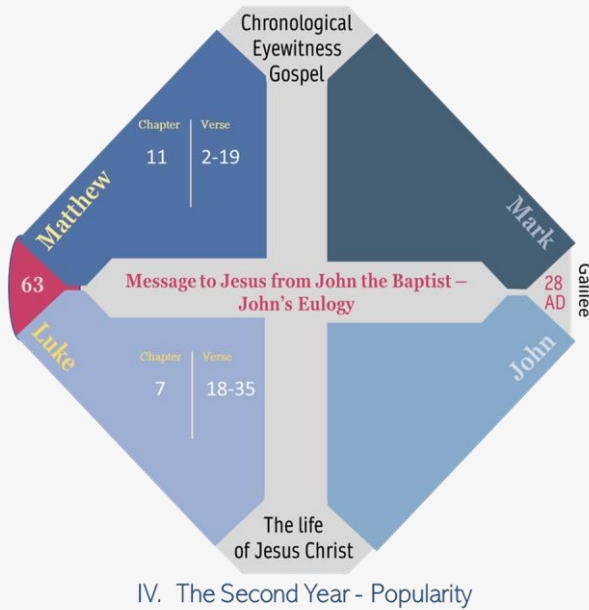


Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 4





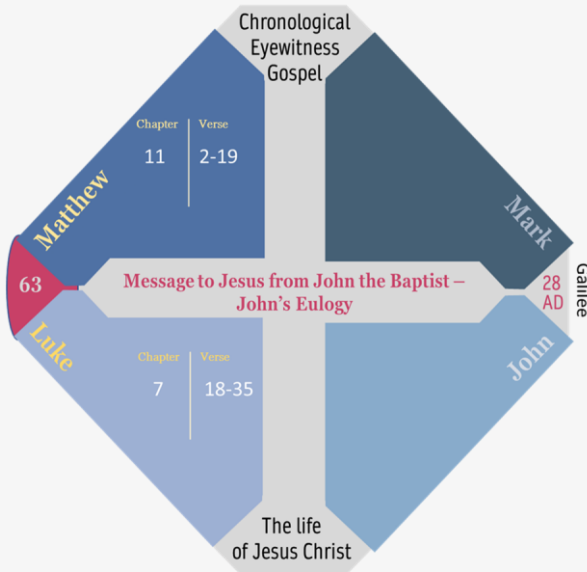
IV. The Second Year - Popularity



John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

John’s two disciples found Jesus and said to him, “John the Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?’” At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind.

Then he told John’s disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”



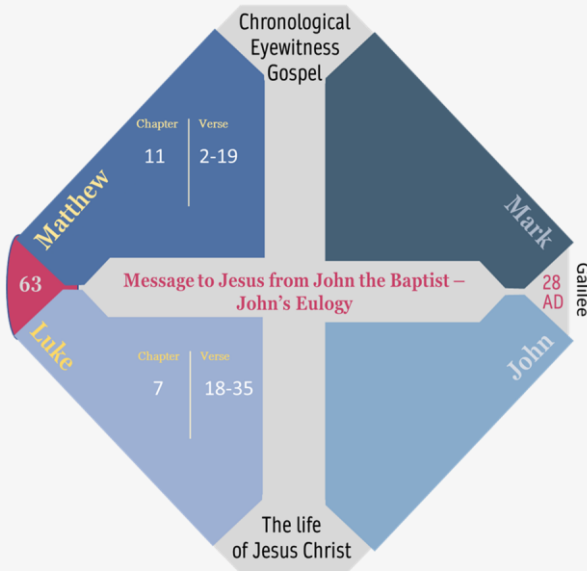
As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds.

“What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see?

“Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces.

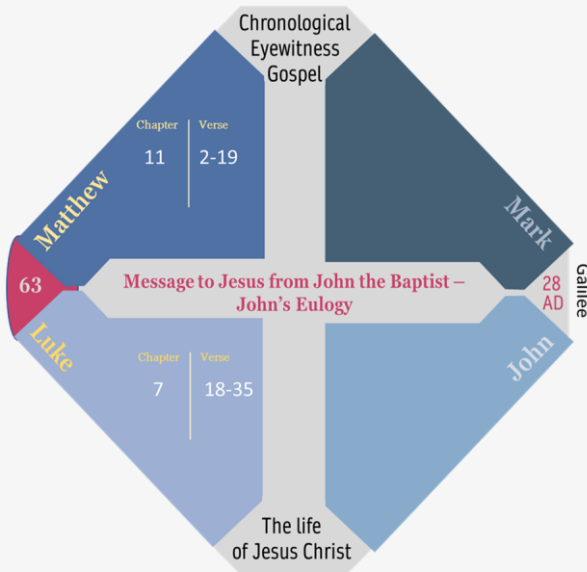
“Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.’



“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

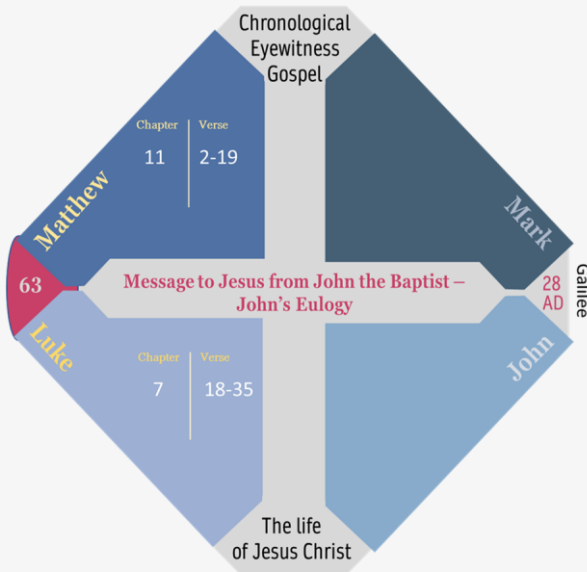
And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!



When they heard this, all the people—even the tax collectors—agreed that God’s way was right, for they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in religious law rejected God’s plan for them, for they had refused John’s baptism.

“To what can I compare the people of this generation?” Jesus asked. “How can I describe them? They are like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

‘We played wedding songs,
and you didn’t dance,
so we played funeral songs,
and you didn’t weep.’



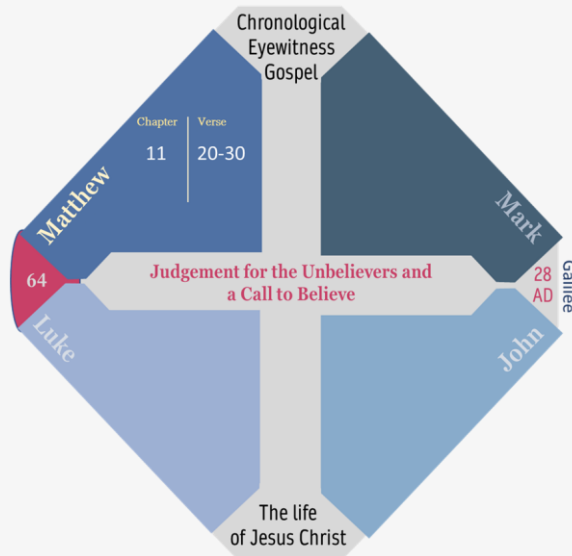
“For John the Baptist didn’t spend his time eating bread or drinking wine, and you say,

‘He’s possessed by a demon.’

The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say,

‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’

But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it – by its results.”

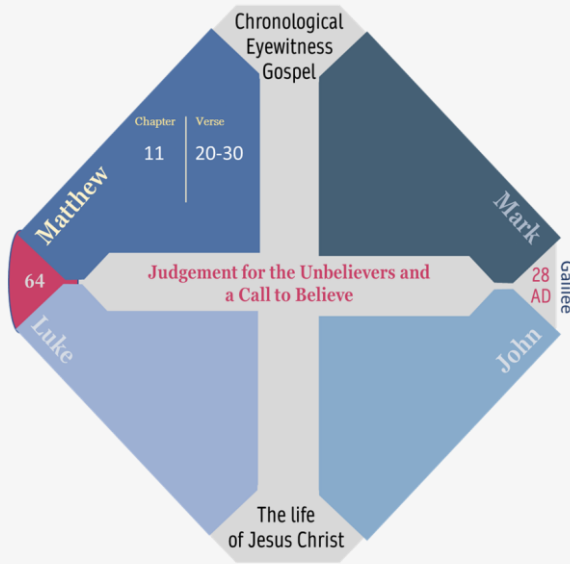


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God.

“What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you.

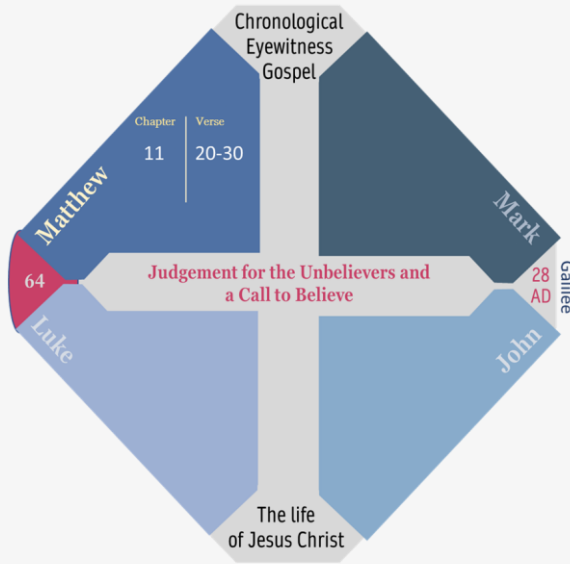
“And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you.”



At that time Jesus prayed this prayer:

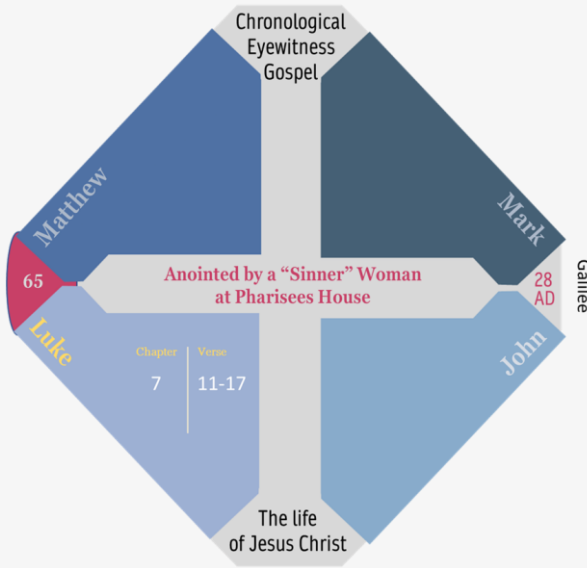
“O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

“My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”



Then Jesus said,

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”



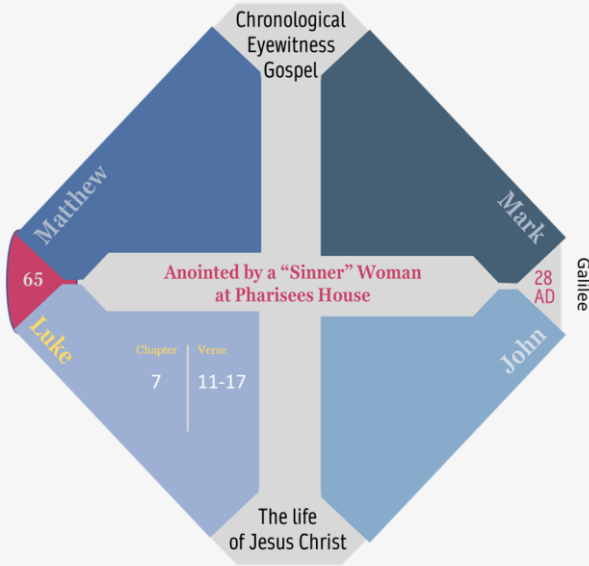
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “**Simon,**” he said to the Pharisee, “**I have something to say to you.**”

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

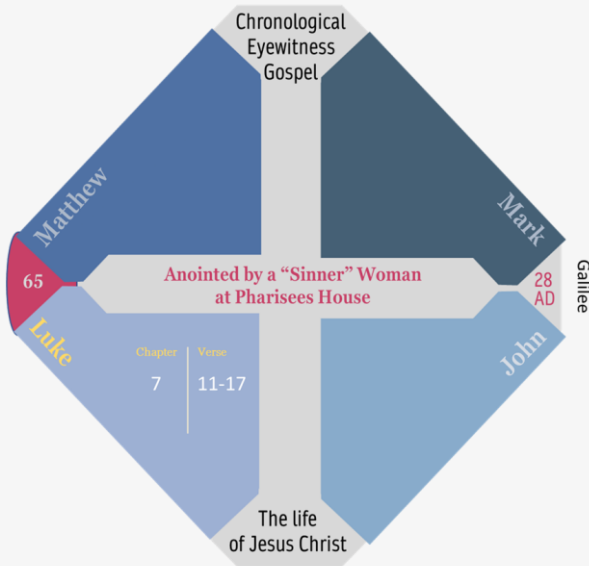


Then Jesus told him this story:

“A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.”

“That’s right,” Jesus said.



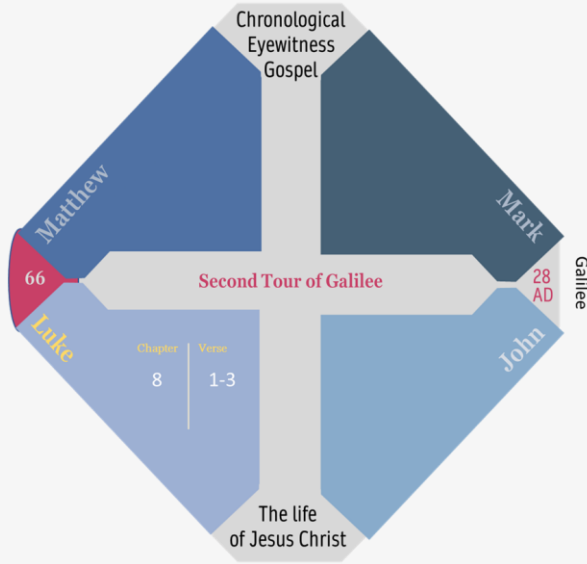
Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon,

“Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

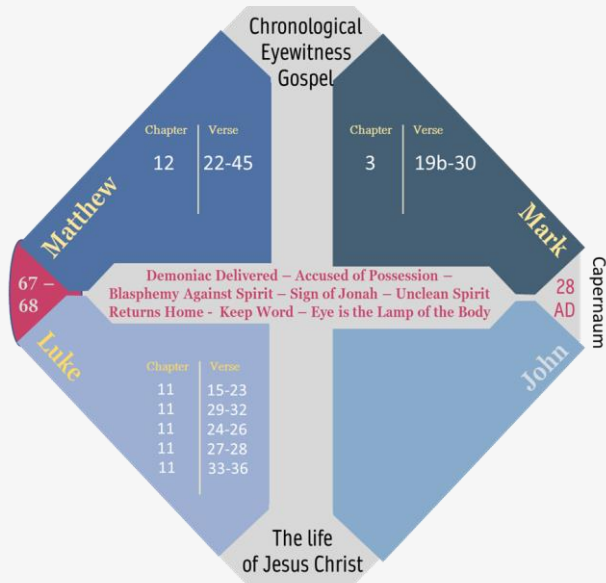
And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases.

Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.



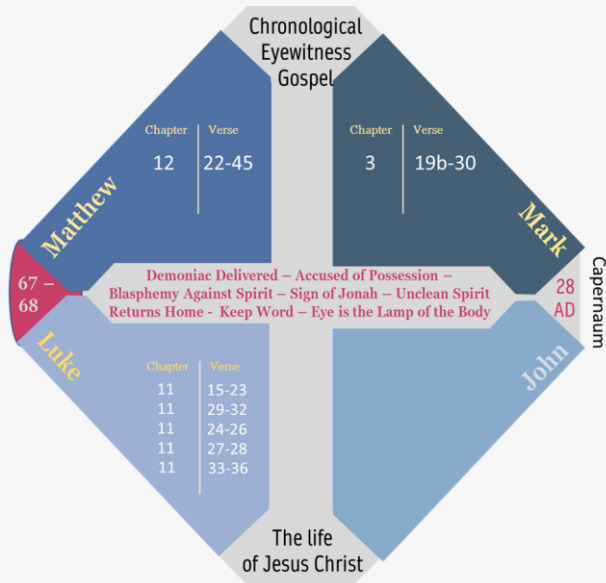
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

One day Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man by casting out a demon, and when the demon was gone the man could both speak and see.

The crowd was amazed and asked, "Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?"

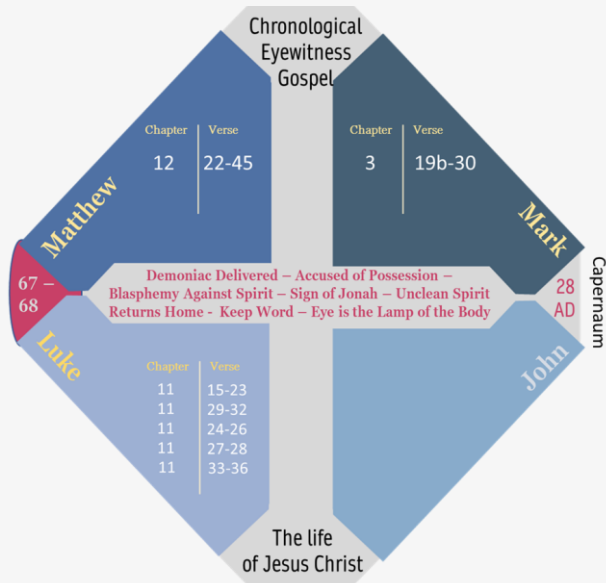
But when the Pharisees and the scribes, the teachers of religious law, who had arrived from Jerusalem heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons. That's where he gets the power to cast out demons."



Others, trying to test Jesus, demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. He knew their thoughts, so he said, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed to collapse. Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

“You say I am empowered by Satan. But if Satan is divided and fighting against himself, how can his kingdom survive? And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said.

“But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For when a strong man is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are presumed safe. For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who can overpower him, tie him up, strip him of his weapons, to plunder his house, and carry off his belongings.



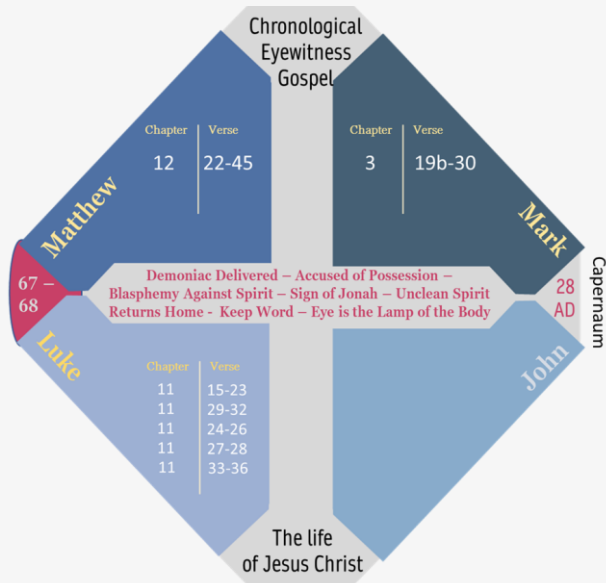
“Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.

“So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven.

“I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.”

“Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.

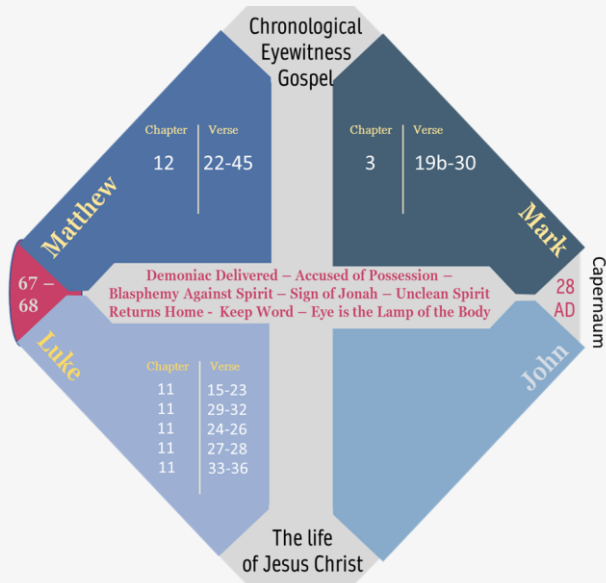
He told them this because they were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”



“A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad.

“You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”

As the crowd pressed in on Jesus, some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority.”

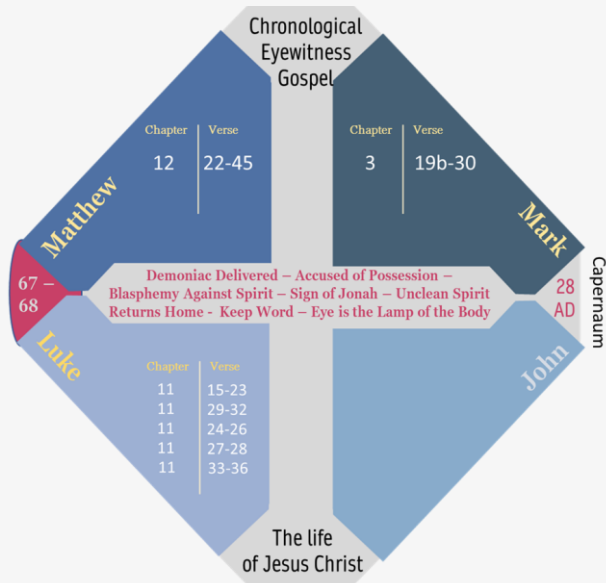


But Jesus replied, “This evil generation keeps asking me to show them a miraculous sign.

“Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. What happened to him was a sign to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him.

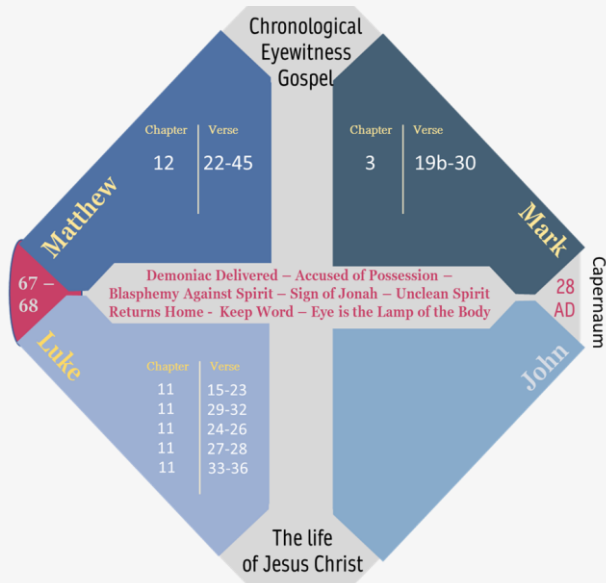
“What happens to the Son of Man will be a sign to these people that he was sent by God. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent.



“The queen of Sheba will also stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen.

“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest. But when it finds none, it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”

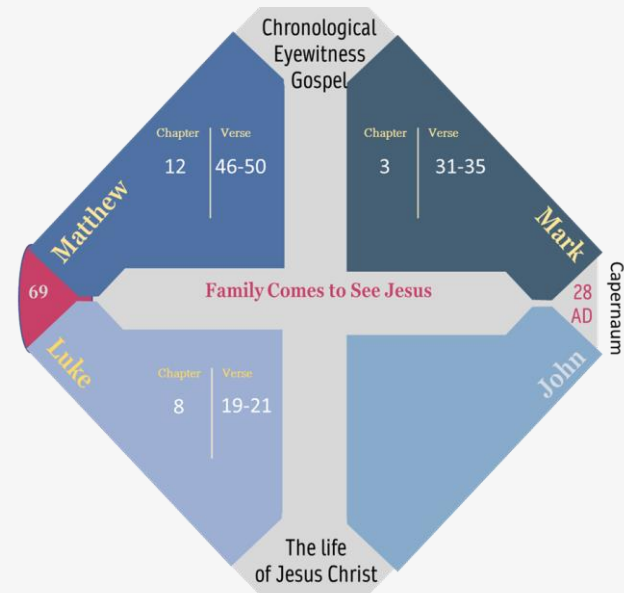


As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!”

Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

“No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

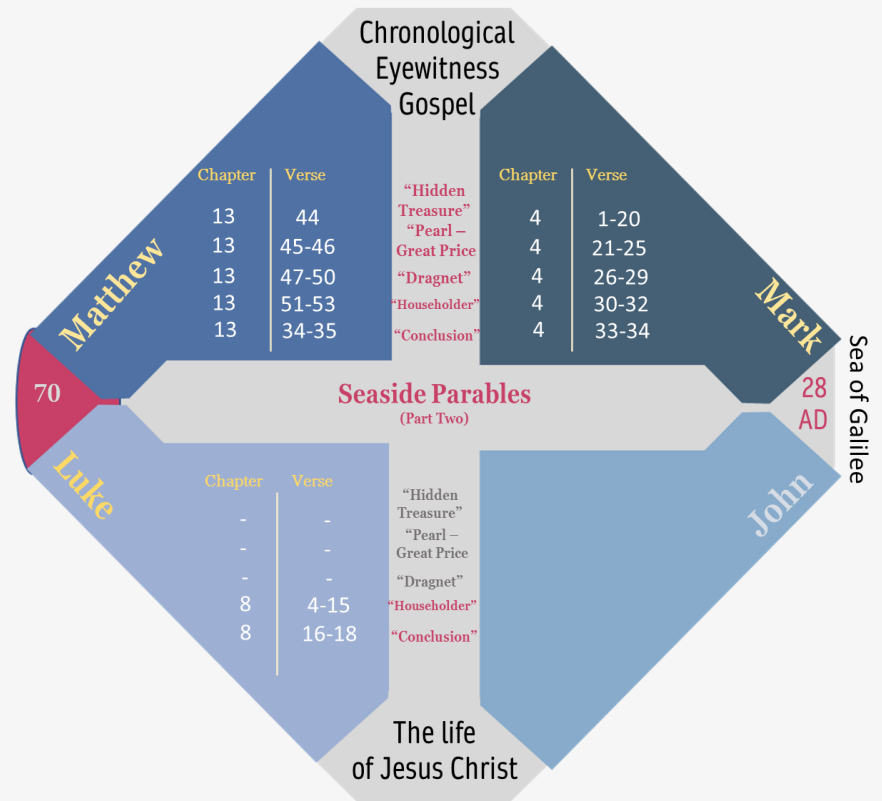
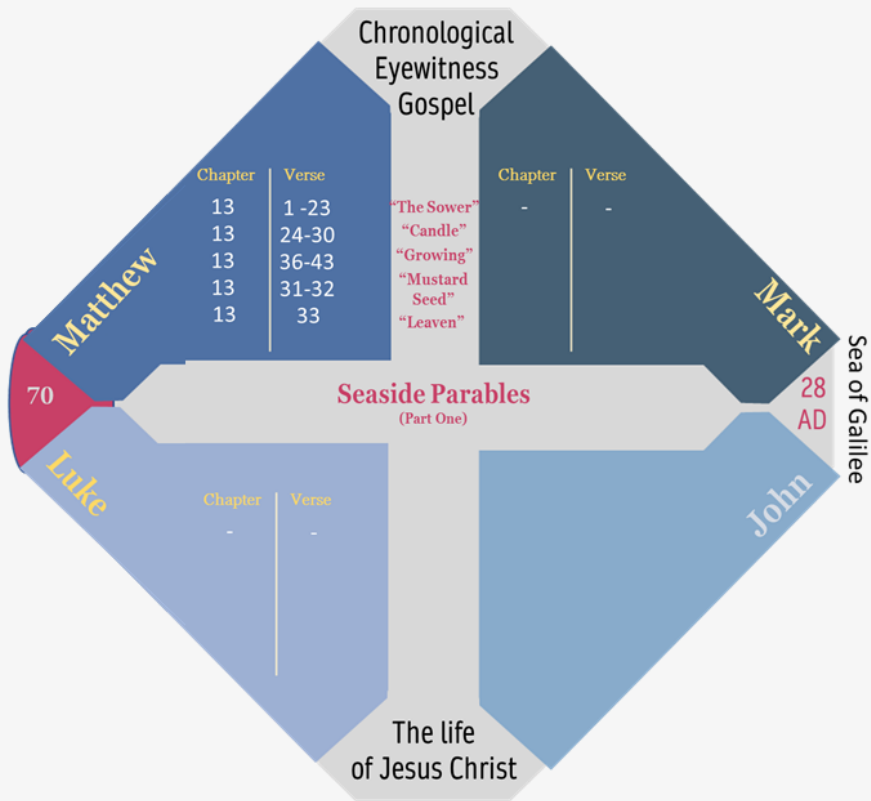


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

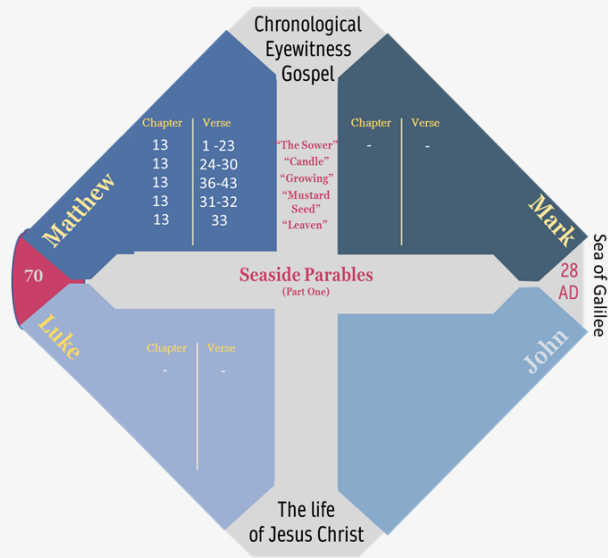
As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you.”

Jesus asked, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God’s word and obey it.”

Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!”

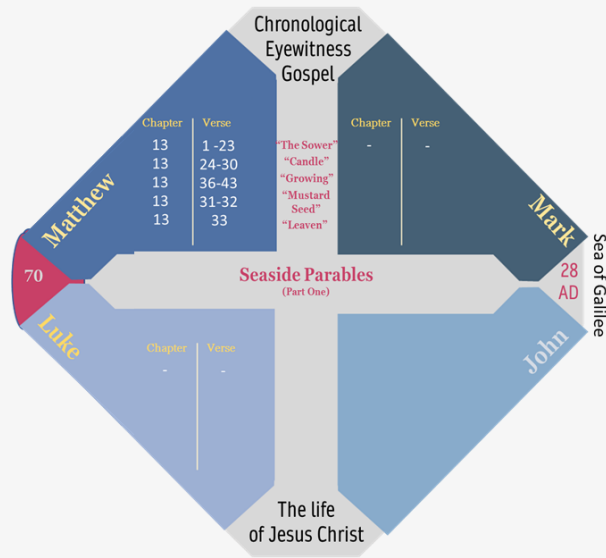


IV. The Second Year - Popularity



Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd of people from many towns came to hear him and quickly swelled around him, so he got into a boat to teach while all the people remained on the shore.

He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:



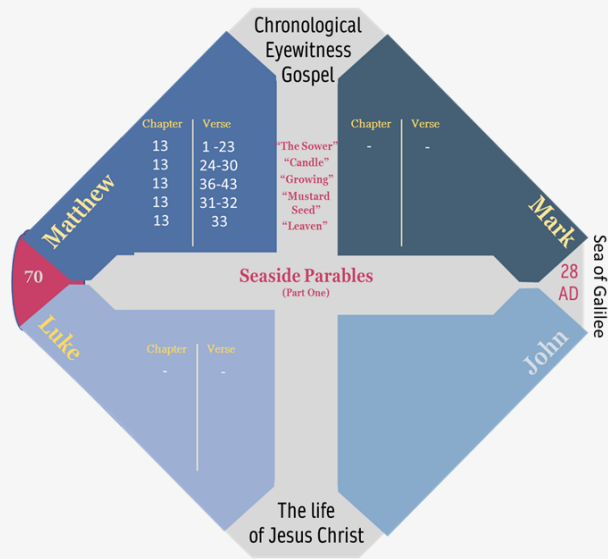
The Sower

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds came and ate it.

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died.

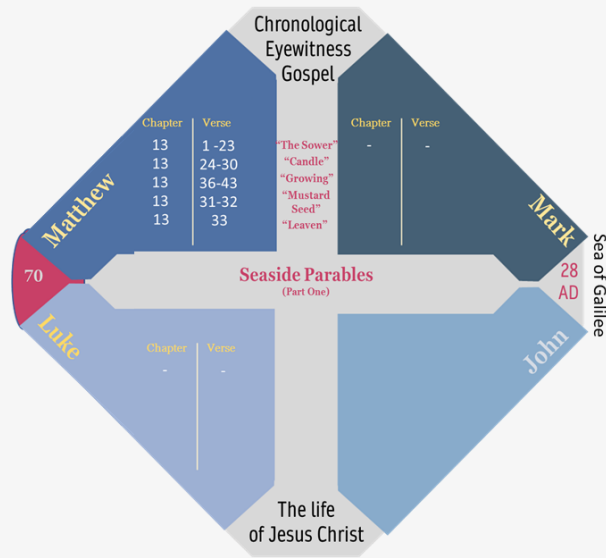
“Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants, so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”



His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”

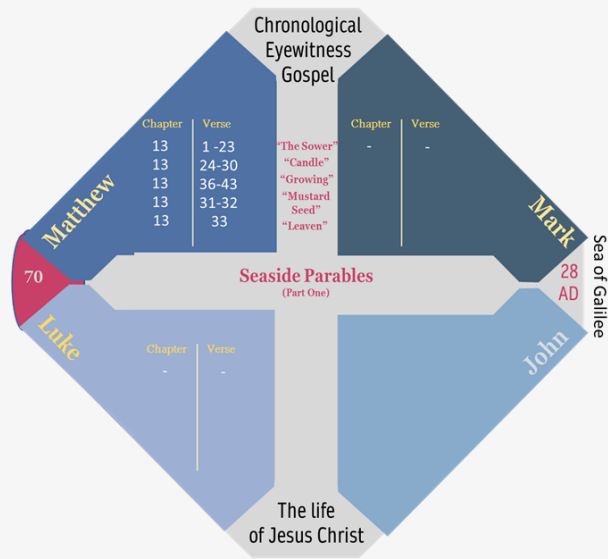
He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables,



“This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says,

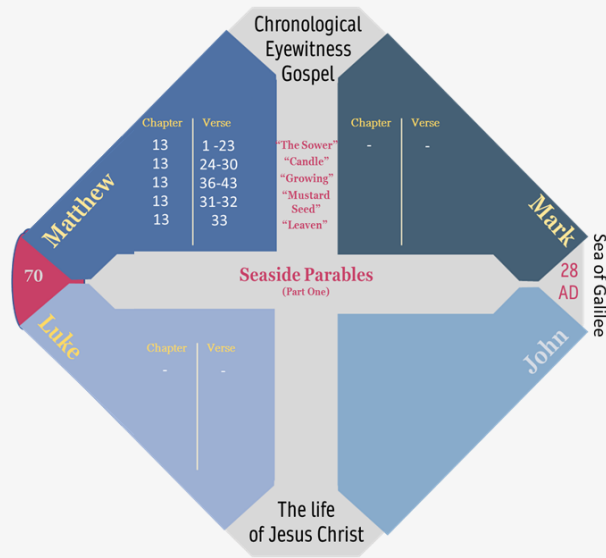
‘When you hear what I say,
 you will not understand.
 When you see what I do,
 you will not comprehend.
 For the hearts of these people are hardened,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and they have closed their eyes—
 so their eyes cannot see,
 and their ears cannot hear,
 and their hearts cannot understand,
 and they cannot turn to me
 and let me heal them.’

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it.”



His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He replied, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds.

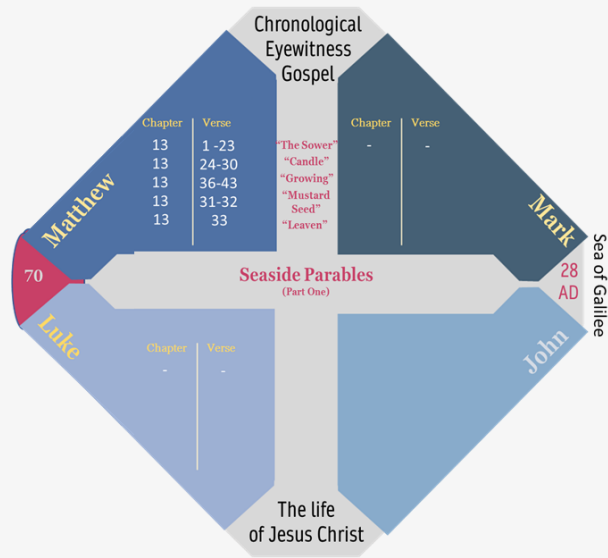
“The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others. The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. The evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.



“The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. They believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

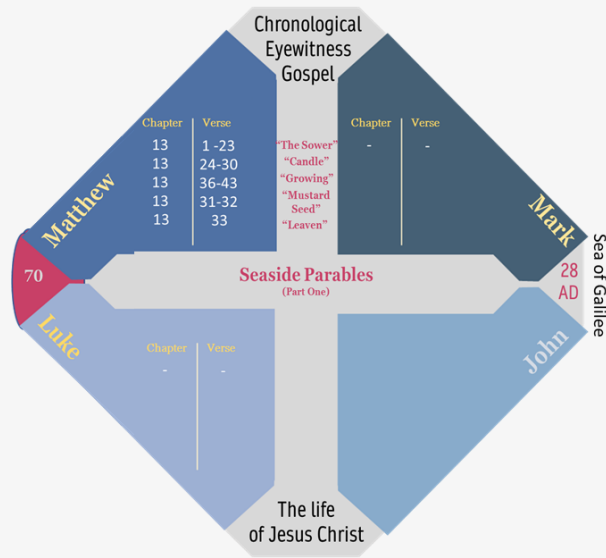
“The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and the desire for other things; so they never grow into maturity and no fruit is produced.

“And the seed that fell on good soil, which is honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest. Those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”



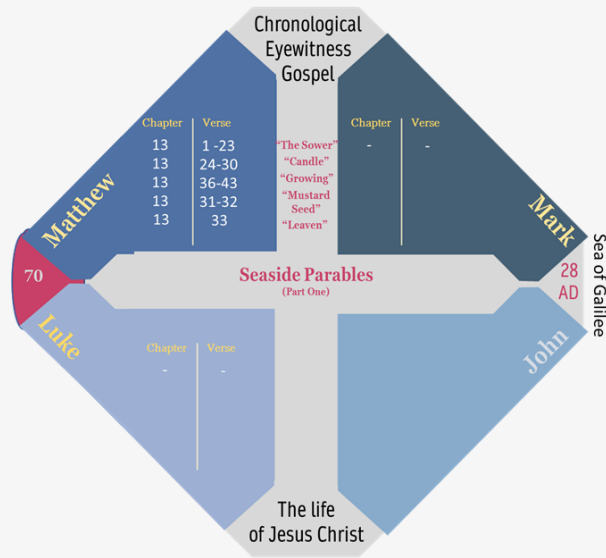
The Candle

Then Jesus asked them, “Would anyone light a candle and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A candlestick is placed on a stand, where its light will shine so it can be seen by all who enter the house. For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed, every secret, will be brought to light and made known to all. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”



Parable of the Growing Seed

Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”



Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

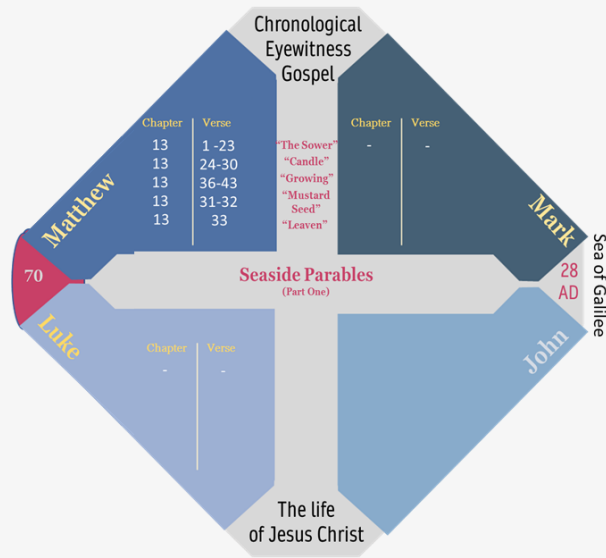
Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

“The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’

“‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.

“‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.

“‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”

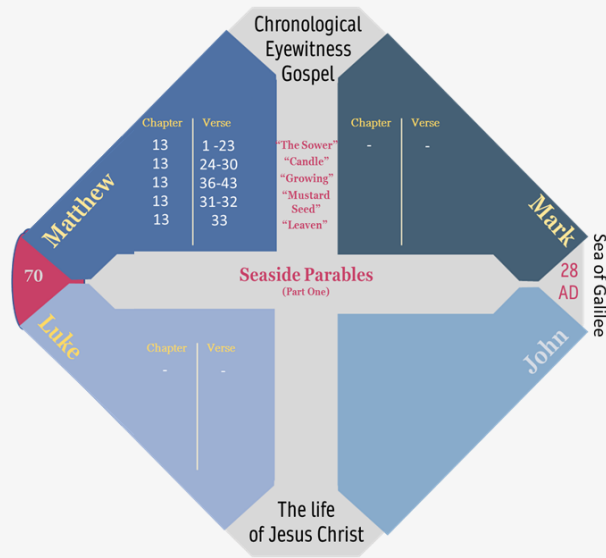


Parable of the Wheat and Weeds Explained

Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”

Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

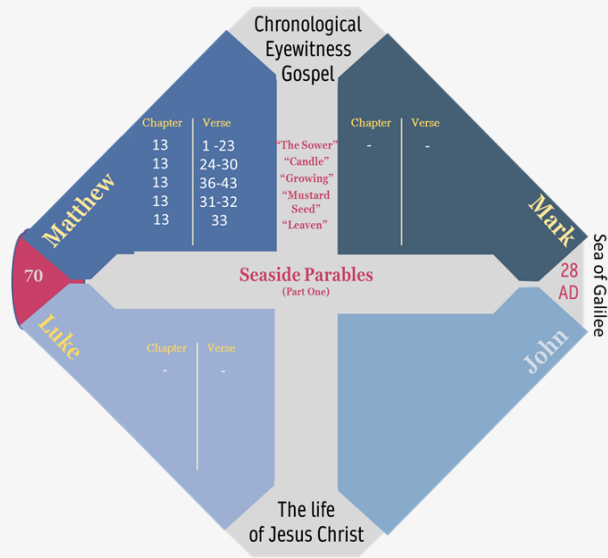


Parable of the Mustard Seed

Here is another illustration Jesus used: “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds come and make nests in its shade.”

Parable of the Yeast - Leaven

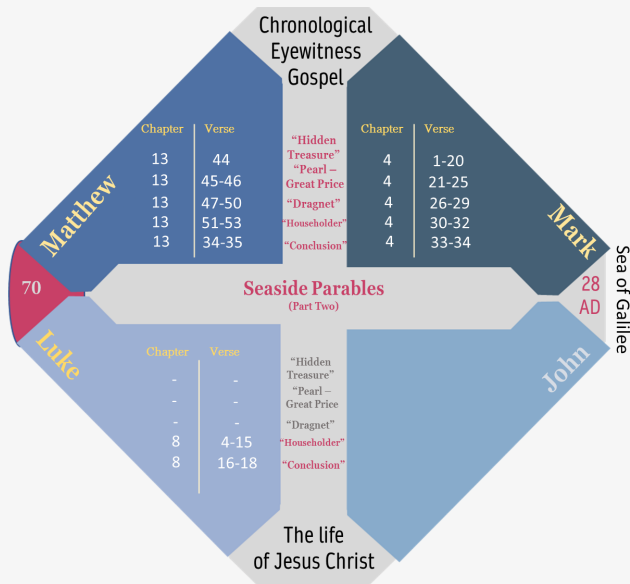
Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”



Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet:

“I will speak to you in parables.

I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world.”

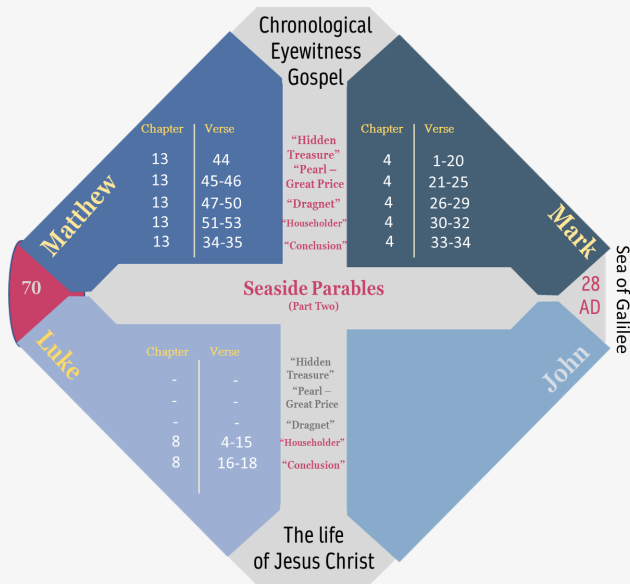


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

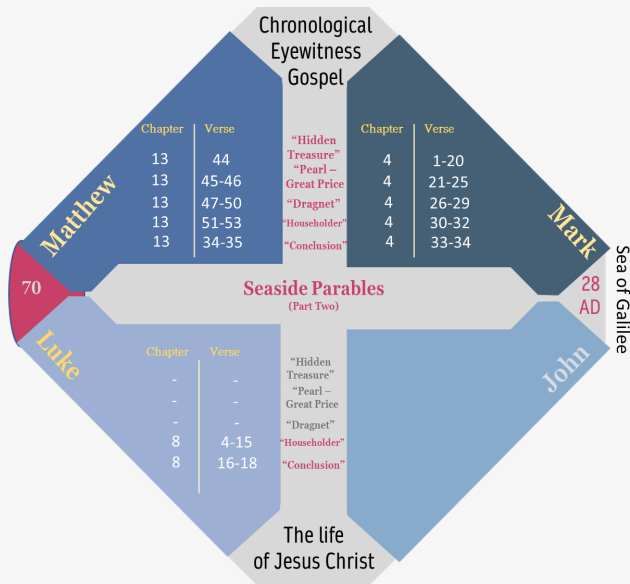
“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!



Parable of the Fishing Net

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



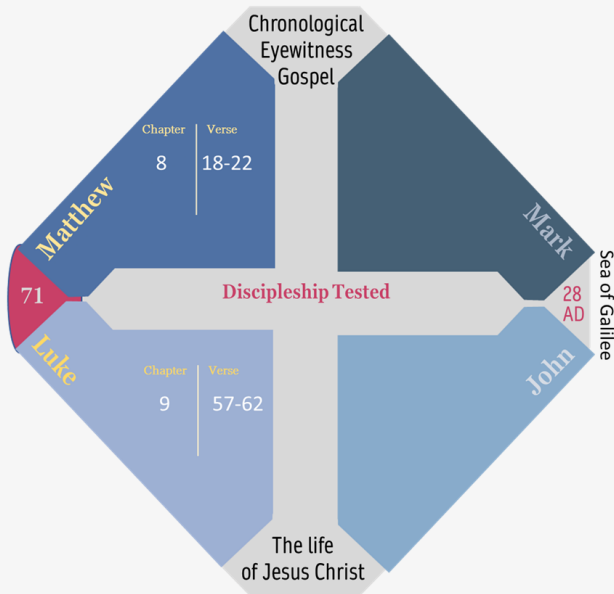
Parable of the householder

“Do you understand all these things?”

“Yes,” they said, “we do.”

Then he added, “Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old.”

When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country. Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

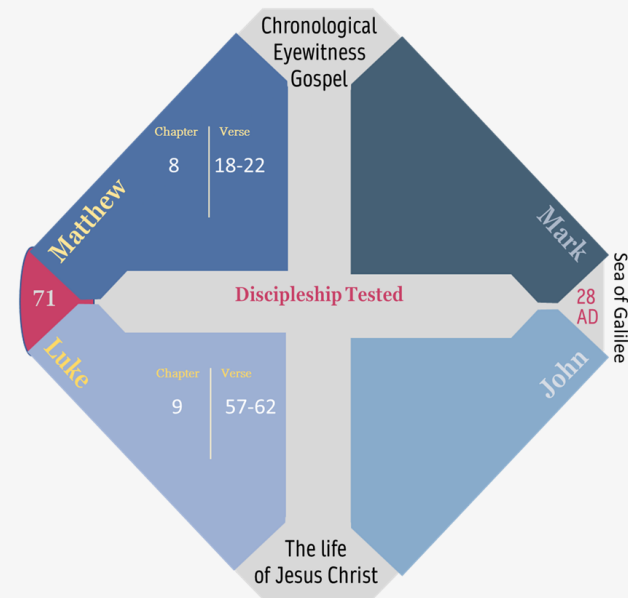


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

As they were walking along, one of the teachers of religious law said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

But Jesus replied, “**Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.**”



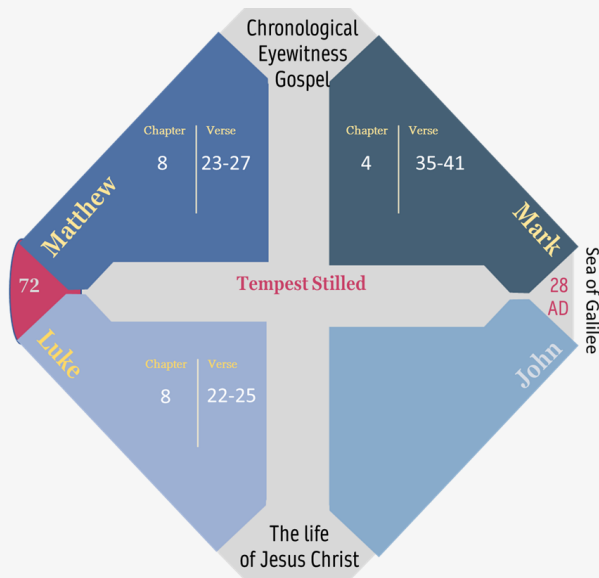
He said to another person, “Come, follow me.”

Another of his disciples said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

But Jesus told him, “Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”

Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.”

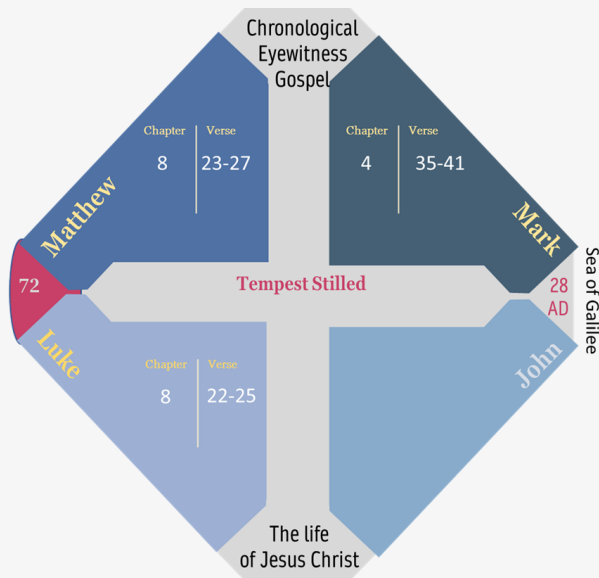
But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

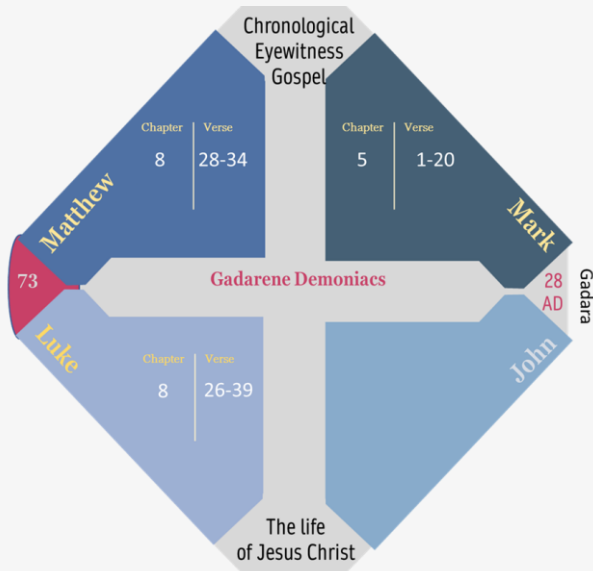
As evening came, Jesus said, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake,” got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed).

As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat and it began to fill with water; but Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” They were in real danger.



Jesus responded, “Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!” Then he got up and rebuked the wind and said to the raging waves, “Silence! Be still!” and suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

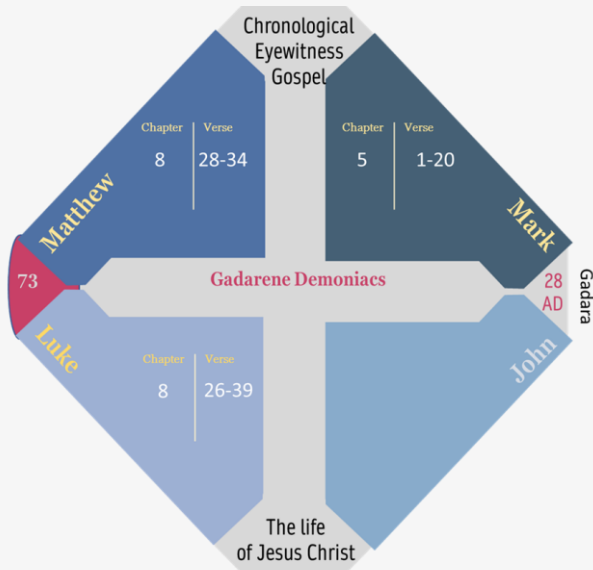
The disciples were absolutely terrified and amazed, “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!”



IV. The Second Year - Popularity

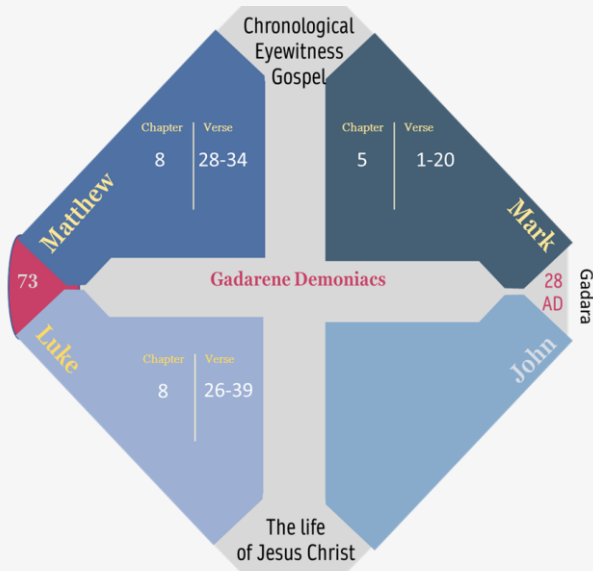
So when they arrived at the other side of the lake, across the lake from Galilee in the region of the Gerasenes, when Jesus climbed out of the boat, two men who were possessed by demons met him.

They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area. They began screaming at him, “Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God’s appointed time?”



A man possessed by an evil spirit; a man who was possessed by demons came out from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.

For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon’s power. Day and night, he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

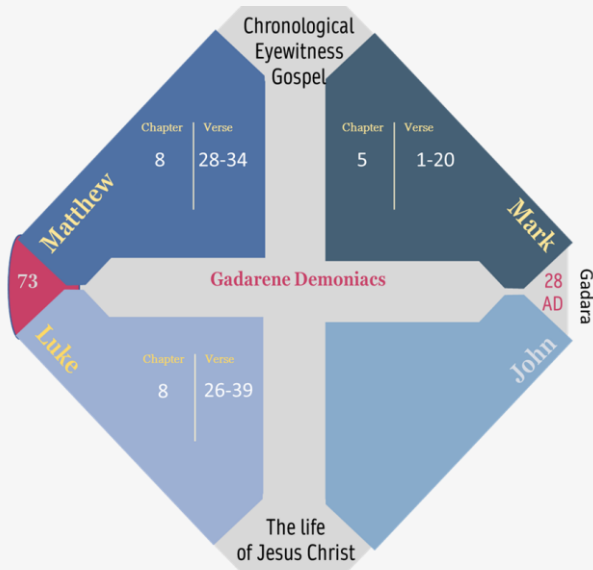


When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him, saying, **“Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”**

Then Jesus demanded, **“What is your name?”**

And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

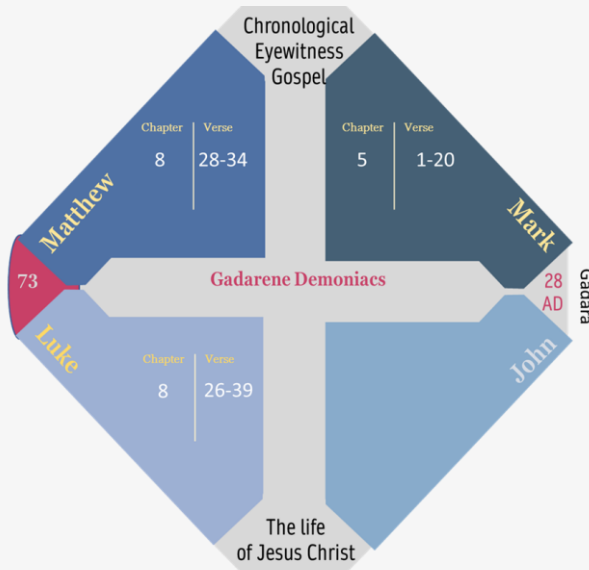
[Footnote: or the abyss, or the underworld.]



There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance on the hillside nearby. “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

So Jesus gave them permission. He said, “Go,” and the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

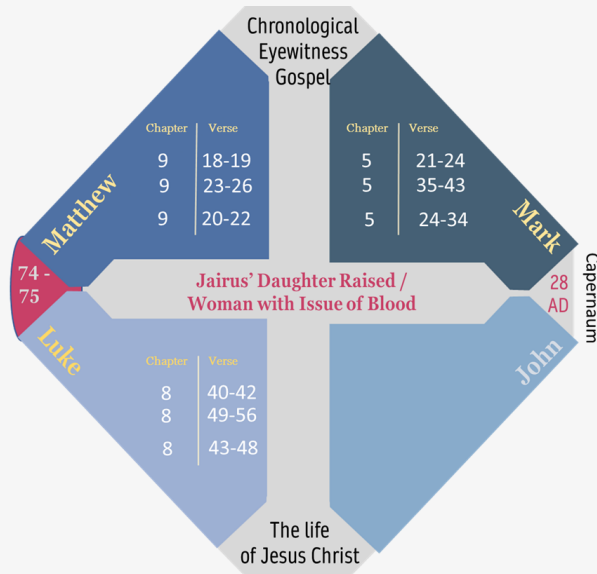
When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men.



People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by and freed from the legion of demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.

Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. And the entire town began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. All the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. But Jesus said, **“No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”** So the man went all through the town and the Ten Towns of that region proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.



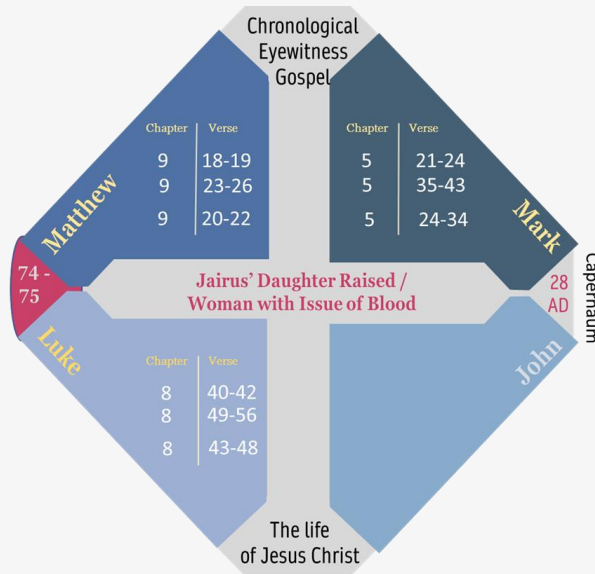
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd was waiting for him and gathered around him on the shore.

Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading fervently with him to come home with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live."

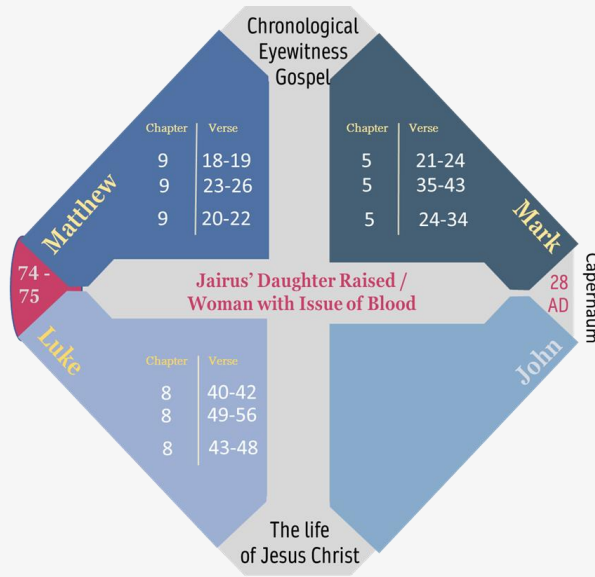
His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying.

As Jesus went with him and all the people followed, crowding around him, he was surrounded by the crowds.



A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.

She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, **“If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”**



Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

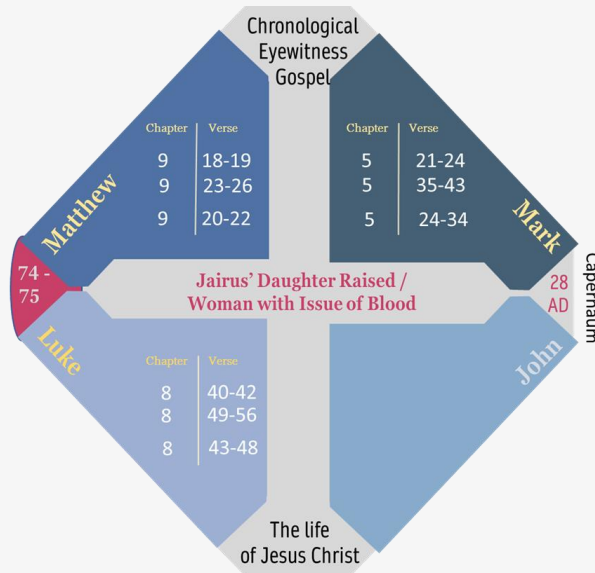
“Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?”

His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you.”

But Jesus said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.”



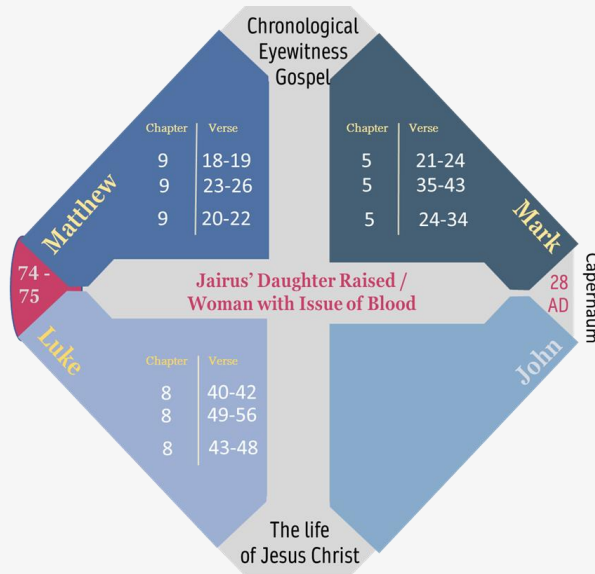
Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her and realizing that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done.

The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed.

“**Daughter,**” he said to her, **“be encouraged, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”**

While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.”

But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, **“Don’t be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed.”**



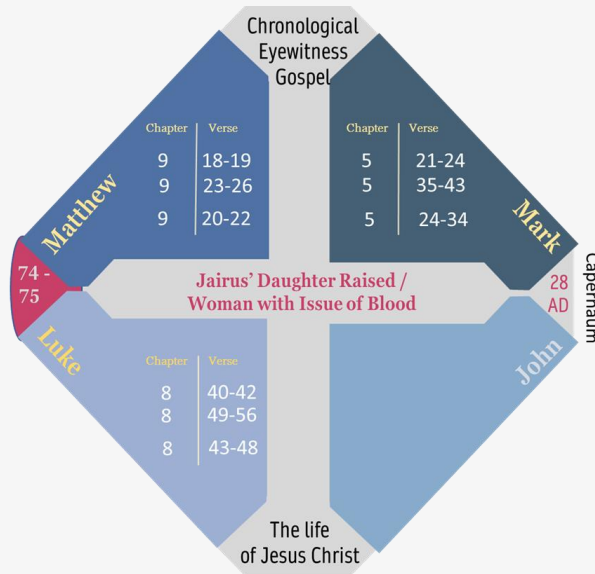
Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James).

When they arrived at the home of the synagogue leader, at the official's home, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music.

He went inside and asked, **“Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep.”**

The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, **“Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep.”**

Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother.



But the crowd scoffed at him because they all knew she had died. But he made them all leave. “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.”

After the crowd was put outside, however, he took the girl’s father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, “My child, get up!”

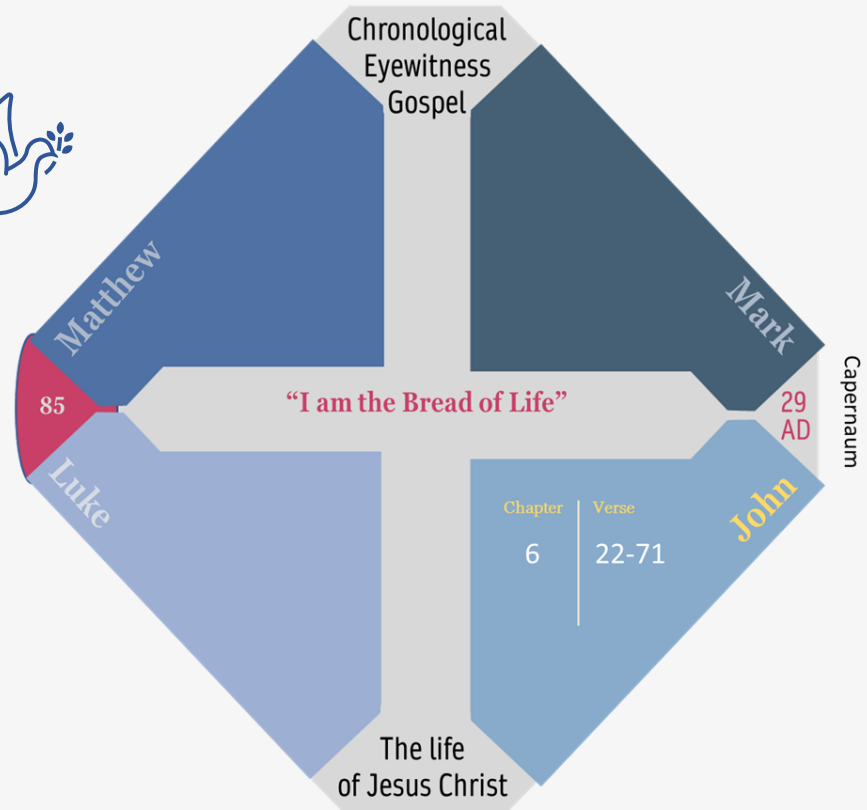
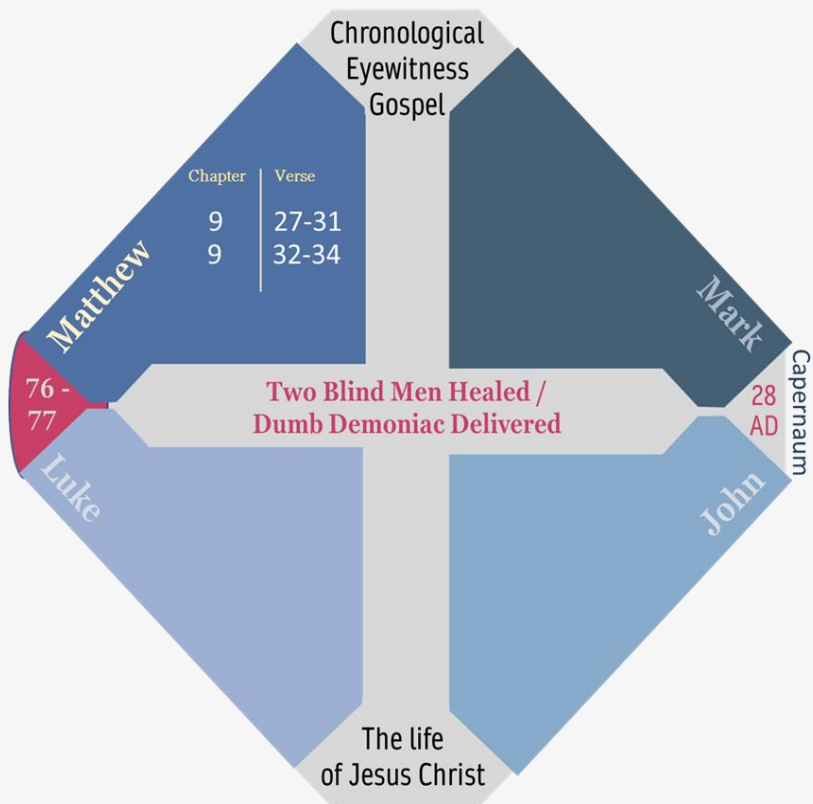
Holding her hand, he said to her, “*Talitha koum,*” which means “Little girl, get up!”

And at that moment her life returned, and the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! Her parents were overwhelmed and totally amazed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat.

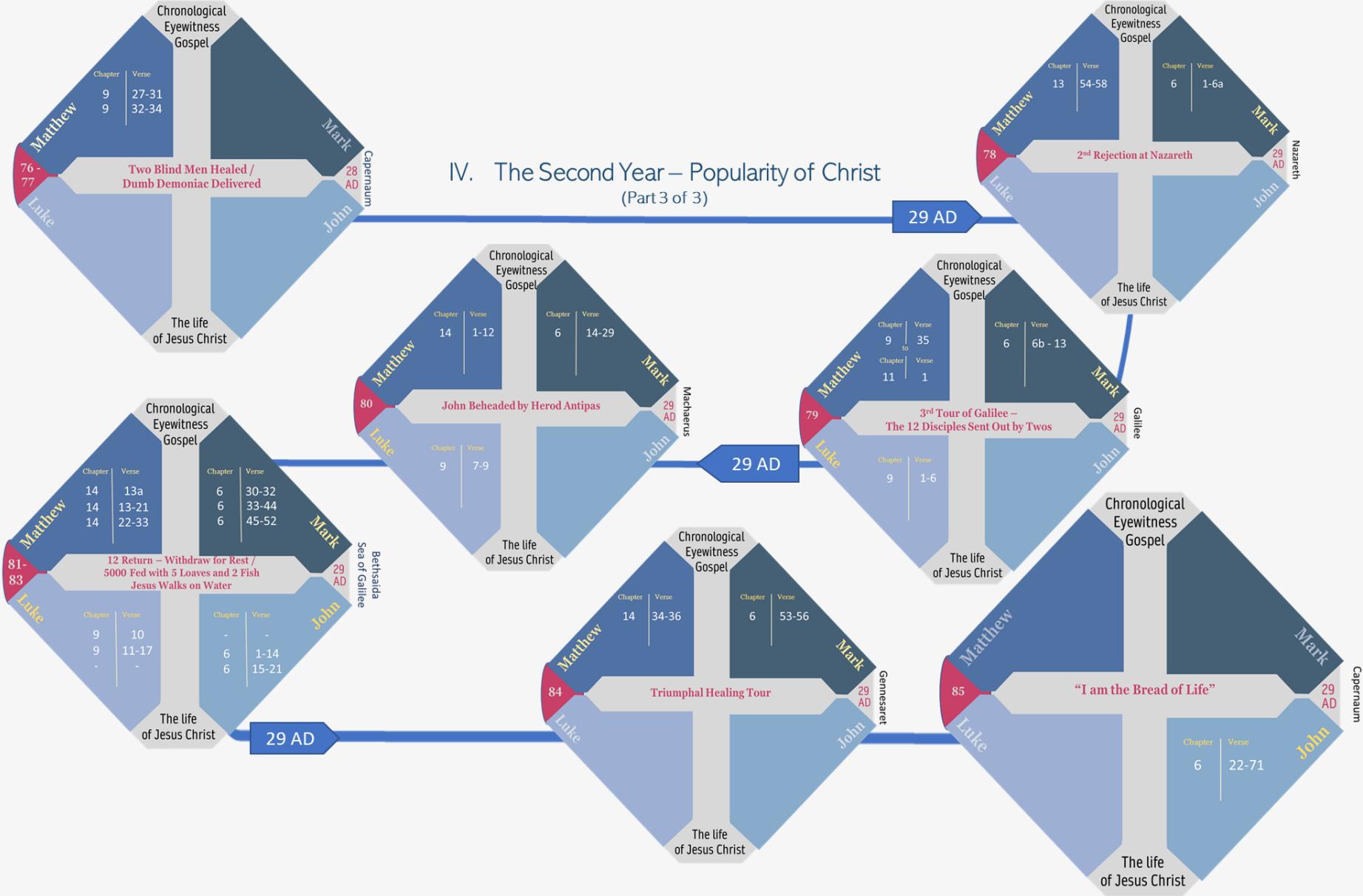
The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

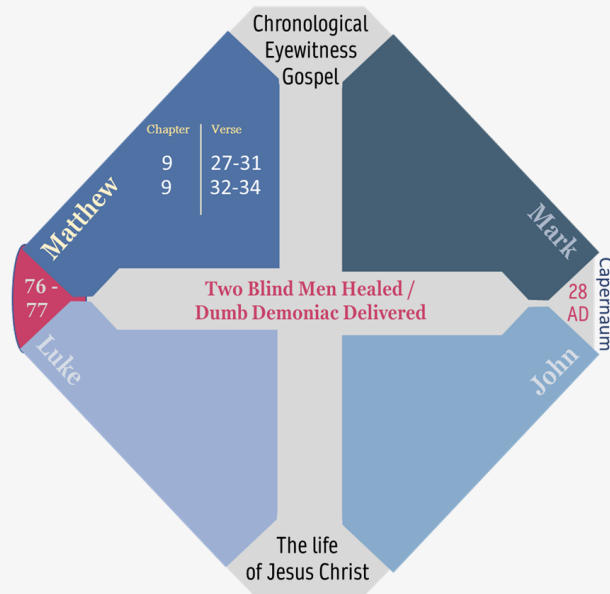
The Second Year – Popularity of Christ

(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!"

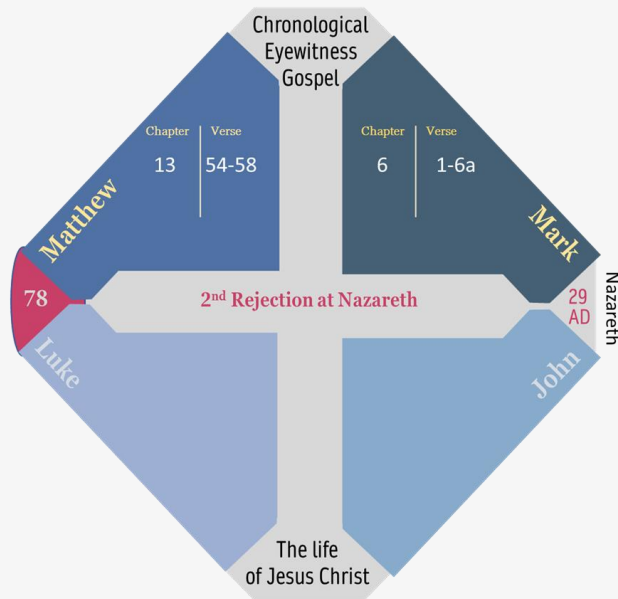
They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?"

"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."



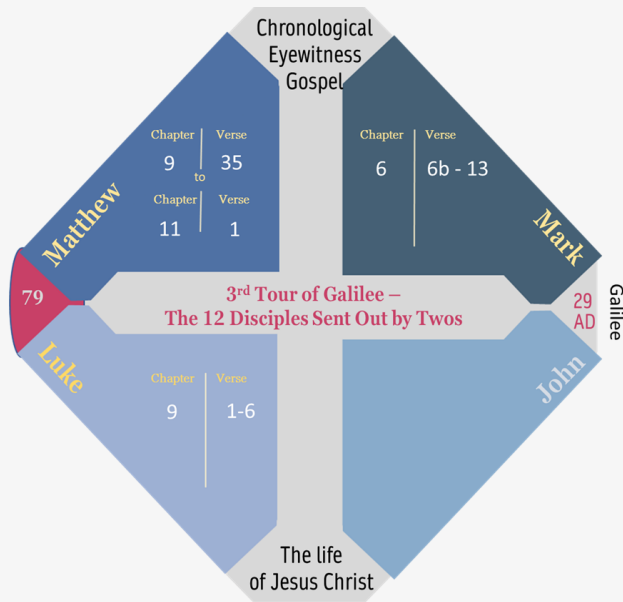
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

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.

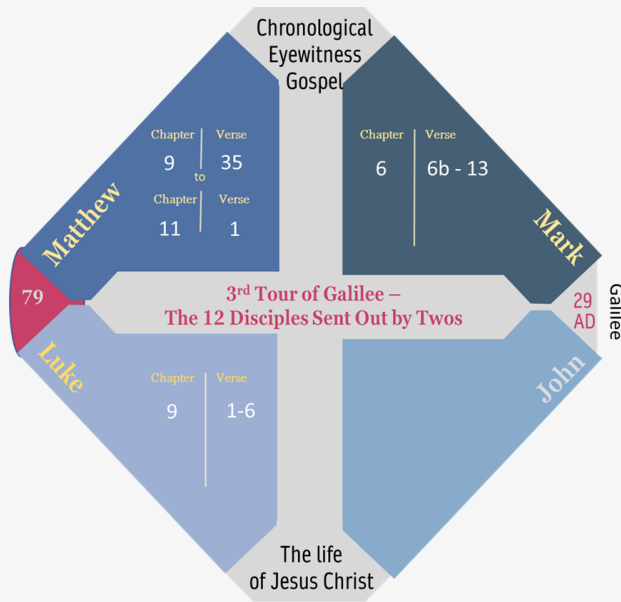
Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And so he did only a few miracles there, amazed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

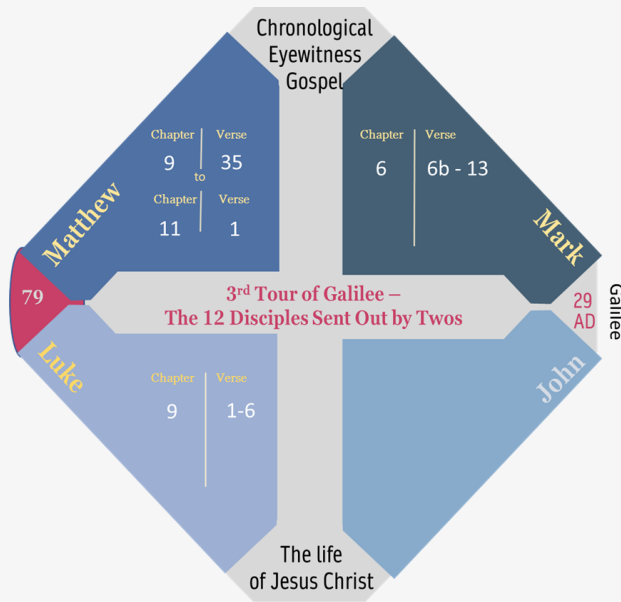
Jesus called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. **“Take nothing for your journey,”** he instructed them. **“Don’t take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, money, or even 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:

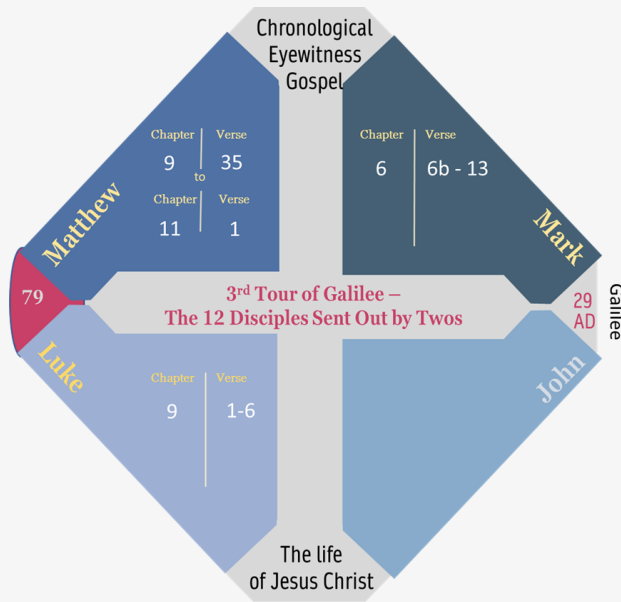
“Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

“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.



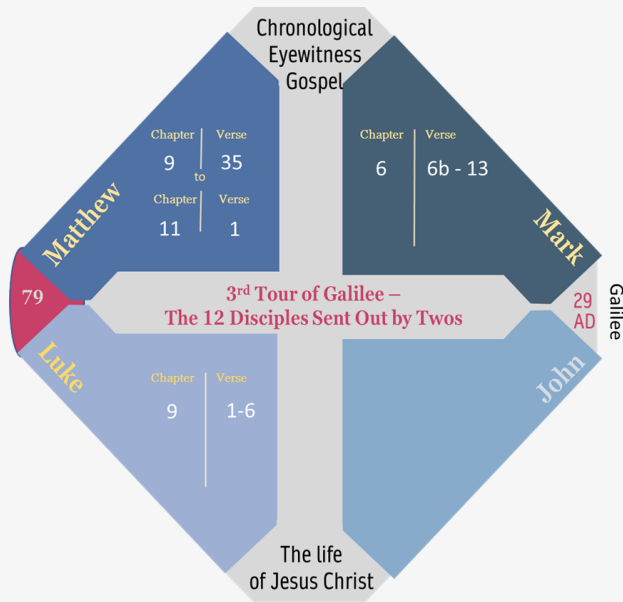
“Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town.

“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.

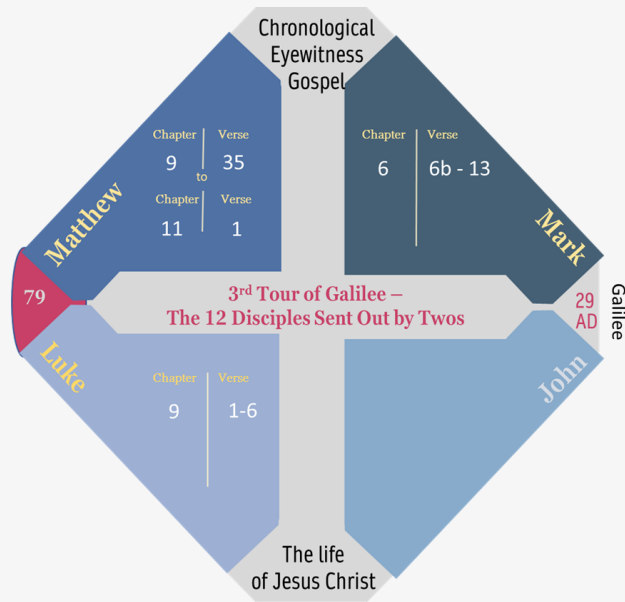
“A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one town, 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.

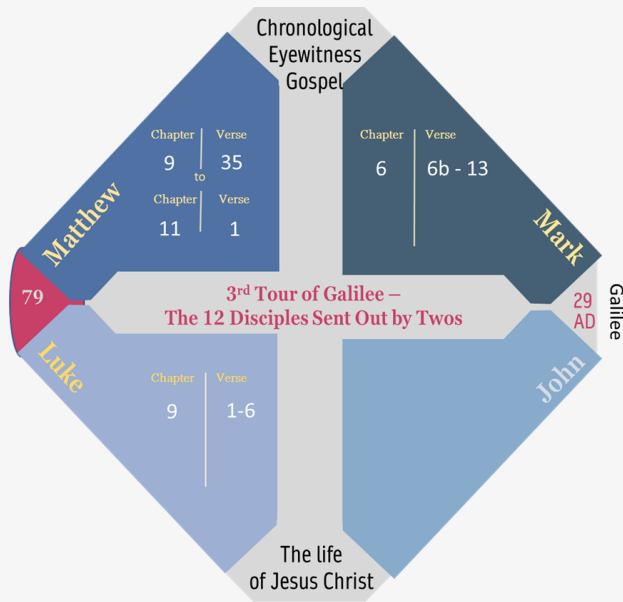


“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

“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!’

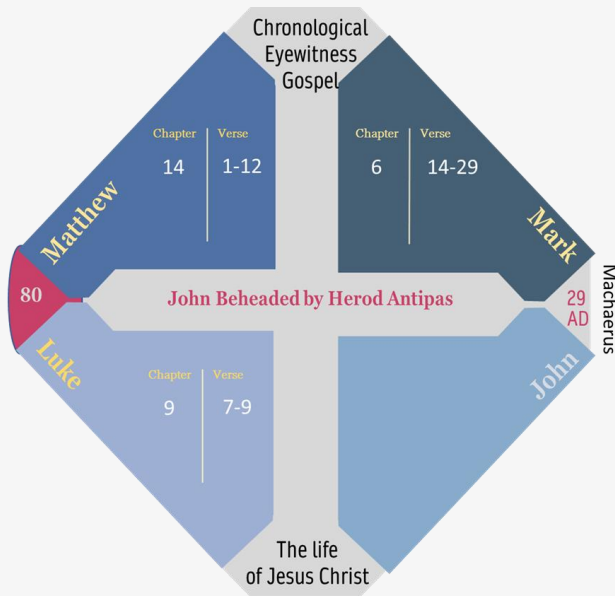
“If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose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



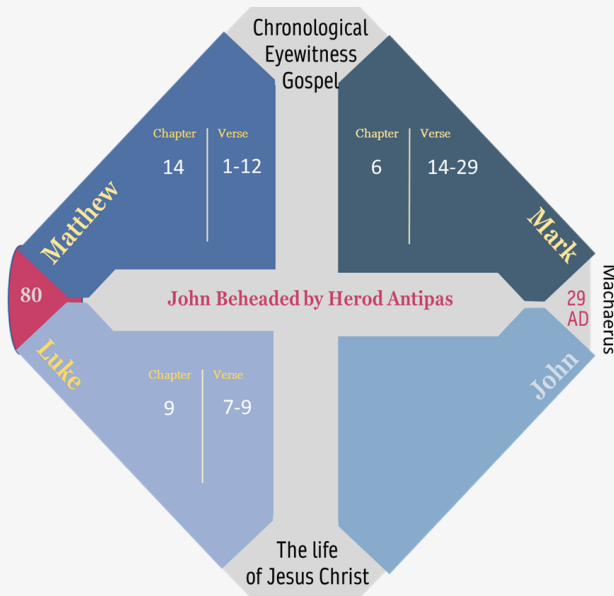
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

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.

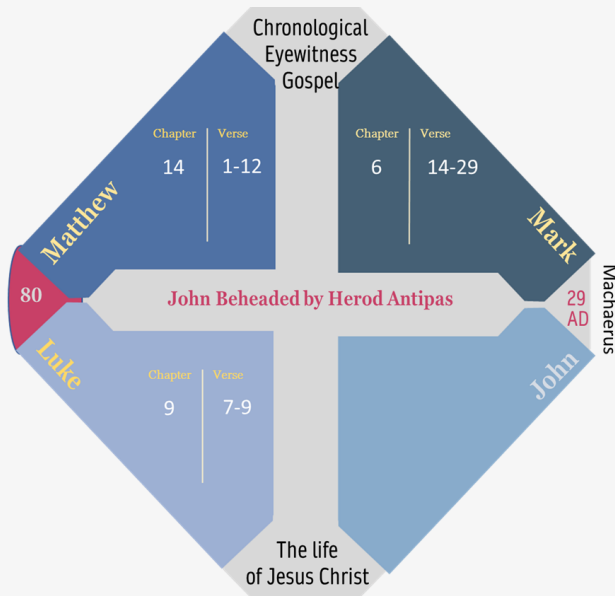
Episode 5



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.



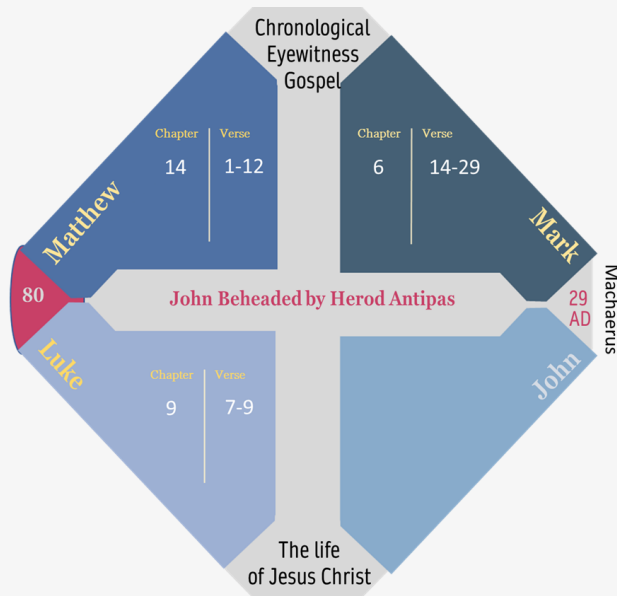
Herodias's chance finally came on Herod's birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests.

"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?"

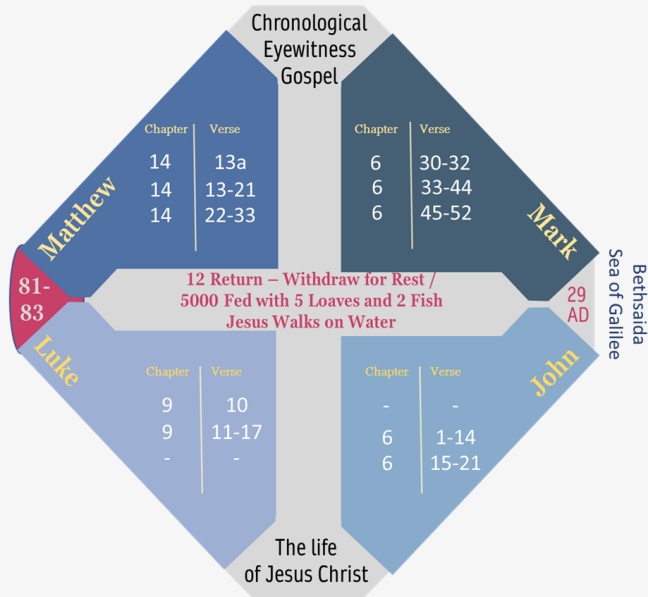
Her mother told her, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist!"



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.

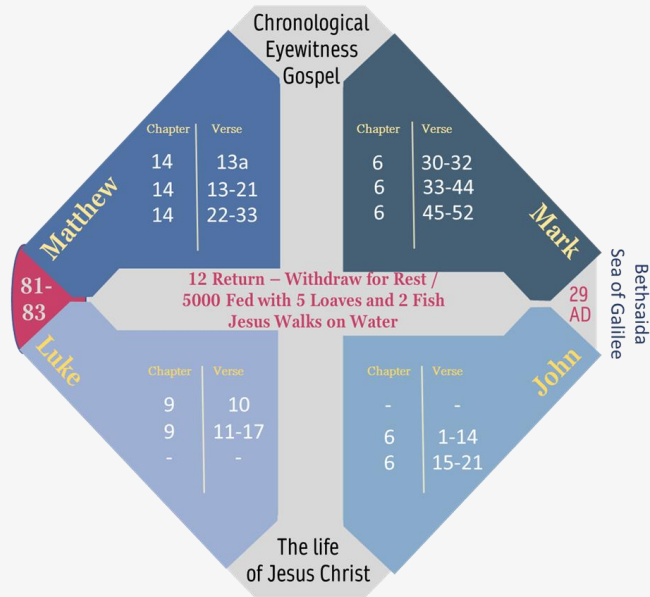


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

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.

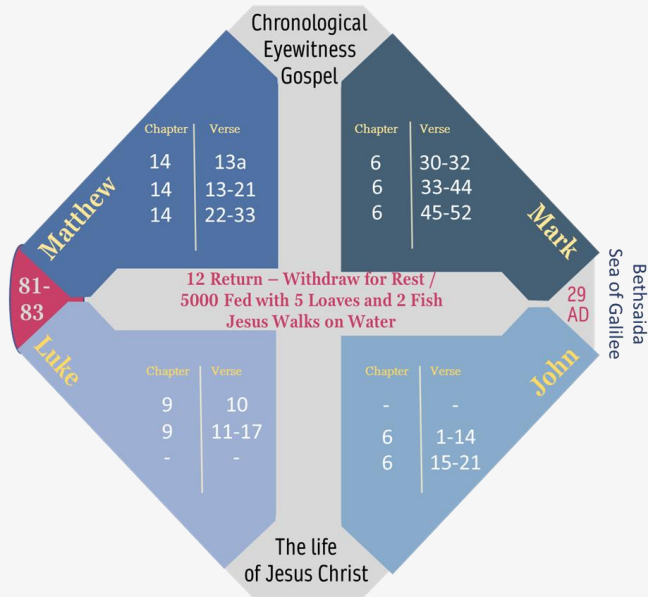
But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them.



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.



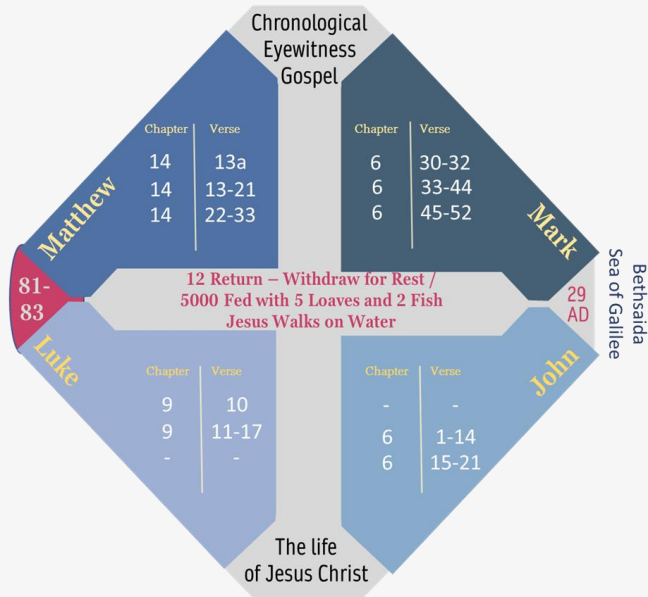
Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages for lodging for the night and to buy something to eat. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.””

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!”



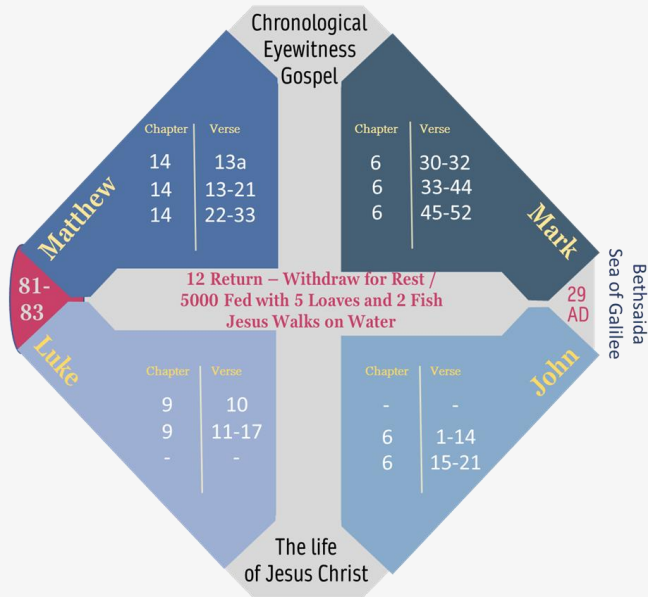
“How much bread do you have?” he asked. “Go and find out.”

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.

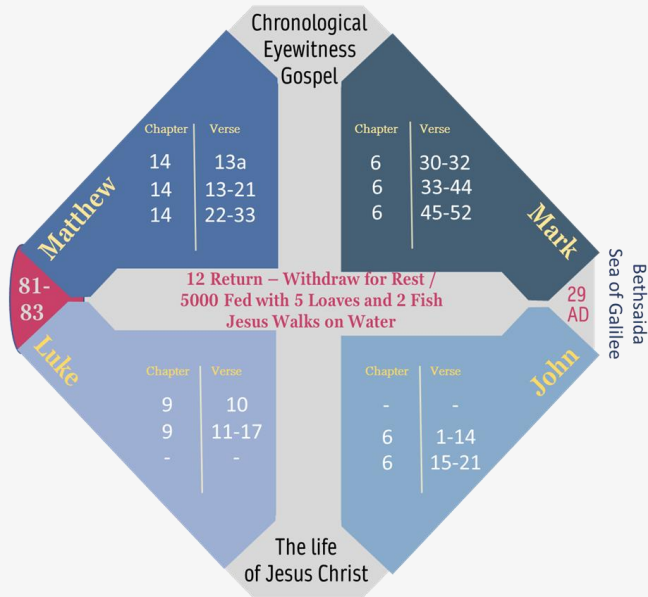
“Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)



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!



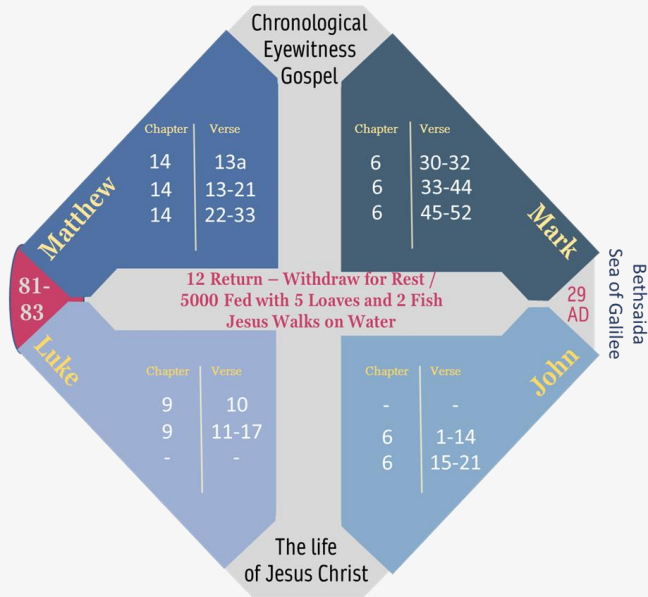
When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”

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.

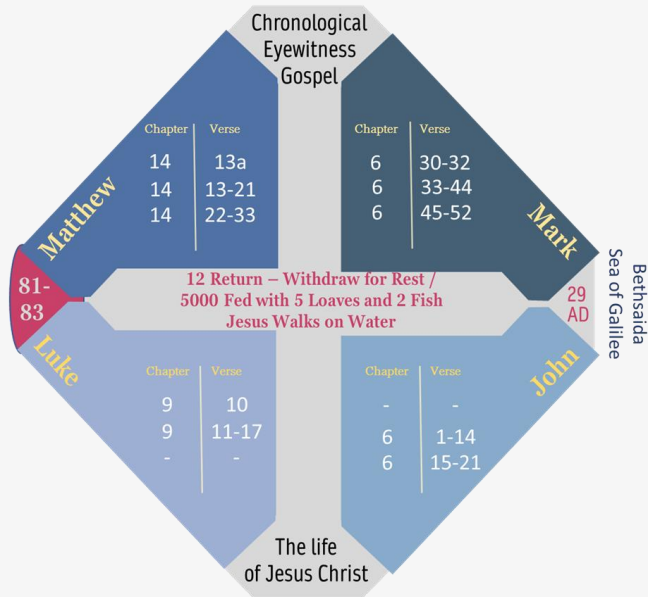
Episode 5



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!**”

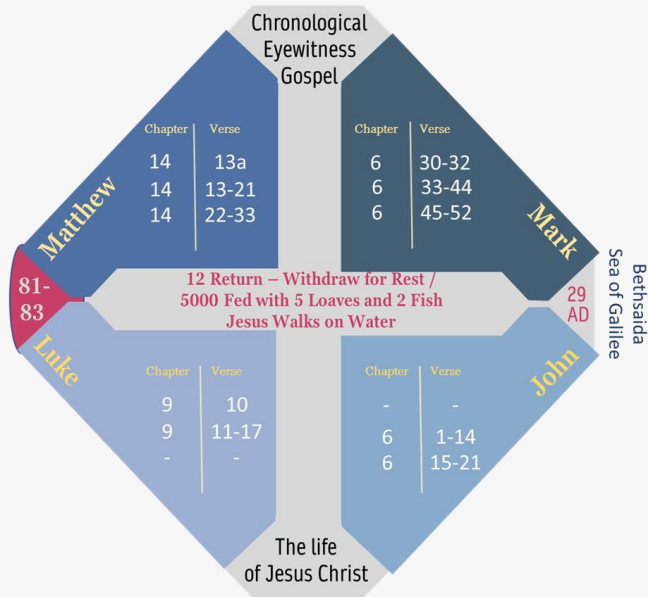
Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

“**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?**”

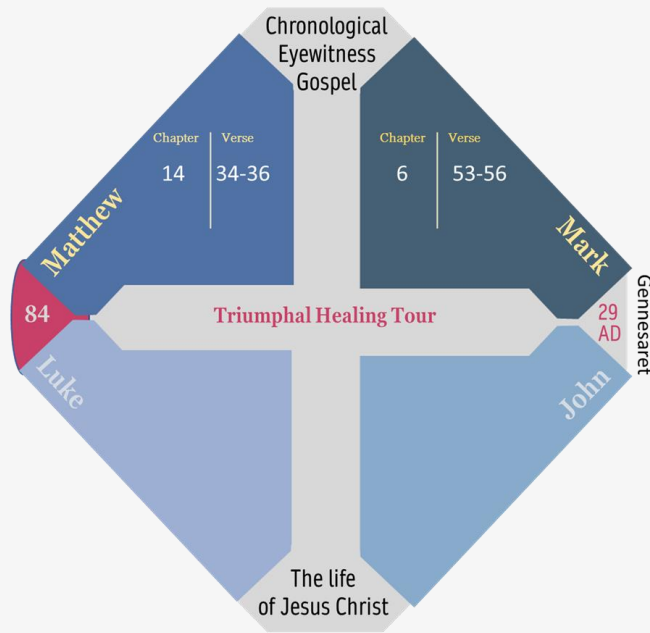
When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.



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.

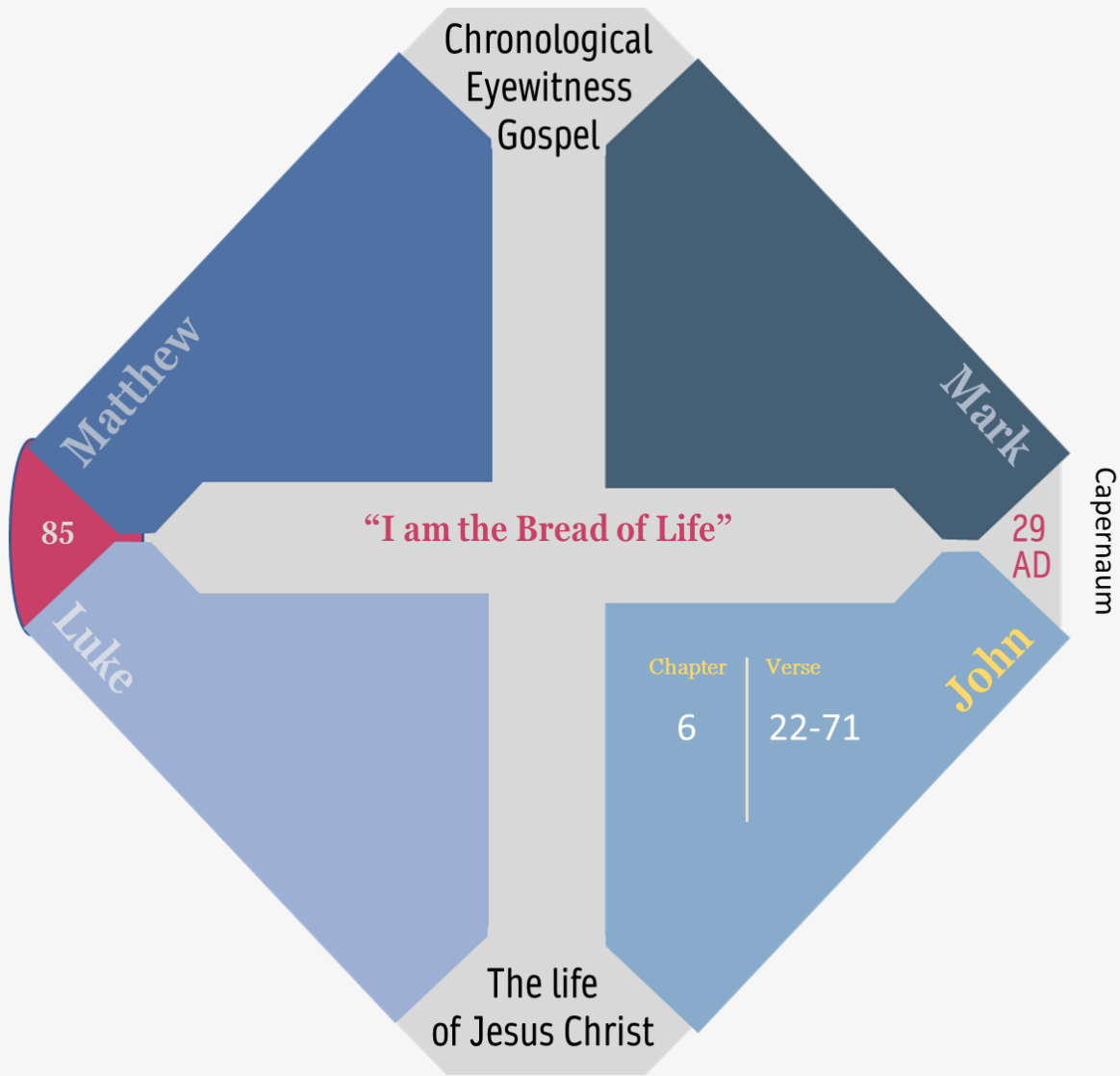
Then they were eager to let him in the boat and immediately they arrived at their destination.



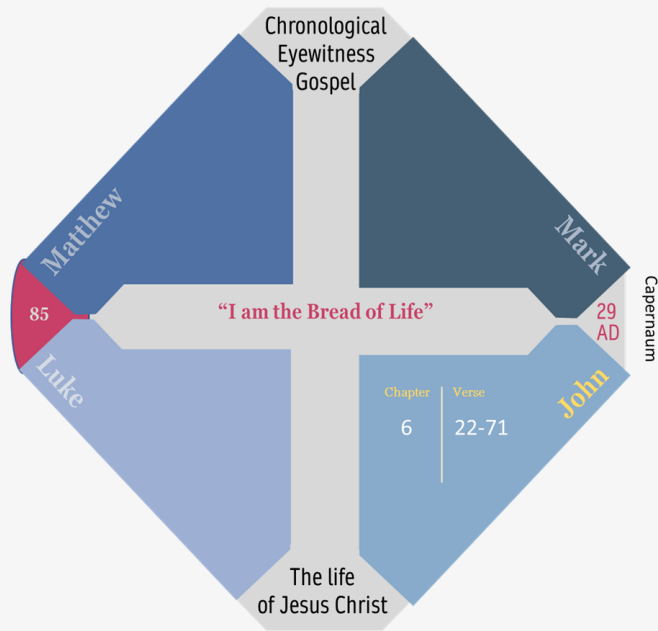
IV. The Second Year - Popularity

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

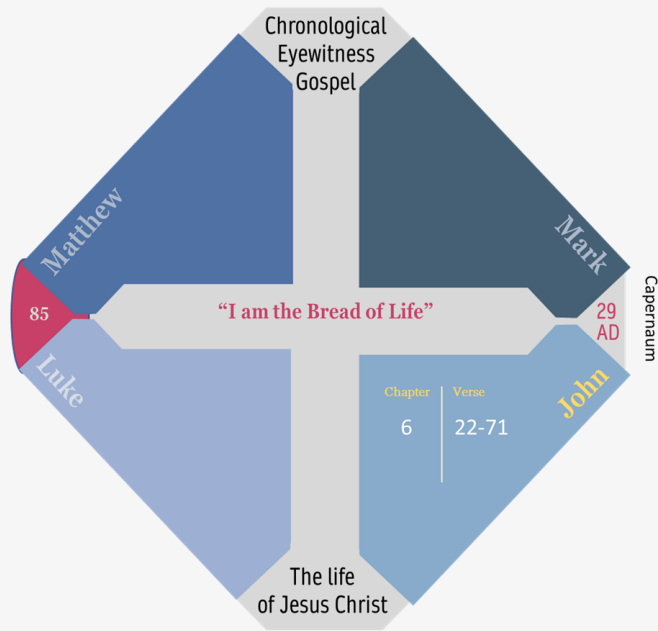


IV. The Second Year - Popularity

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.”

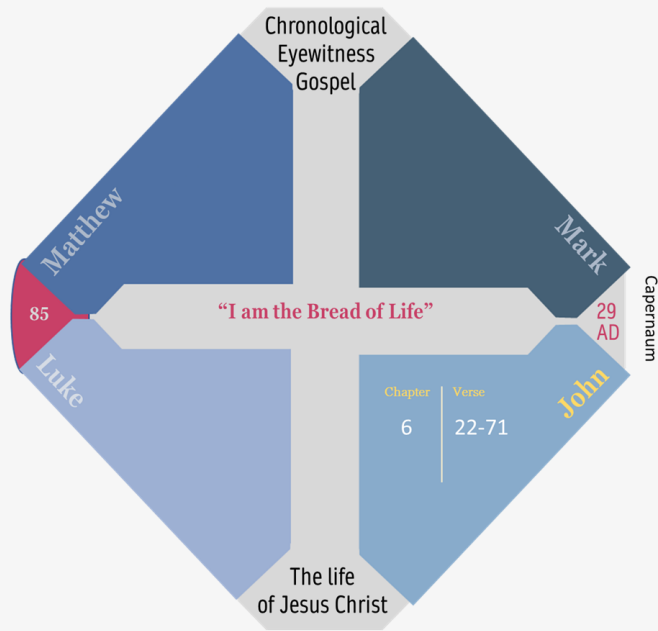


They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?”

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

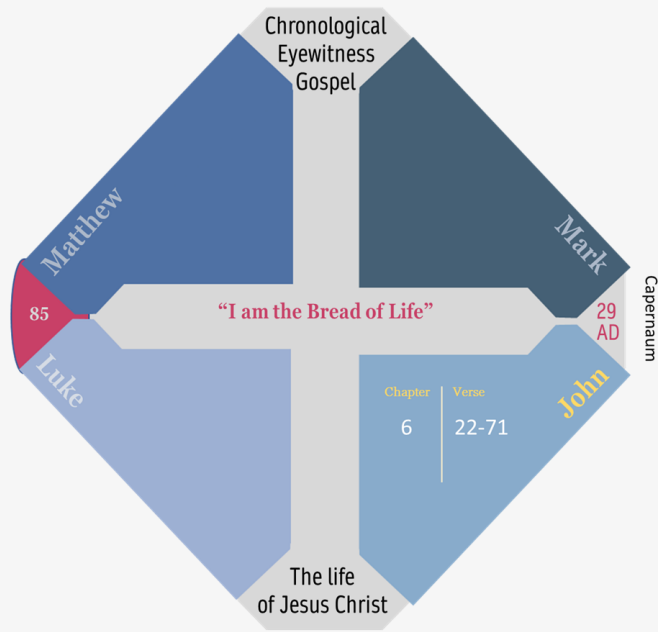
They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, ‘Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

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.”

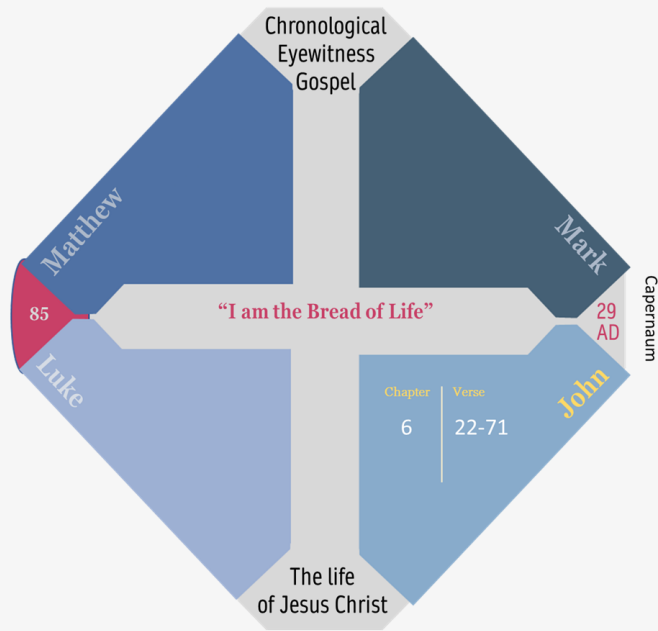


Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, **"I am the bread that came down from heaven."**

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'?"

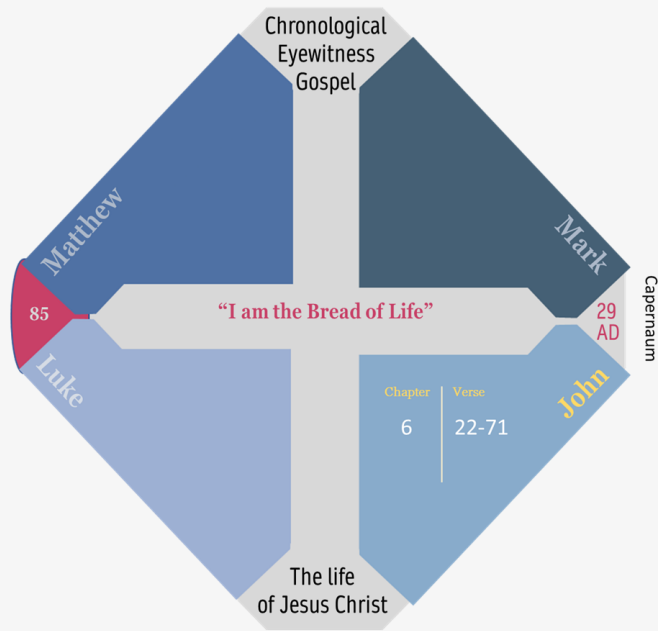
But Jesus replied, **"Stop complaining about what I said. For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.**

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.

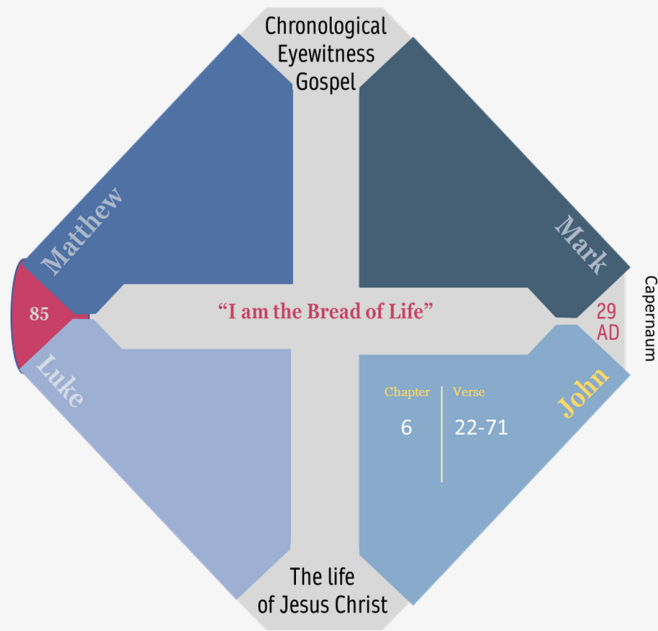


So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day.

“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.”



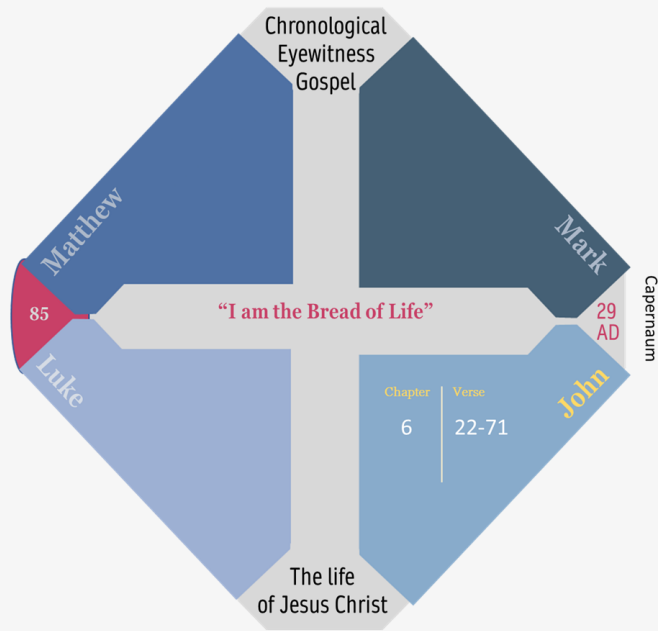
He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

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."



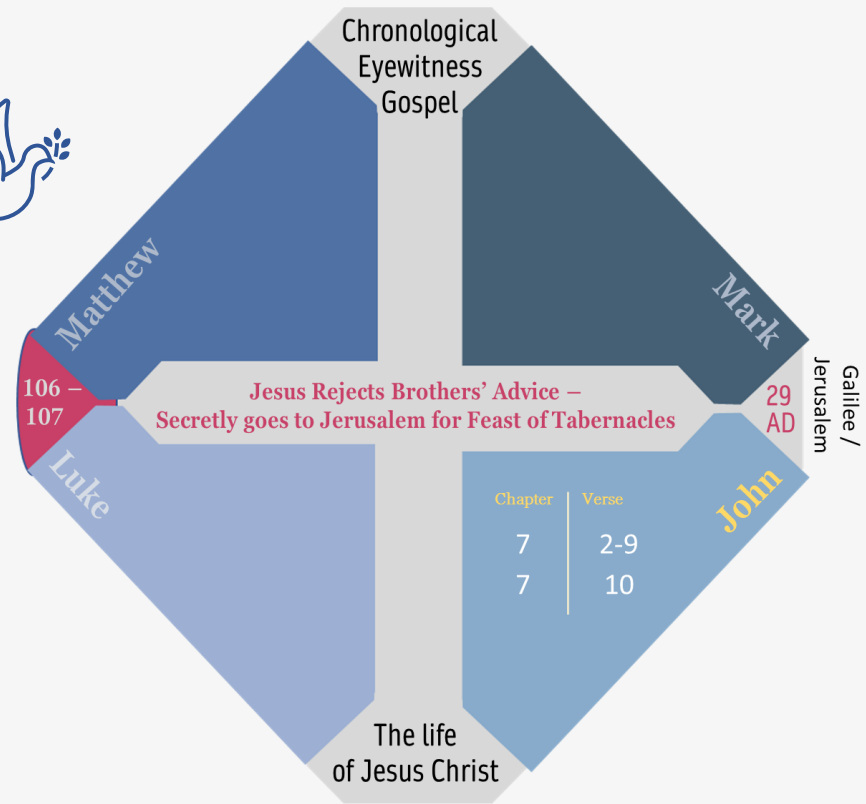
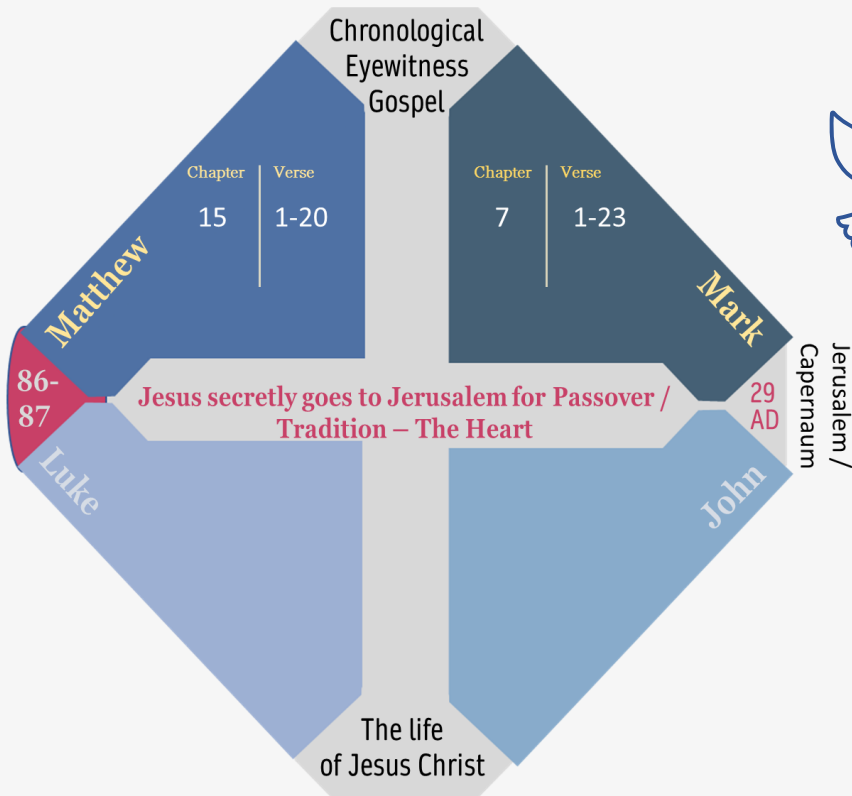
At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, **"Are you also going to leave?"**

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."**

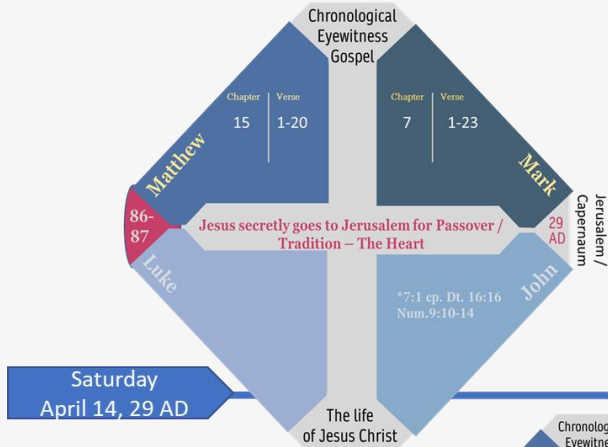
He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

V. The Third Year of Public Ministry Opposition - Galilee

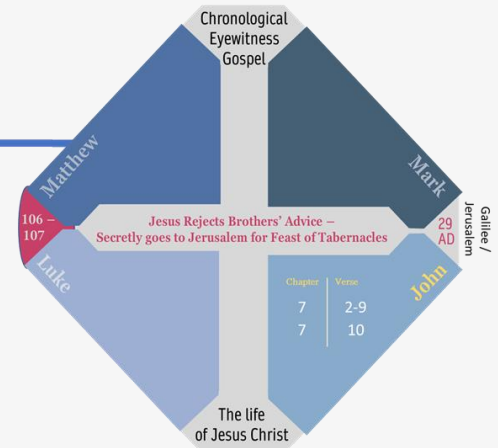
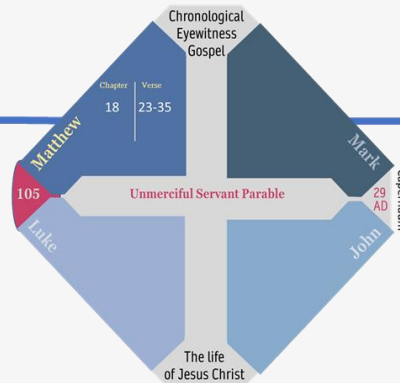
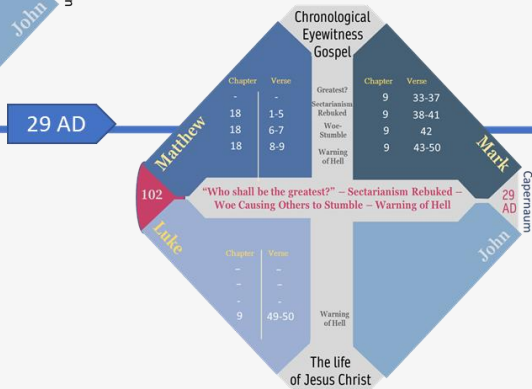
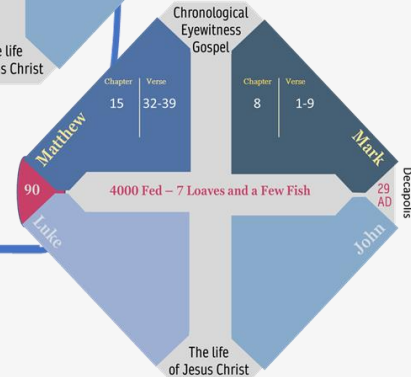
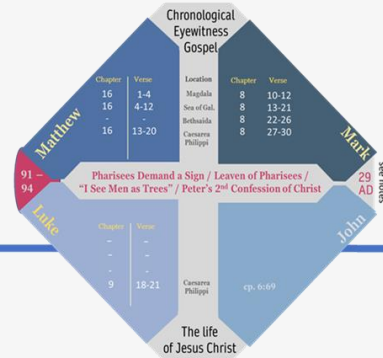
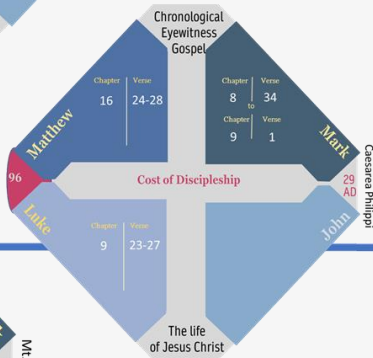
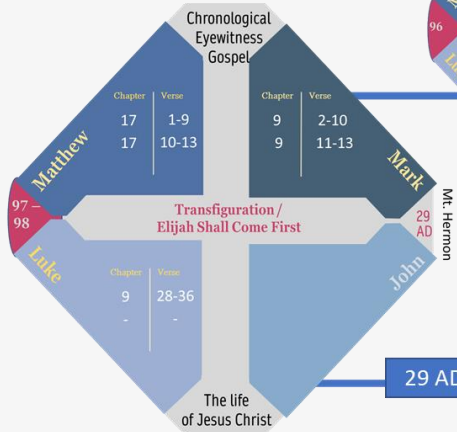
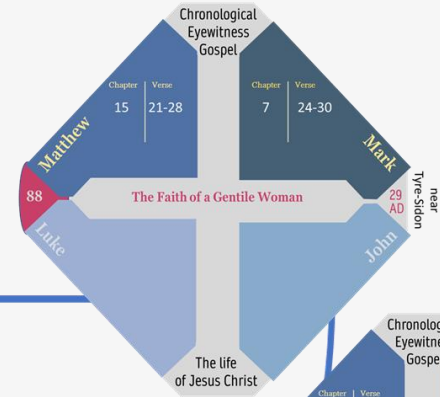


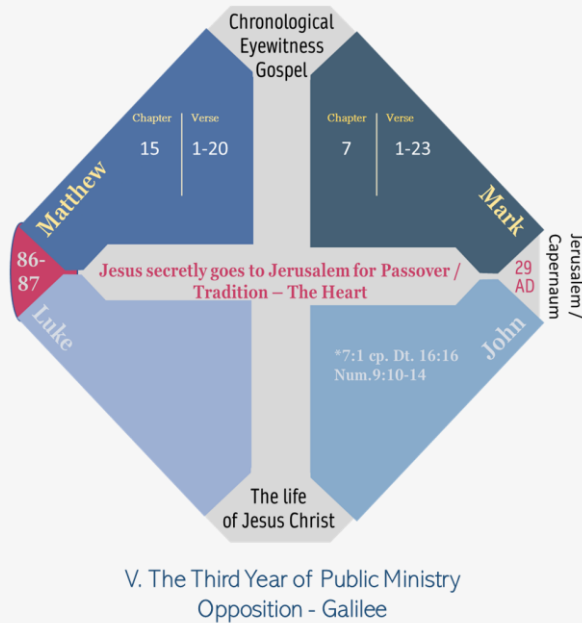
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 6



V. THE THIRD YEAR OF PUBLIC MINISTRY OPPOSITION - GALILEE



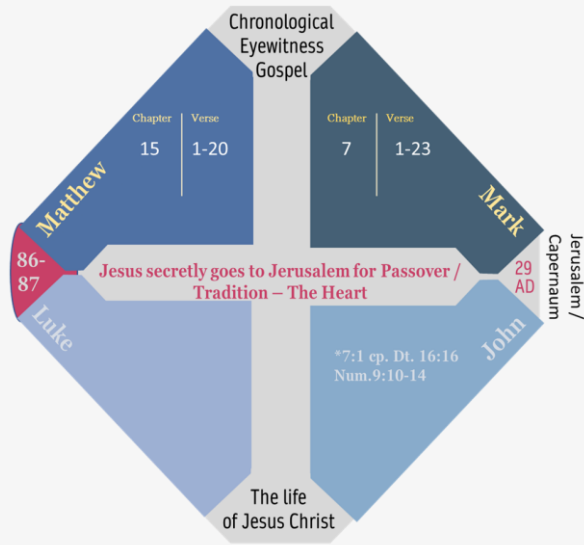


After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death.

One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, “Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat. They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony.”

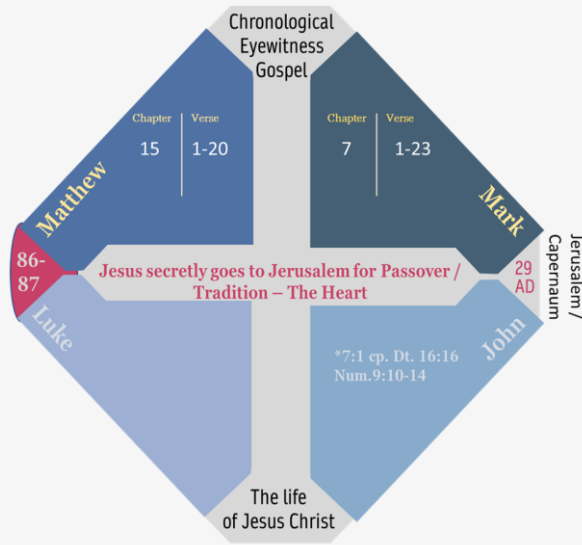
**From 3rd to the 4th Passover
Sat. April 14, 29 AD**



Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

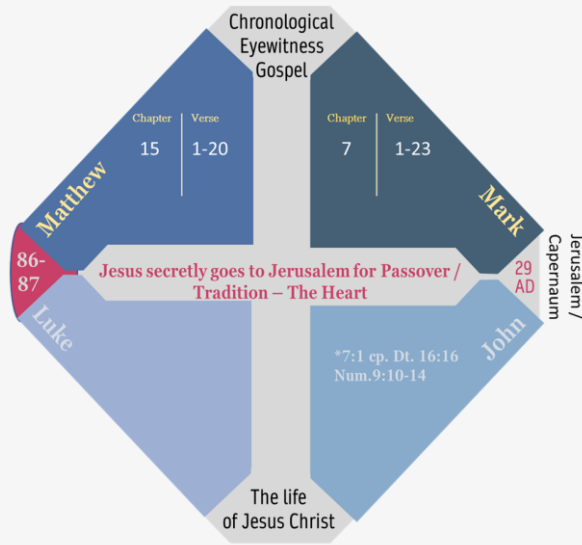
“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship is a farce,
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’

“And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For you ignore God’s law and substitute your own tradition.”



Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition. For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: God says, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ In this way, you say they don’t need to honor their parents. In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”

Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “All of you listen,” he said, “and try to understand. It’s not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart. It’s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth.”

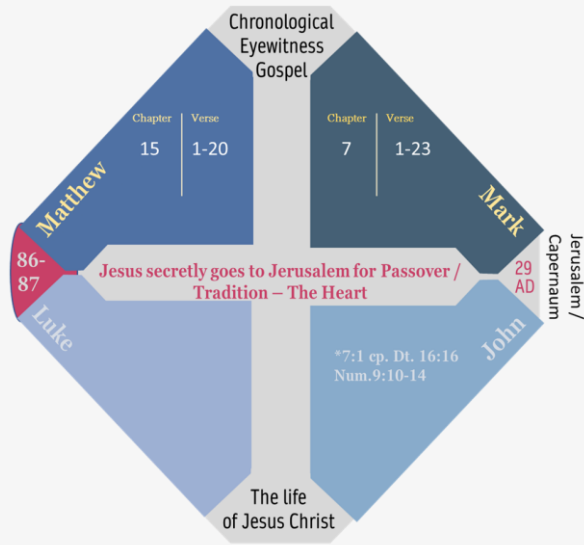


Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?”

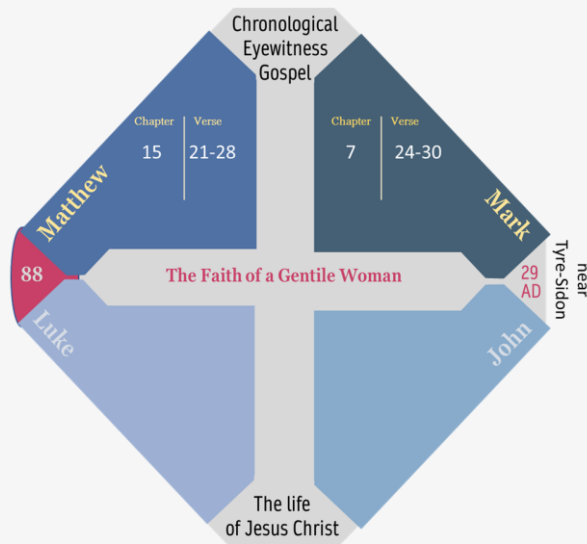
Jesus replied, “Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch.”

Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. Peter said to Jesus, “Explain to us the parable that says people aren’t defiled by what they eat.”

“Don’t you understand either?” he asked. “Can’t you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? Food doesn’t go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. But the words you speak come from the heart—that’s what defiles you.” (By saying this, he declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God’s eyes.)



And then he added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, theft, lying, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you.”



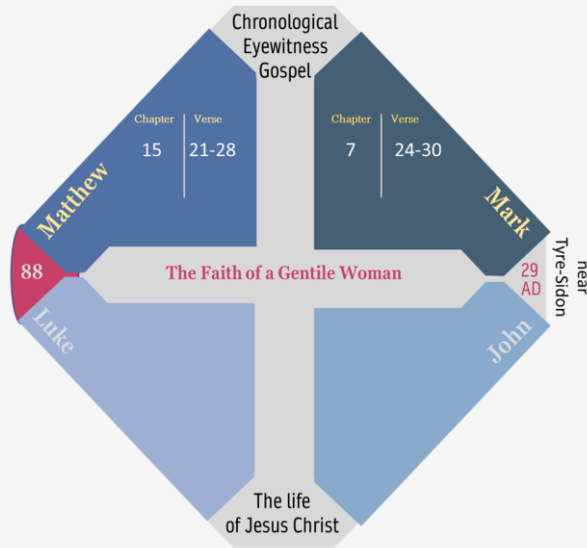
V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret.

Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely."

But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel."



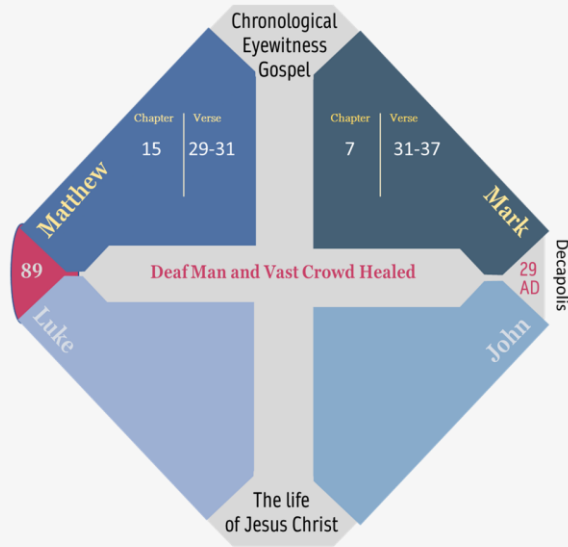
Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, Jesus told her, “**First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews.**”

But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!”

Jesus responded, “**It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.**”

She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children’s plates beneath their masters’ table.”

“**Good answer!**” Jesus said to her, “**Dear woman your faith is great. Your request is granted. Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter.**” And her daughter was instantly healed. And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

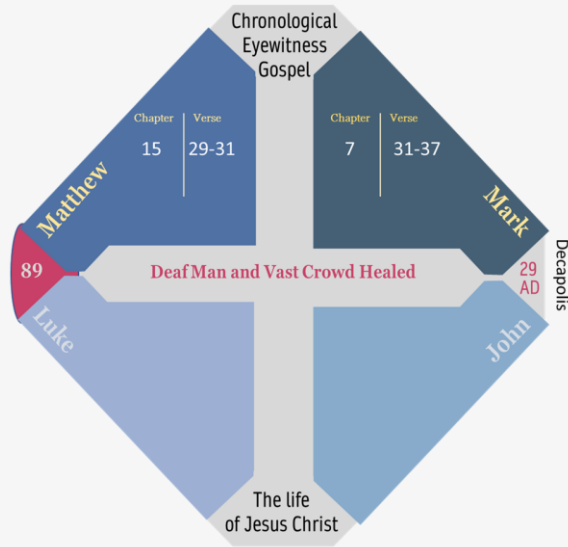


V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and climbed a hill and sat down.

A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him. Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha,*" which means, "**Be opened!**" Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

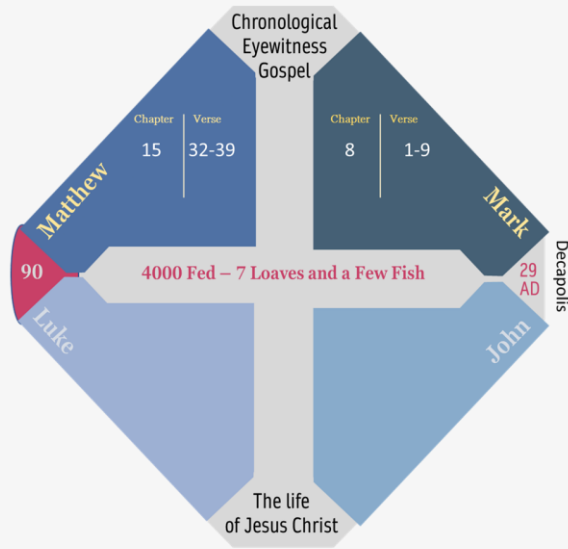
Episode 6



A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all.

The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn't been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again!

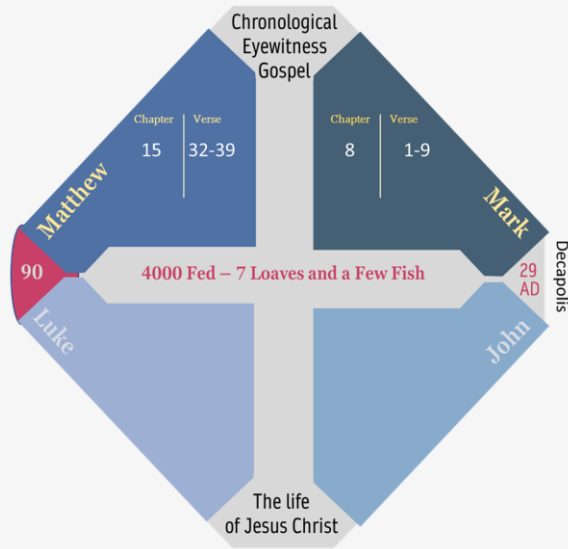
Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak." And they praised the God of Israel.



V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, **“I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance.”**

His disciples replied, “Where would we get enough food here in the wilderness for such a huge crowd? How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?”

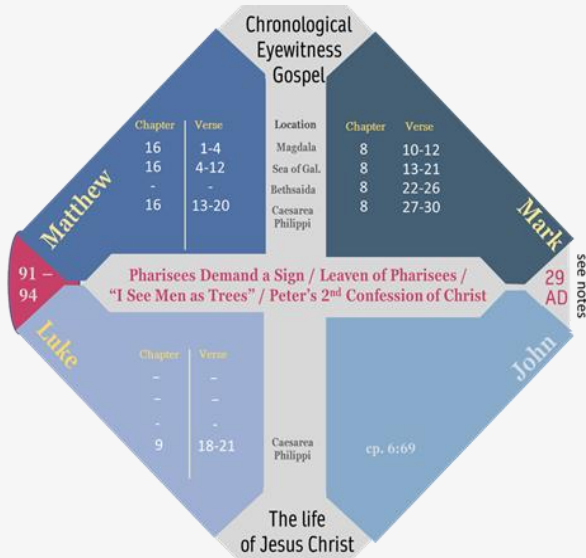


Jesus asked, “How much bread do you have?”

“Seven loaves, and a few small fish,” they replied.

So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd and did the same with the fish.

They all ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were about 4,000 men in the crowd that day, in addition to all of the women and children, and Jesus sent them home after they had eaten.



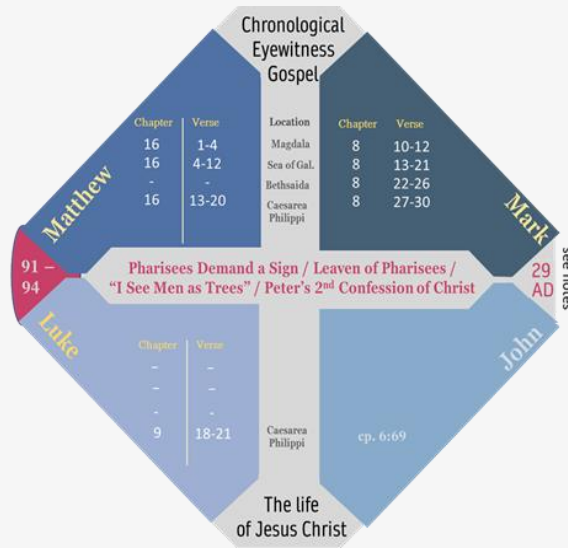
V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

Immediately after this, he got into a boat with his disciples and crossed over to the region of Magadan in Dalmanutha.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with him. Testing him, the Pharisees and Sadducees demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.

When he heard this, he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, **“Why do these people keep demanding a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, I will not give this generation any such sign.”**

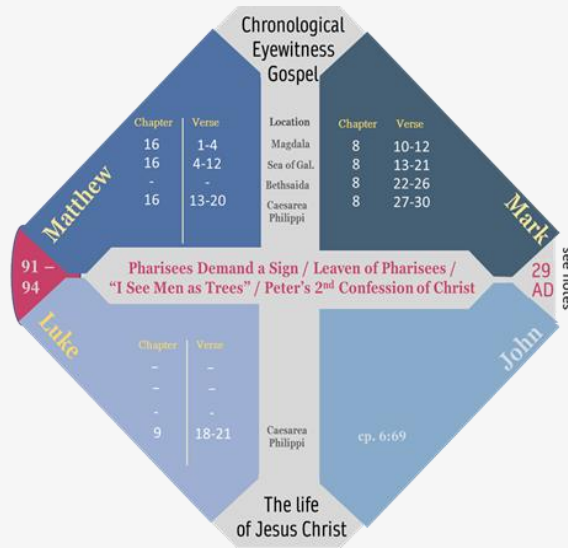
He replied, **“You know the saying, ‘Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.’ You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the signs of the times! Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign, but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.”**



So he got back into the boat and left them, and he crossed to the other side of the lake.

Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, **“Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.”**

At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, **“You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? Don't you know or even understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in? ‘You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear?’ Don't you remember anything at all?**



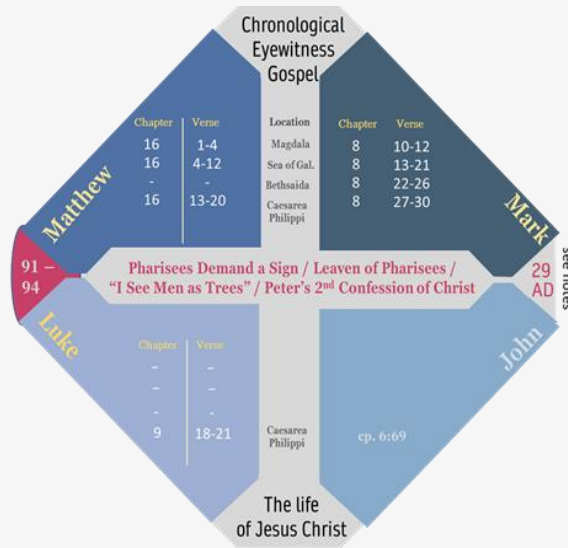
“Don’t you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up?”

“When I fed the 5000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?”

“Twelve,” they said.

“And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?”

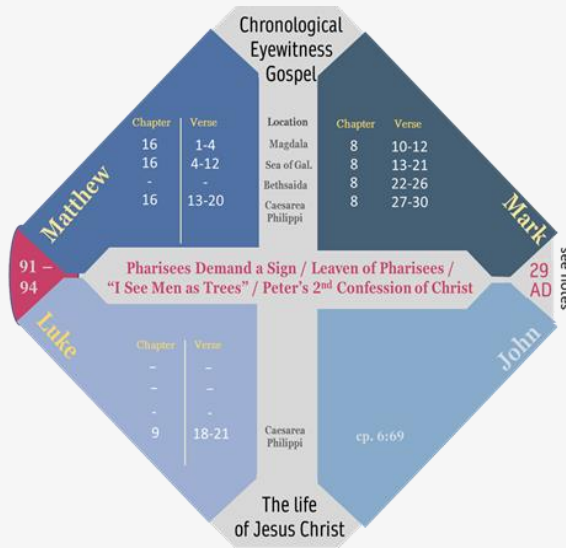
“Seven,” they said.



“Don’t you understand yet?” he asked them.

“Why can’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread? So again I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’”

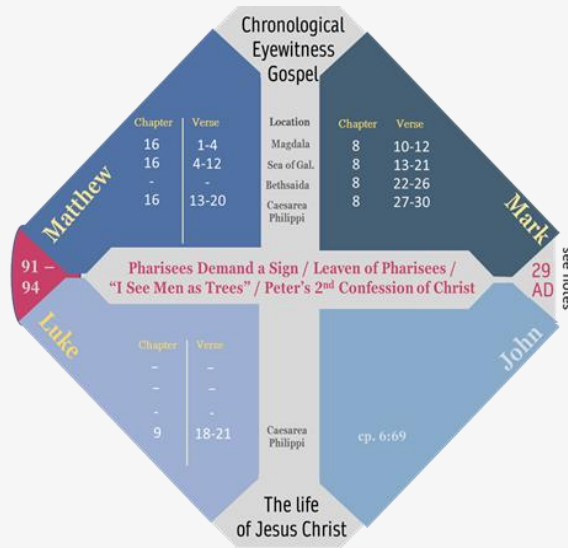
Then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.



When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, **"Can you see anything now?"**

The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around."

Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Jesus sent him away, saying, **"Don't go back into the village on your way home."**

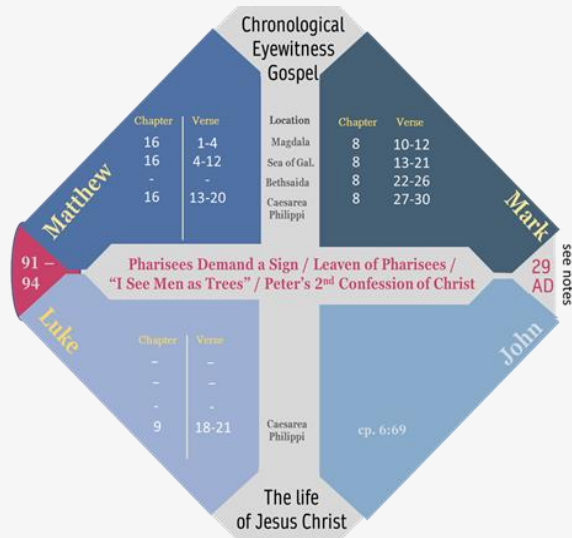


Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “Who do people say I am? Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.”

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

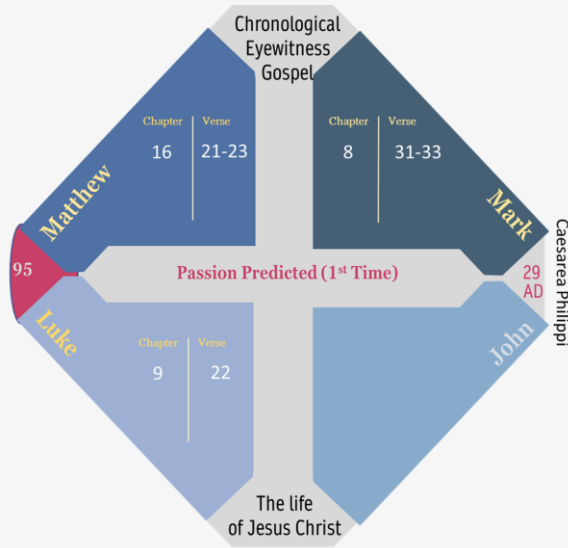
Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, sent from God, the Son of the living God.”



Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Then Jesus sternly warned the disciples not to tell anybody about him - not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



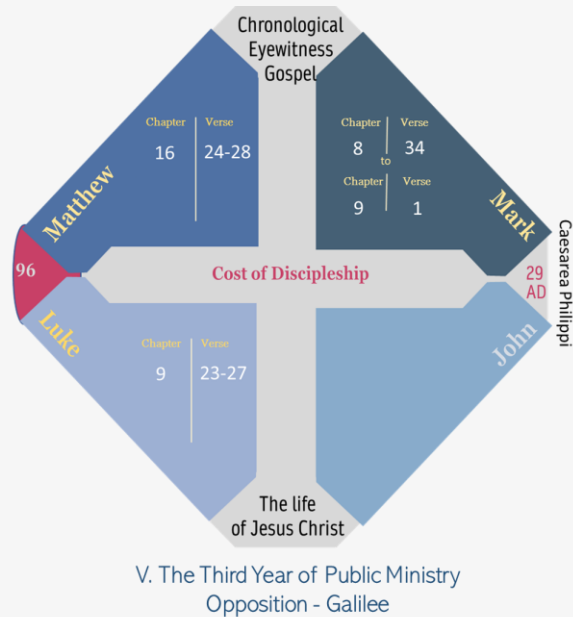
V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

“The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

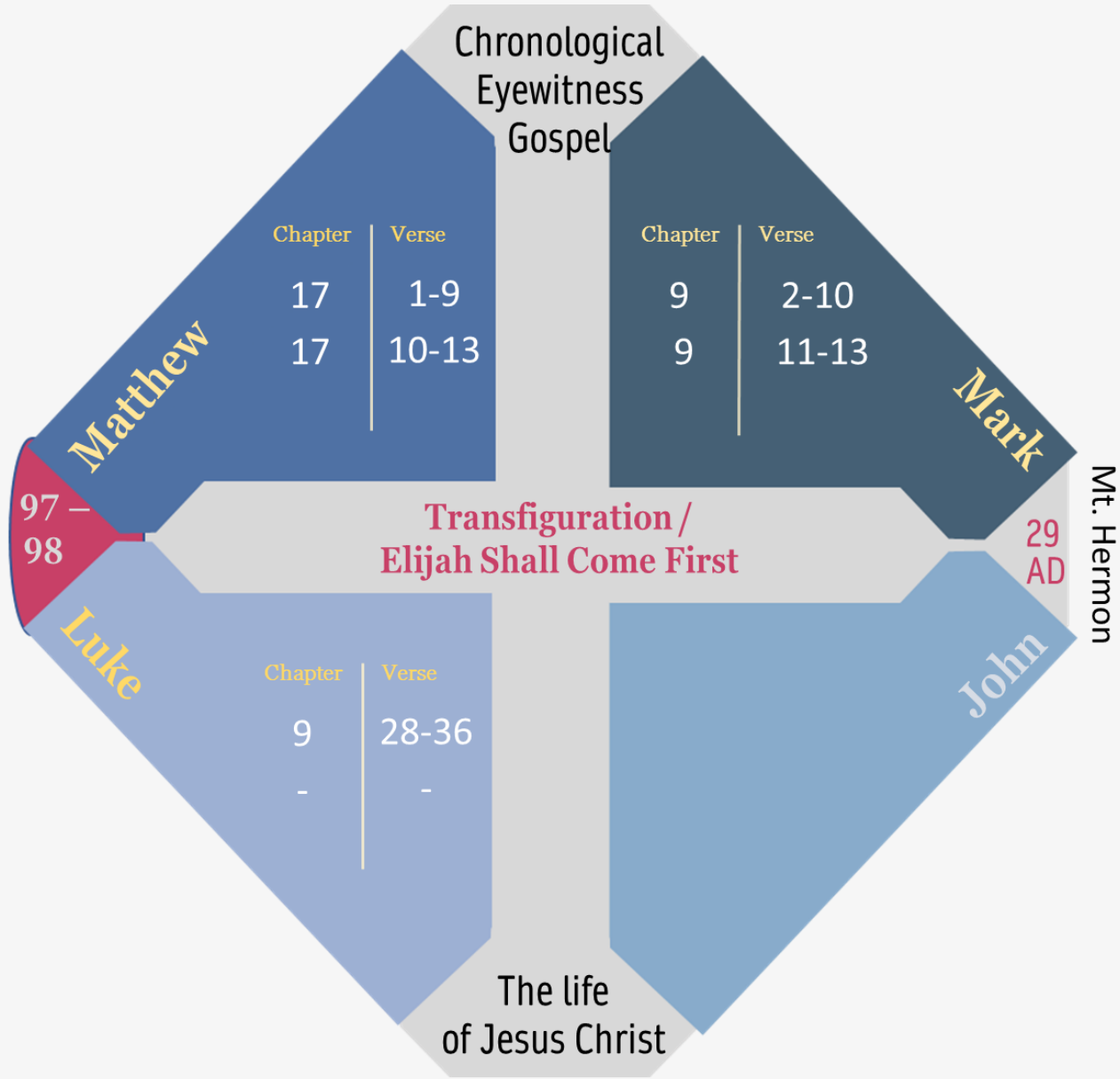


Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

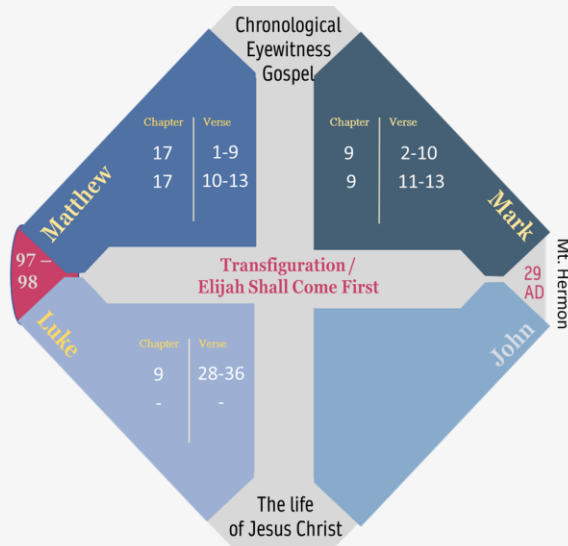
“If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.”

Jesus went on to say, “I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!”



V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

Episode 6



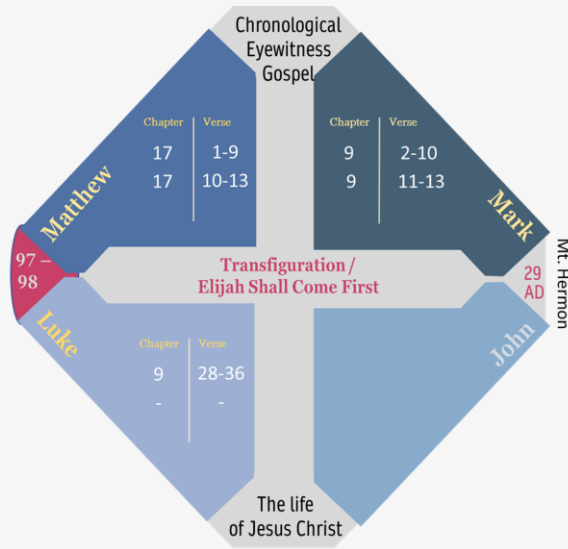
V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

About eight days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone and pray. As the men watched, and as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed.

Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them, as white as light.

Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

Episode 6

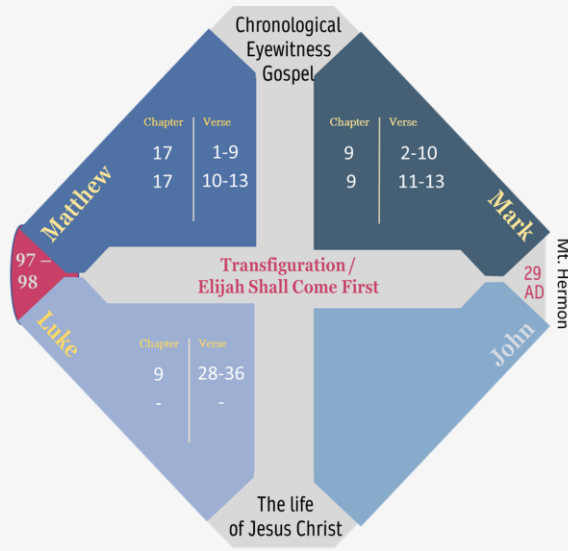


Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.

The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."

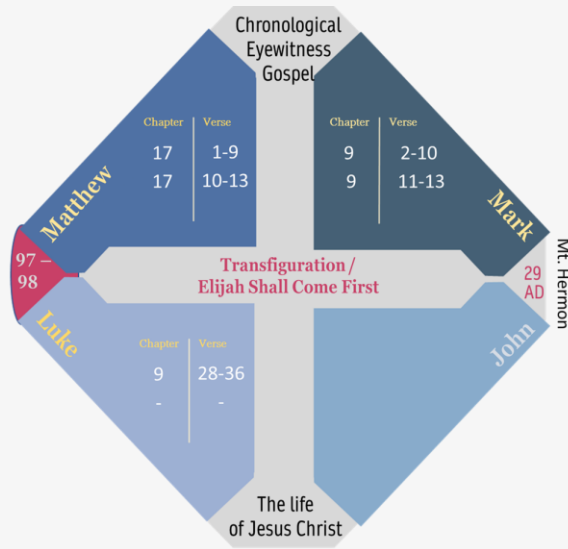
Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."



And when they looked up and around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them. When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone.

As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what he meant by “rising from the dead.”

They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

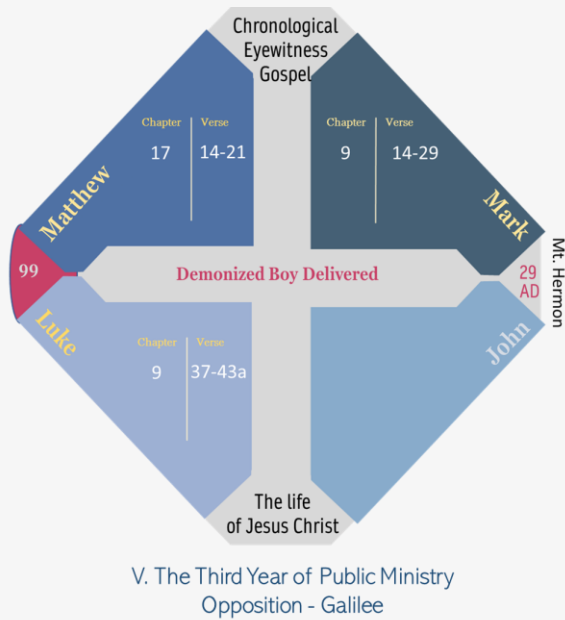


Then his disciples asked him, “Why do the teachers of religious law insist that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?”

Jesus replied, “Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready. Yet why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be treated with utter contempt?”

“But I tell you, Elijah has already come, but he wasn’t recognized, and they chose to abuse him, just as the Scriptures predicted. And in the same way they will also make the Son of Man suffer.”

Then the disciples realized he was talking about John the Baptist.

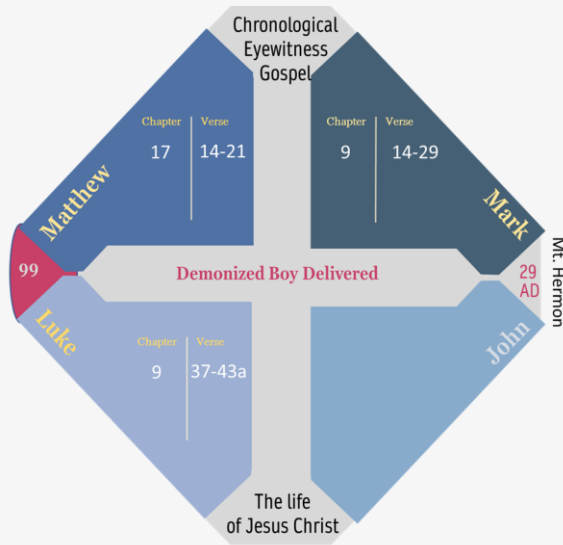


The next day, after they had returned to the other disciples at the foot of the mountain, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him.

“What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked.

One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. Lord, have mercy on my son. I beg you to look at my son, my only child. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

Jesus said to them, “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you?”



Then he said to the man, **“Bring your son here. Bring the boy to me.”** So they brought the boy.

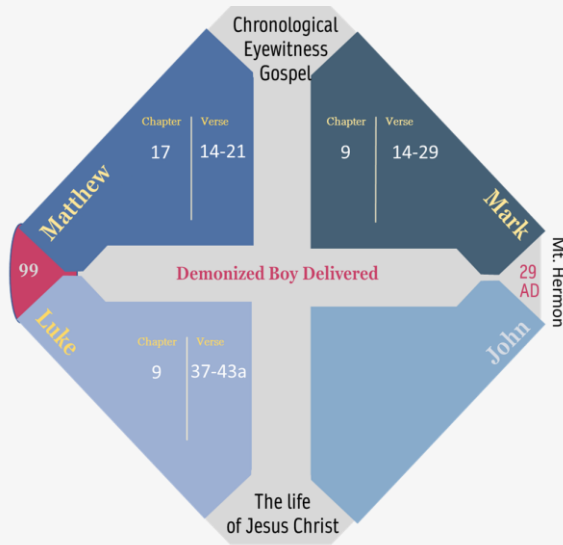
As the boy came forward, the evil spirit saw Jesus. The demon knocked the child to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. He fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

“How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father.

He replied, “Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us if you can.”

“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. **“Anything is possible if a person believes.”**

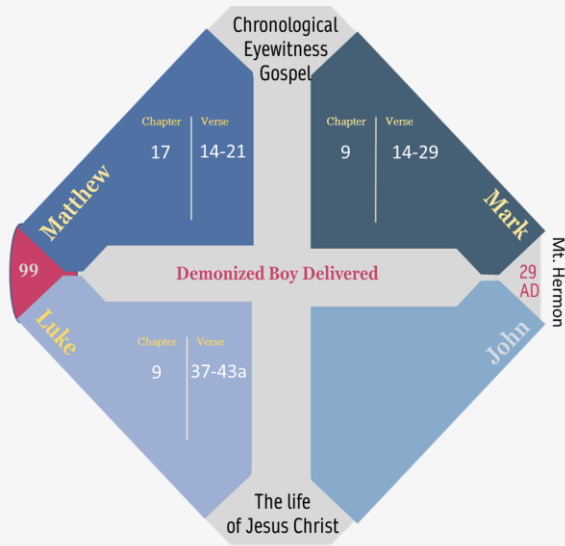
The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”



When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. **“Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak,”** he said. **“I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!”**

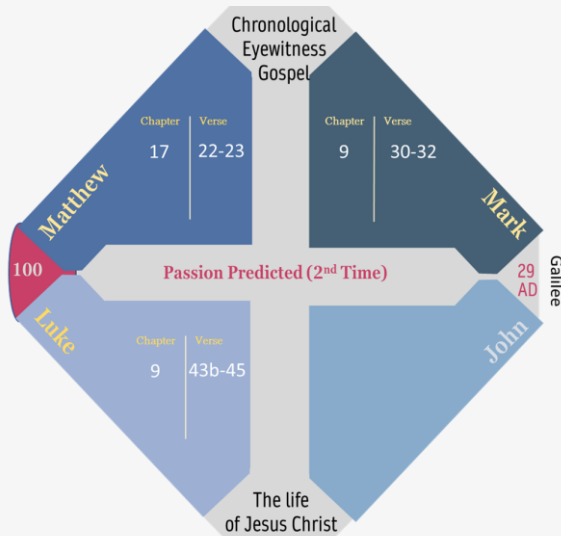
Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. From that moment the boy was well. Then he gave him back to his father.

Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God’s power.



Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, “Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?”

“You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible, but this kind of demon won’t leave except by prayer and fasting. It can be cast out only by prayer and fasting.”

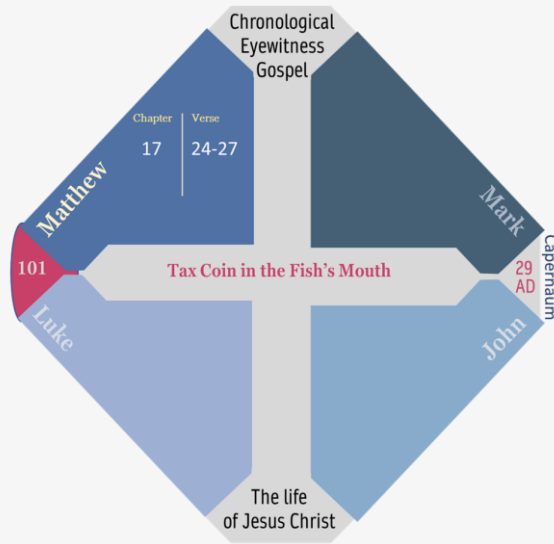


V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee.

Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. After they gathered again in Galilee, while everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus told his disciples, **“Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”**

The disciples were filled with grief. They didn't know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn't understand it, but they were afraid to ask him what he meant.



V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

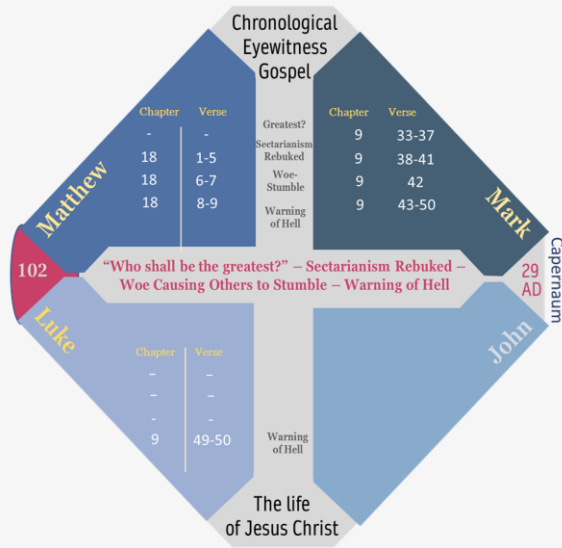
On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the Temple tax?”

“Yes, he does,” Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, “What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?”

“They tax the people they have conquered,” Peter replied.

“Well, then,” Jesus said, “the citizens are free! However, we don’t want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us.”

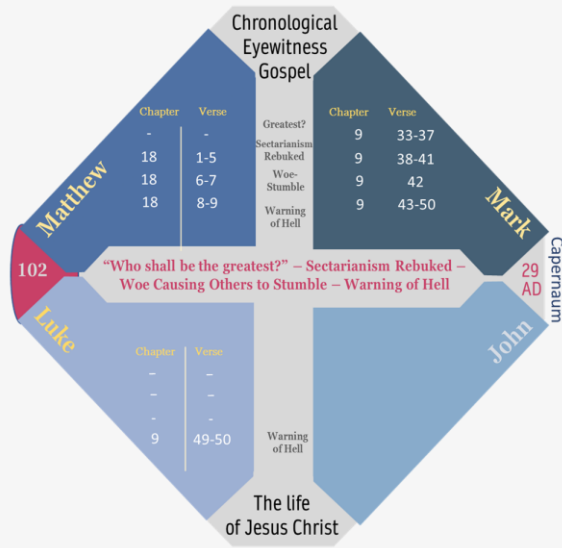


V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, **“What were you discussing out on the road?”**

But they didn’t answer because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, **“Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”**

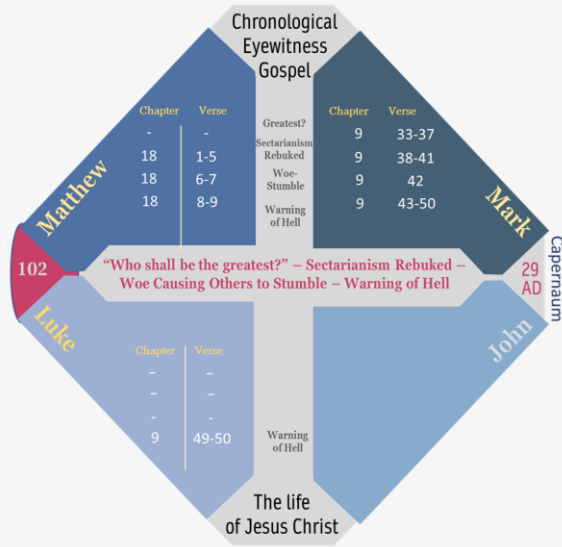


About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,

“I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me.

“Whoever is the least among you is the greatest. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

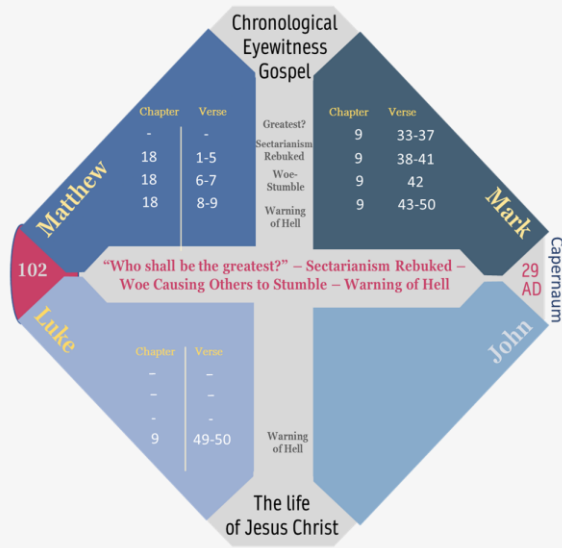


John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn’t in our group.”

“Don’t stop him!” Jesus said. “Anyone who is not against you is for you. No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me.

“Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

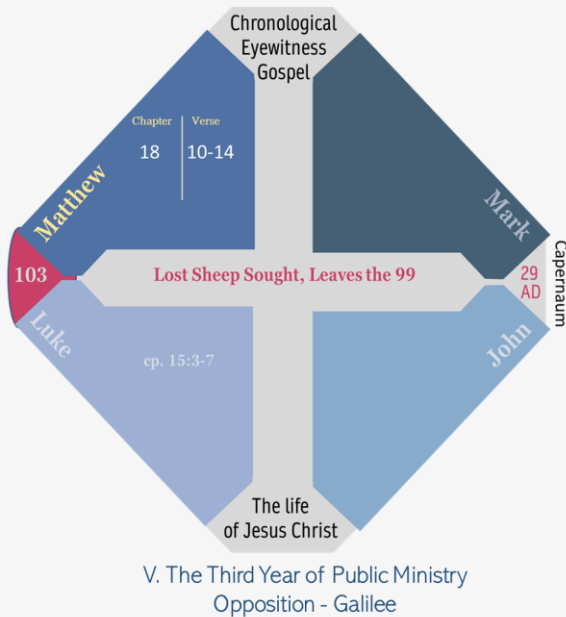
“But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”



“What sorrow awaits the world because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting.

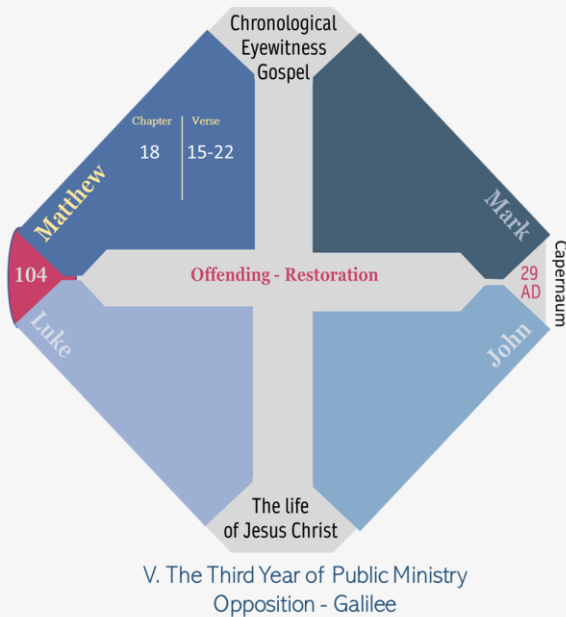
“So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands and feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell, ‘where the maggots never die, and the fire never goes out.’

“For everyone will be tested with fire. Every sacrifice will be salted with salt. Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.”



“Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away! In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.



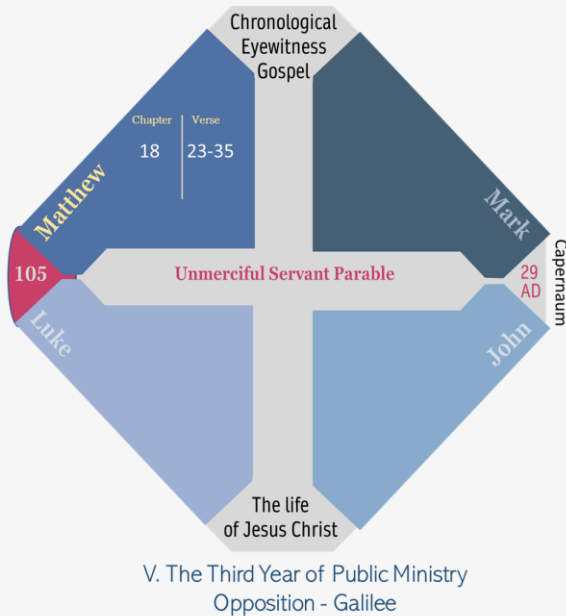
“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

“I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

“I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

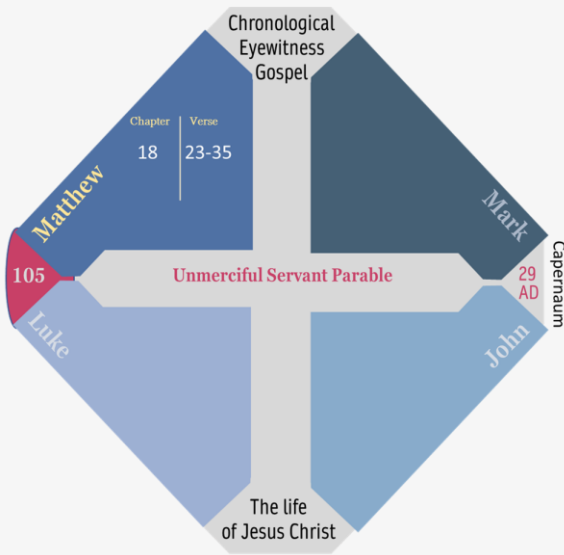
“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!



“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’

Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”



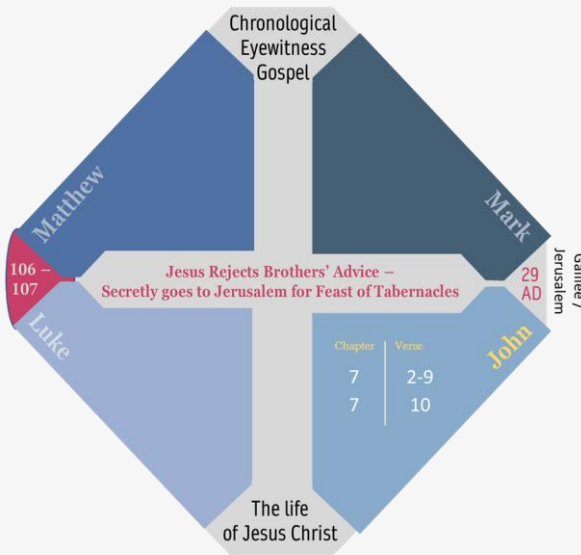
“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

“His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’

“Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”



V. The Third Year of Public Ministry
Opposition - Galilee

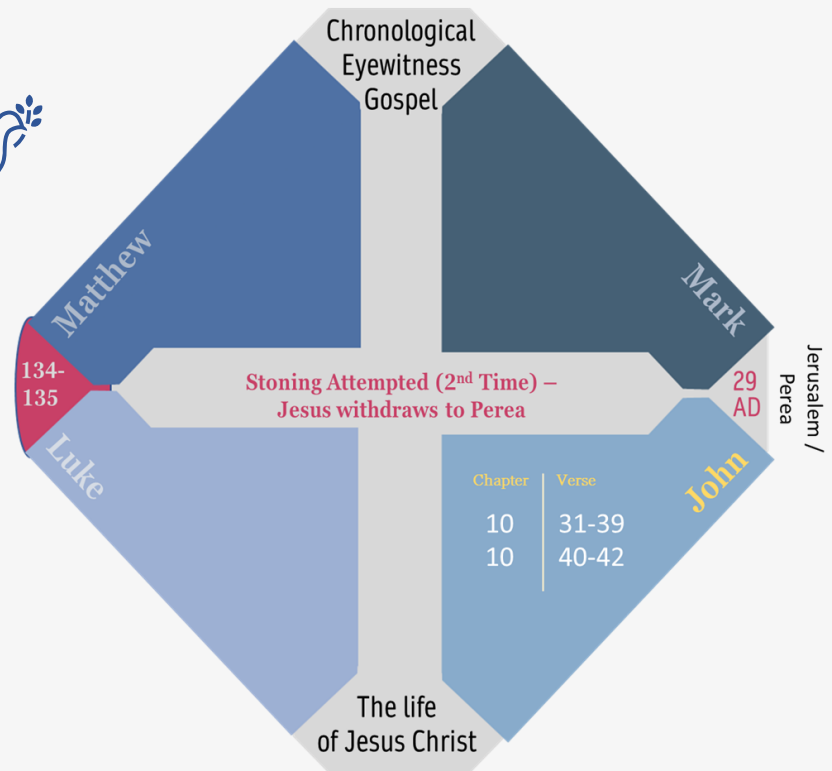
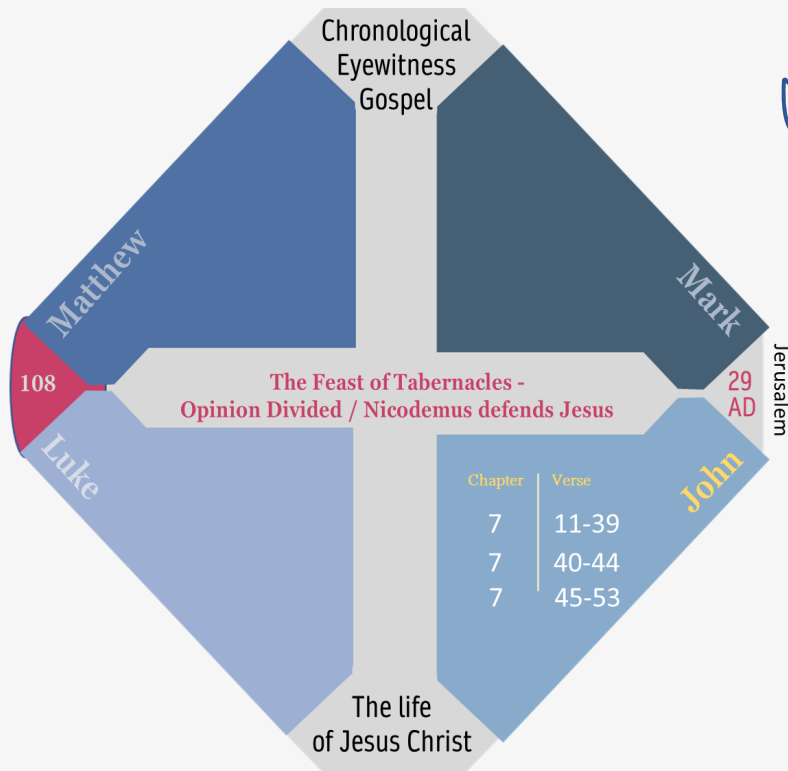
Soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime. The world can't hate you, but it does hate me because I accuse it of doing evil. You go on. I'm not going to this festival, because my time has not yet come."

After saying these things, Jesus remained in Galilee.

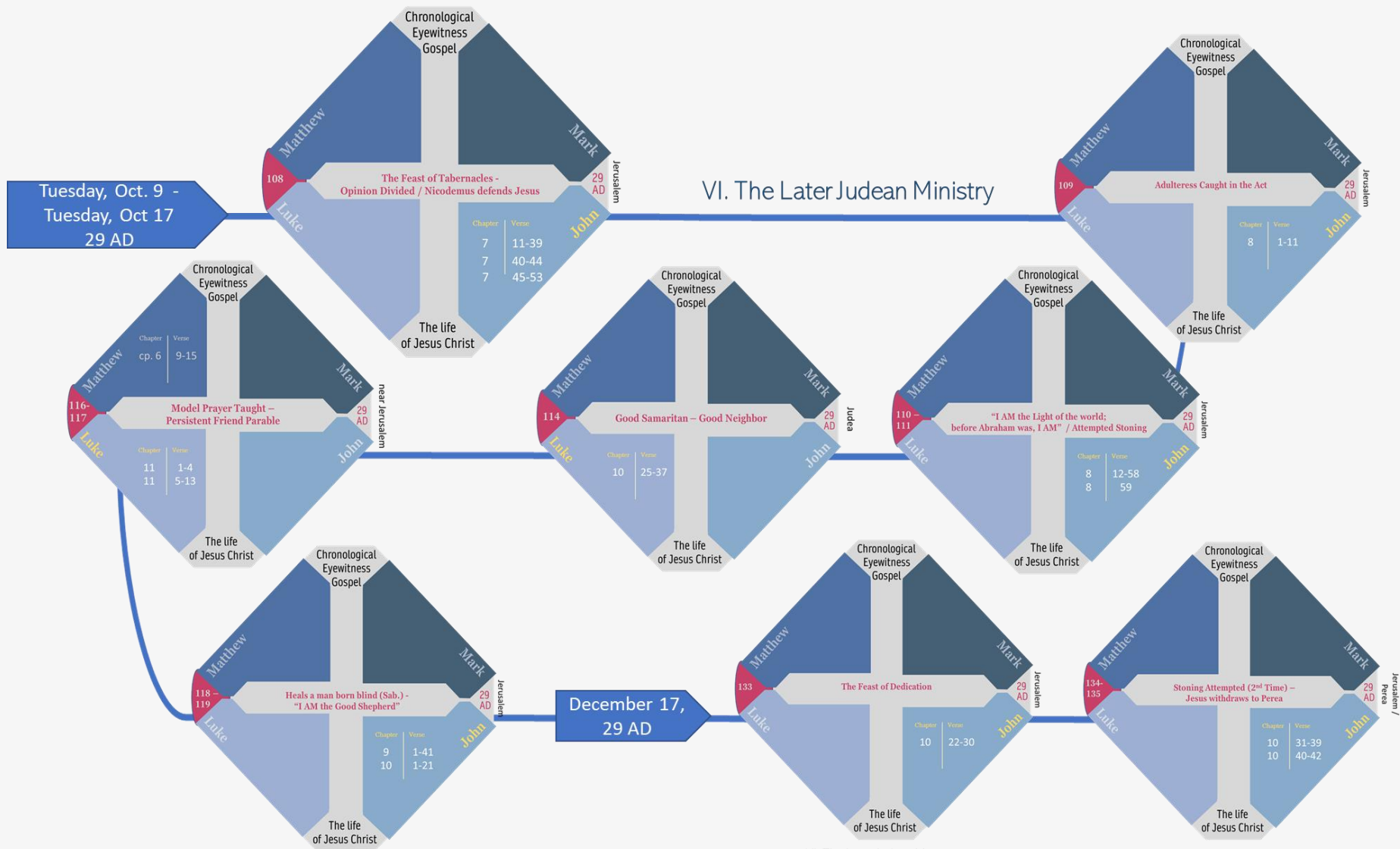
But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view.

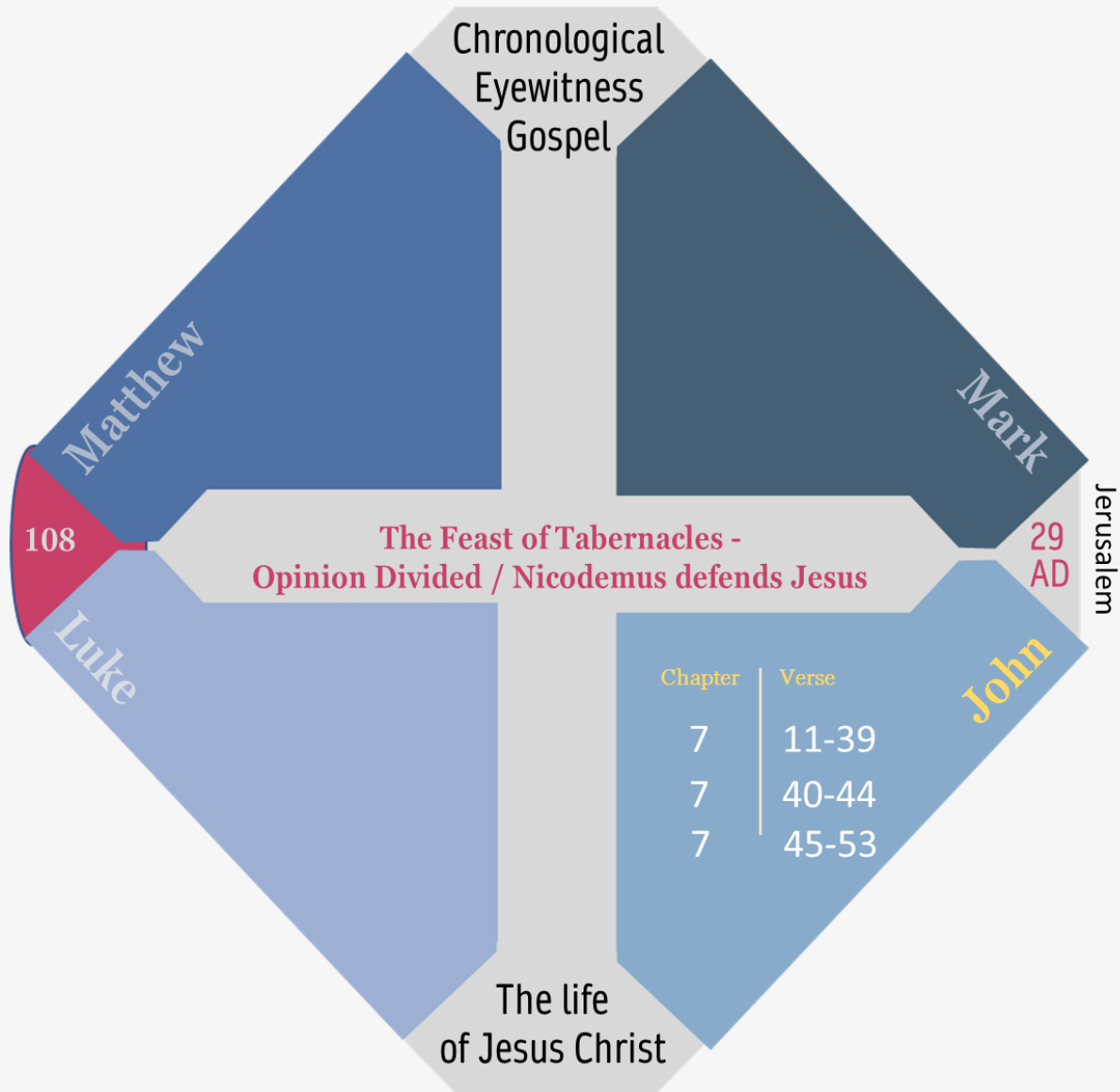
VI. The Later Judean Ministry



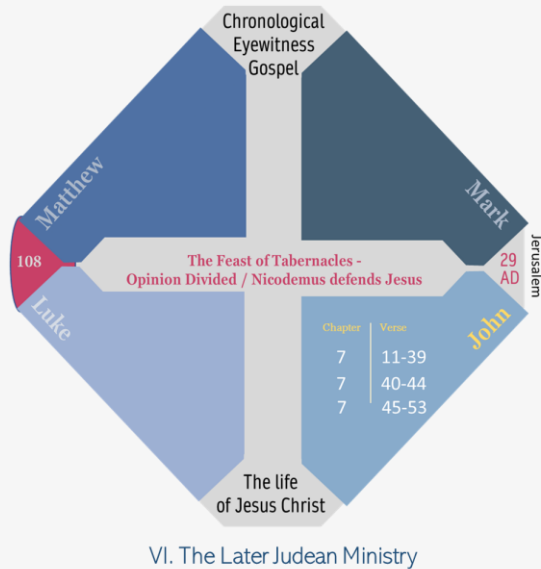
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 7





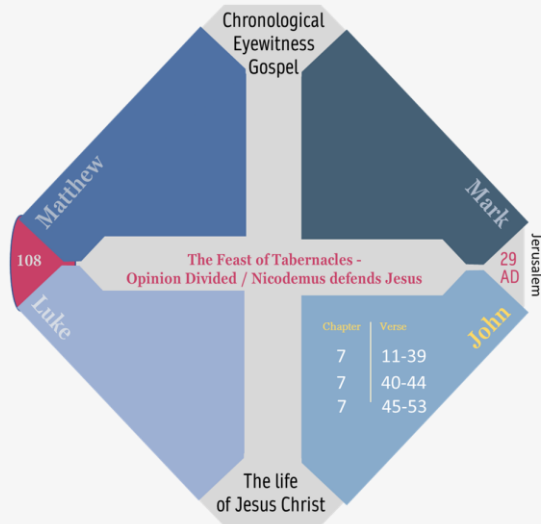
VI. The Later Judean Ministry



But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him. There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, “He’s a good man,” but others said, “He’s nothing but a fraud who deceives the people.” But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.

(Tue. Oct.9 - Tue. Oct.17, 29 AD)

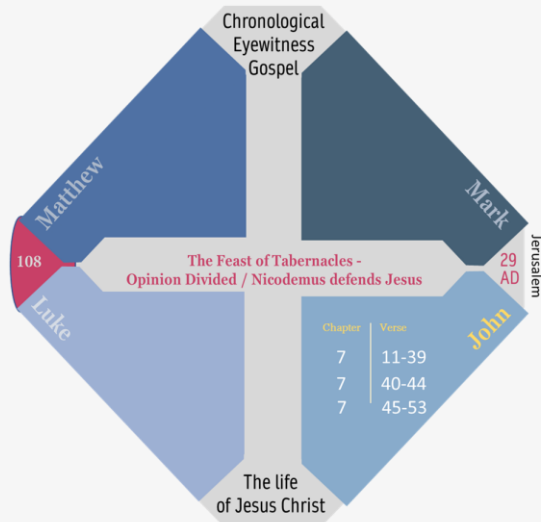
Then, midway through the festival, Jesus went up to the Temple and began to teach. The people were surprised when they heard him. “How does he know so much when he hasn’t been trained?” they asked.



So Jesus told them, “My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me. Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own. Those who speak for themselves want glory only for themselves, but a person who seeks to honor the one who sent him speaks truth, not lies. Moses gave you the law, but none of you obeys it! In fact, you are trying to kill me.”

The crowd replied, “You’re demon possessed! Who’s trying to kill you?”

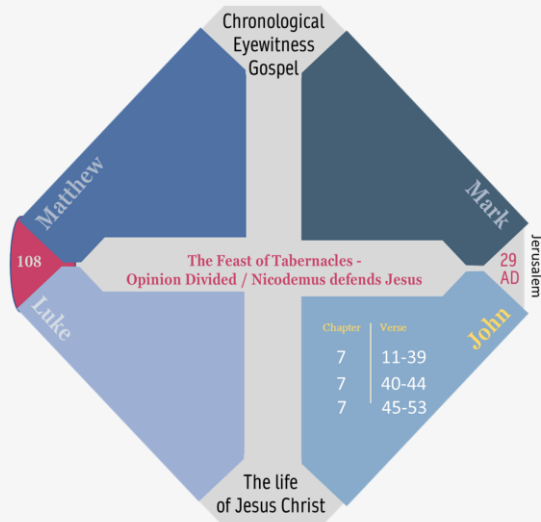
Jesus replied, “I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed. But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses’ law of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.) For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath? Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”



Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem started to ask each other, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? But here he is, speaking in public, and they say nothing to him. Could our leaders possibly believe that he is the Messiah? But how could he be? For we know where this man comes from. When the Messiah comes, he will simply appear; no one will know where he comes from.”

While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he called out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I come from. But I’m not here on my own. The one who sent me is true, and you don’t know him. But I know him because I come from him, and he sent me to you.”

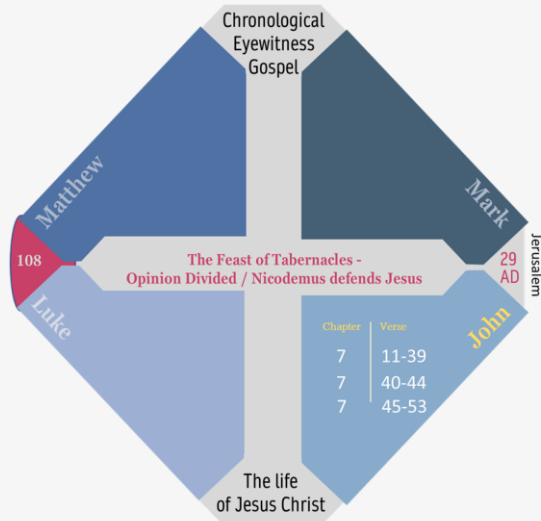
Then the leaders tried to arrest him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.



Many among the crowds at the Temple believed in him. “After all,” they said, “would you expect the Messiah to do more miraculous signs than this man has done?”

When the Pharisees heard that the crowds were whispering such things, they and the leading priests sent Temple guards to arrest Jesus. But Jesus told them, **“I will be with you only a little longer. Then I will return to the one who sent me. You will search for me but not find me. And you cannot go where I am going.”**

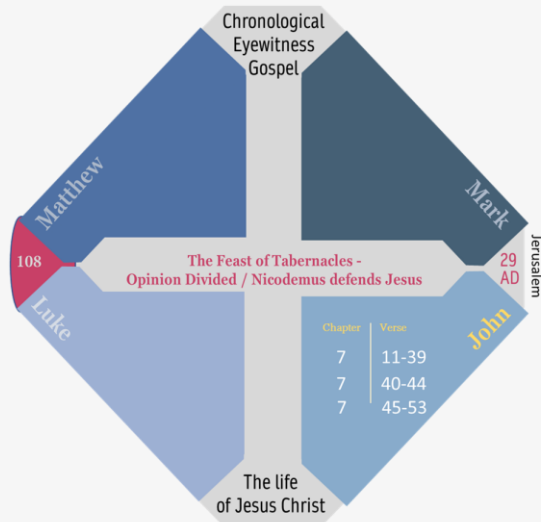
The Jewish leaders were puzzled by this statement. “Where is he planning to go?” they asked. “Is he thinking of leaving the country and going to the Jews in other lands? Maybe he will even teach the Greeks! What does he mean when he says, ‘You will search for me but not find me,’ and ‘You cannot go where I am going’?”



On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”

(When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, “Surely this man is the Prophet we’ve been expecting.” Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others said, “But he can’t be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born.” So the crowd was divided about him. Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him.



When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

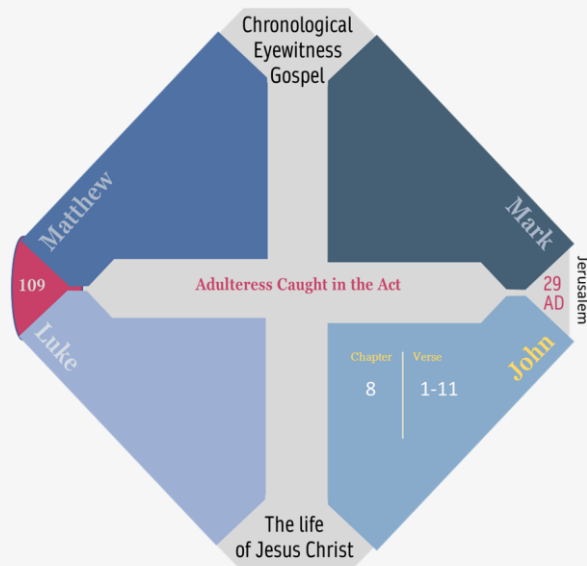
“We have never heard anyone speak like this!” the guards responded.

“Have you been led astray, too?” the Pharisees mocked. “Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God’s curse is on them!”

Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked.

They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!”

Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home.

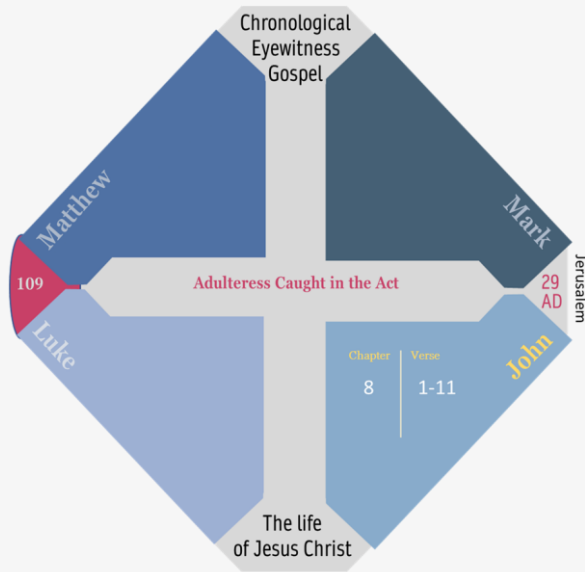


VI. The Later Judean Ministry

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

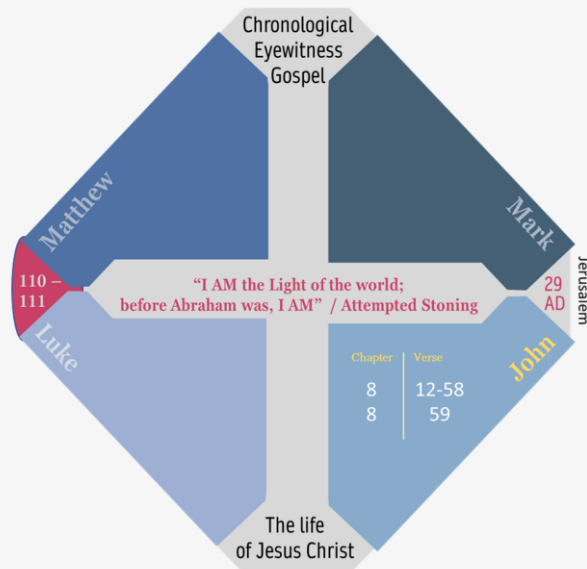
They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, **“All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”** Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.



When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

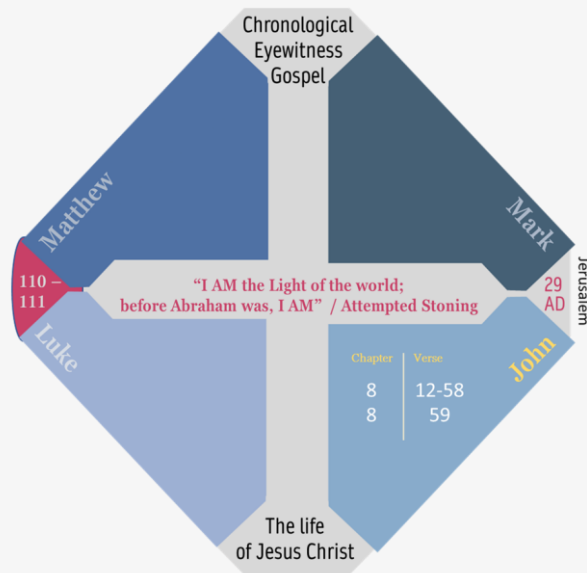


VI. The Later Judean Ministry

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

The Pharisees replied, “You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid.”

Jesus told them, “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don’t know this about me. You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact. I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other.”

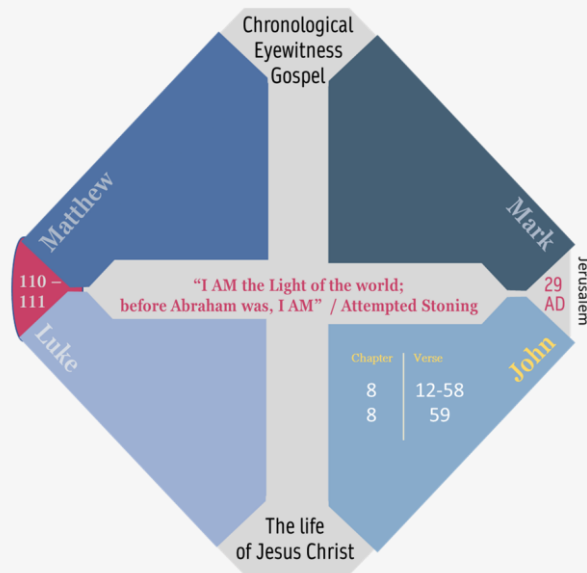


“Where is your father?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “**Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.**” Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time had not yet come.

Later Jesus said to them again, “**I am going away. You will search for me but will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.**”

The people asked, “Is he planning to commit suicide? What does he mean, ‘You cannot come where I am going’?”

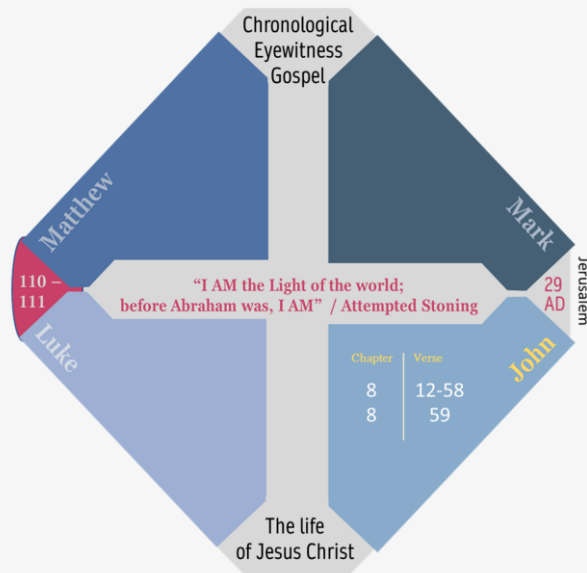


Jesus continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”

“Who are you?” they demanded.

Jesus replied, “The one I have always claimed to be. I have much to say about you and much to condemn, but I won’t. For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.” But they still didn’t understand that he was talking about his Father.

So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.” Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.

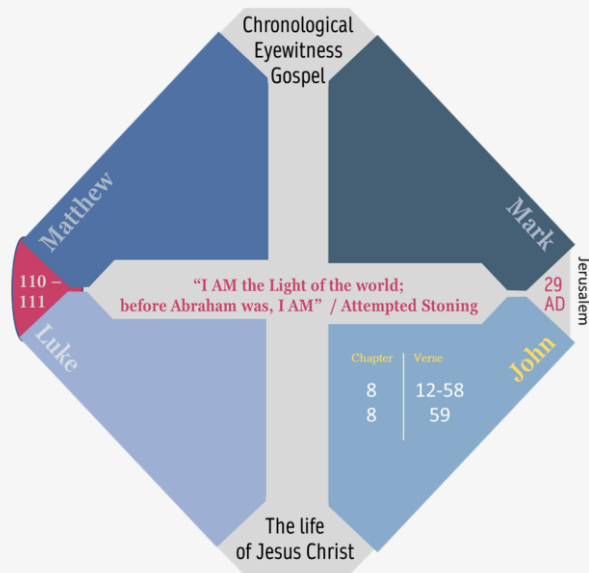


Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

“But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

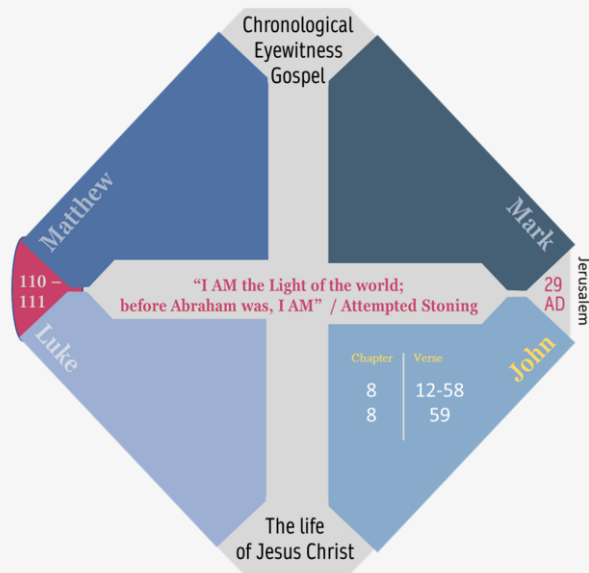
“Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there’s no room in your hearts for my message. I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father.”



“Our father is Abraham!” they declared.

“No,” Jesus replied, “for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. No, you are imitating your real father.”

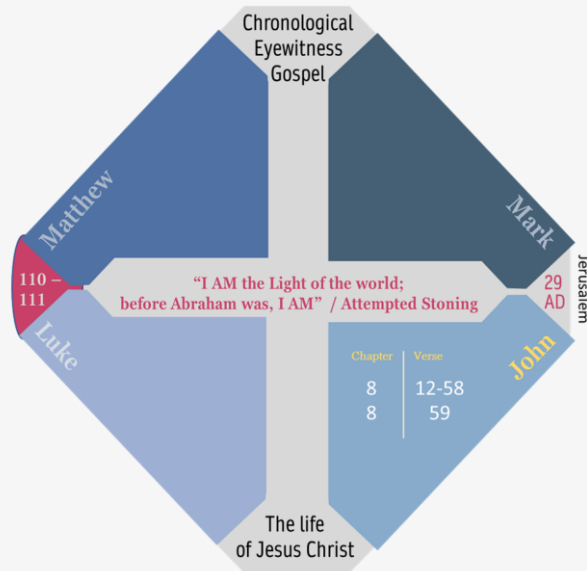
They replied, “We aren’t illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father.”



Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me!"

"For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. So, when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!"

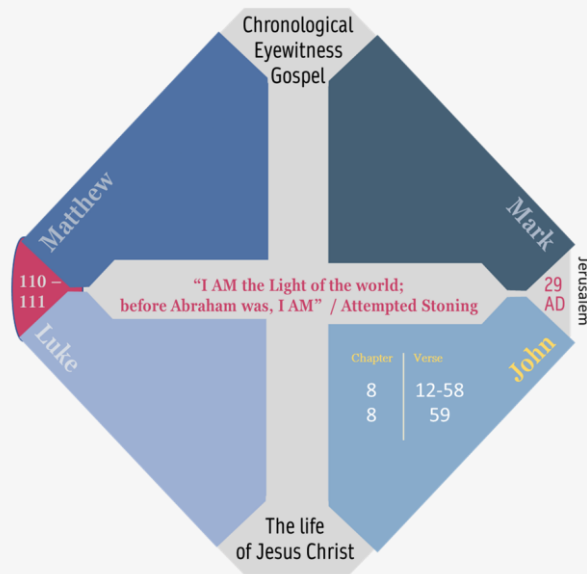
"Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."



The people retorted, “You Samaritan devil! Didn’t we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?”

“No,” Jesus said, “I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge. I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!”

The people said, “Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, ‘Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!’ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

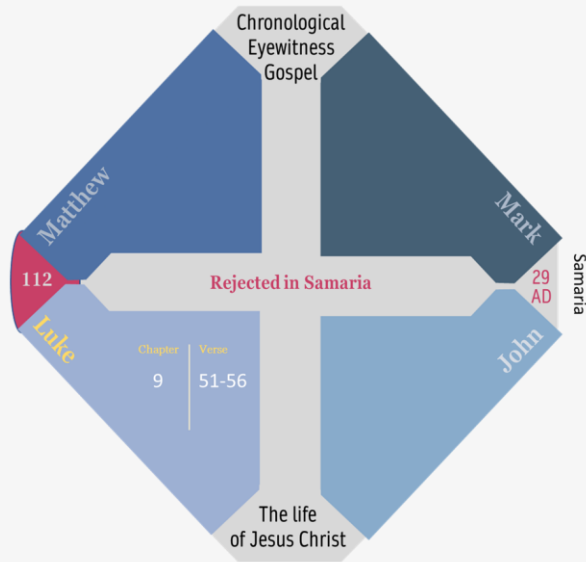


Jesus answered, "If I want glory for myself, it doesn't count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, 'He is our God,' but you don't even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"

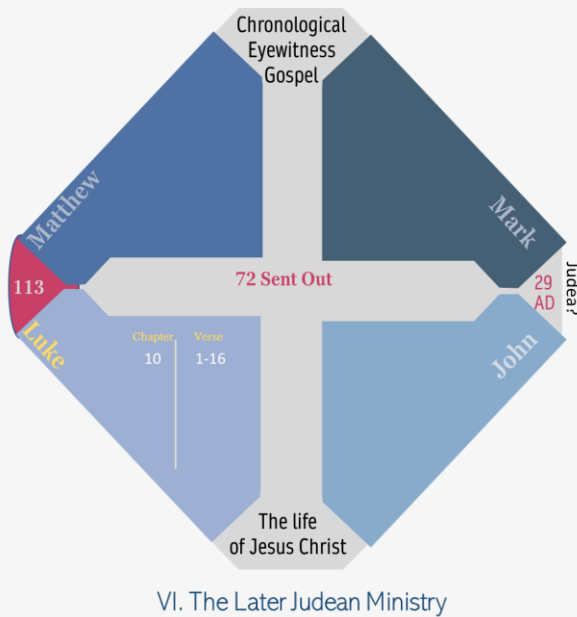
At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

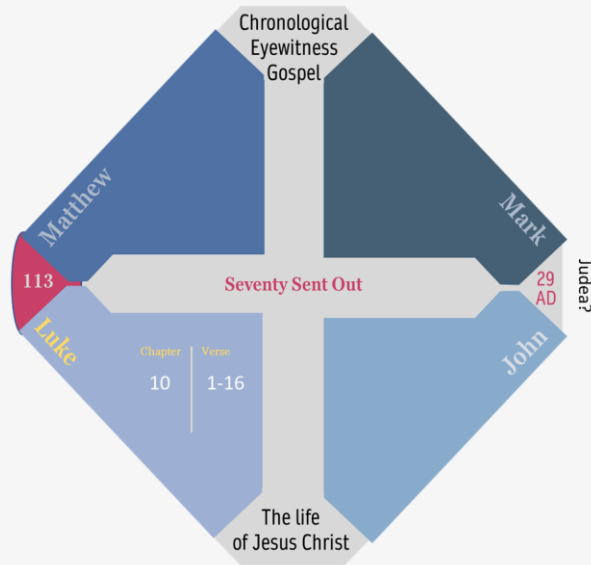
As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem.

When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them. So they went on to another village.



The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: “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. Now go and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveler’s bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don’t stop to greet anyone on the road.

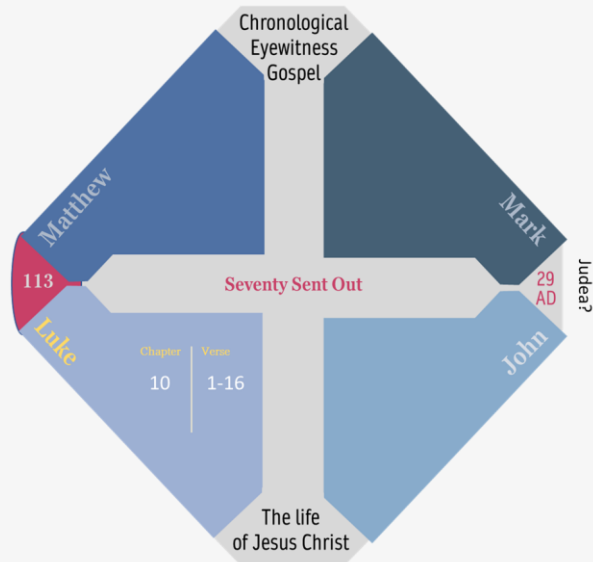
“Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality because those who work deserve their pay.



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

“If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you now.’ But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘We wipe even the dust of your town from our feet to show that we have abandoned you to your fate. And know this—the Kingdom of God is near!’ I assure you; even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on judgment day.

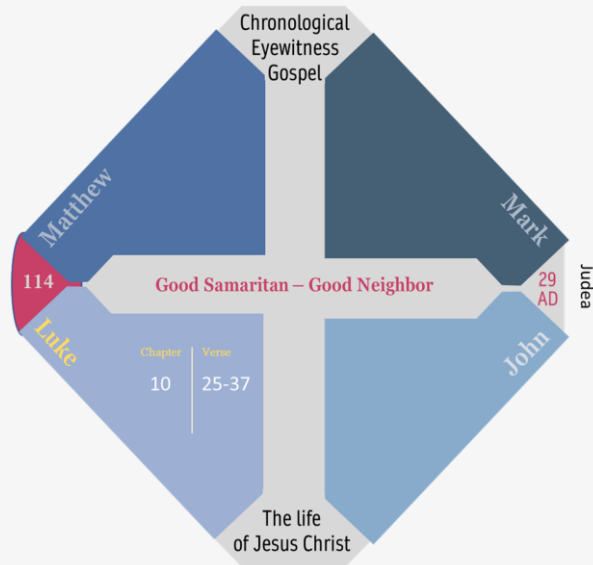
“What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. Yes, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you. And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead.



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

Then he said to the disciples,

“Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me.”



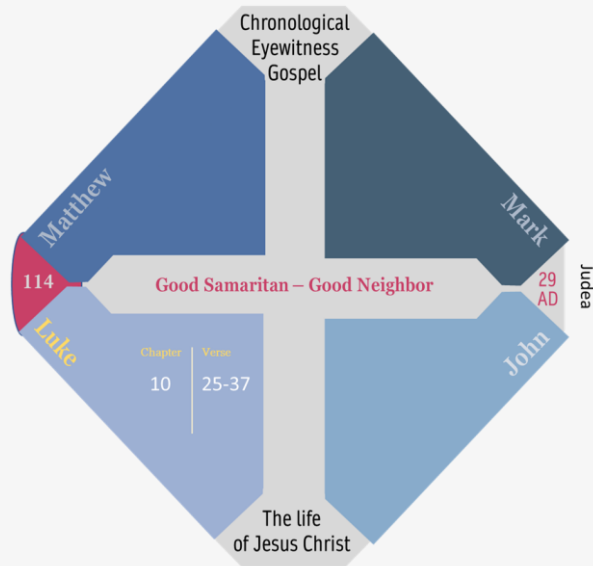
VI. The Later Judean Ministry

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

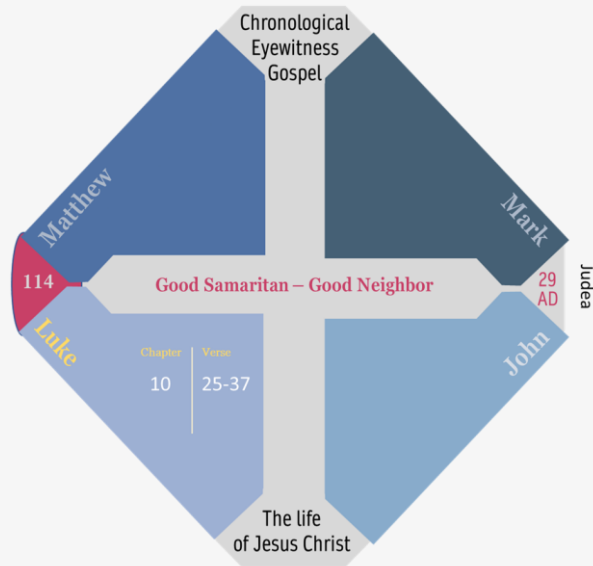
“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”



The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance, a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

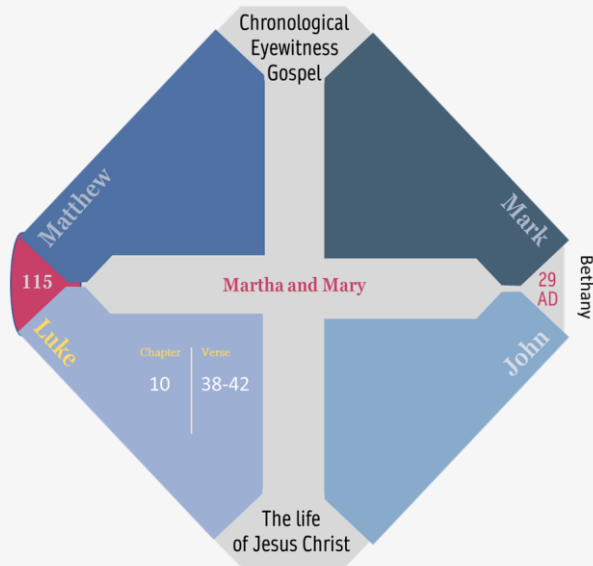


“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

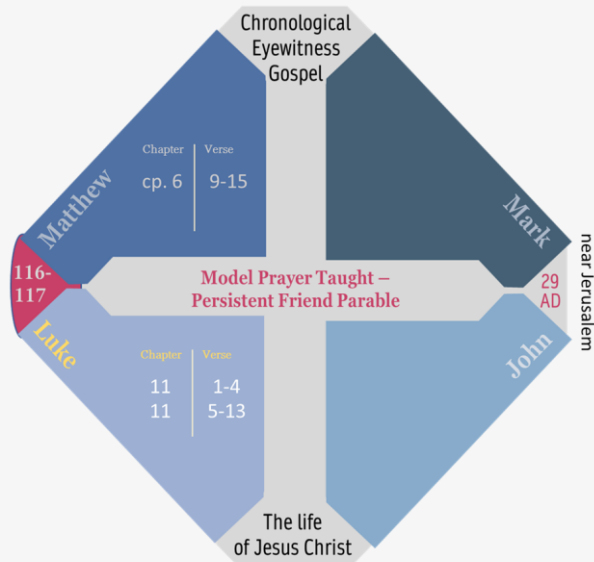


VI. The Later Judean Ministry

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

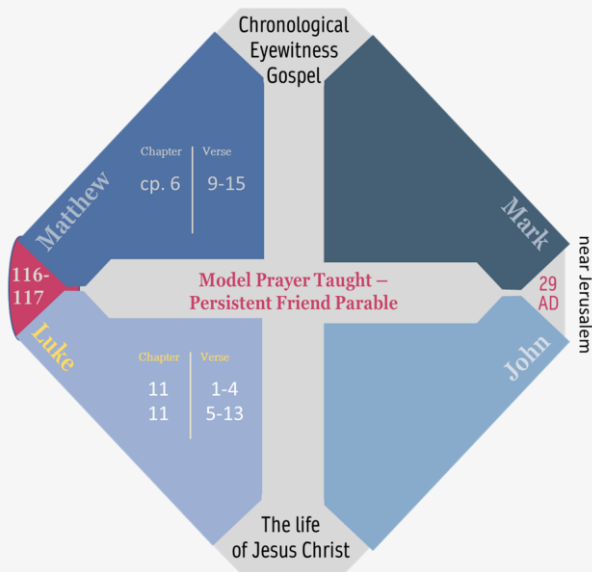
But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

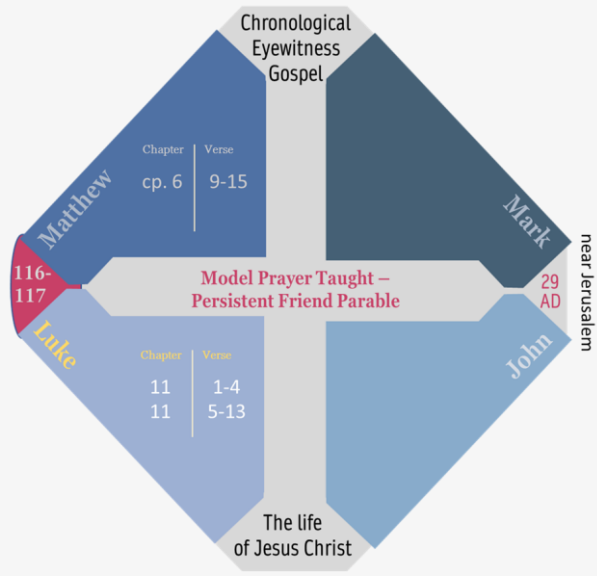
Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus said, “This is how you should pray:
 “Father, may your name be kept holy.
 May your Kingdom come soon.
 Give us each day the food we need,
 and forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 And don’t let us yield to temptation.”

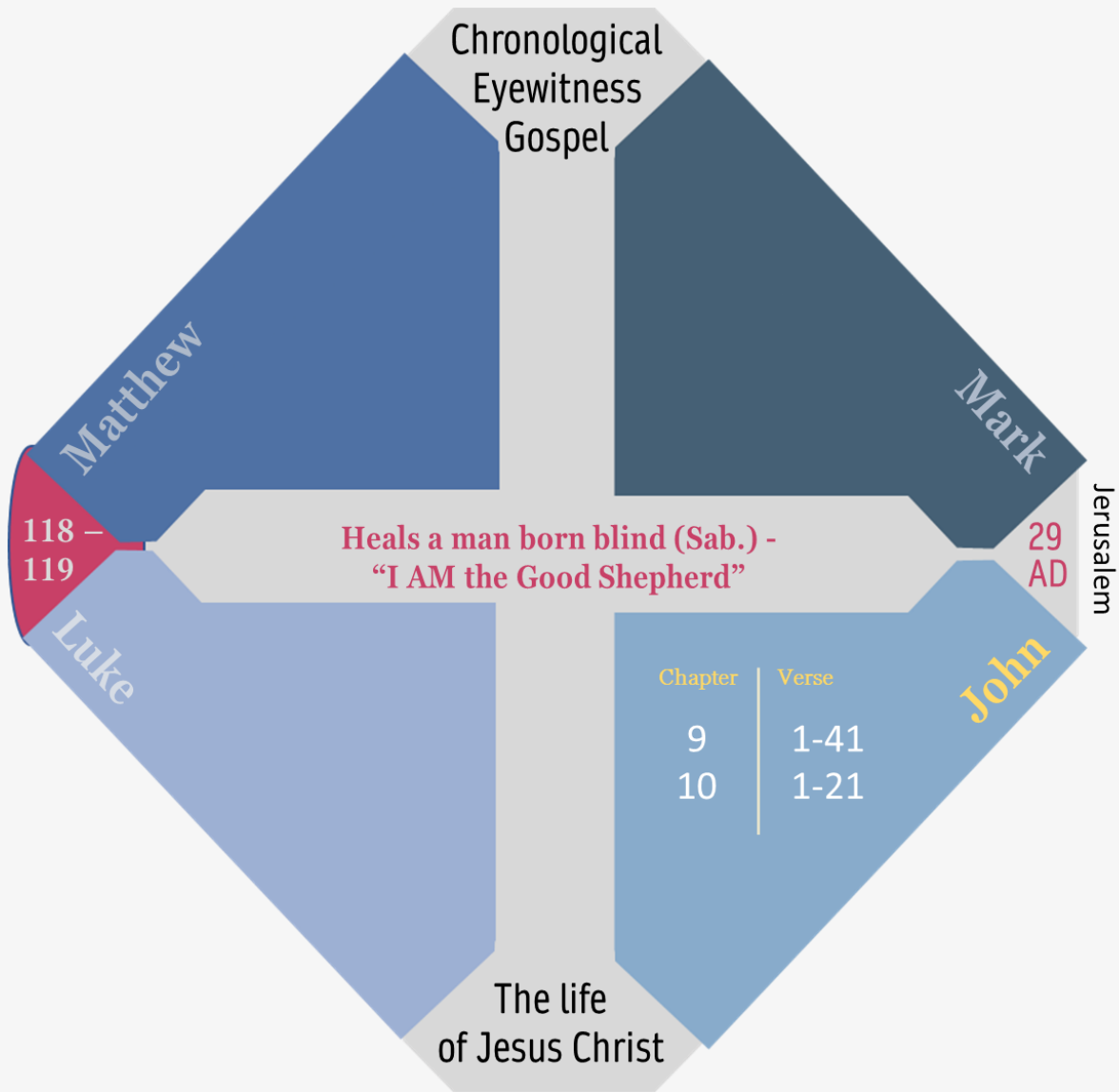


Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

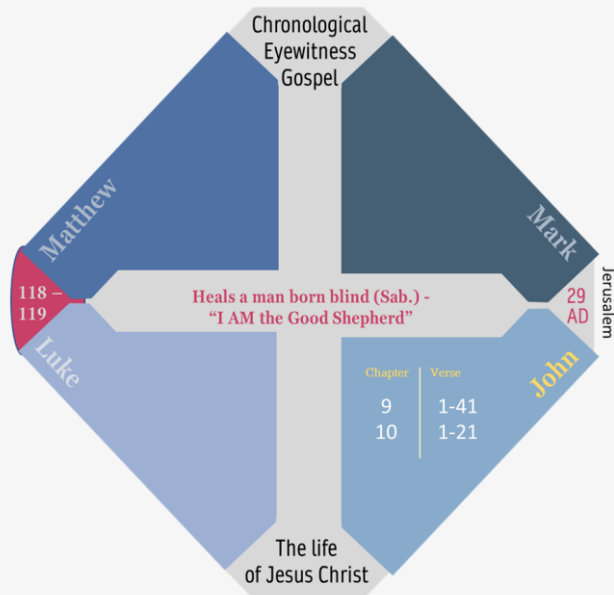
“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.



“You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

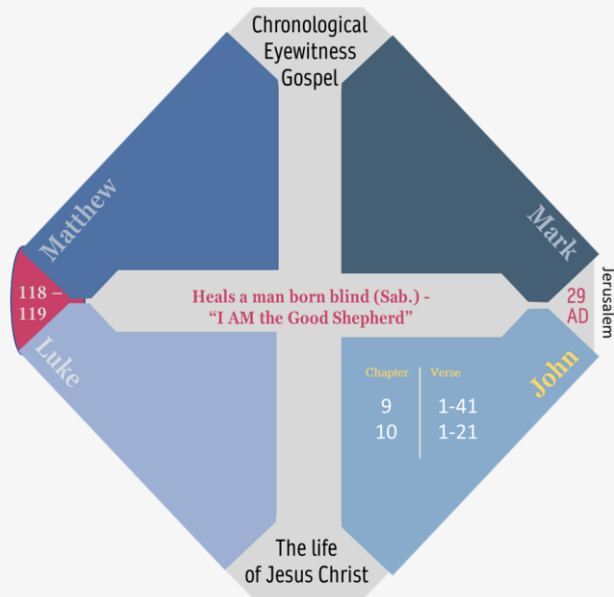


VI. The Later Judean Ministry

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!



His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said he was, and others said, “No, he just looks like him!”

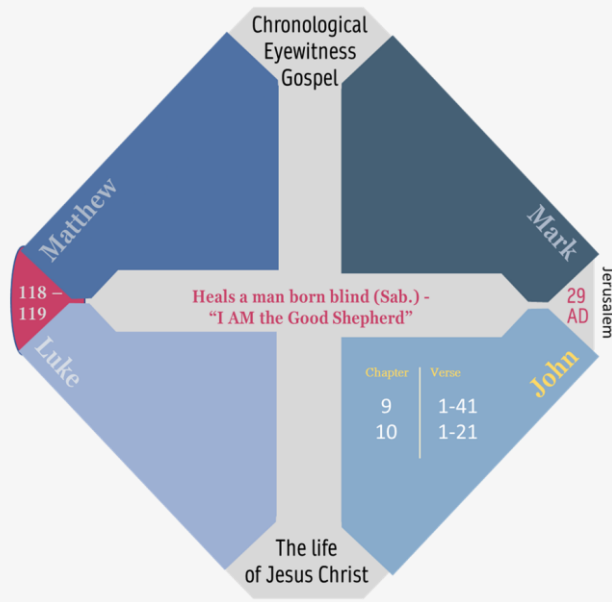
But the beggar kept saying, “Yes, I am the same one!”

They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?”

He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!”

“Where is he now?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he replied.

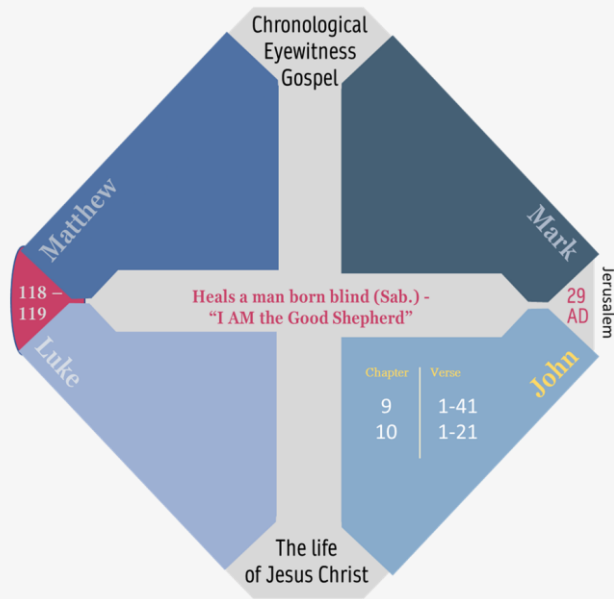


Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, “What’s your opinion about this man who healed you?”

The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.”

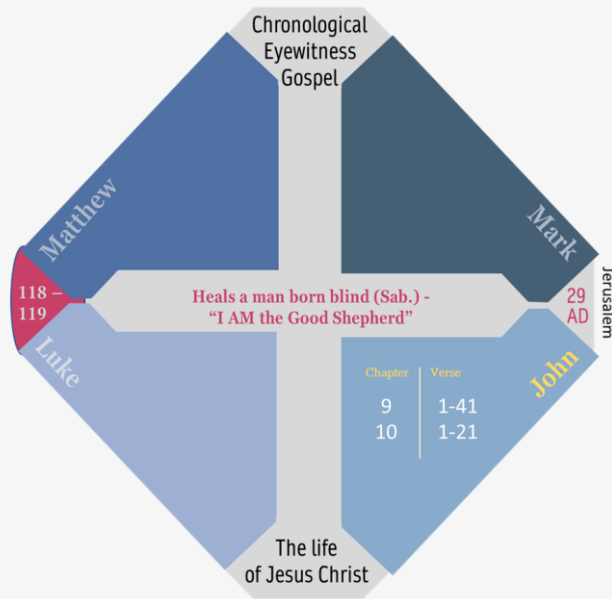


The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. They asked them, “Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?”

His parents replied, “We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don’t know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.”

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why they said, “He is old enough. Ask him.”

Episode 7



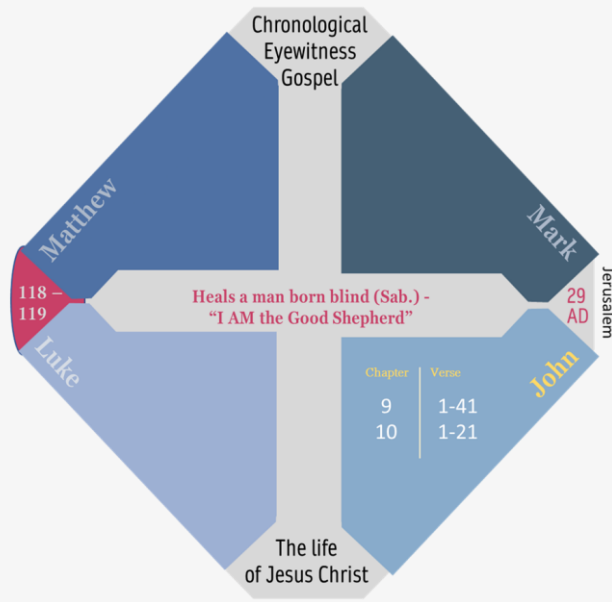
So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.”

“I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

“But what did he do?” they asked. “How did he heal you?”

“Look!” the man exclaimed. “I told you once. Didn’t you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

Then they cursed him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! We know God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where this man comes from.”



“Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from? We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn’t have done it.”

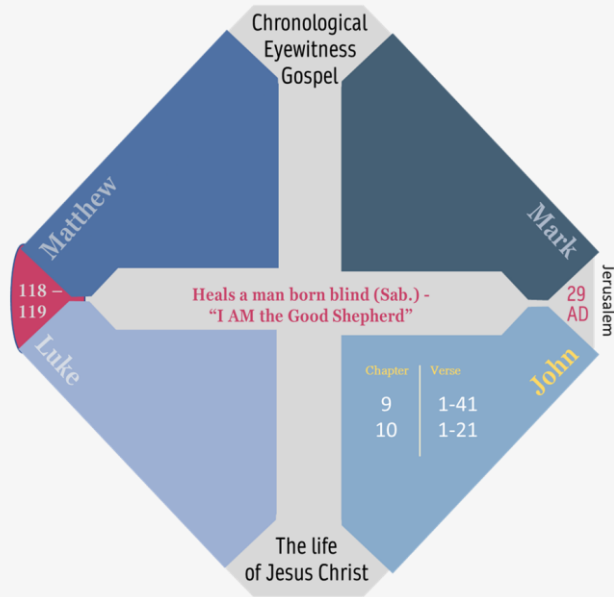
“You were born a total sinner!” they answered. “Are you trying to teach us?” And they threw him out of the synagogue.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, **“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”**

The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

“You have seen him,” Jesus said, **“and he is speaking to you!”**

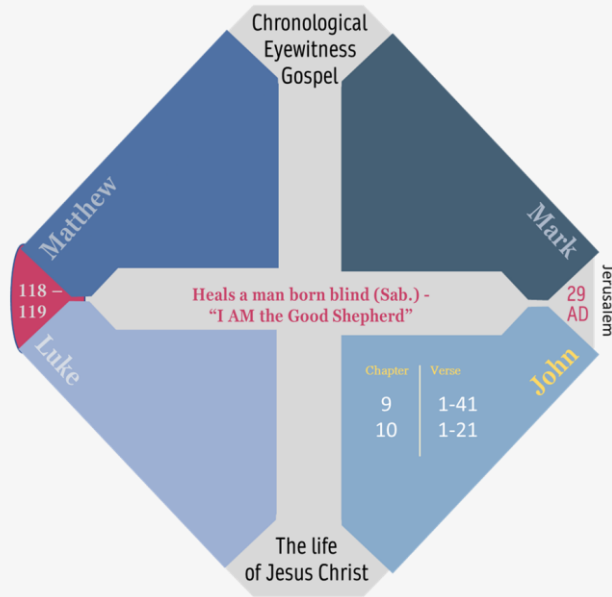
“Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.



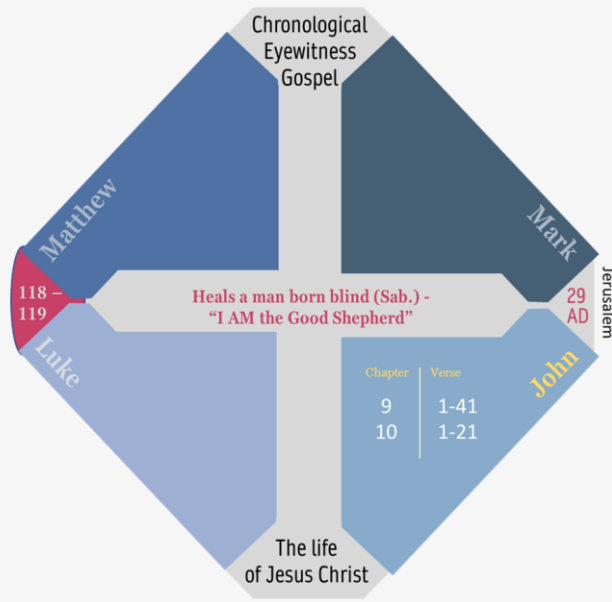
Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?”

“If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”



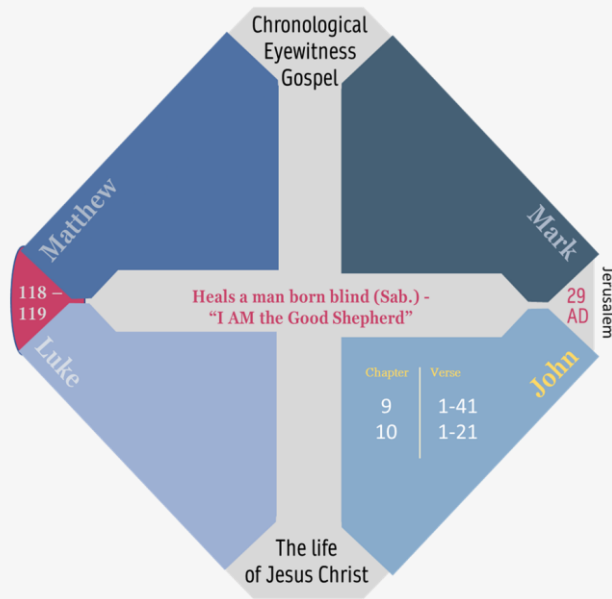
“I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”



Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, so he explained it to them:

“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

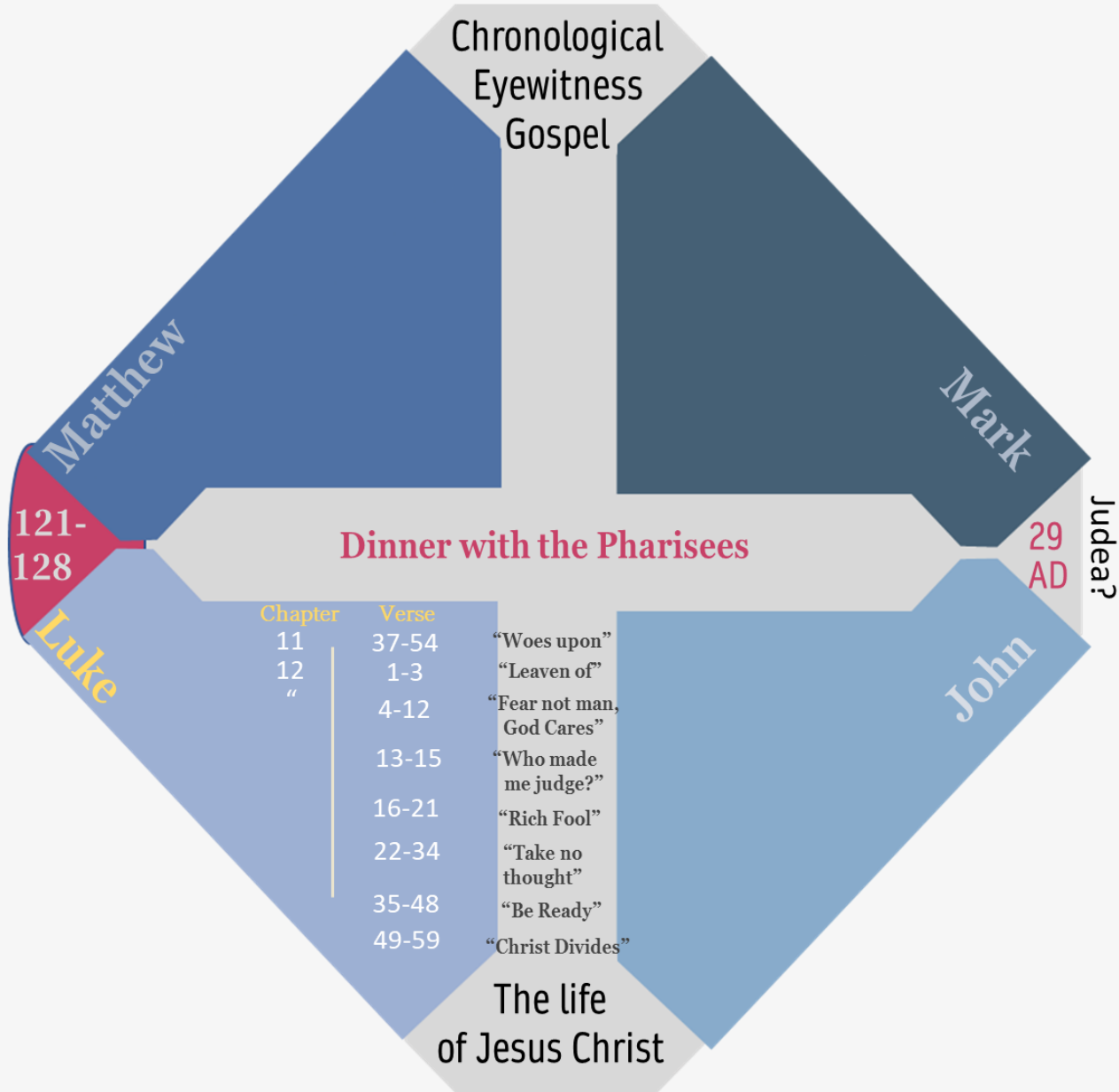
“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.



"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

"The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

When he said these things, the people were again divided in their opinions about him. Some said, "He's demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?" Others said, "This doesn't sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

121-128	Dinner with the Pharisees	
Luke	Chapter	Verse
	11	37-54
	12	1-3
	"	4-12
		13-15
		16-21
		22-34
		35-48
		49-59
	The life of Jesus Christ	

As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table. His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom. Then the Lord said to him, **“You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside? So clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor, and you will be clean all over.**

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as you walk in the marketplaces. Yes, what sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.”

121-128

Dinner with the Pharisees

Luke

Chapter	Verse	
11	37-54	"Woes upon"
12	1-3	"Leaven of"
"	4-12	"Fear not man, God Cares"
	13-15	"Who made me judge?"
	16-21	"Rich Fool"
	22-34	"Take no thought"
	35-48	"Be Ready"
	49-59	"Christ Divides"

The life of Jesus Christ

"Teacher," said an expert in religious law, "you have insulted us, too, in what you just said."

"Yes," said Jesus, "what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden. What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago. But in fact, you stand as witnesses who agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you join in their crime by building the monuments! This is what God in his wisdom said about you: 'I will send prophets and apostles to them, but they will kill some and persecute the others.'

"As a result, this generation will be held responsible for the murder of all God's prophets from the creation of the world—from the murder of Abel to the murder of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, it will certainly be charged against this generation.

121-128		
Dinner with the Pharisees		
Chapter	Verse	
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	35-48	"Be Ready"
	49-59	"Christ Divides"
The life of Jesus Christ		

"What sorrow awaits you experts in religious law! For you remove the key to knowledge from the people. You don't enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering."

As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke him with many questions. They wanted to trap him into saying something they could use against him.

Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!"

121-128
Luke

Dinner with the Pharisees

Chapter	Verse	
11	37-54	"Woes upon"
12	1-3	"Leaven of"
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The life of Jesus Christ

"Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.

"What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. 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.

"I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels. But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels. Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

"And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said."

121-128
Luke

Dinner with the Pharisees

Chapter	Verse	
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The life of Jesus Christ

Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"'

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

121-128	Dinner with the Pharisees	
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	The life of Jesus Christ	

Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?”

“Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?”

“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.”

121-128

Dinner with the Pharisees

Luke

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The life of Jesus Christ

"So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

"Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

"Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

Chapter	Verse	
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The life
of Jesus Christ

"Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

Peter asked, "Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?"

And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.

121-128
Luke

Dinner with the Pharisees

Chapter	Verse	
11	37-54	"Woes upon"
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The life of Jesus Christ

“And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

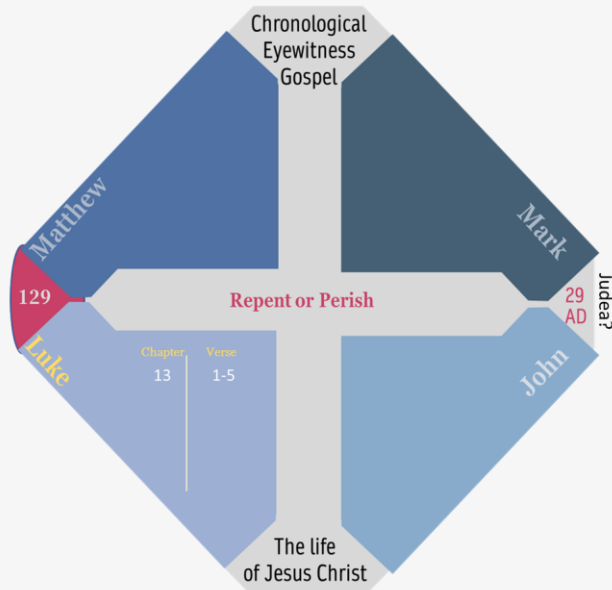
“I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning! I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished. Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against.

‘Father will be divided against son
and son against father;
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother;
and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’”

121-128	Dinner with the Pharisees	
Luke	Chapter	Verse
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	The life of Jesus Christ	

Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, ‘Here comes a shower.’ And you are right. When the south wind blows, you say, ‘Today will be a scorcher.’ And it is. You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.

“Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right? When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison. And if that happens, you won’t be free again until you have paid the very last penny.”



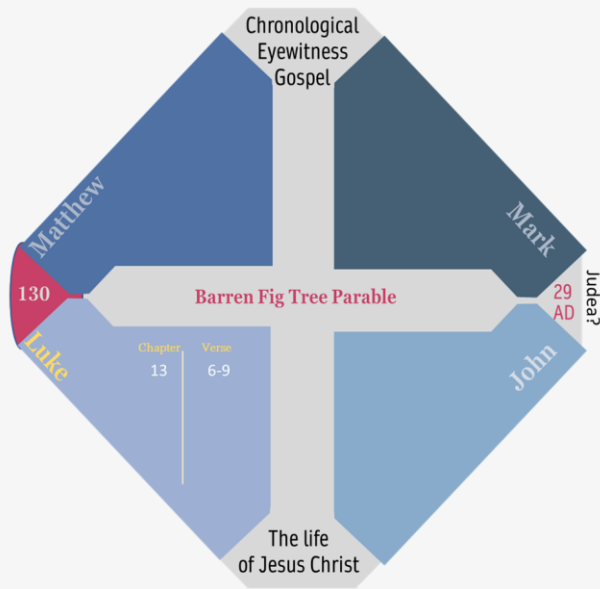
VI. The Later Judean Ministry

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple.

“Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered?”

“Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem?”

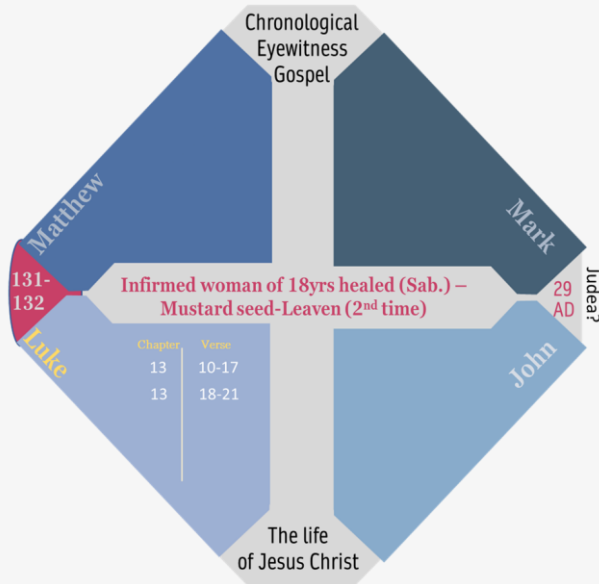
”No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

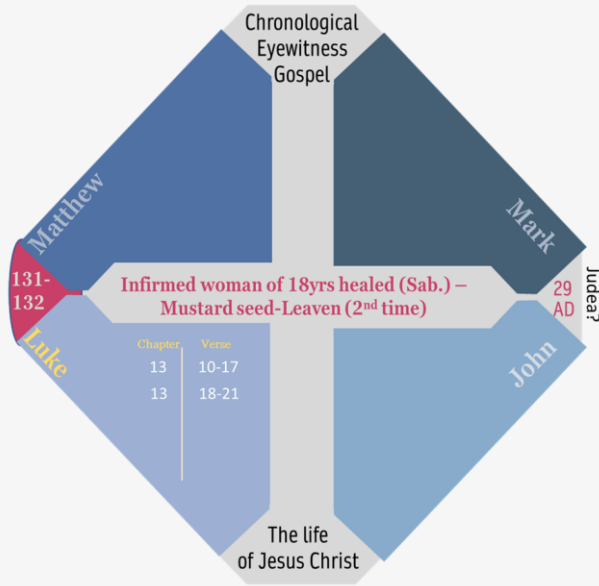
“The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”



VI. The Later Judean Ministry

One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!” Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

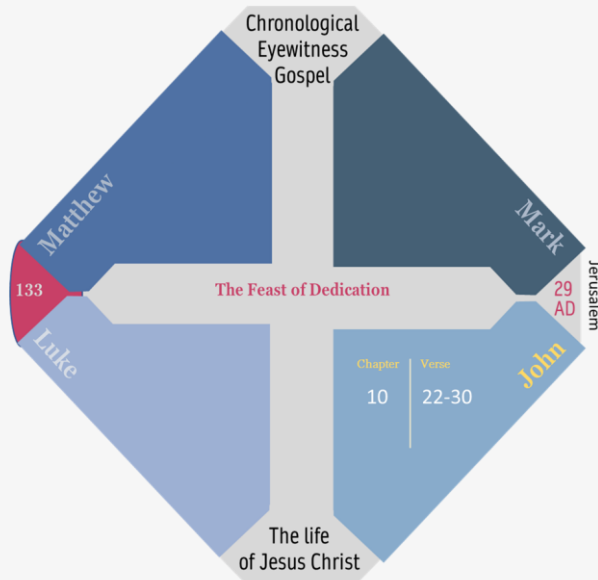
But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day. “There are six days of the week for working,” he said to the crowd. “Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”



But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water? This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?”

This shamed his enemies, but all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things he did.

Then Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches.”

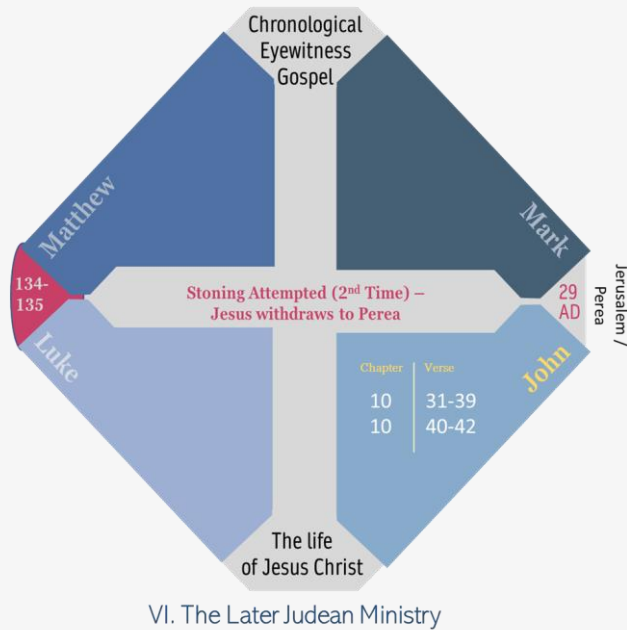


VI. The Later Judean Ministry

(Kislev 25 = Mon. Dec. 17, 29 AD)

It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

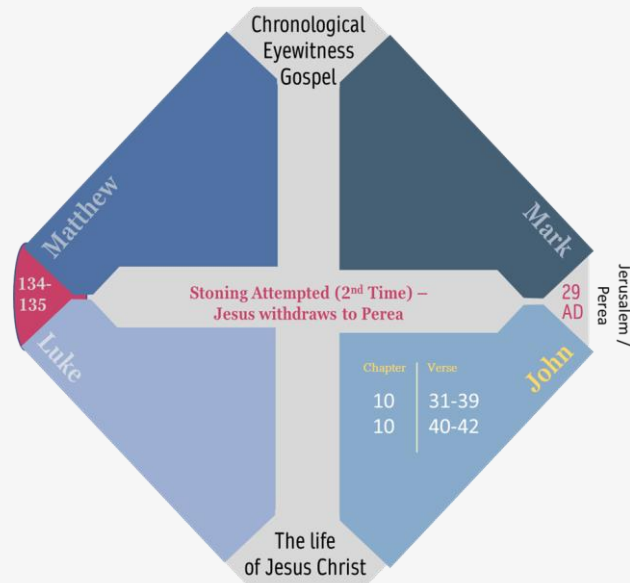
Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."



Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. Jesus said, “At my Father’s direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?”

They replied, “We’re stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Jesus replied, “It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, ‘I say, you are gods!’ And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God’s message were called ‘gods,’ why do you call it blasphemy when I say, ‘I am the Son of God’? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. Don’t believe me unless I carry out my Father’s work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don’t believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father.”



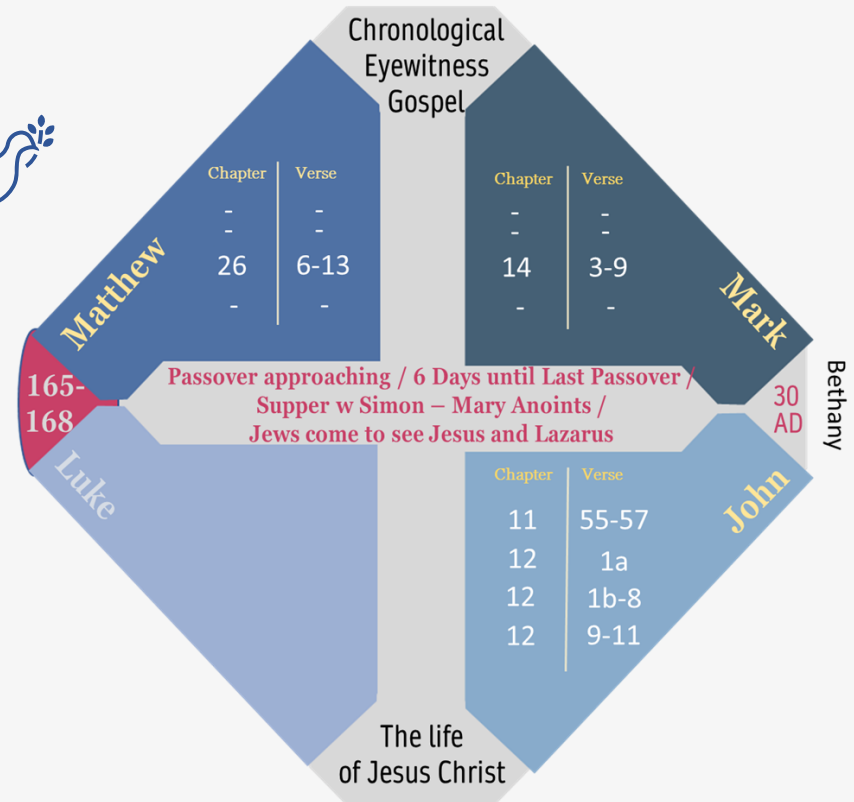
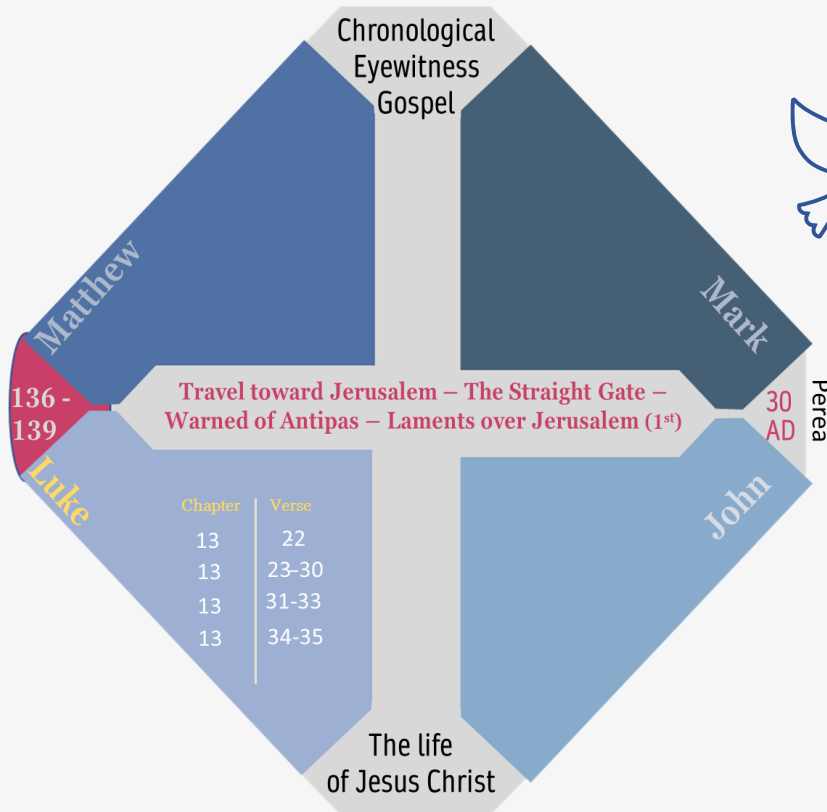
VI. The Later Judean Ministry

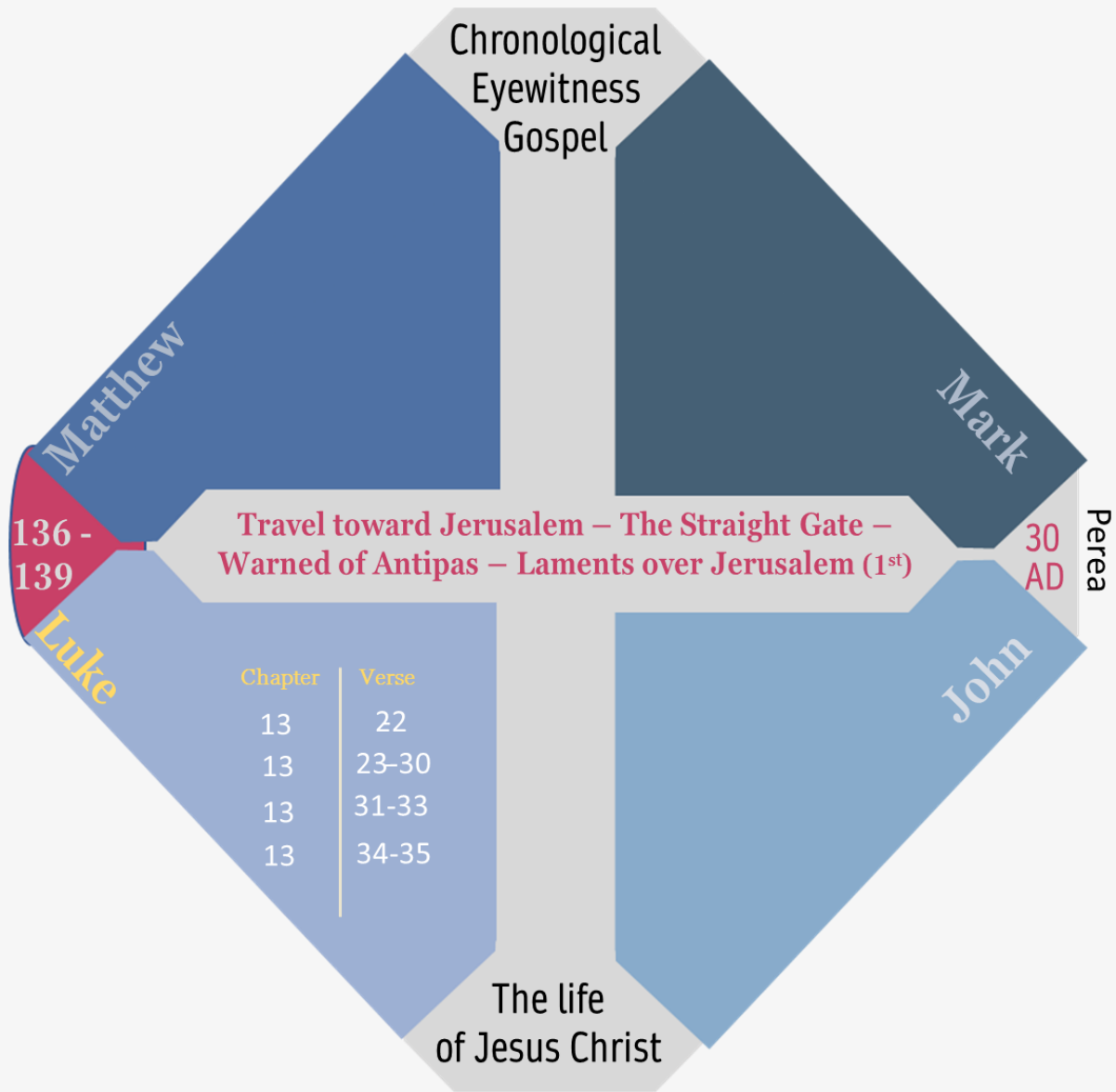
Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. And many followed him.

“John didn’t perform miraculous signs,” they remarked to one another, “but everything he said about this man has come true.”

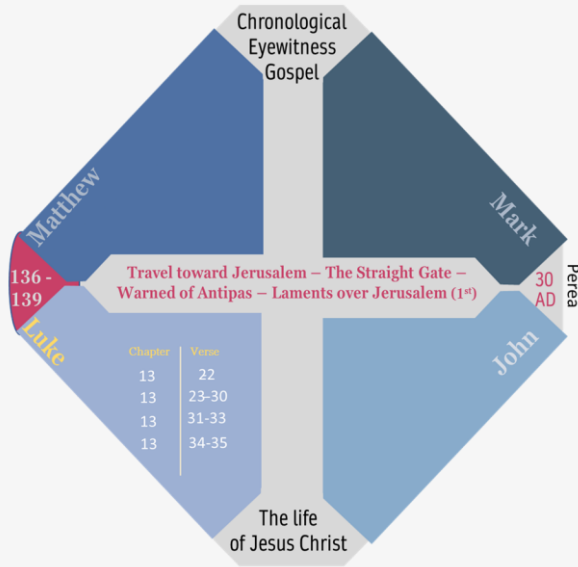
And many who were there believed in Jesus.

VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem





VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

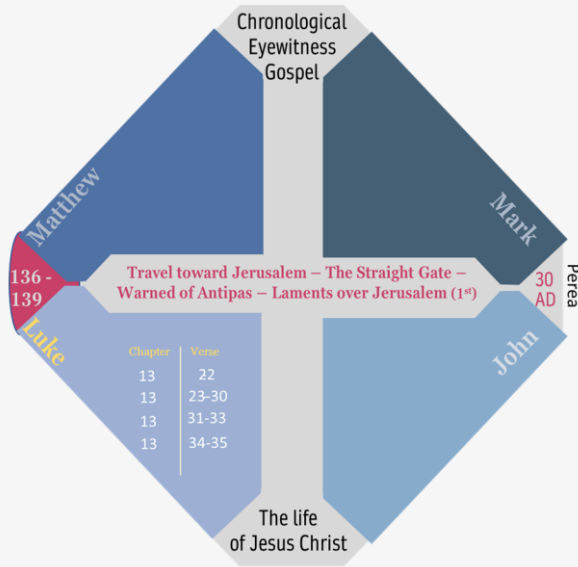


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?”

He replied, “Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ And he will reply, ‘I tell you; I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’”

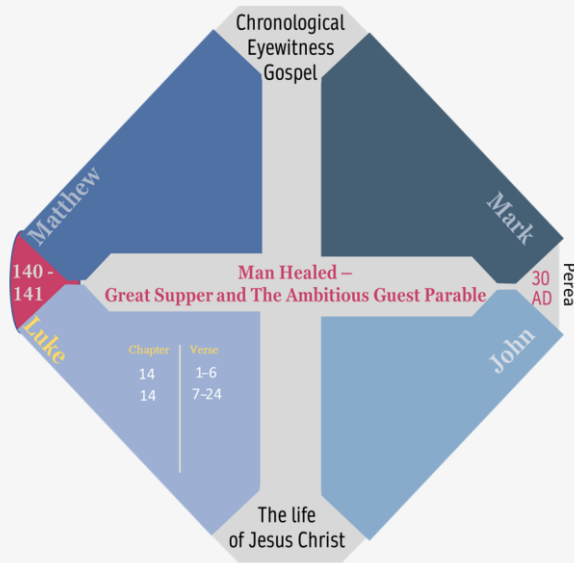
“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.”



At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!”

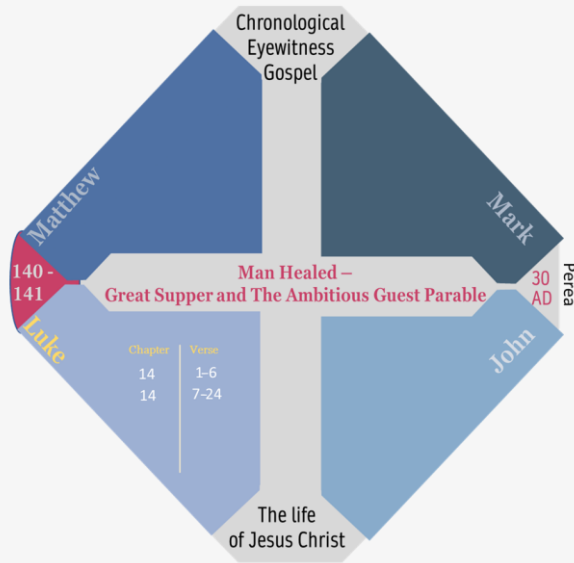
Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must proceed on my way. For it wouldn’t do for a prophet of God to be killed except in Jerusalem!

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’”



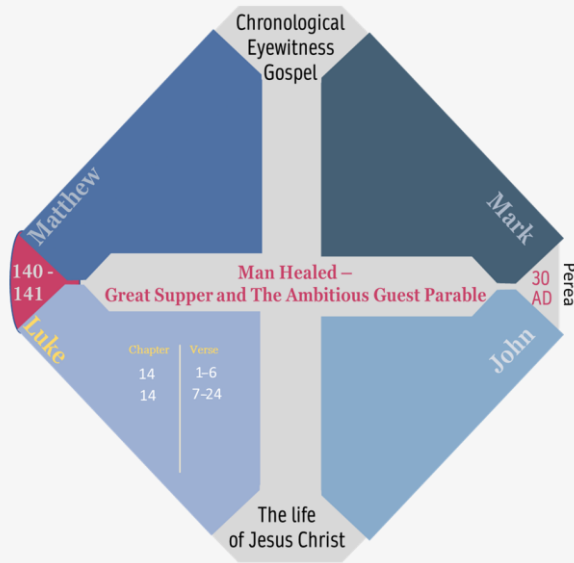
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely. There was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in religious law, “Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?” When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick man and healed him and sent him away. Then he turned to them and said, “Which of you doesn’t work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don’t you rush to get him out?” Again they could not answer.



When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

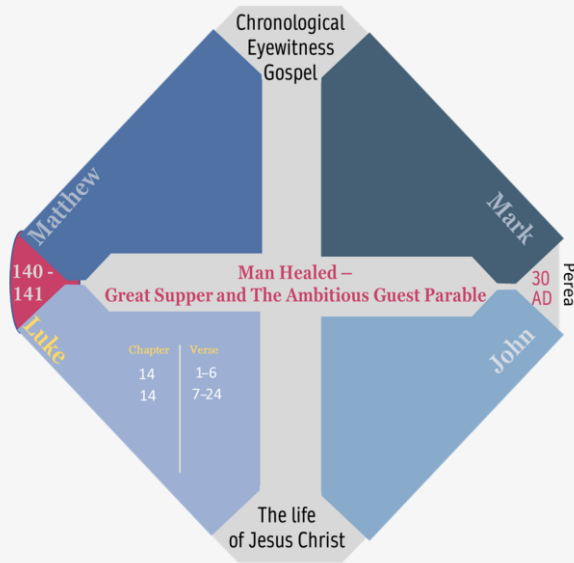
“Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

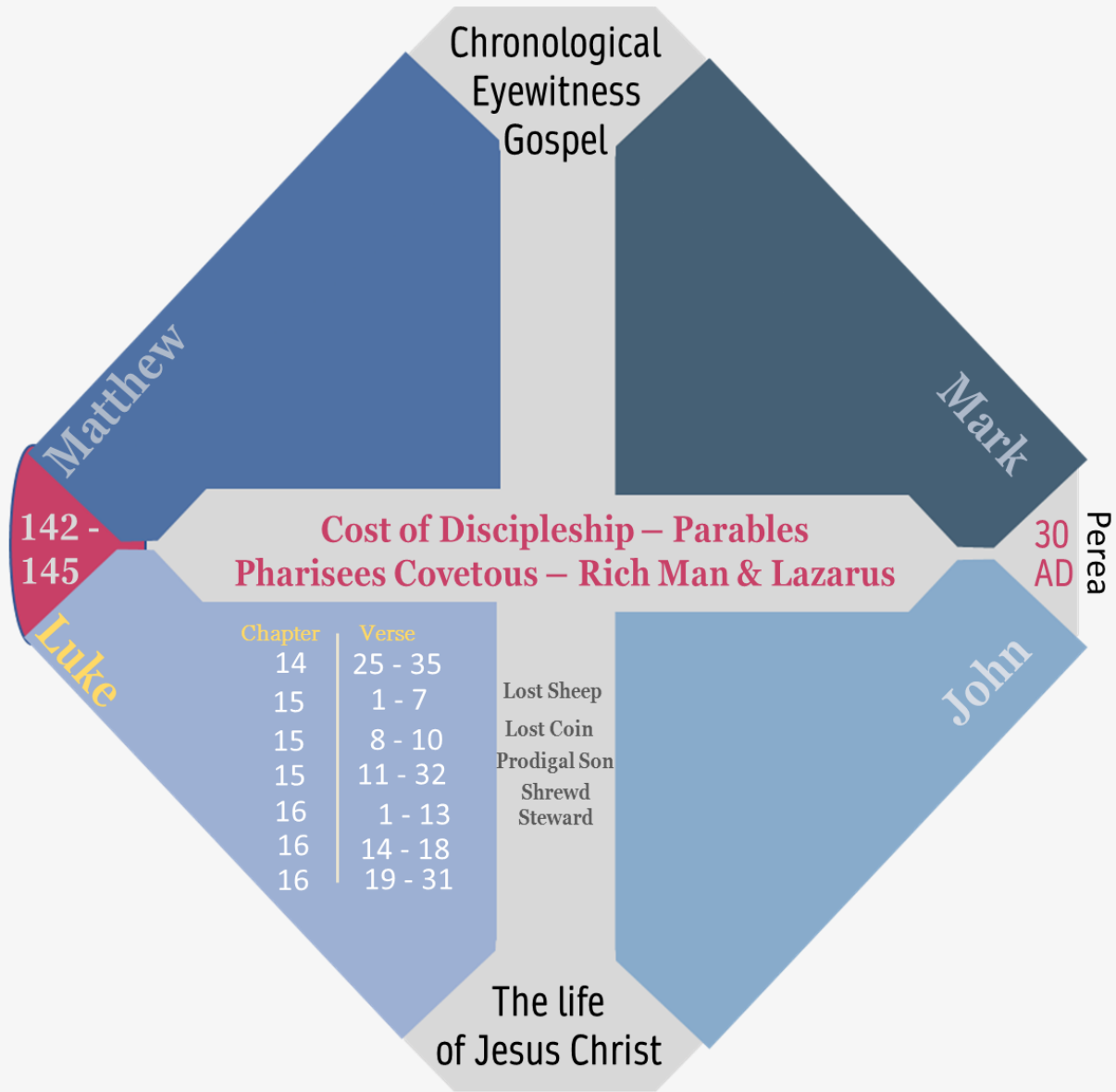
Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

Jesus replied with this story:

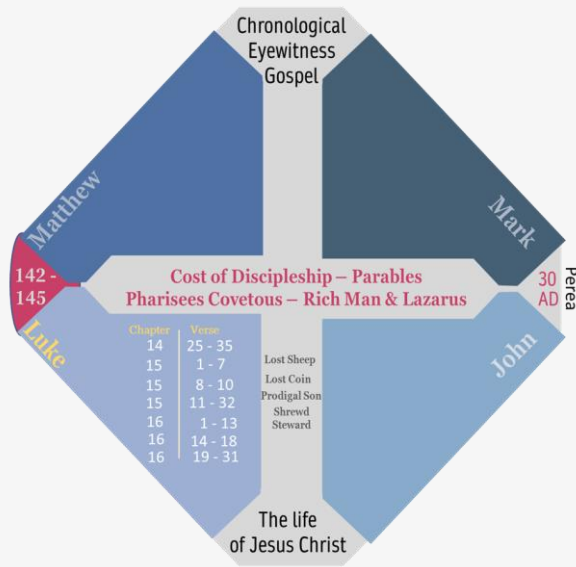


“A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’”

“The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’ So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”



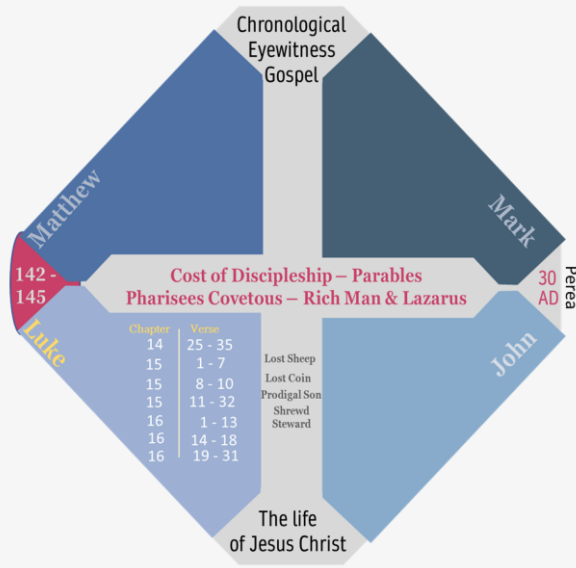
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem



VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

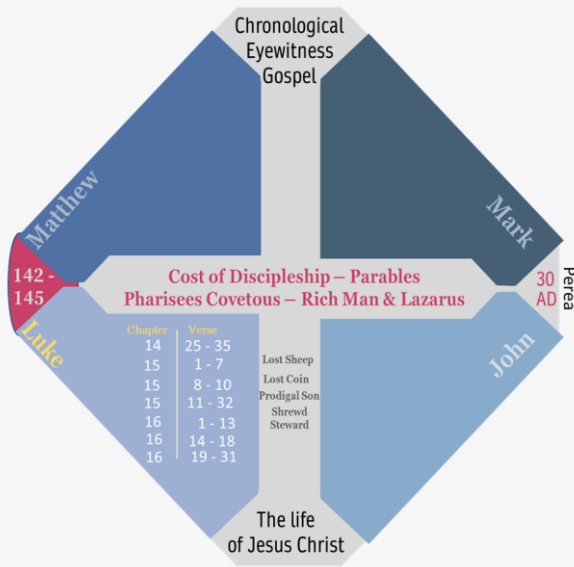


“Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away.

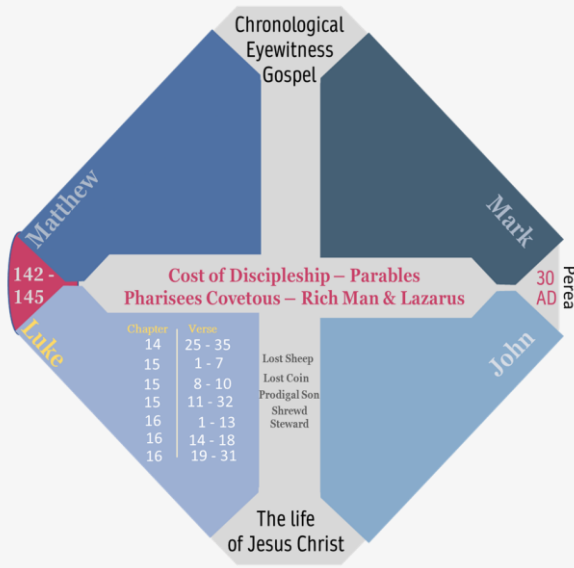
Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!



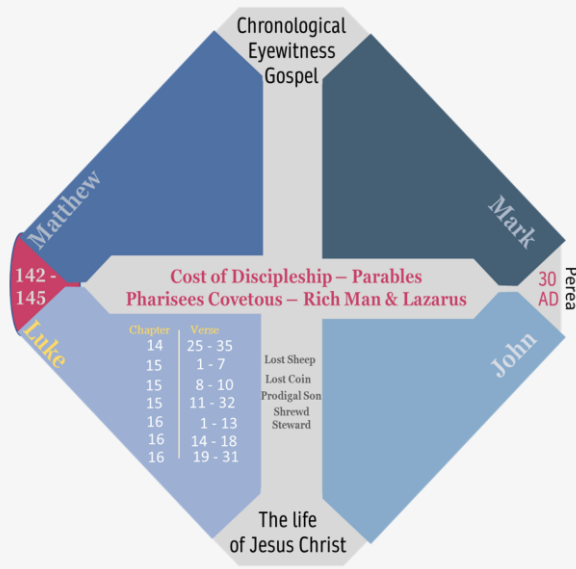
Lost Sheep

So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!



Lost Coin

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

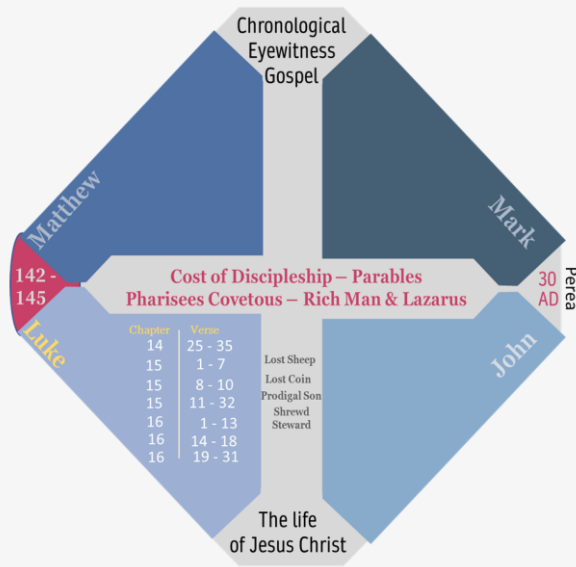


Prodigal Son

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story:

“A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So, his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

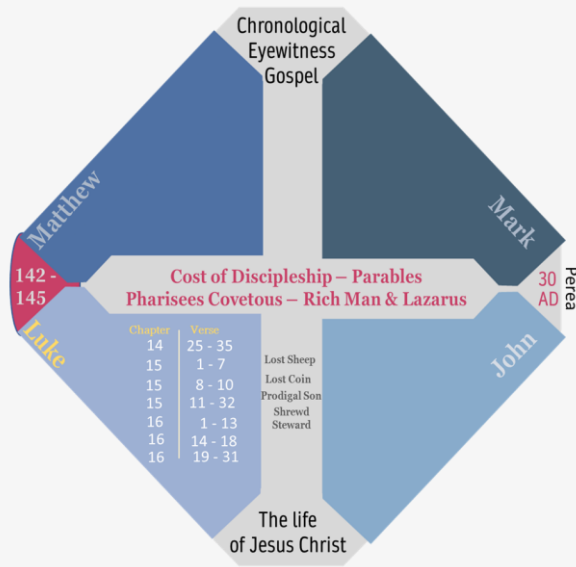
“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.



“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself,

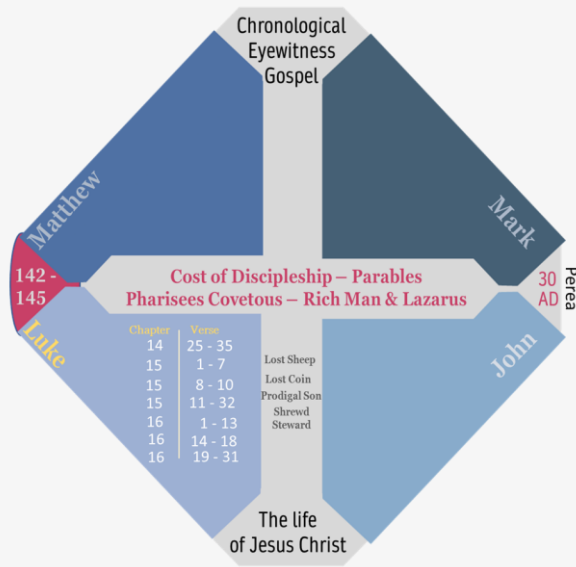
‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’



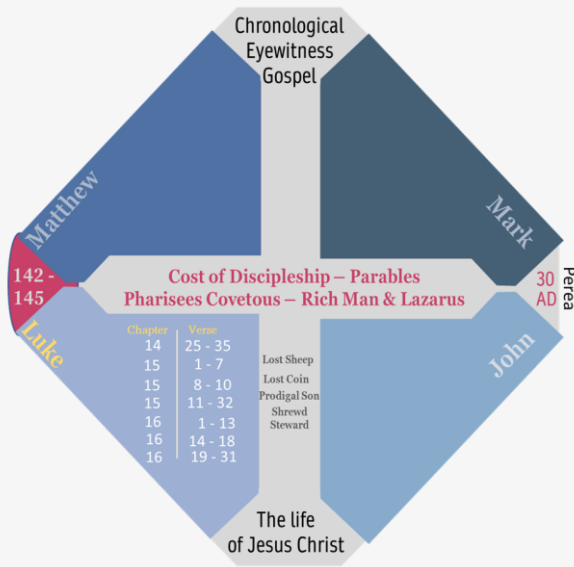
“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began!

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’



“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

“His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

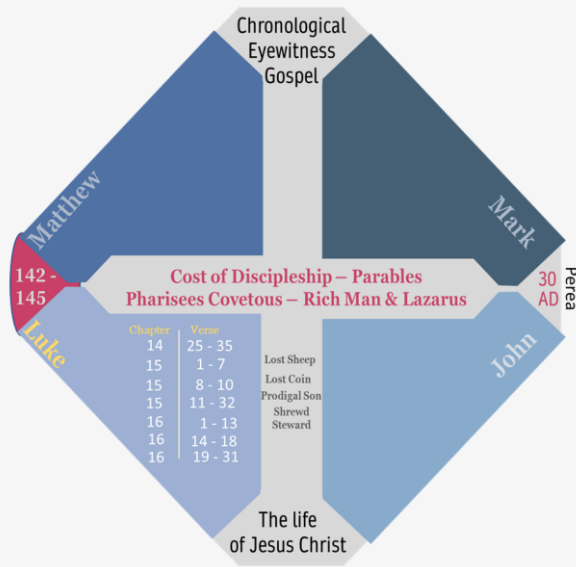


Shrewd Steward

Jesus told this story to his disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order because you are going to be fired.’

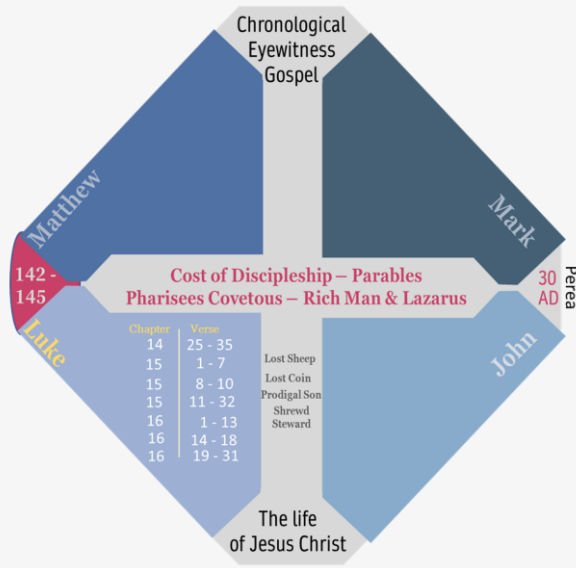
“The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’

“So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’



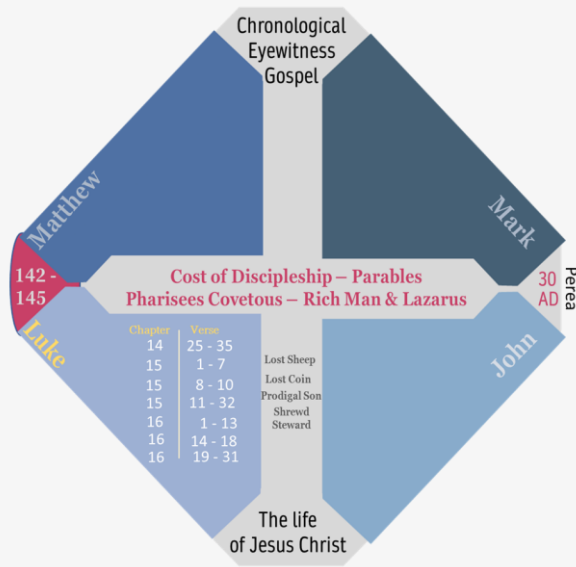
“And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’

“The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.



“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”

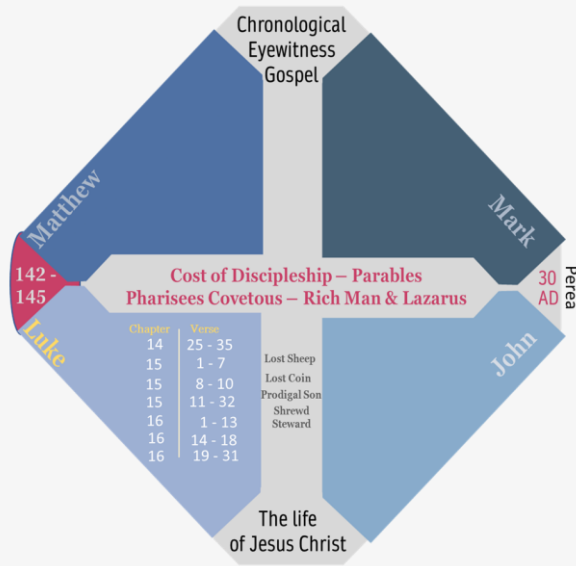
“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”



The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him.

Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.

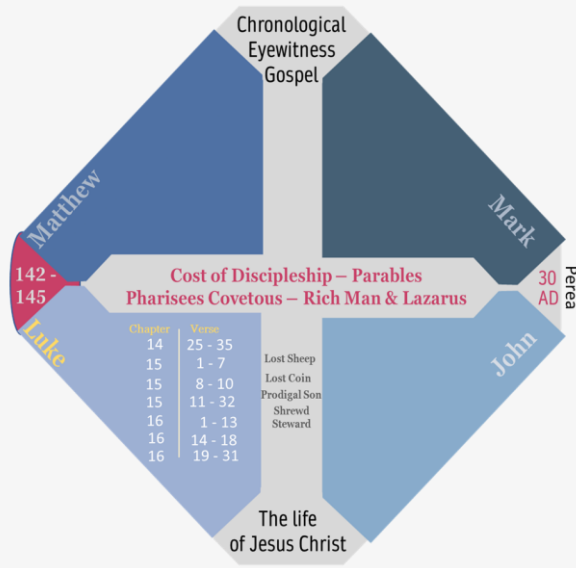
“Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in. But that doesn’t mean that the law has lost its force. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God’s law to be overturned.



“For example, a man who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery. And anyone who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

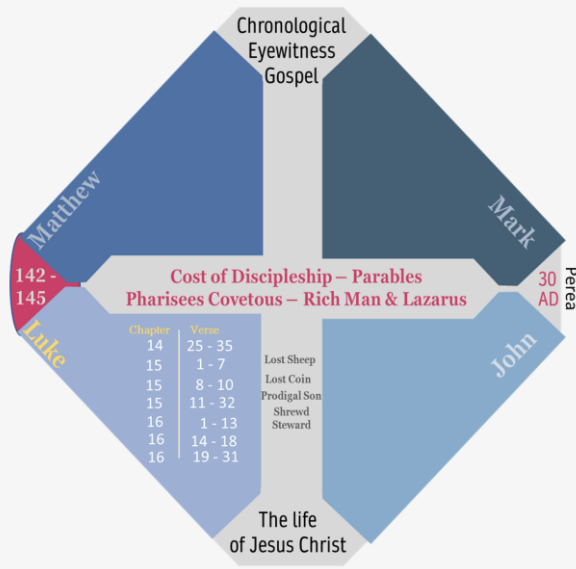
Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.



“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

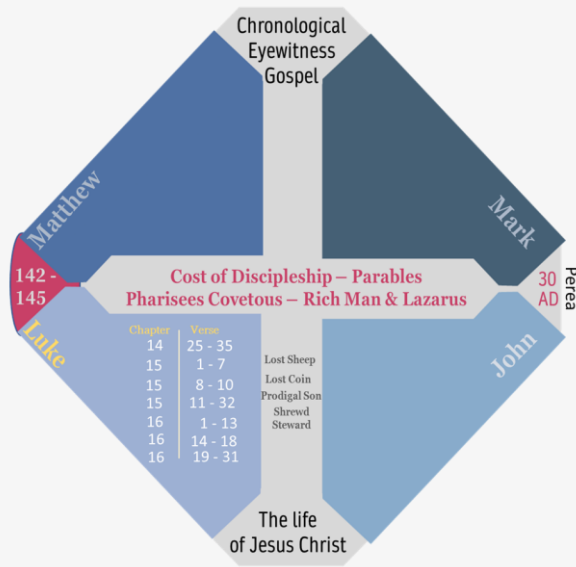


“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’

“But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’

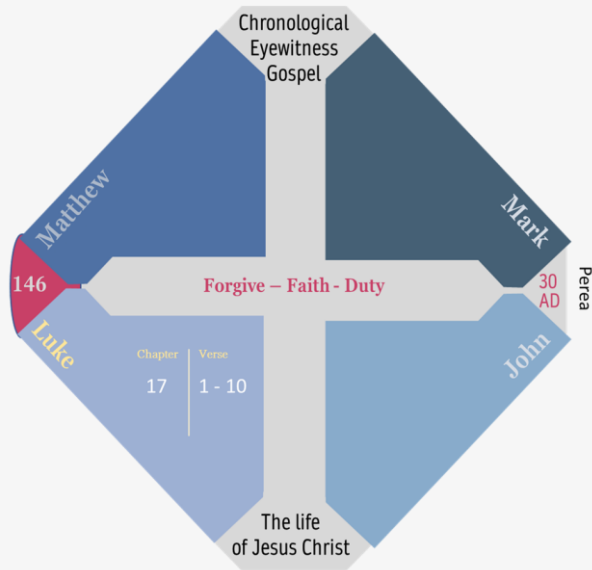
“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’

“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”



One day Jesus said to his disciples, “There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting! It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. So watch yourselves!

“If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”

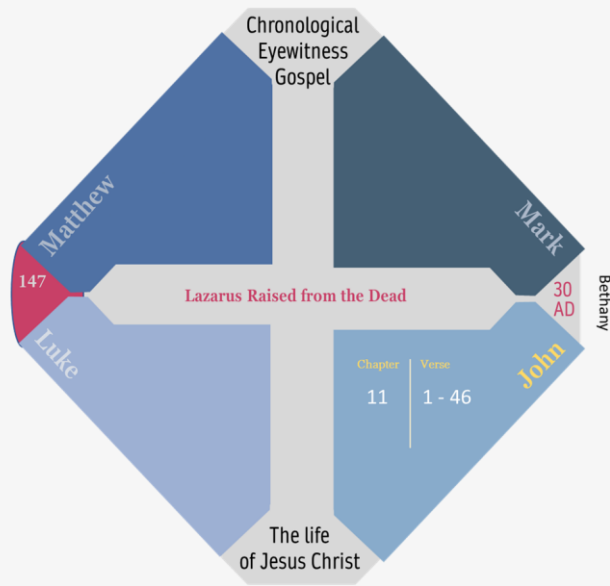


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.”

The Lord answered, “If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you!

“When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, ‘Come in and eat with me’? No, he says, ‘Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.’ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. In the same way, when you obey me you should say, ‘We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.’”

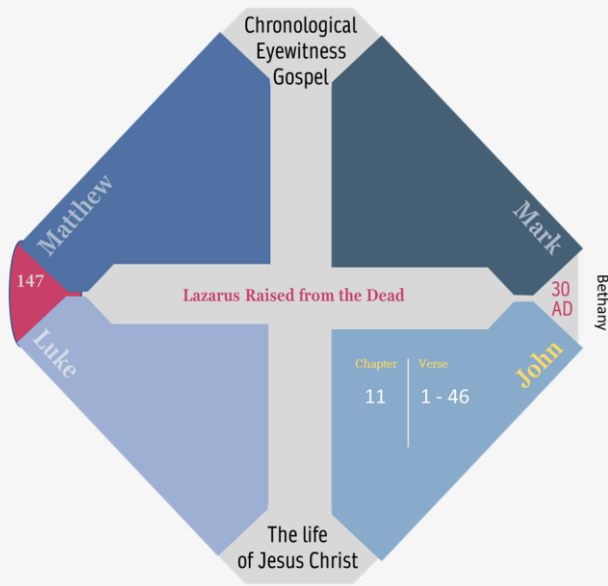


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

But when Jesus heard about it, he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

Episode 8

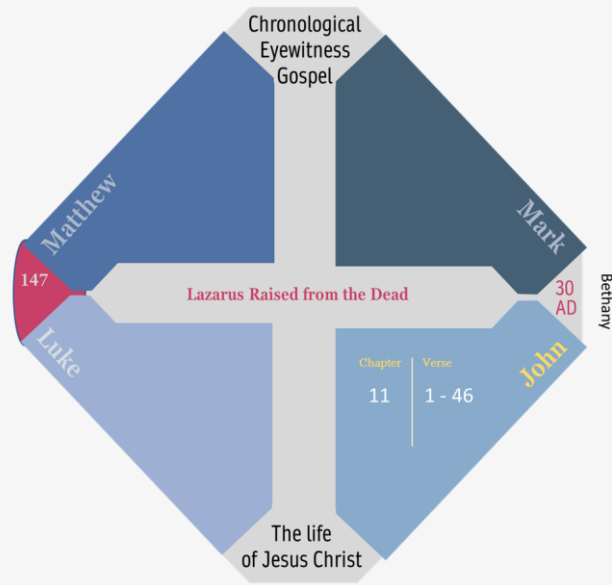


Jesus replied, “There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light.” Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.”

The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”

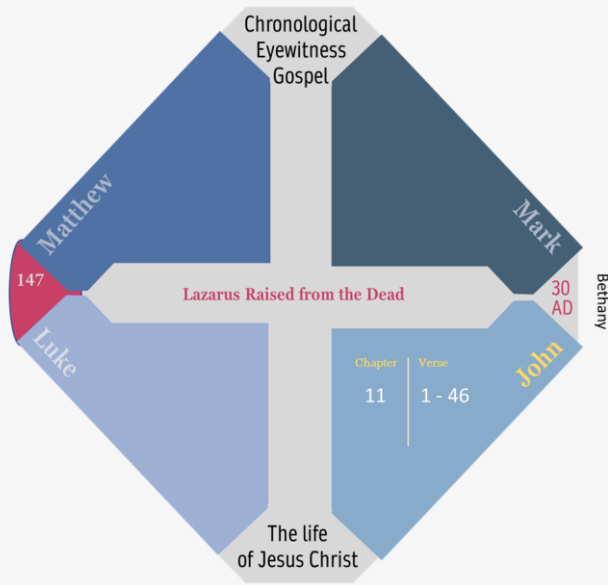
Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”



When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

“Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”

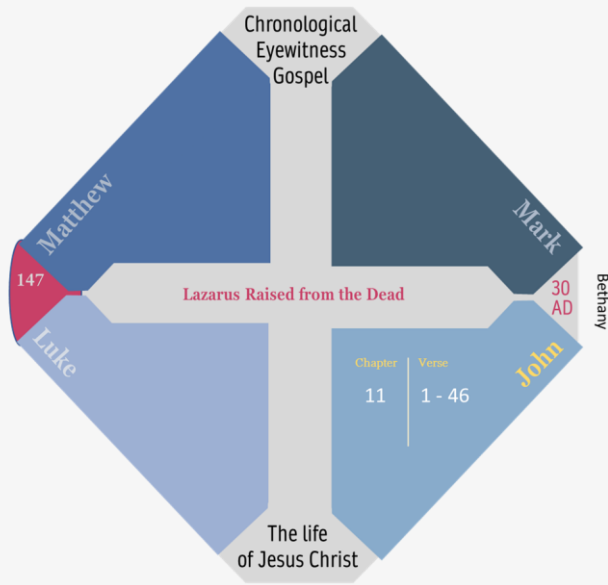


Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

“Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.” So Mary immediately went to him.

Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Episode 8



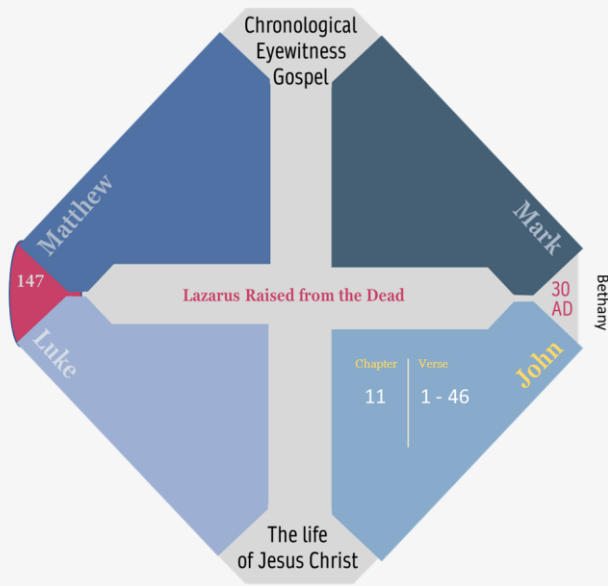
When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.

“Where have you put him?” he asked them.

They told him, “Lord, come and see.”

Then Jesus wept.

The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!” But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

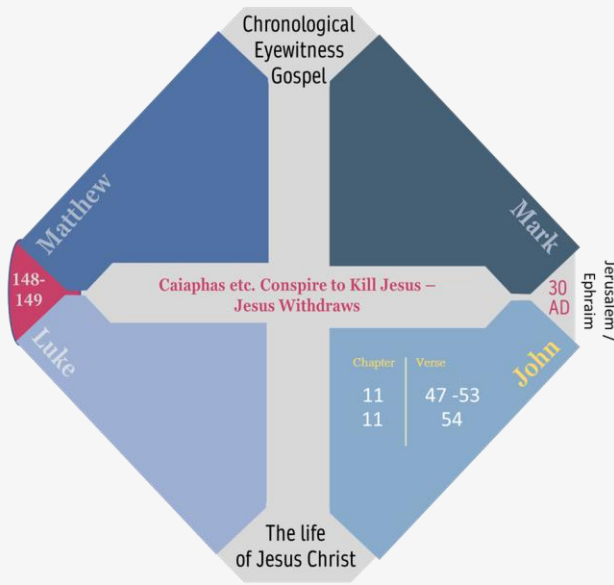


Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. **“Roll the stone aside,”** Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

Jesus responded, **“Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”** So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, **“Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”** Then Jesus shouted, **“Lazarus, come out!”** And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, **“Unwrap him and let him go!”**

Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.



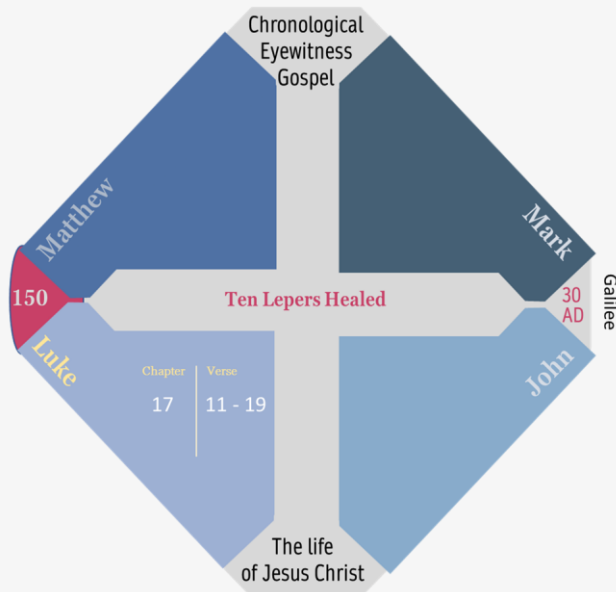
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, “You don’t know what you’re talking about! You don’t realize that it’s better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.”

He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.

So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus’ death. As a result, Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.



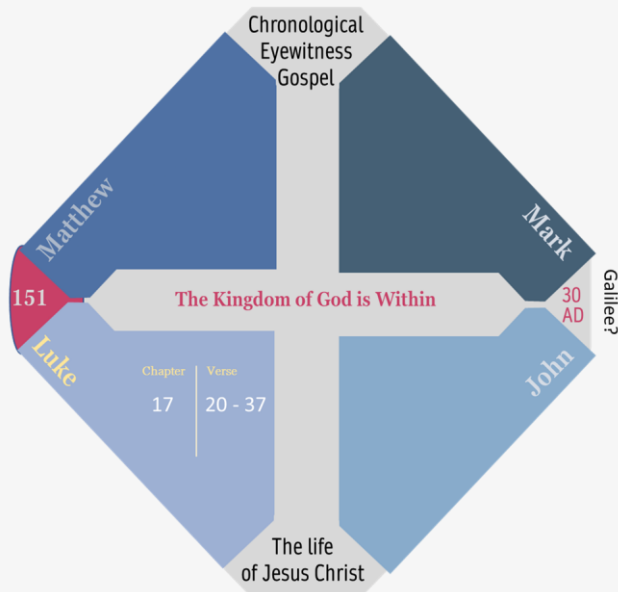
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, crying out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, “Praise God!” He fell to the ground at Jesus’ feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Didn’t I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And Jesus said to the man, “Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

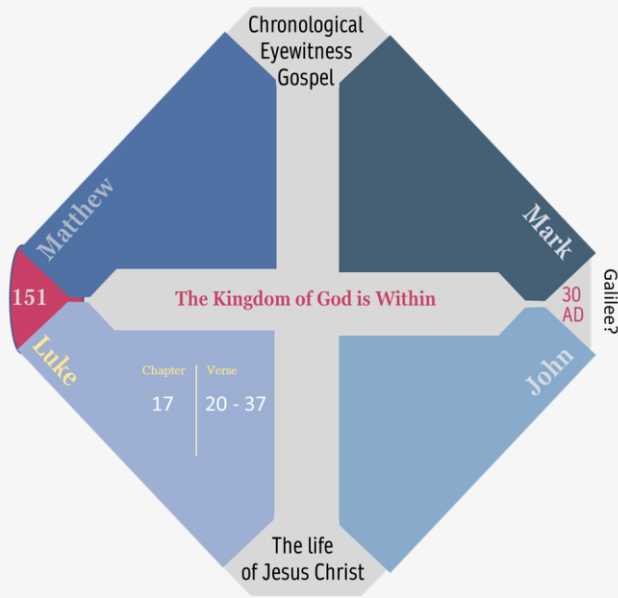


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?”

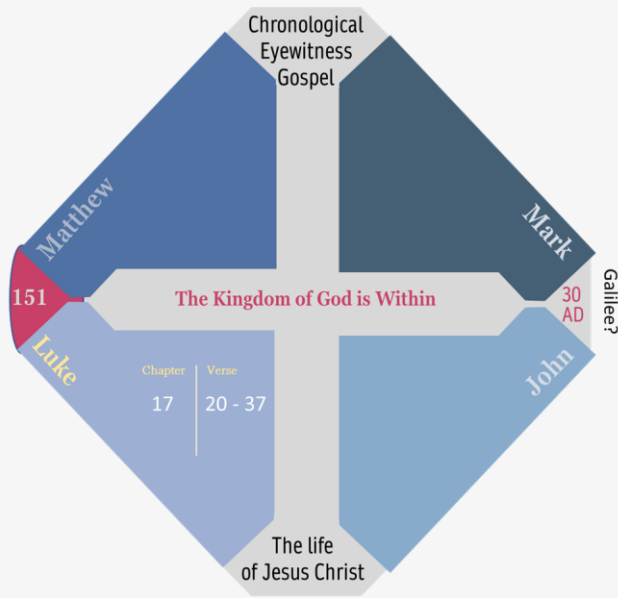
Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see the day when the Son of Man returns, but you won’t see it. People will tell you, ‘Look, there is the Son of Man,’ or ‘Here he is,’ but don’t go out and follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so it will be on the day when the Son of Man comes. But first the Son of Man must suffer terribly and be rejected by this generation.



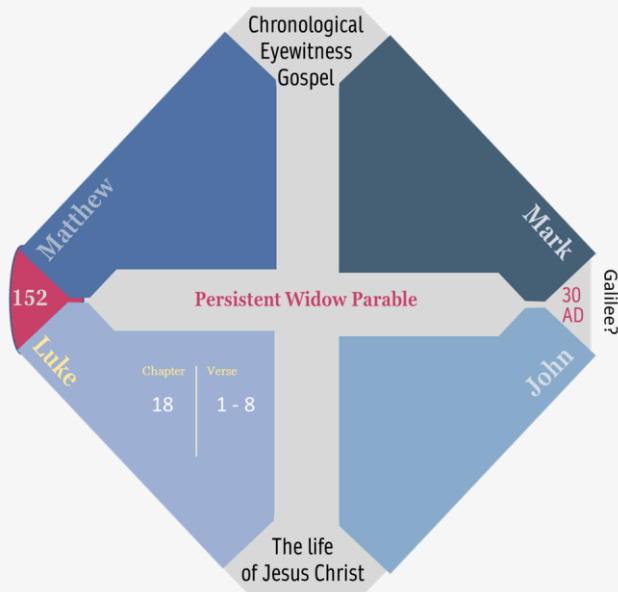
“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came and destroyed them all.

“And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business—eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building—until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed.



“On that day, a person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return home. Remember what happened to Lot’s wife! If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it. That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.”

“Where will this happen, Lord?” the disciples asked. Jesus replied, “Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.”

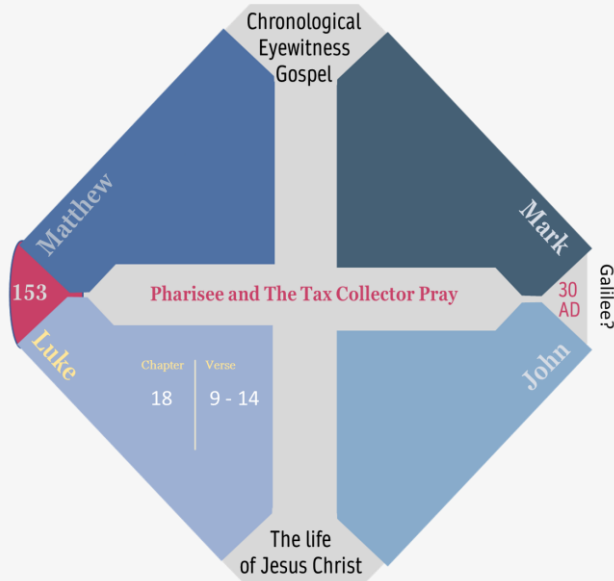


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

“There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’”

Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you; he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”



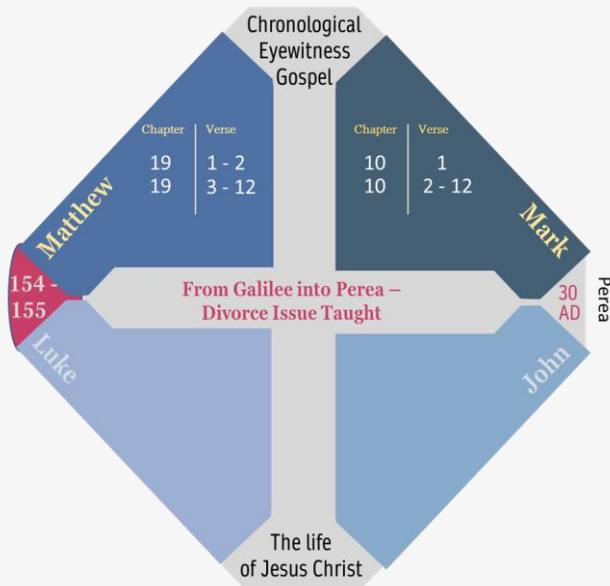
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else:

“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people — cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Episode 8



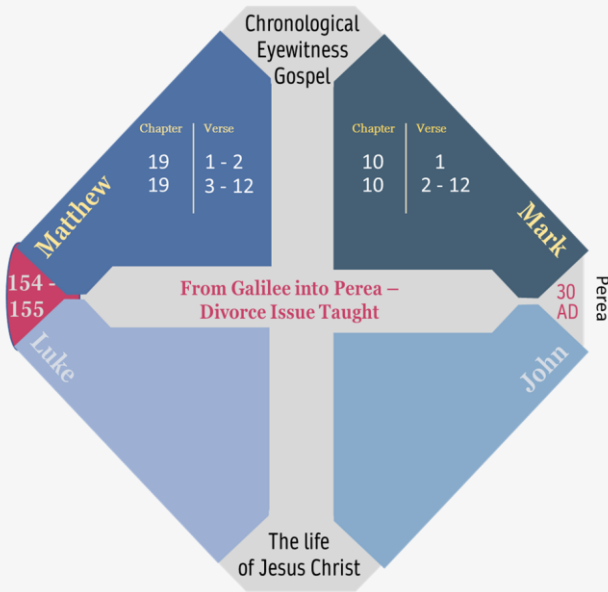
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Capernaum. Jesus left Galilee and went down to the region and into the area of Judea east of the Jordan River. Once again crowds gathered around him, and as usual he was teaching them. Large crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick.

Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?”

Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”

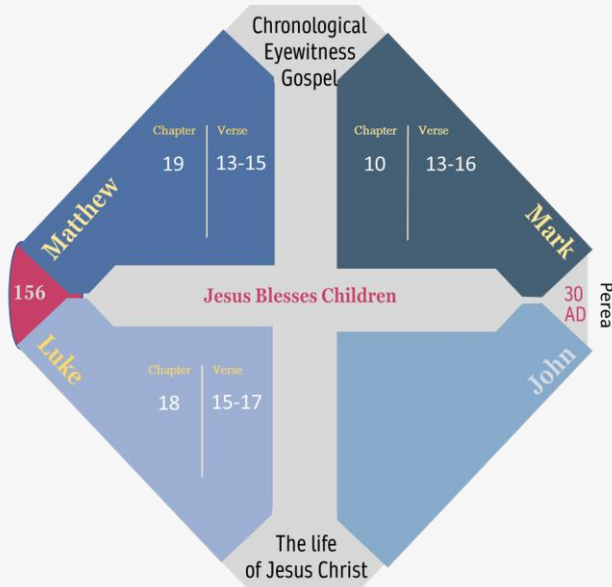
“Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”



But Jesus responded, “Haven’t you read the Scriptures? They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female from the beginning of creation.’” And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Jesus’ disciples then said to him, “If this is the case, it is better not to marry!”

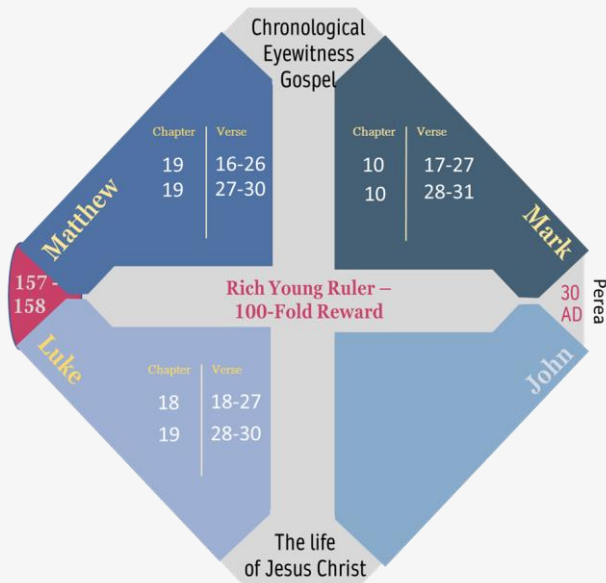
“Not everyone can accept this statement,” Jesus said. “Only those whom God helps. Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.”



VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them – so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “**Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.**” Then he took the children in his arms and he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.



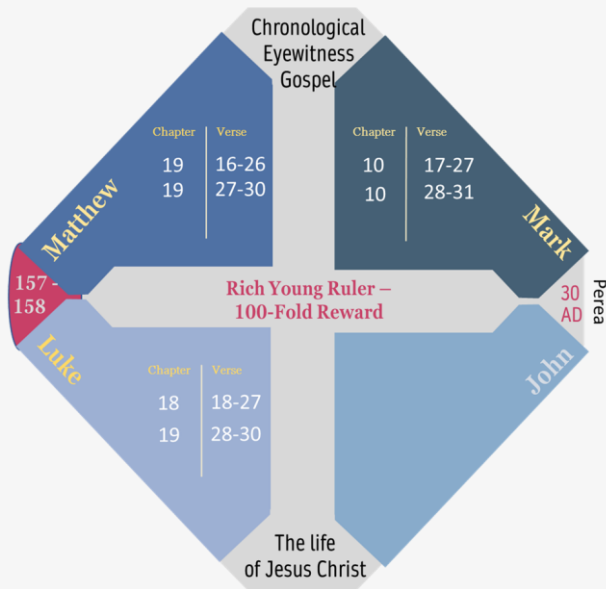
VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. Why ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’ — if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.”

“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

Episode 8

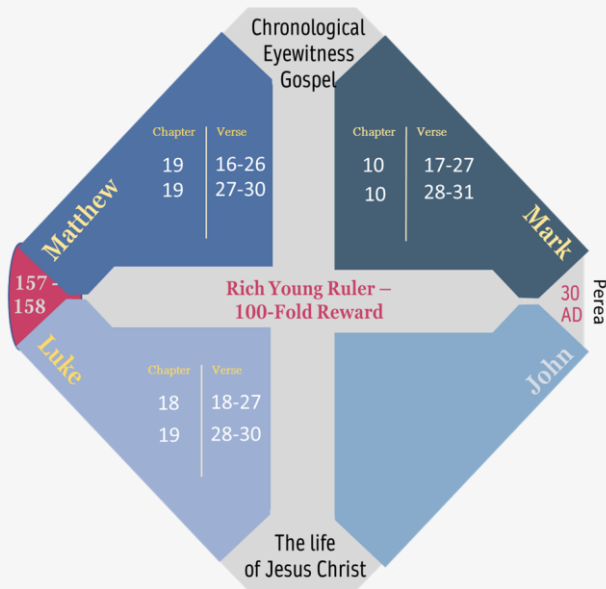


When Jesus heard his answer, he told him, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Go Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

When Jesus saw this, he said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

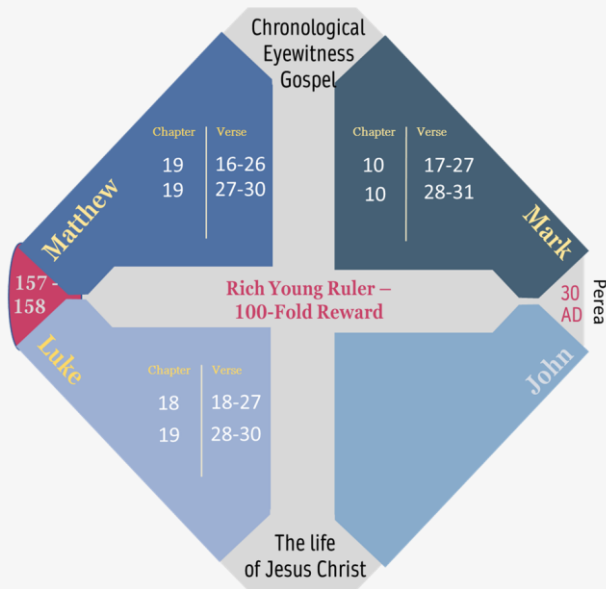
This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”



The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

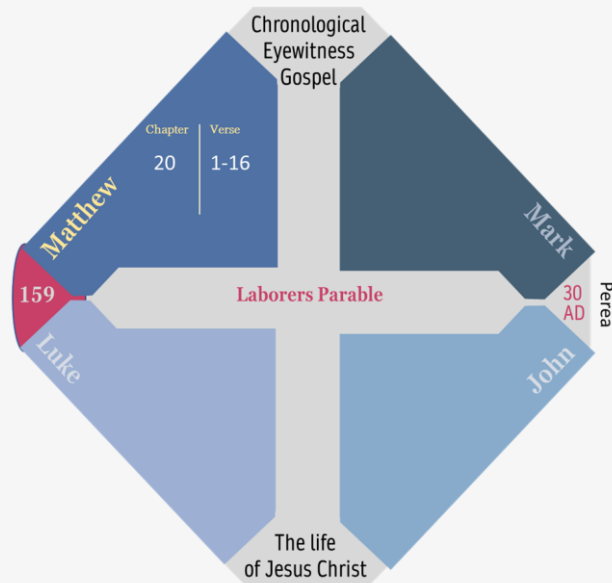
Jesus looked at them intently and said, “**Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God. What is impossible for people is possible with God.**”

Then Peter said to him, “We’ve left our homes to follow you. We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”



“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come. They will receive a hundred times as much in return, a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

“When the world is made new, and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”



VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

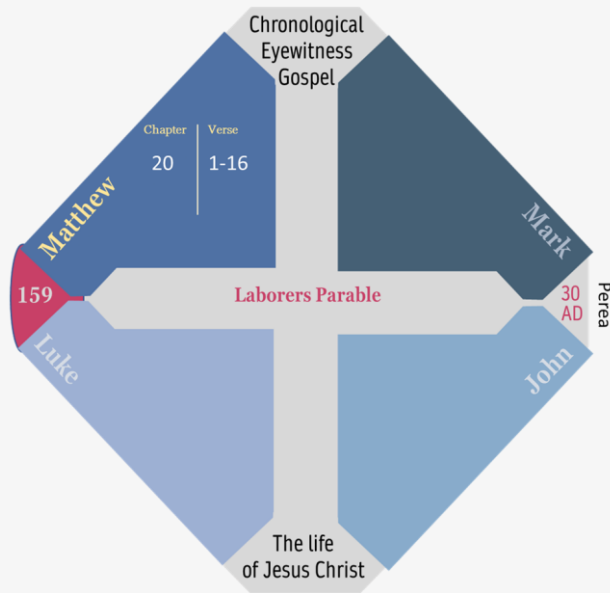
“At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o’clock he did the same thing.

“At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’

“They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.’

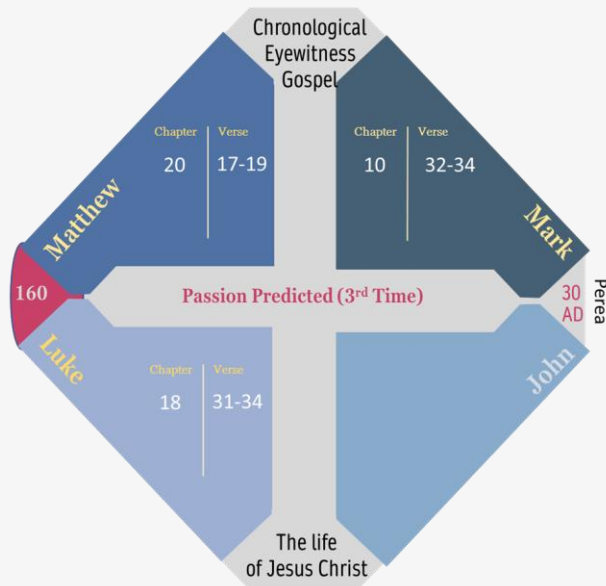
Episode 8



“That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day’s wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, ‘Those people worked only one hour, and yet you’ve paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’

“He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’

“So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

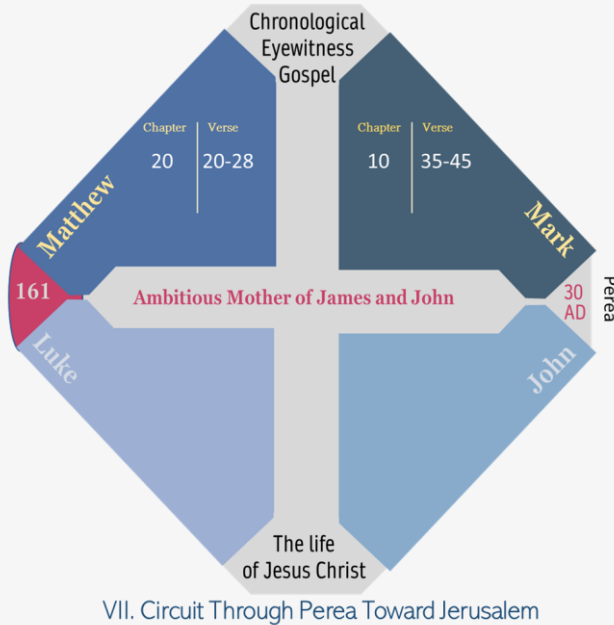


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

They were now on the way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were filled with awe, and the people following behind were overwhelmed with fear. Taking the twelve disciples aside on the road and, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him.

“Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. Where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes, the teachers of religious law, who will condemn Him to death and deliver him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and to crucify. They will sentence him to die and hand him over to the Romans. They will mock him, spit on him, flog him with a whip, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again.”

But they didn’t understand any of this. The significance of his words was hidden from them, and they failed to grasp what he was talking about.



Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. **“What is your request?”** he asked.

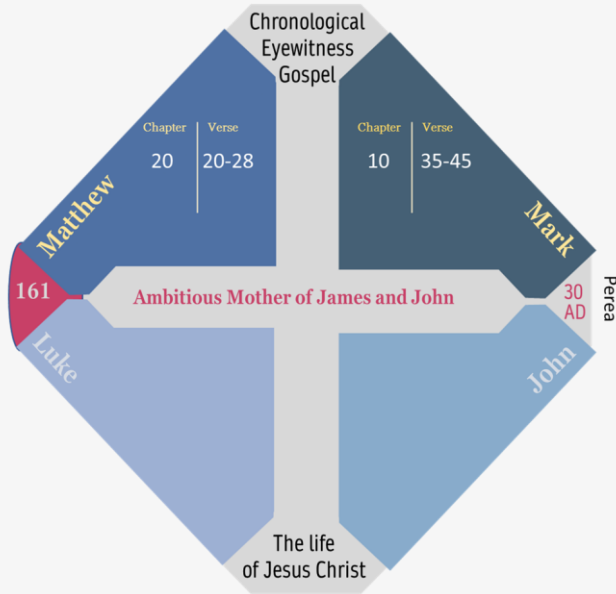
She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do us a favor.”

“What is your request?” he asked.

They replied, “When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

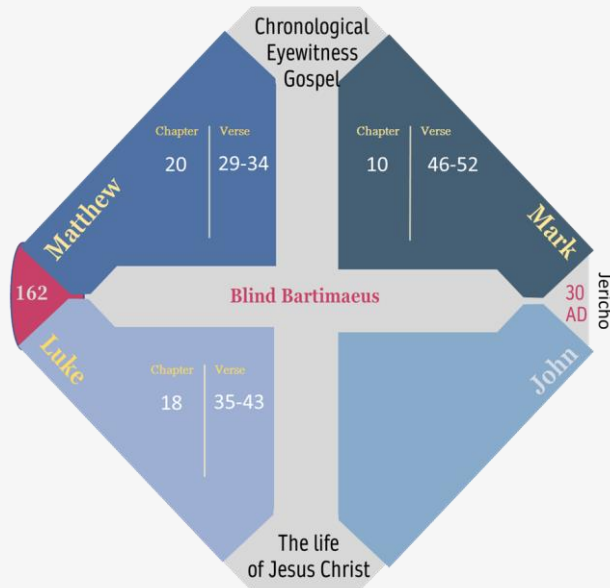
But Jesus said to them, **“You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?”**



“Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”

Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

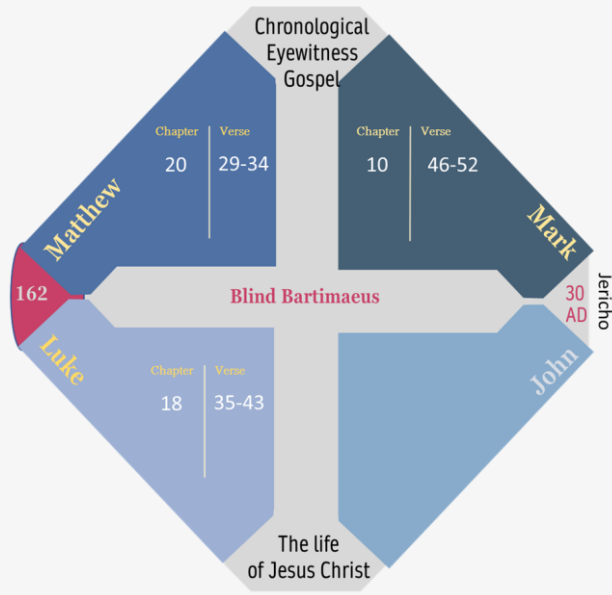
Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him.

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

“Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him.

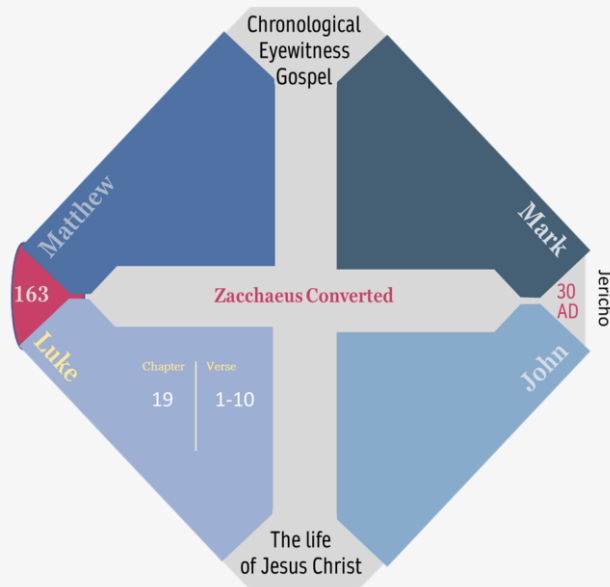
But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Episode 8



When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. **“Tell him to come here.”** he said. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, **“What do you want me to do for you?”**

“My Rabbi, Lord,” the blind man said, “I want to see!” And Jesus said, **“All right, receive your sight! Go, for your faith has healed you.”** Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

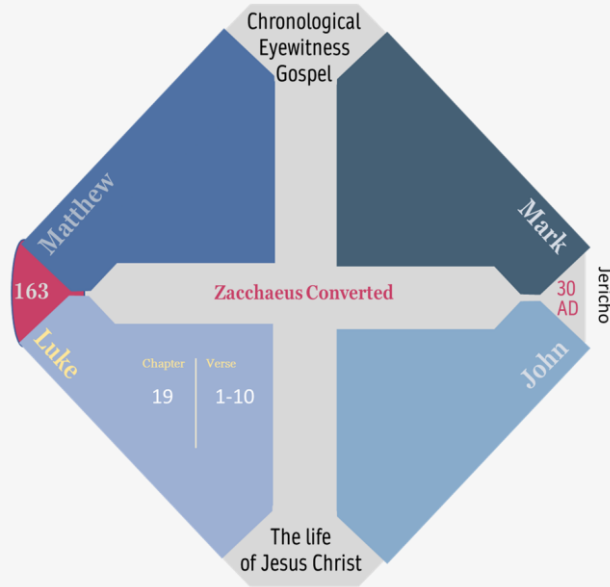


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

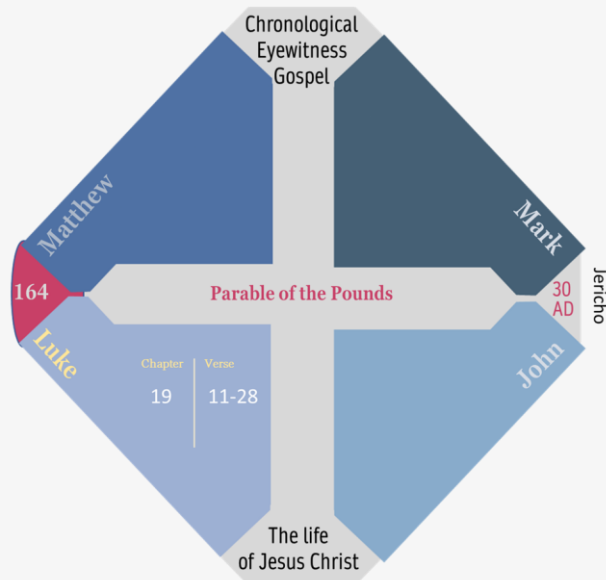
When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. **“Zacchaeus!”** he said. **“Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”**

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.



Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

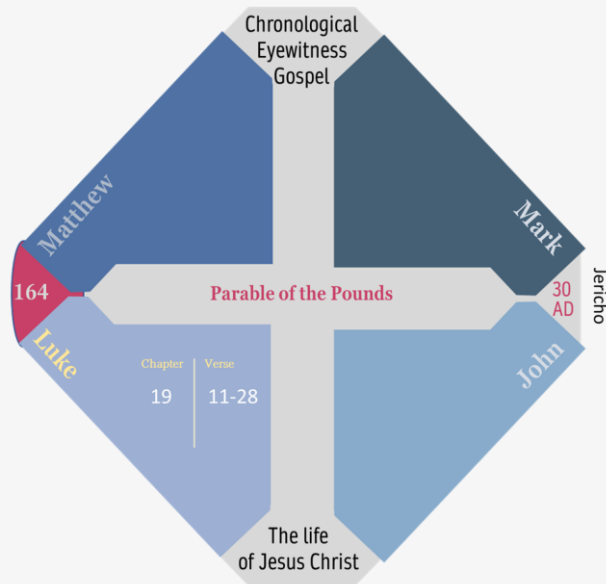


VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.

He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’

“After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’



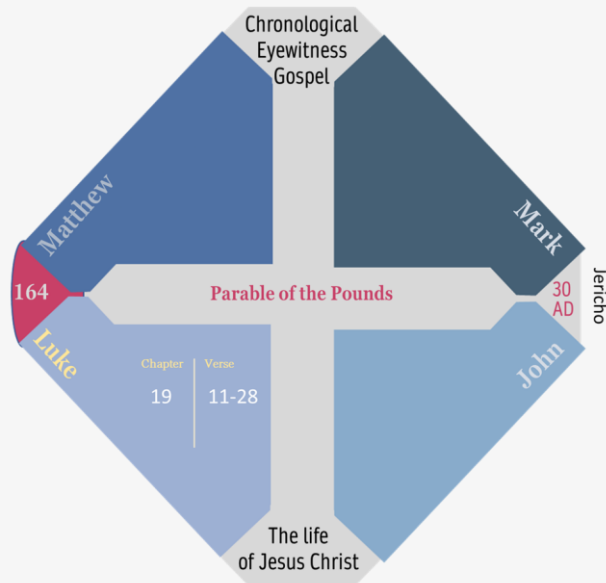
“Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’

“The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’

“Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’

“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’

“‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

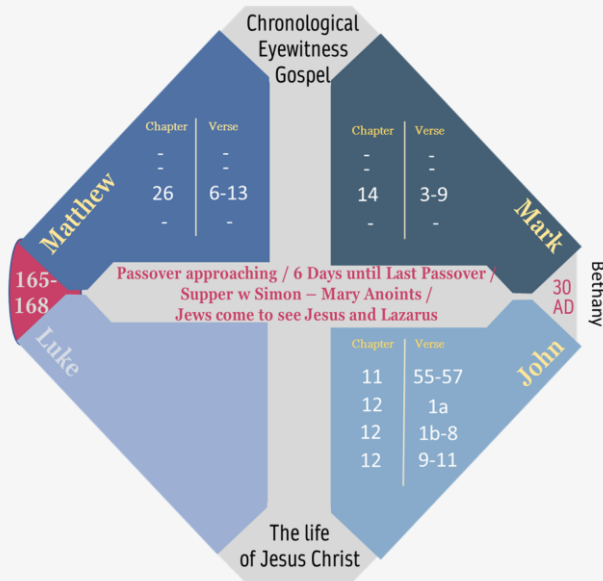


“Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’

“‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’

“‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.’”

After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples.



VII. Circuit Through Perea Toward Jerusalem

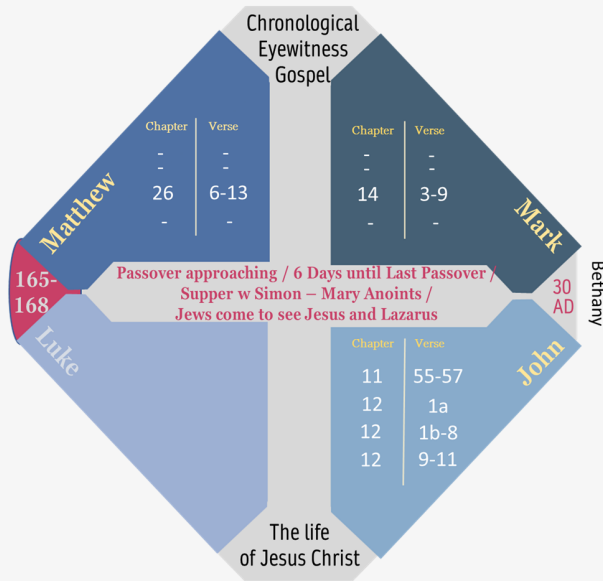
(Sat. Mar.30-Sabbath)

It was now almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several days early so they could go through the purification ceremony before Passover began. They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, “What do you think? He won’t come for Passover, will he?” Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead.

Being in Bethany, Jesus visited the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy.

Episode 8

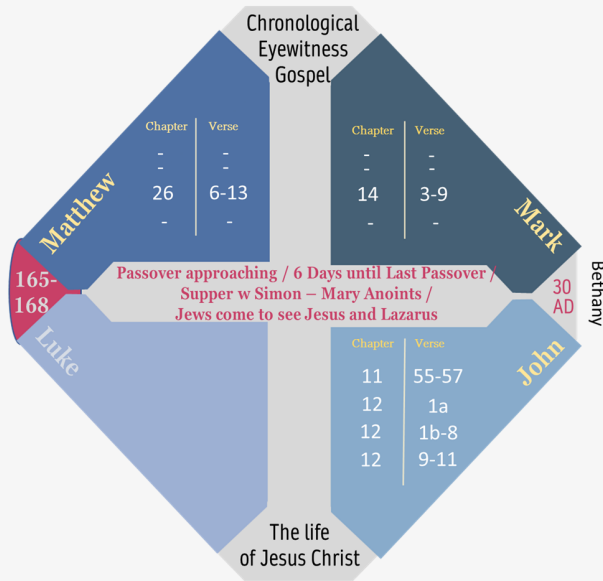


It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”

A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. While he was eating, Mary came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume, a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

Some of those at the table were indignant. “Why waste such expensive perfume?” they asked. So, they scolded her harshly.

Episode 8



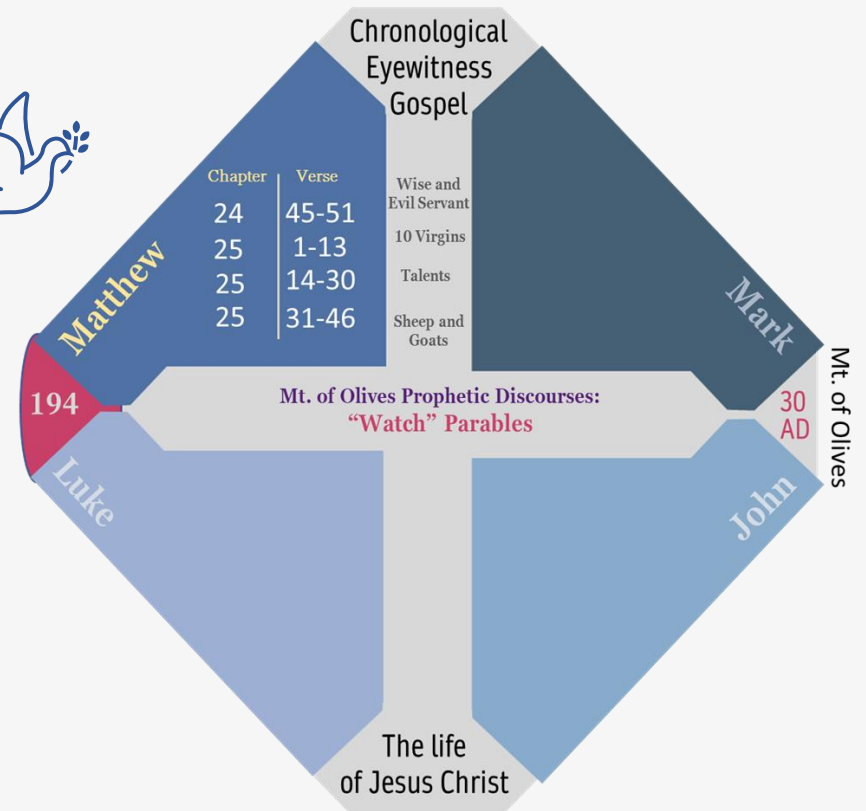
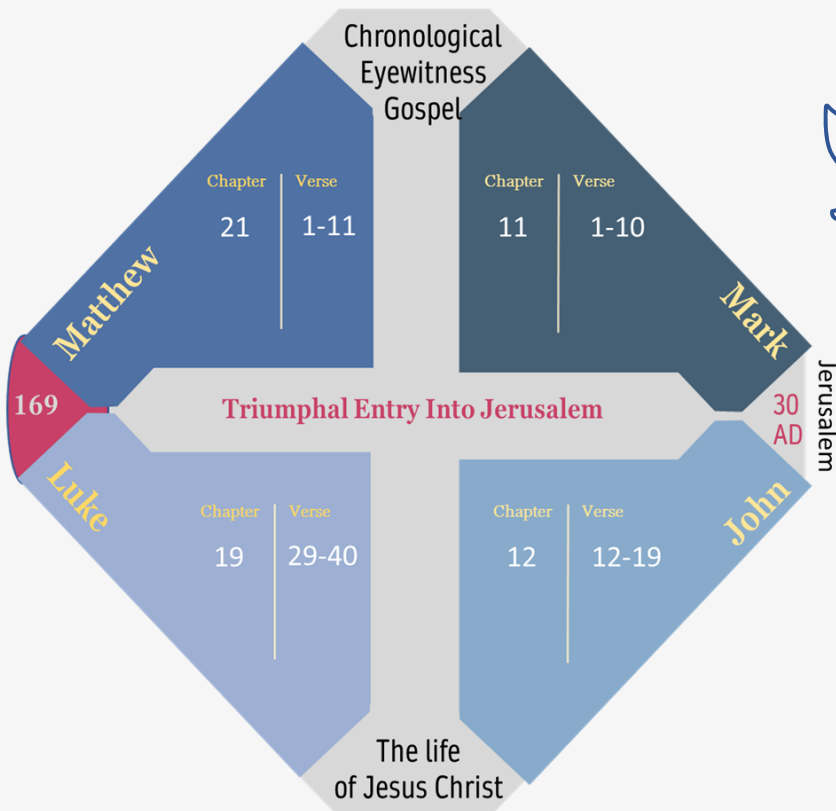
Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

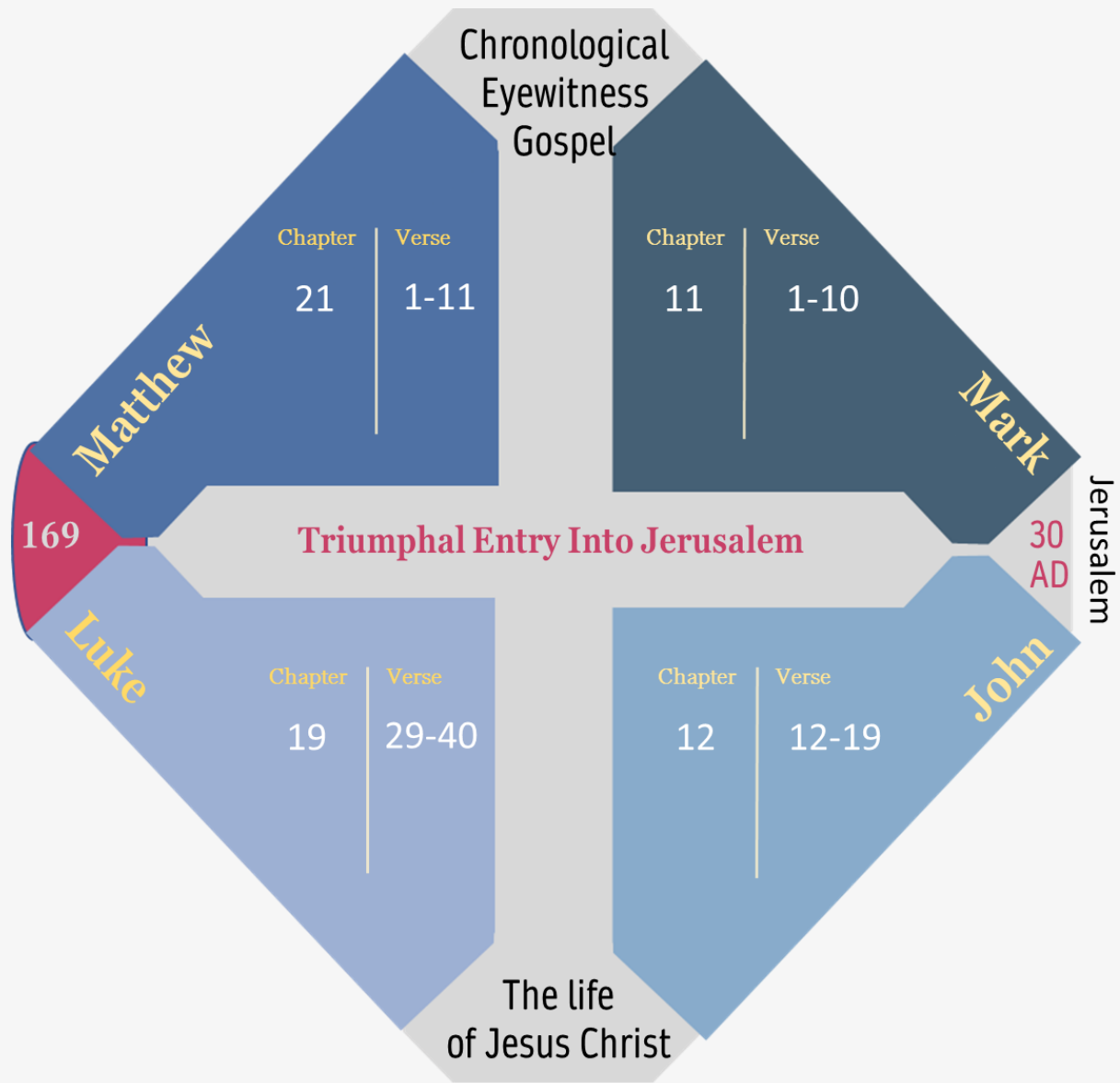
Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”

When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

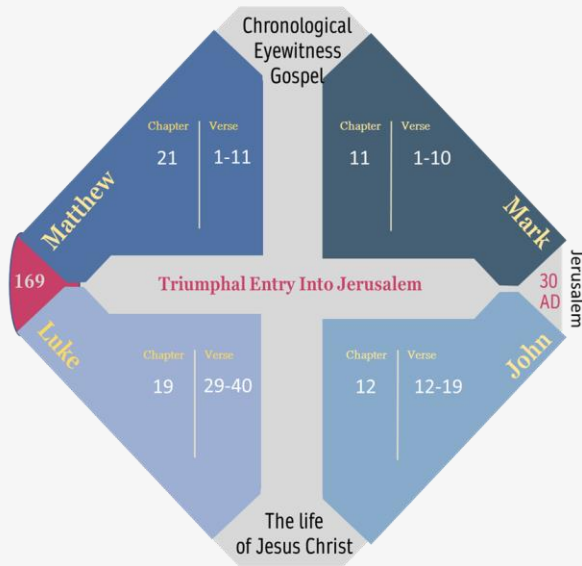
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

(Part 1)





IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

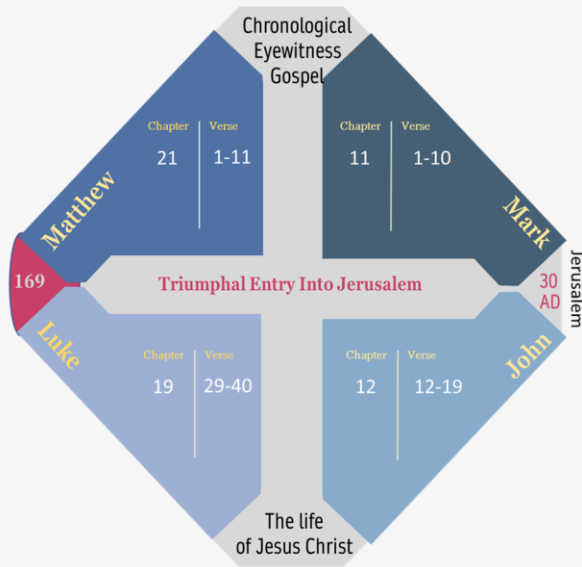


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him.

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. **“Go into that village over there,”** he told them. **“And immediately, as soon as you enter it, you will find a young donkey tied there with its colt beside it that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it and will return it soon,’ and he will send them with you. Let them loose and bring them to me.”**

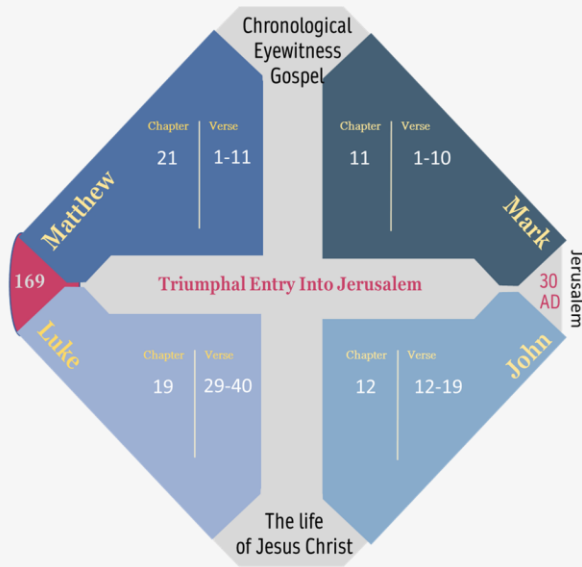
(1st day of the week)
Sun. Mar.31, 30 AD



Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it. This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

“Tell the people of Jerusalem,
 ‘Look, your King is coming to you.
 He is humble, riding on a donkey—
 riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They said what Jesus had told them to say. The disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on, and he sat on it.



His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

As he rode along, many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!

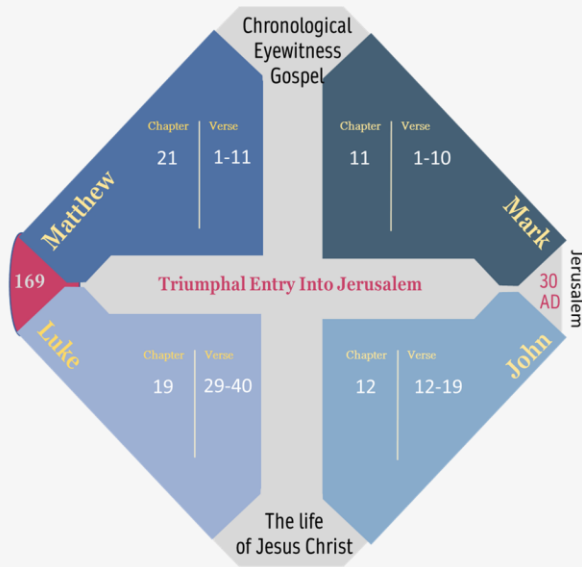
Praise God in highest heaven!”

“Praise God for the Son of David!

Hail to the King of Israel!”

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

Praise God in highest heaven!”



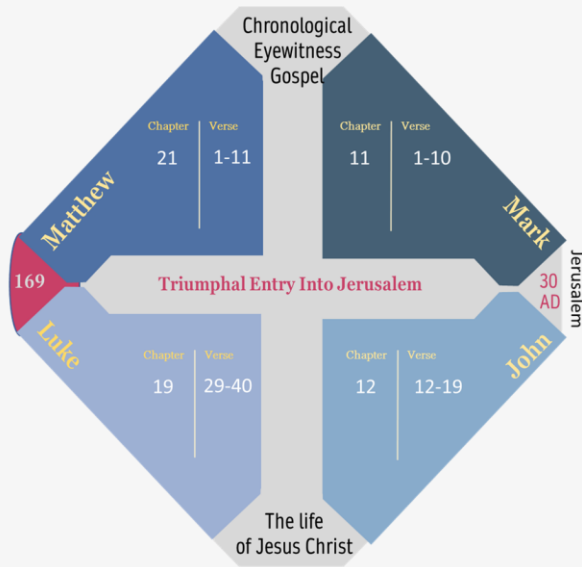
Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

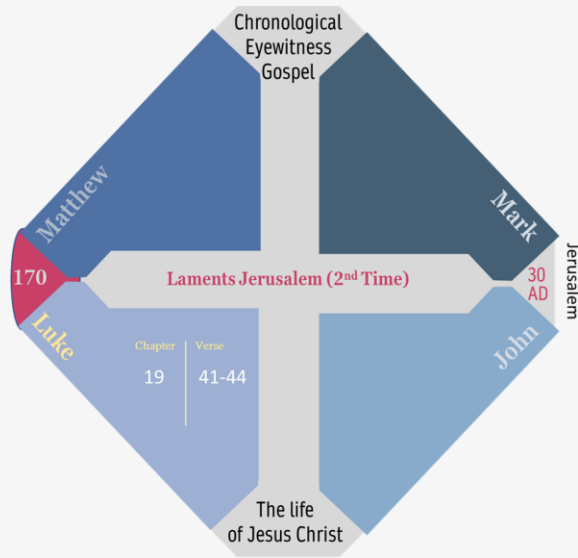


He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

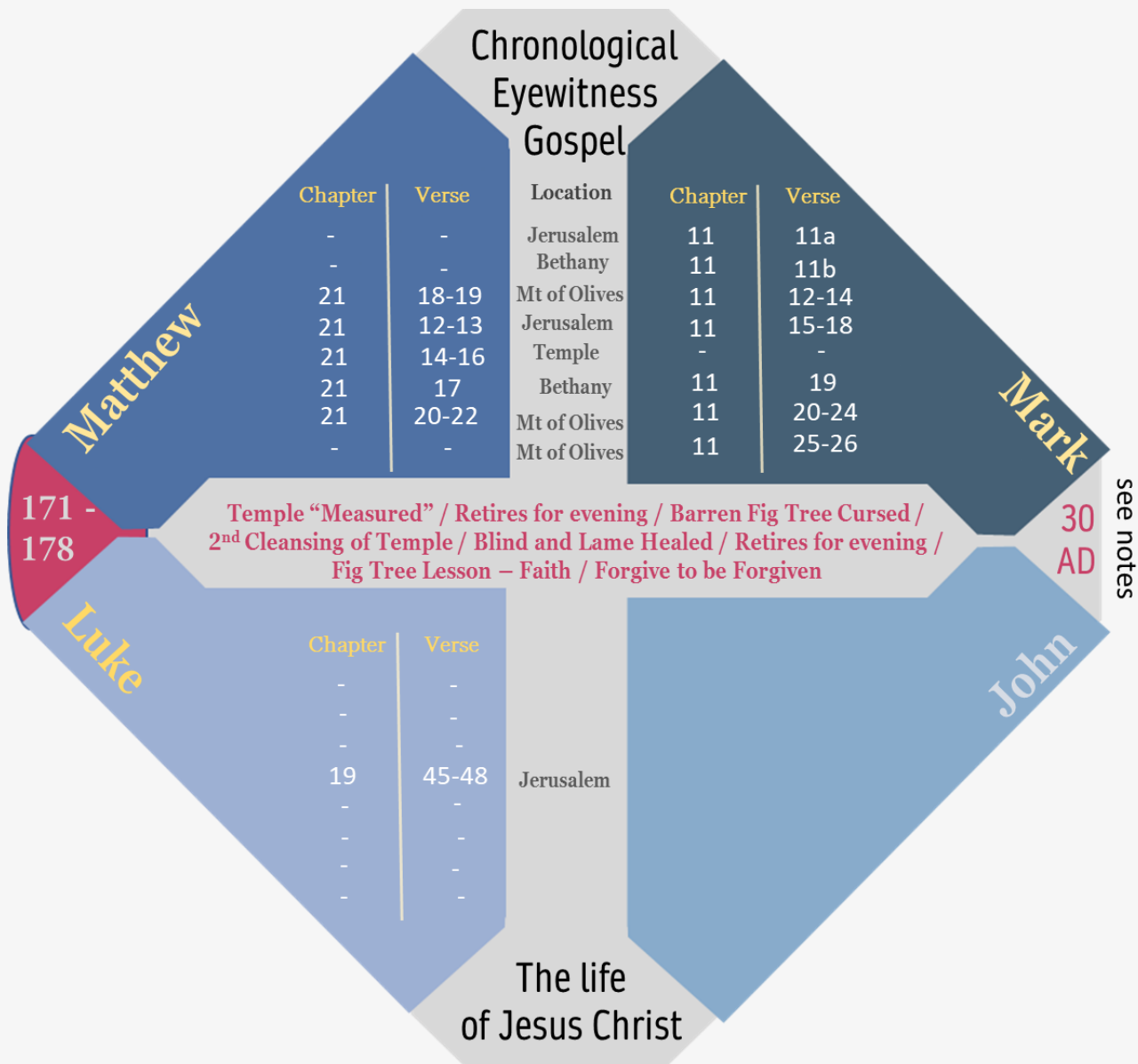
The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

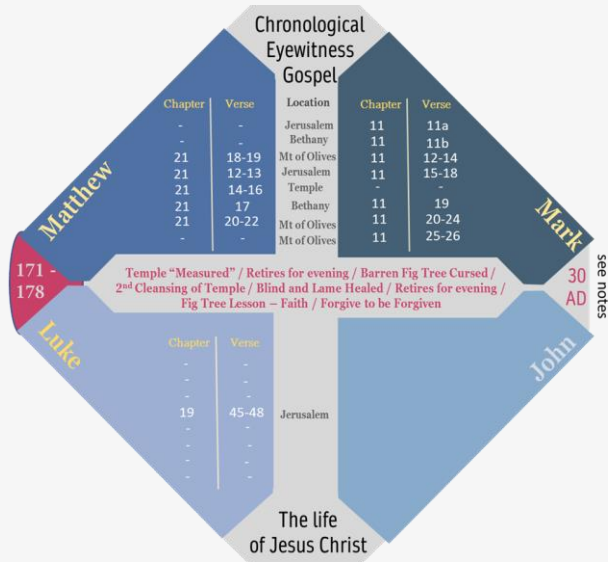


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long, your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.”



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

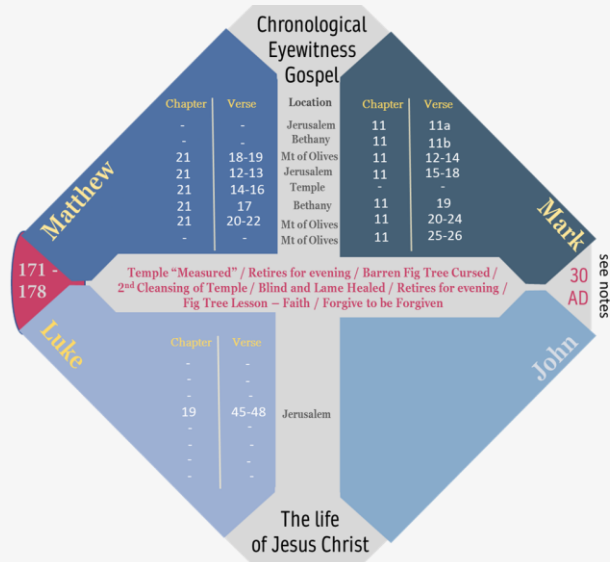


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

2nd day of the week
Mon. April 1, 30 AD
 to
 3rd day of the week
Tue. April 2, 30 AD

So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

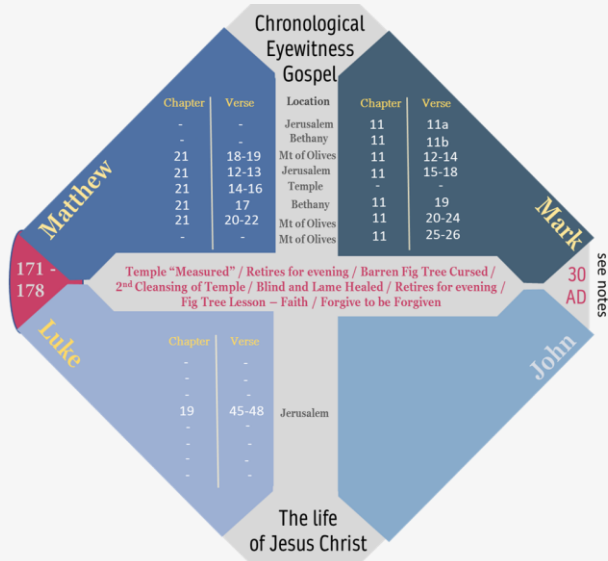
The next morning as they were leaving Bethany and returning to Jerusalem, Jesus was hungry. He noticed a fig tree beside the road in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. Then Jesus said to the tree, **“May you never bear fruit again. May no one ever eat your fruit again!”** And the disciples heard him say it. And immediately the fig tree withered up.



When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, **“The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”**

When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.

After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said.

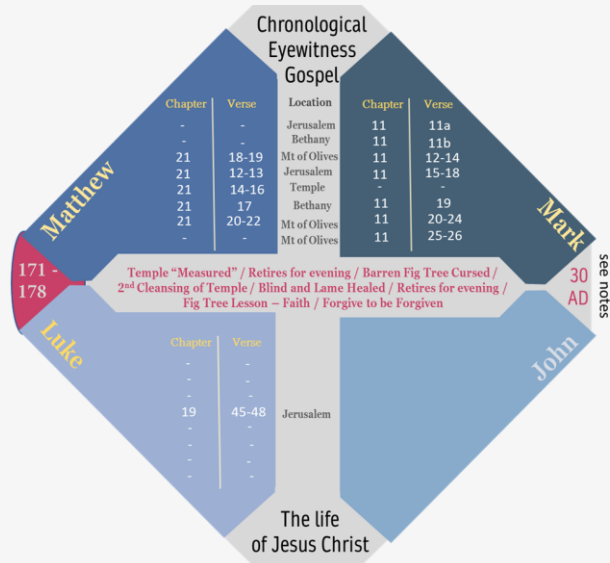


The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”

But the leaders were indignant. They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

“Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’” That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city. He returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight.

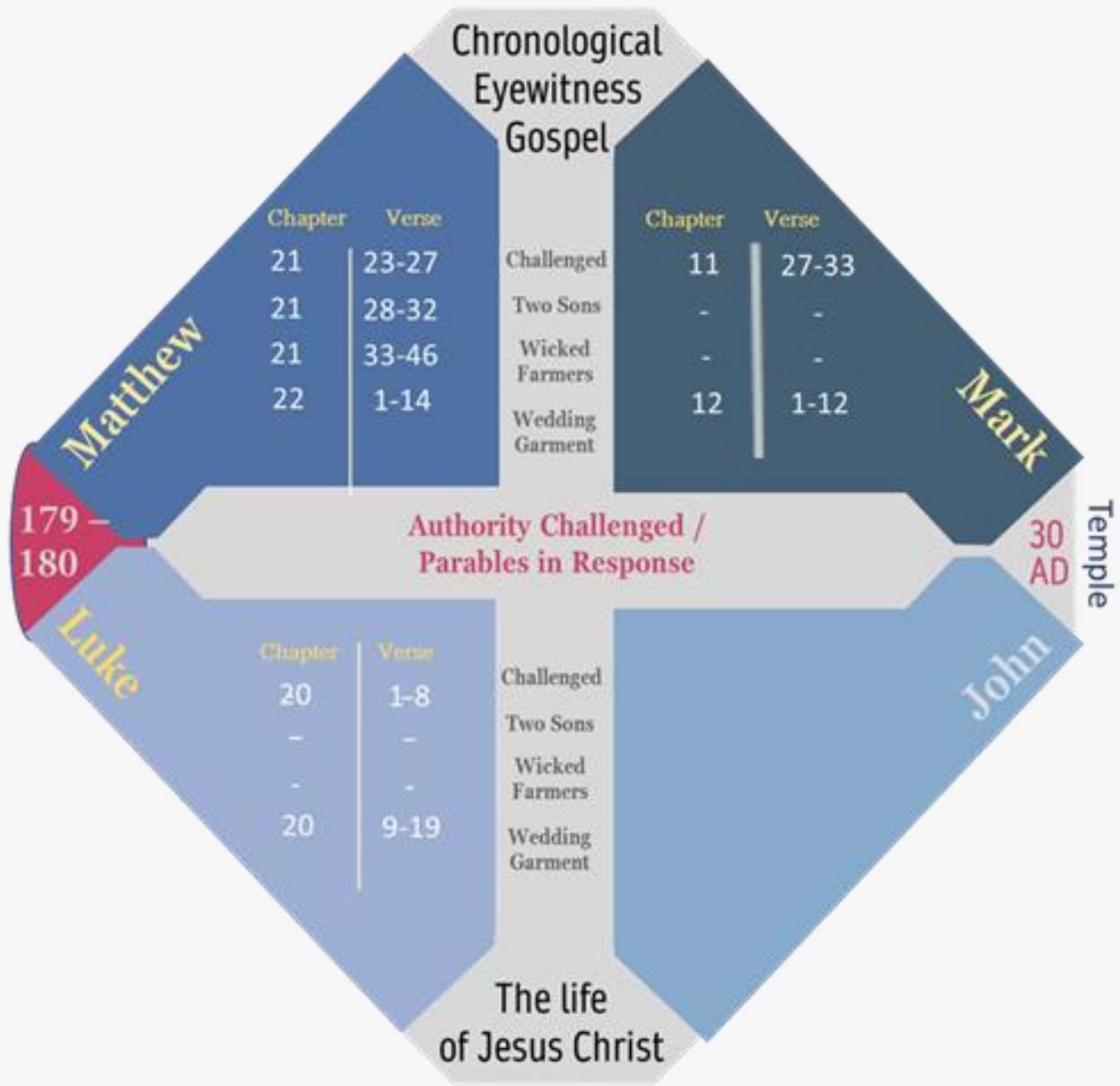
The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”



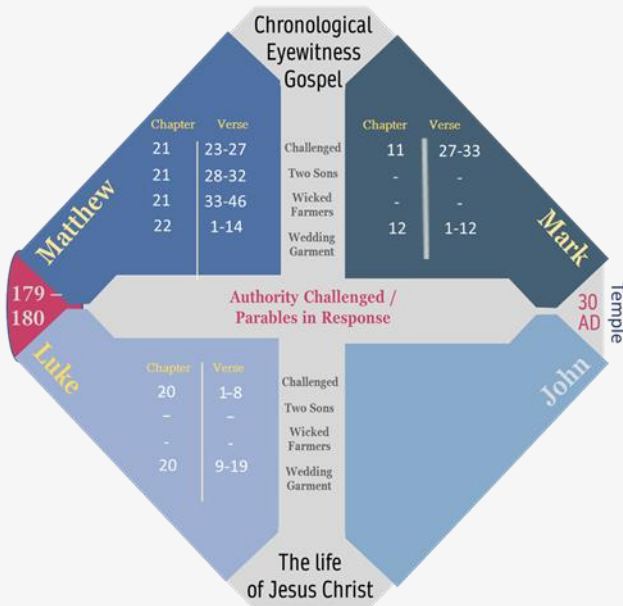
The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?”

Then Jesus told them, “Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.”

“But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”



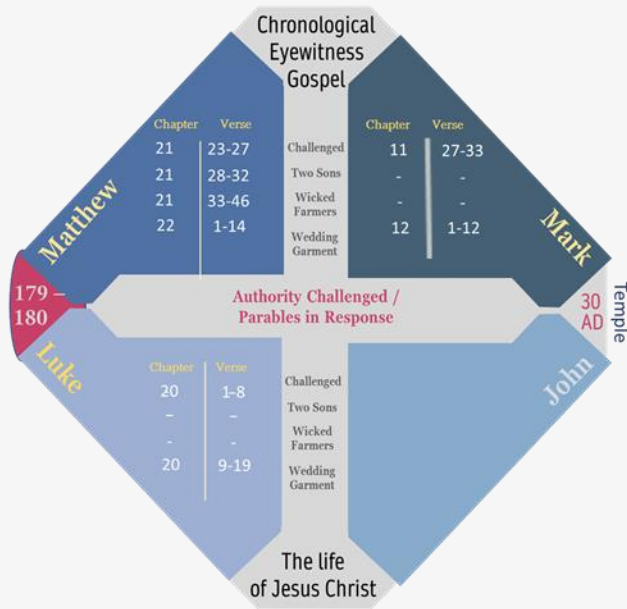
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



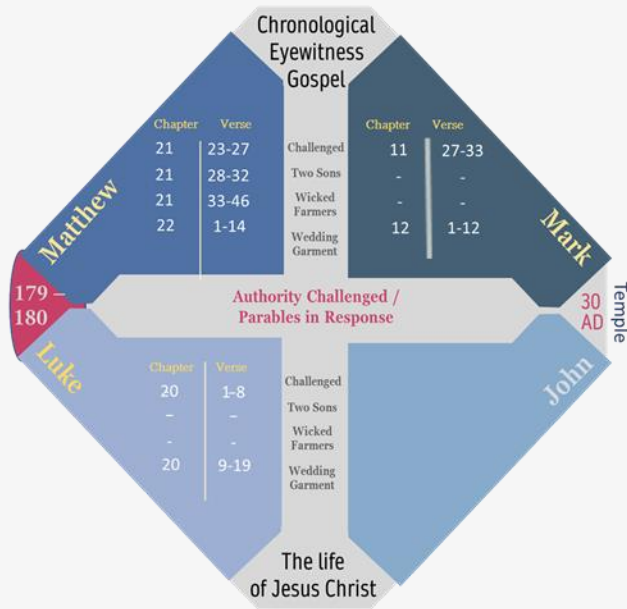
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Again they entered Jerusalem. As Jesus was teaching the people and preaching the Good News in the Temple, he was walking through the Temple area and the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right to do them?”

“I’ll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question. Let me ask you this question first,” he replied. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human? Answer me!”



They talked it over among themselves. “If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn’t believe John. But do we dare say it was merely human? If we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet.” For they were afraid of what the people would do because everyone believed that John was a prophet. So they finally replied, “We don’t know.” And Jesus responded, “**Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.**”



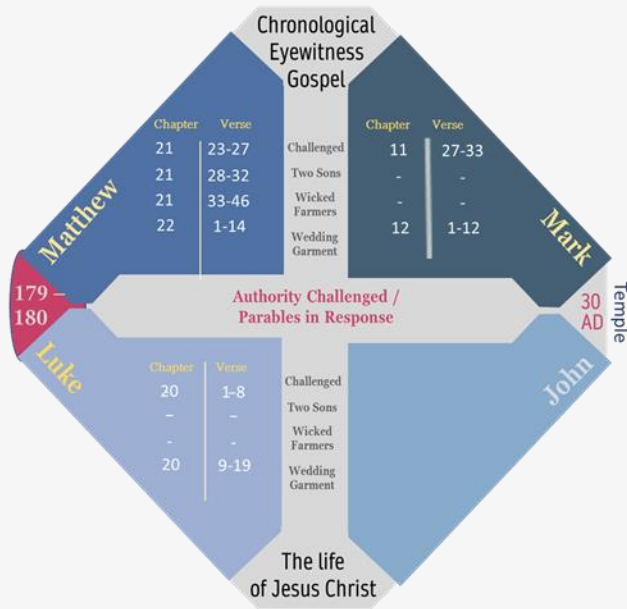
The Two Sons

“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go.

“Which of the two obeyed his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

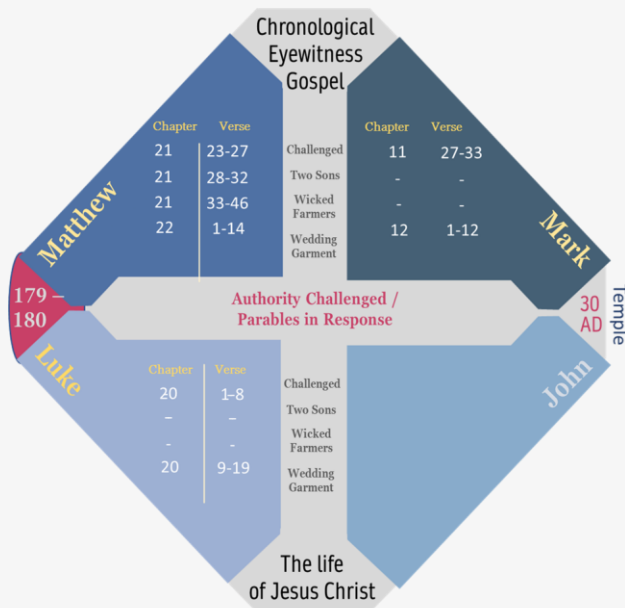
Then Jesus explained his meaning: “I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn’t believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.



The Wicked Farmers

“Now listen to another story.” Then Jesus turned to the people again and told them this story: **Then A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country to live for several years.**

At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers attacked the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. So the owner sent another servant, but they also insulted him, beat him over the head, and sent him away empty-handed. A third man was sent, and they wounded him and chased him away. So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same.

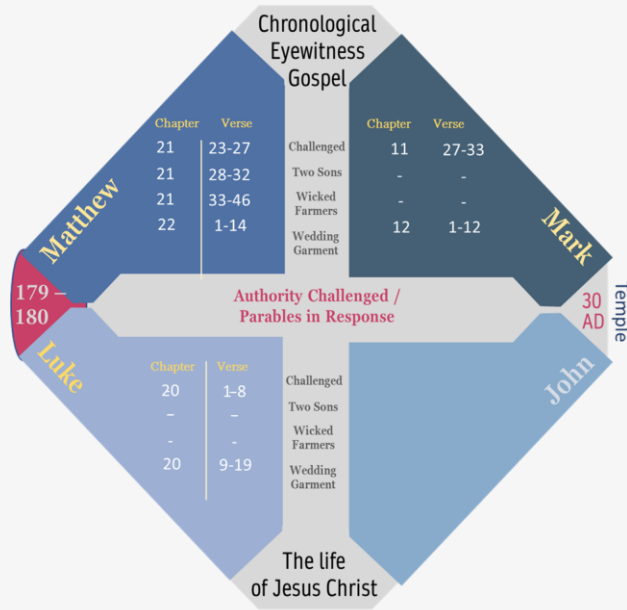


The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly.

“What will I do?” the owner asked himself. ‘I know! I’ll send my cherished son. Surely, they will respect him. Finally, the owner finally sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

“But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him, and threw his body out of the vineyard.

“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to them? When the owner of the vineyard returns,” Jesus asked, “what do you think he will do to those farmers?”



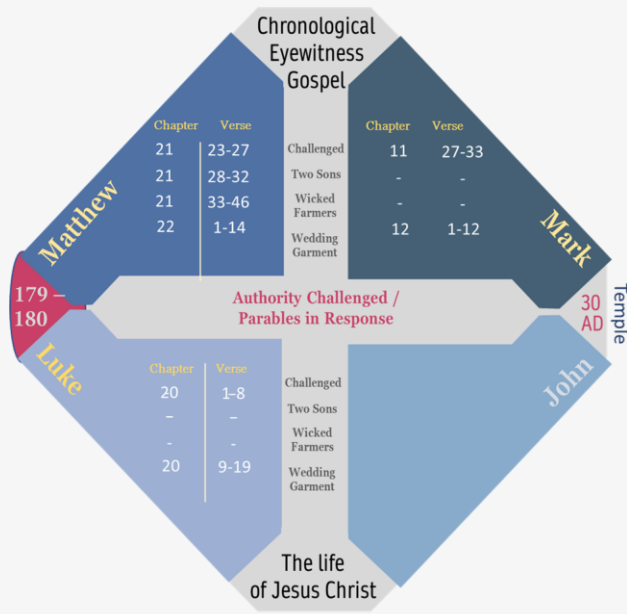
The religious leaders replied, “He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.”

“I’ll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others.”

“How terrible that such a thing should ever happen,” his listeners protested.

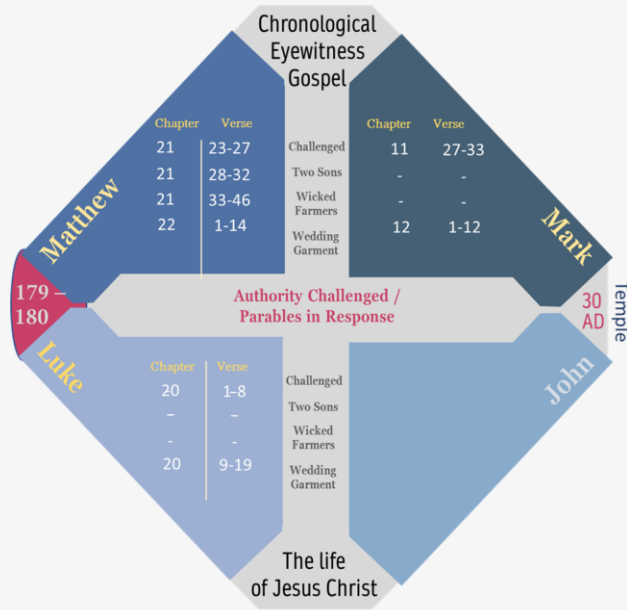
Jesus looked at them and said, “What does this Scripture mean?”

‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’



“I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.”

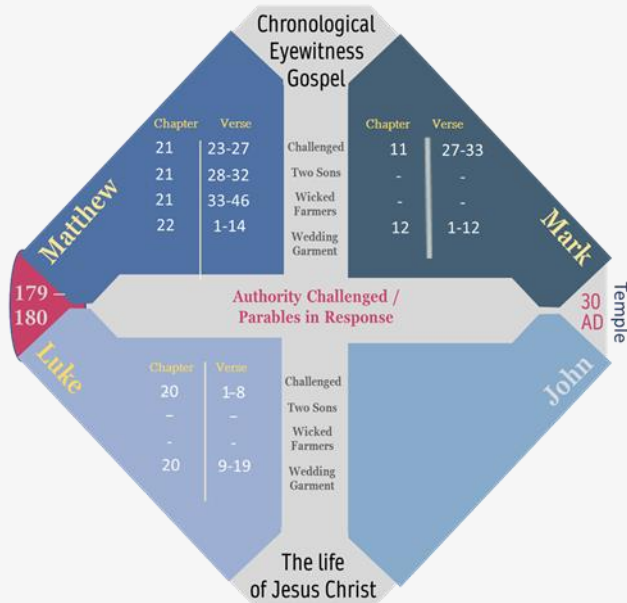
The religious leaders, the leading priests and Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus immediately upon hearing this parable, because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the people’s reaction.



The Wedding Garment

Jesus also told them other parables. He said, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!

“So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.

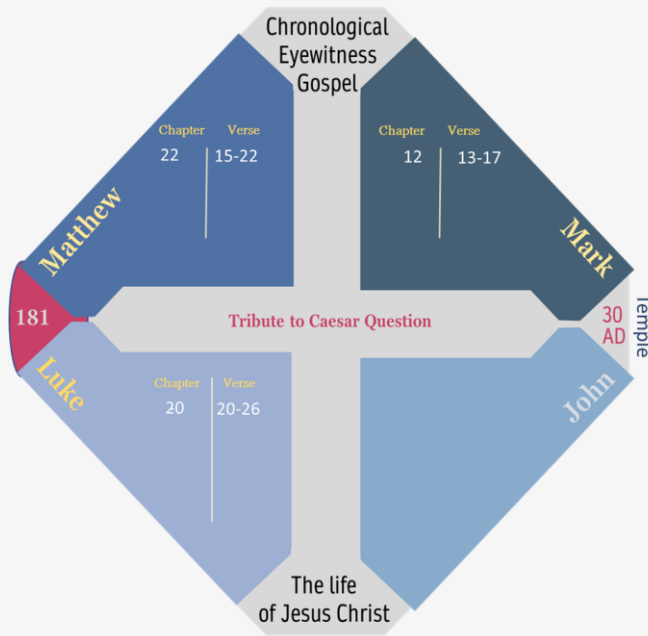


“The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply. Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

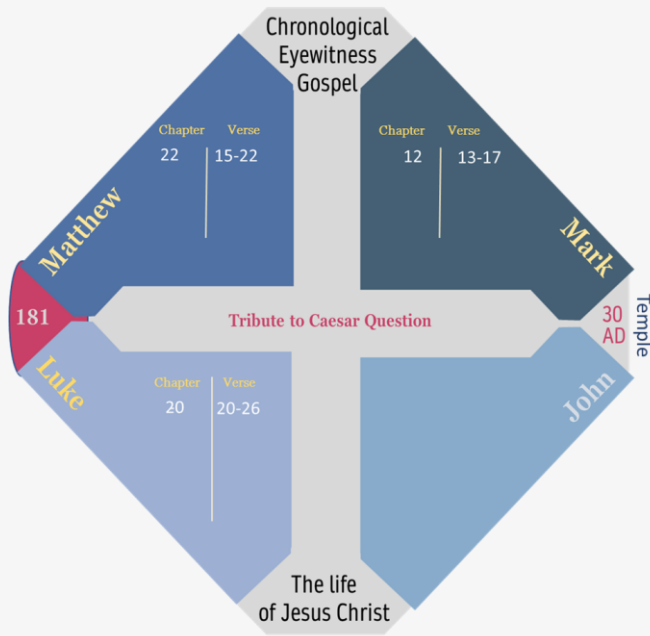
The religious leaders were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet, so they left him and went away.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Tribute to Caesar Challenge

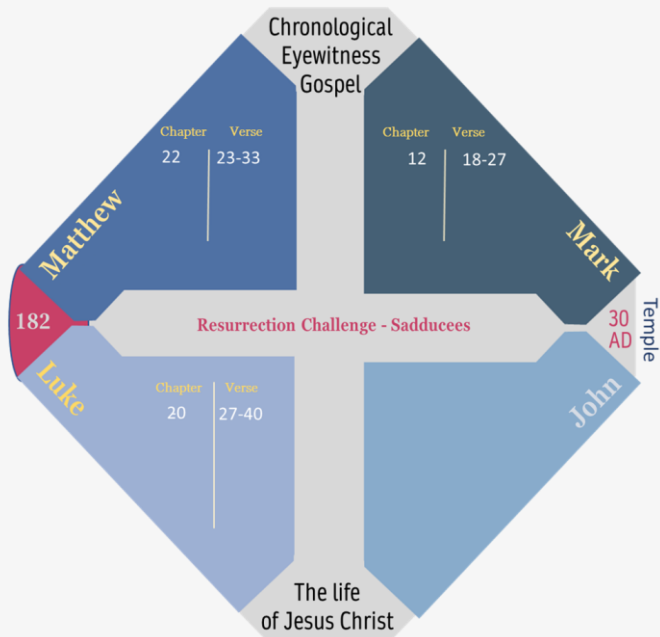
Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. Watching for their opportunity, the leaders sent spies pretending to be honest men. They tried to get Jesus to say something that could be reported to the Roman governor so he would arrest Jesus. They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. We know that you speak and teach what is right and are not influenced by what others think. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?”.



But Jesus knew their evil motives. He saw through their trickery and hypocrisy and said, “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me? Here, show me the Roman coin used for the tax, and I’ll tell you.” When they handed him a Roman coin, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.

“Well, then,” he said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

So they failed to trap him by what he said in front of the people. Instead, they were completely amazed by his answer. They became silent, and they went away.

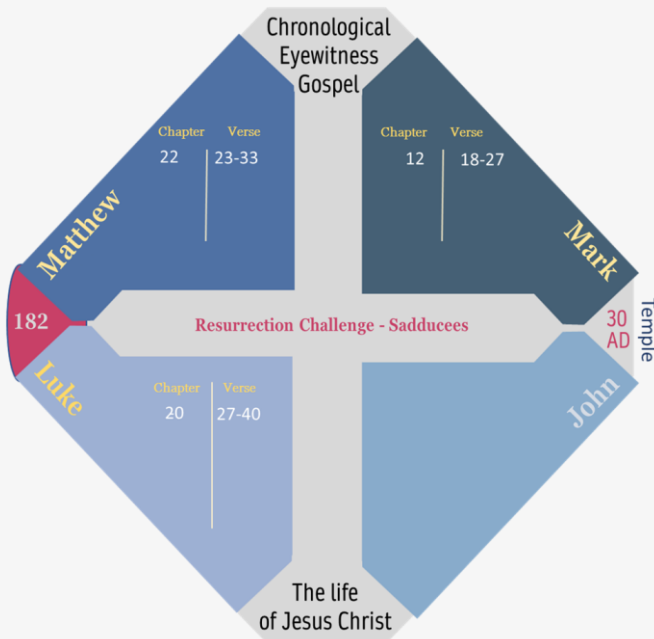


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Resurrection challenge-Sadducees

That same day Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: “Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife but no children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name. Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. So the second brother married the widow, but he also died. Then the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them, who died without children. Finally, the woman also died. So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her!”

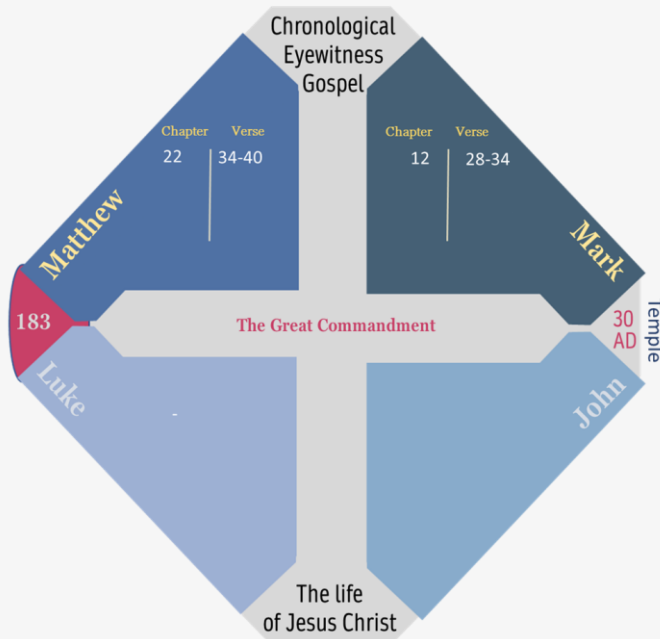
Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.



“Marriage is for people here on earth. But in the age to come, those worthy of being raised from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. And they will never die again. In this respect they will be like angels. They are children of God and children of the resurrection.

“But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Even Moses proved this when he wrote about the burning bush. Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, he referred to the Lord as ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ God said to Moses, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the living, not the dead, for they are all alive to him. You have made a serious error.”

When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching; “Well said, Teacher!” remarked some of the teachers of religious law who were standing there. And then no one dared to ask him any more questions.

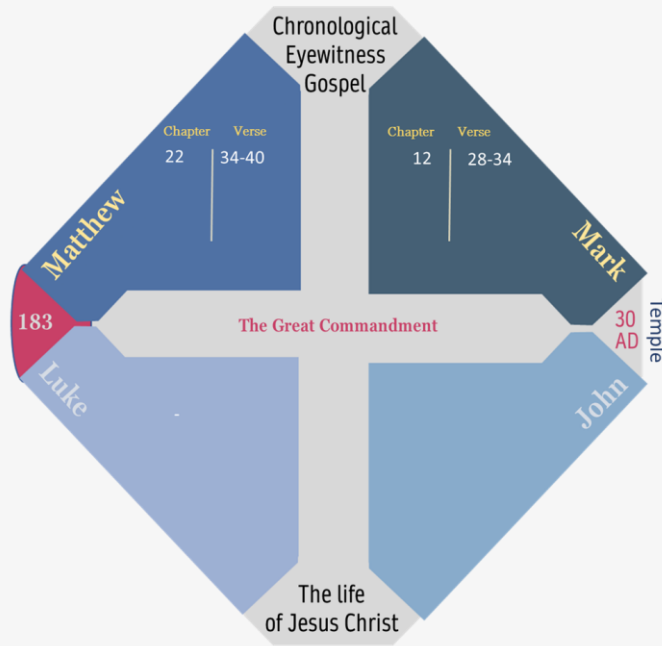


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

The Great Commandment

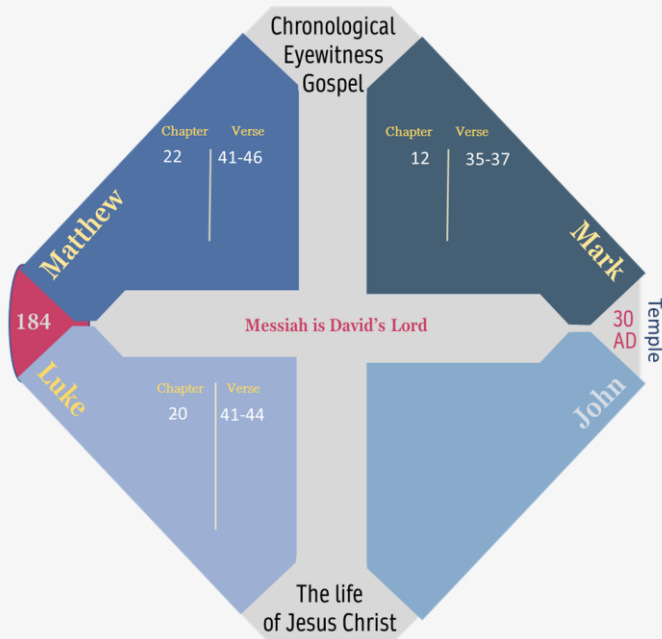
But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, and tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these. The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”



The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”

Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.



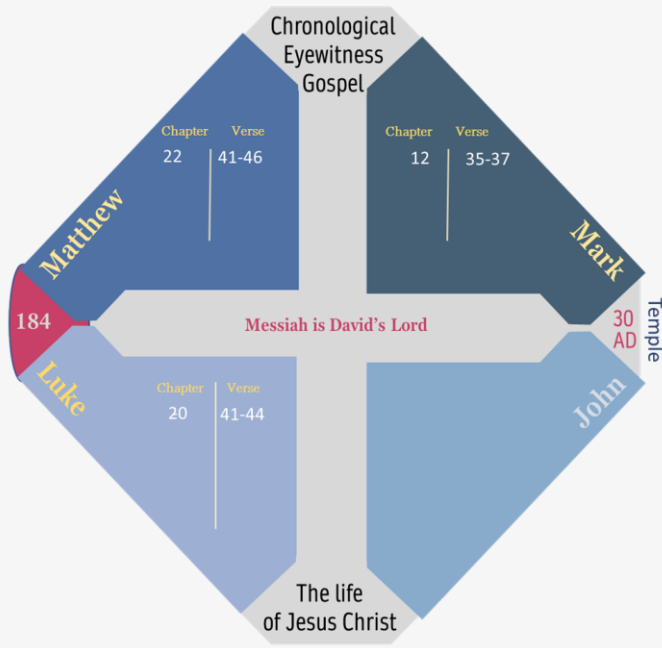
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Messiah is David's Lord

Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, as Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “He is the son of David.”

Jesus responded, ““Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah is the son of David? “Why is it,” he asked, “that the Messiah is said to be the son of David?”

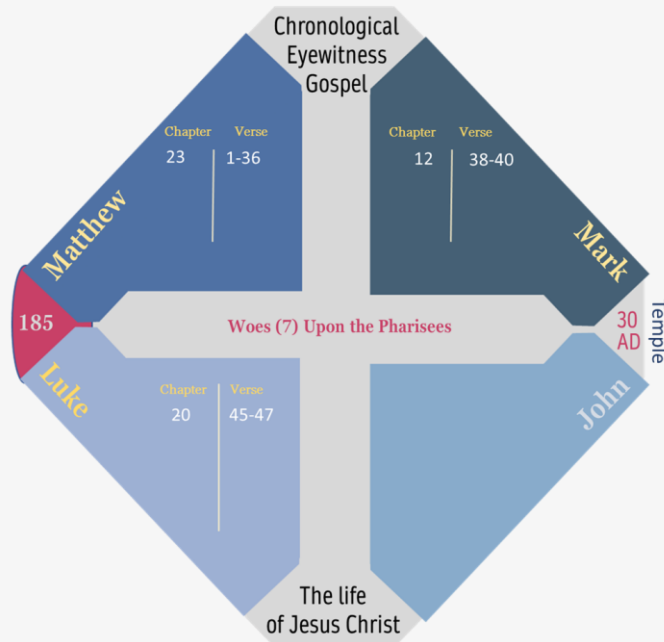


“Then, why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote in the book of Psalms:

“The LORD said to my Lord,
 Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
 until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.
 making them a footstool under your feet.’

“Since David called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?” The large crowd listened to him with great delight.

No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.



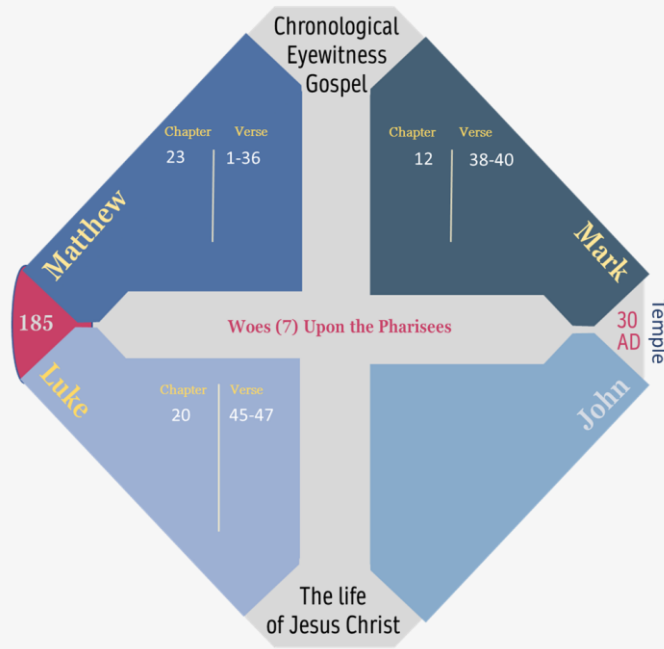
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Seven Woes upon the Pharisees

Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said, **“Beware of these teachers of religious law!**

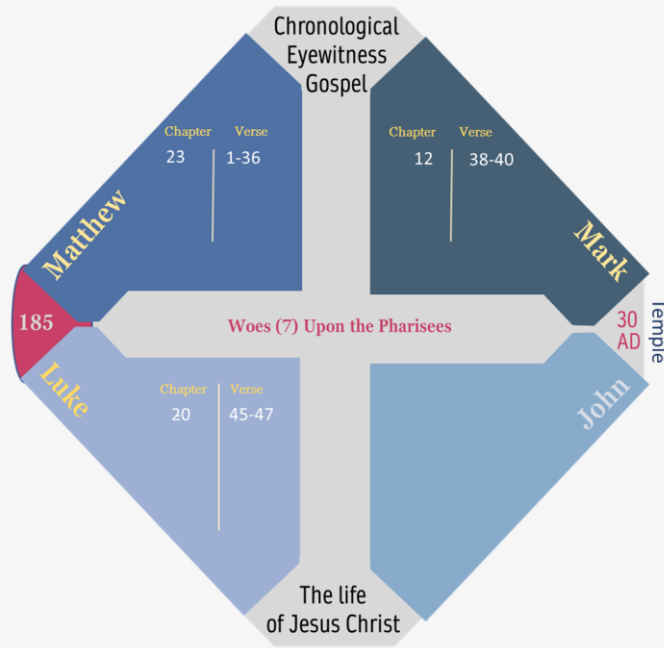
“The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

“Everything they do is for show. For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra-long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’



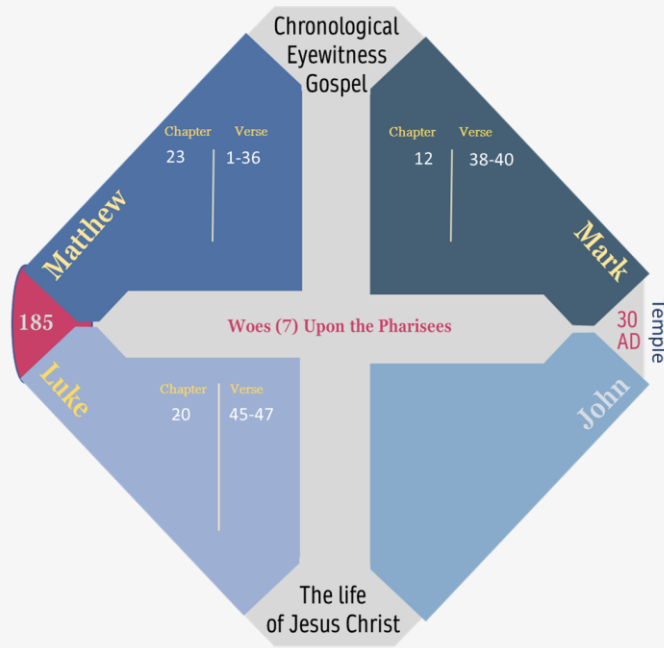
“Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your Father. And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either. What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! You shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, you will be severely punished.



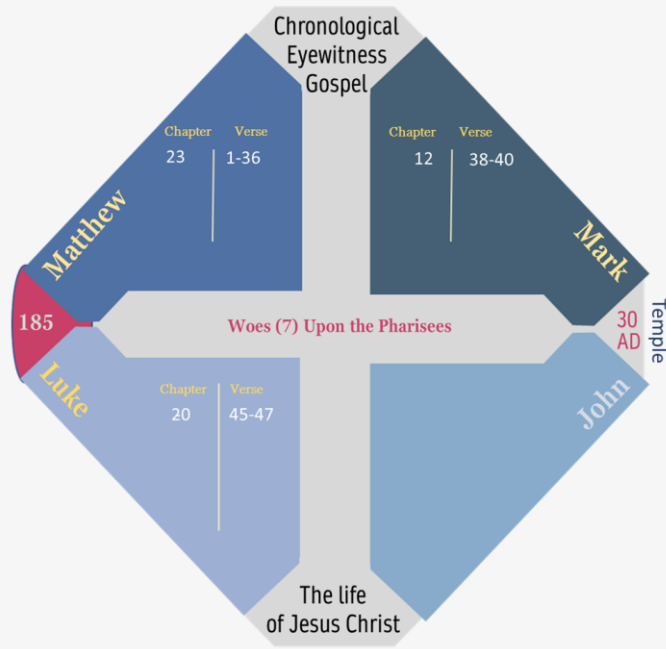
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!

“Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear ‘by God’s Temple,’ but that it is binding to swear ‘by the gold in the Temple.’ Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? And you say that to swear ‘by the altar’ is not binding, but to swear ‘by the gifts on the altar’ is binding. How blind! For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? When you swear ‘by the altar,’ you are swearing by it and by everything on it. And when you swear ‘by the Temple,’ you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. And when you swear ‘by heaven,’ you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.



“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. Blind guides! You strain your water, so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but then you swallow a camel!

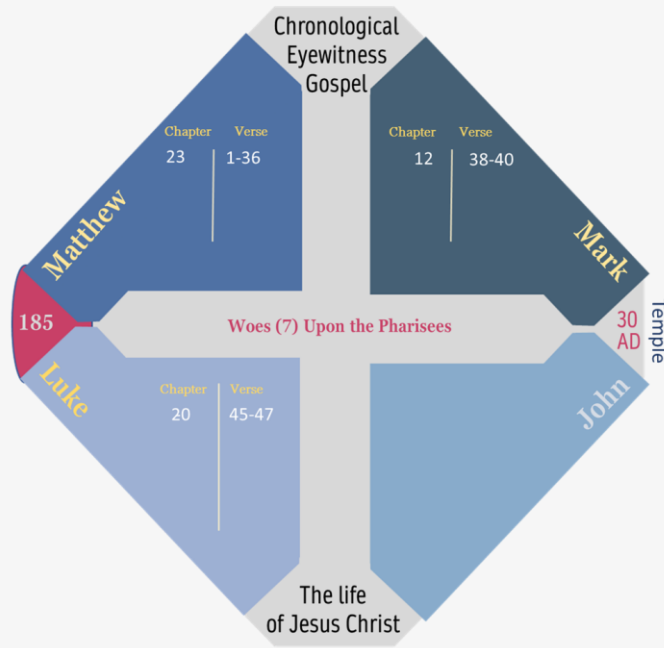
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.



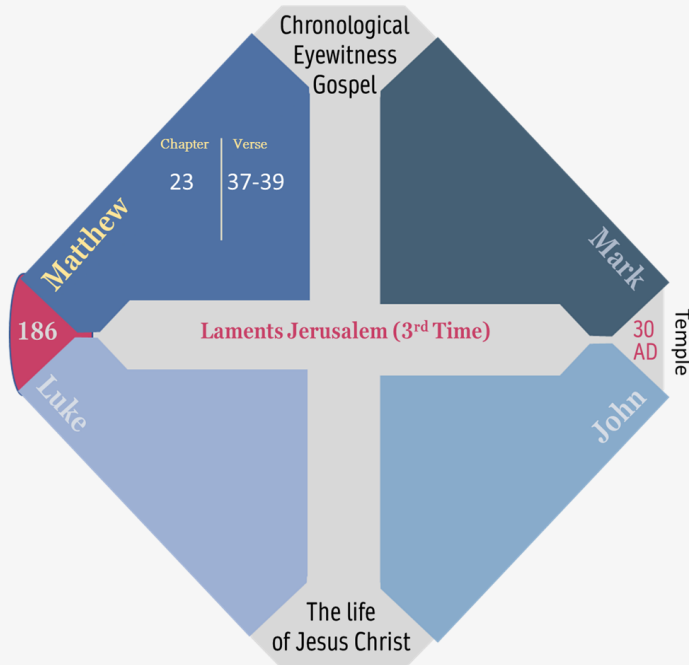
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. Then you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.’

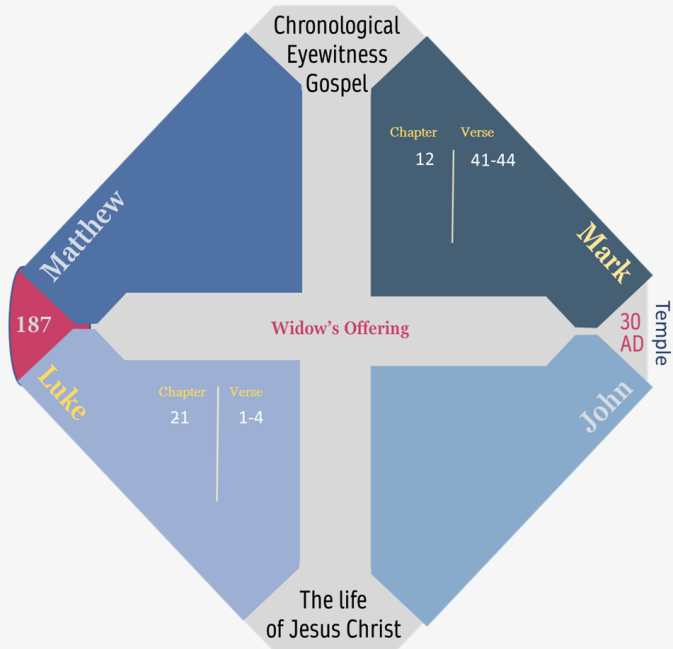
“But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started. Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?



“Therefore, I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers of religious law. But you will kill some by crucifixion, and you will flog others with whips in your synagogues, chasing them from city to city. As a result, you will be held responsible for the murder of all godly people of all time—from the murder of righteous Abel to the murder of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you killed in the Temple between the sanctuary and the altar. I tell you the truth, this judgment will fall on this very generation.

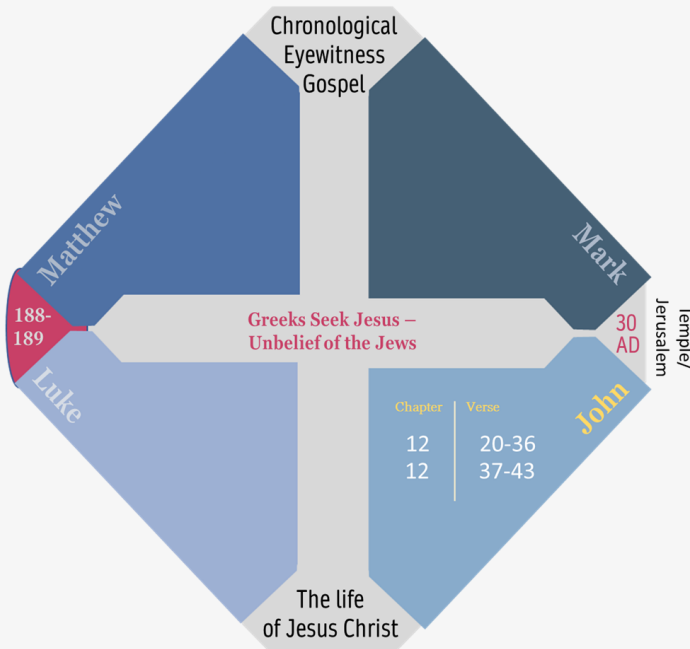


“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’”



While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

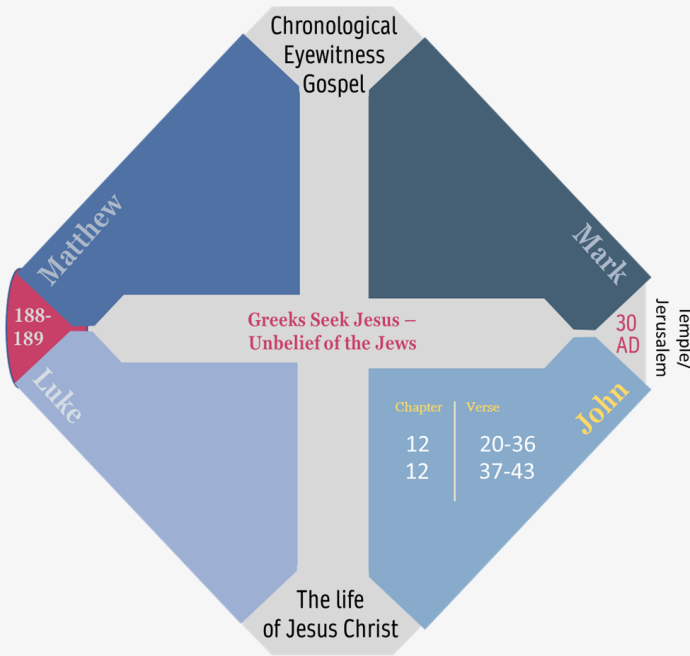
Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **“I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”**



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

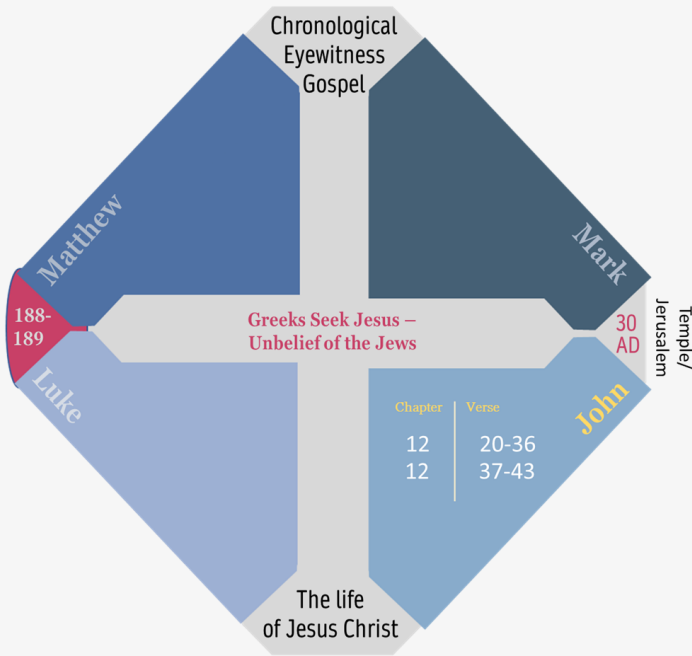
Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.



“Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

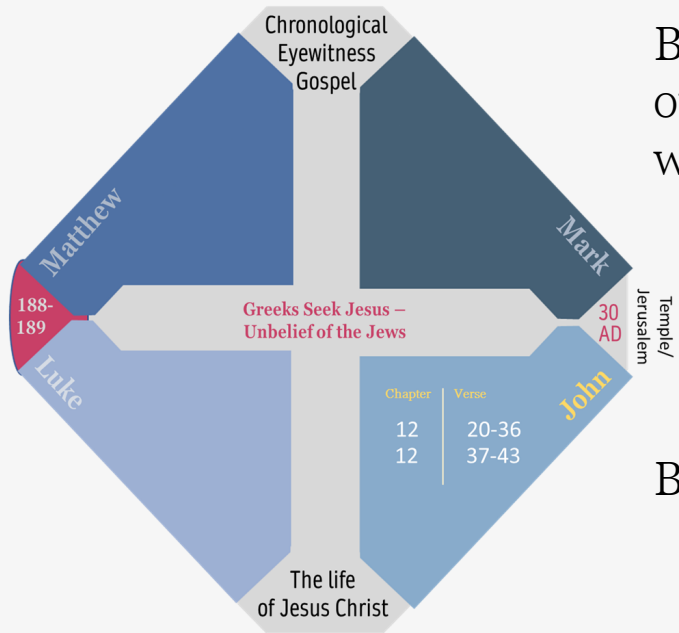
Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this to indicate how he was going to die.



The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.



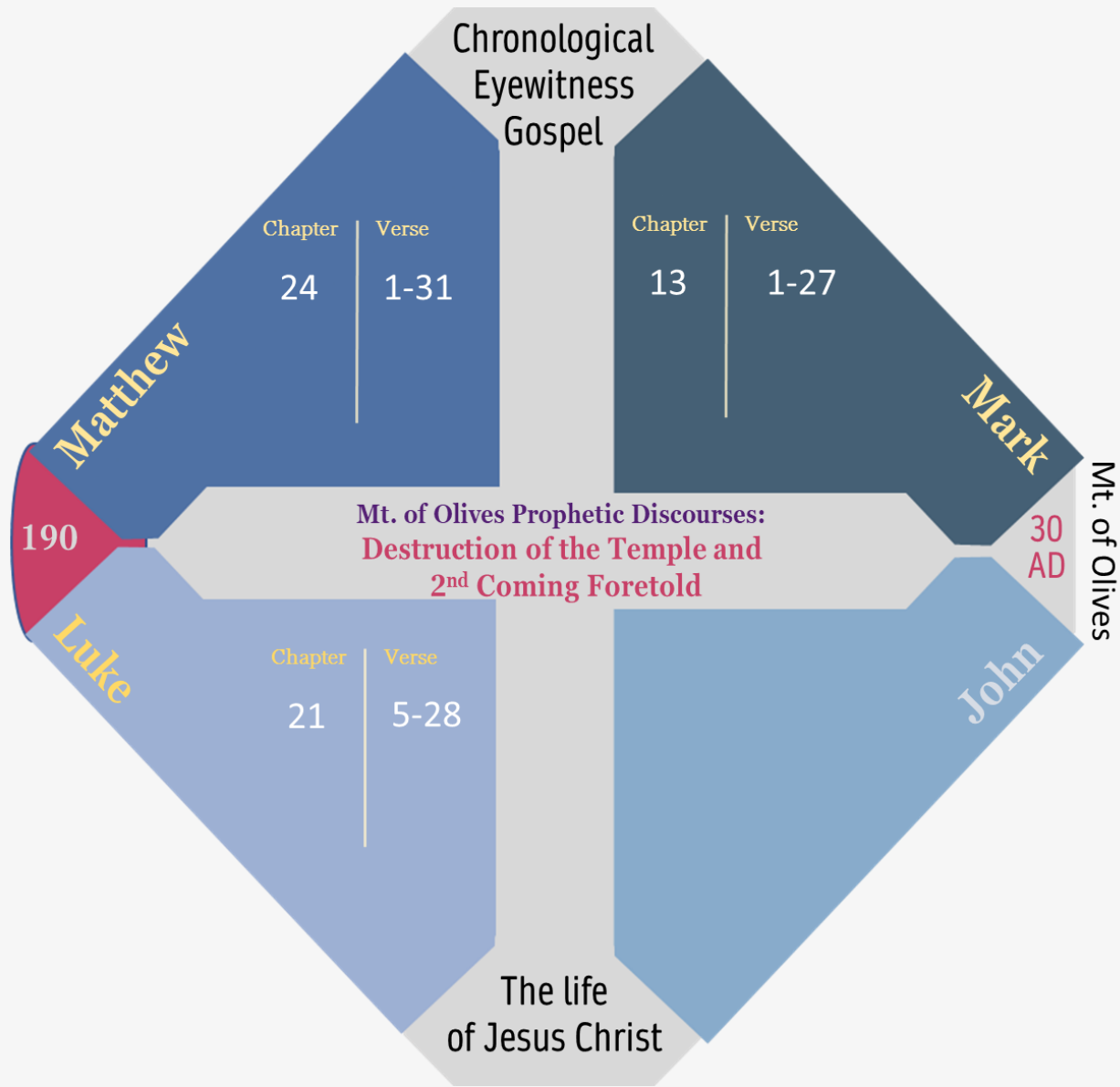
But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

“LORD, who has believed our message?
To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?”

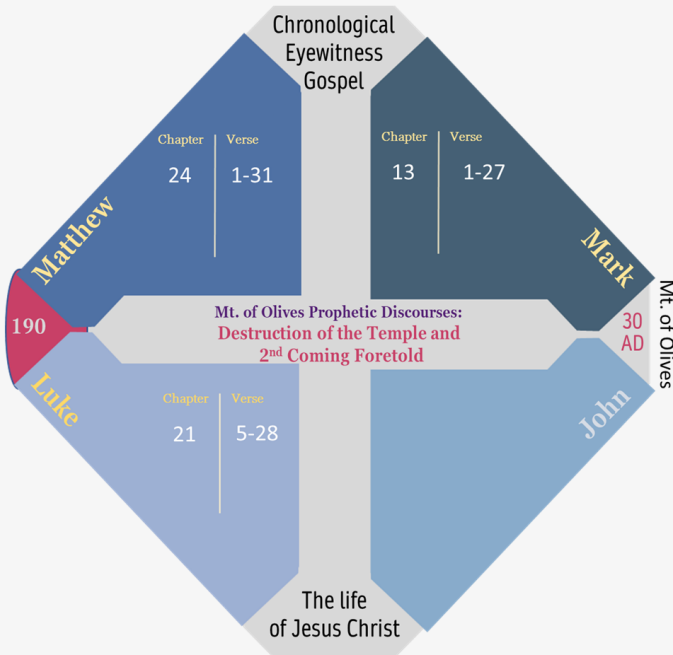
But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

“The Lord has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts—
so that their eyes cannot see,
and their hearts cannot understand,
and they cannot turn to me
and have me heal them.”

Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah's glory. Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

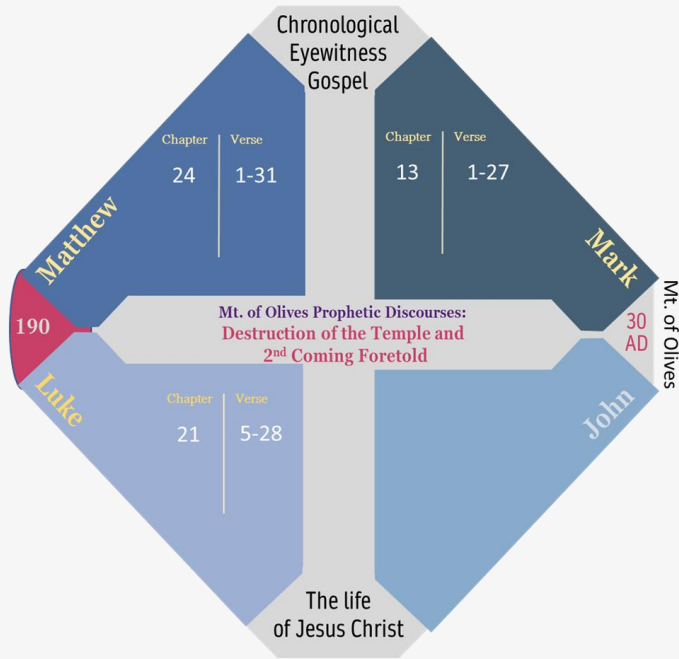


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds that day, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. One of his disciples said, “Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls.”

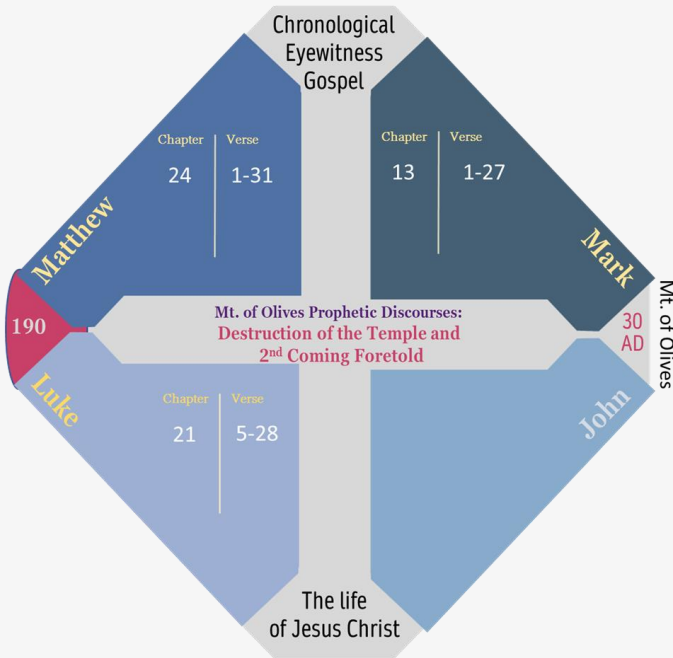
But Jesus responded, “Yes, look at these great buildings. Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”

Later, Jesus sat on the **Mount of Olives**, across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”



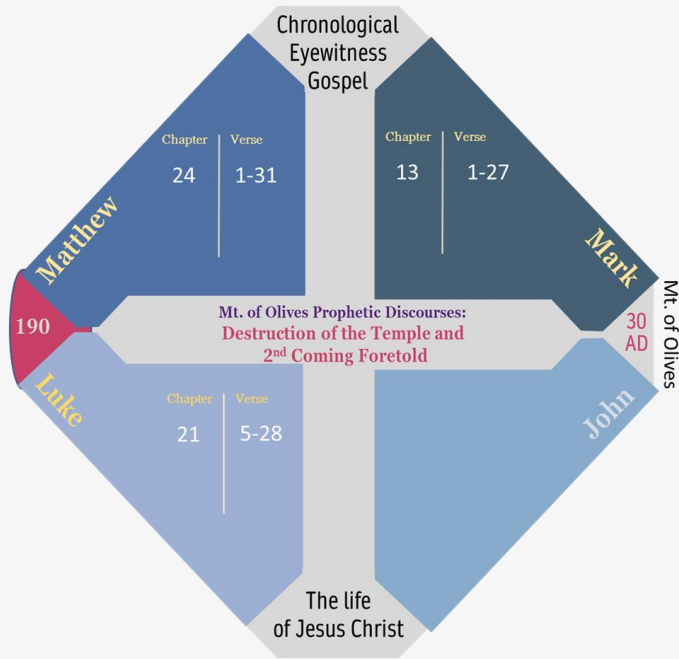
Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and saying, ‘The time has come!’ But don’t believe them. They will deceive many.

“And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. Then he added, “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and great earthquakes and plagues in many lands - in many parts of the world, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.



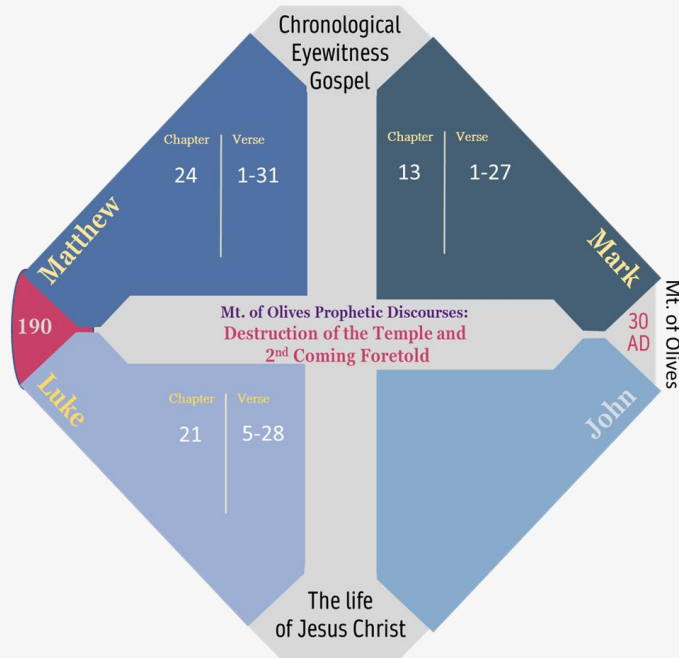
“Before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers, but this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.

“For the Good News must first be preached to all nations. So don’t worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you when you are arrested and stand trial, for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you! Don’t worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.



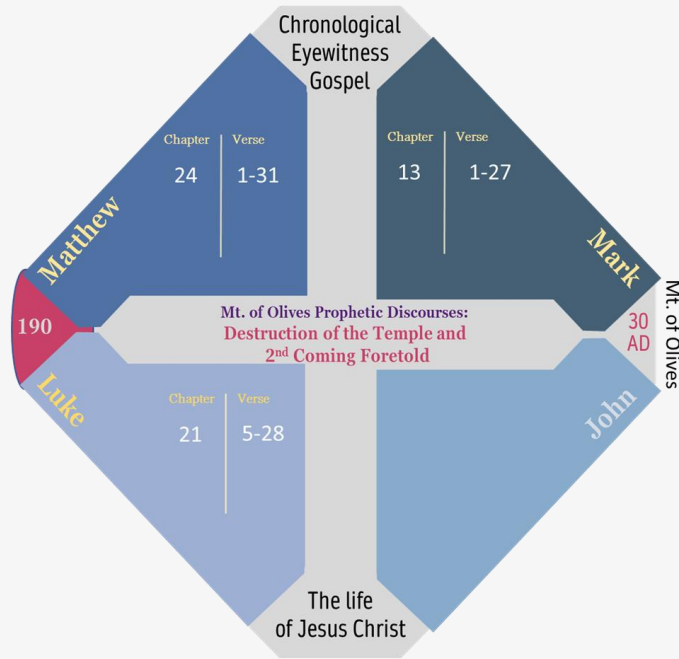
“When these things begin to happen, watch out! Even those closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. They will even kill some of you. And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But not a hair of your head will perish! By standing firm, you will win your souls. The one who endures to the end will be saved.

“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 everyone will hate you because you are my followers. Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.



“Many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

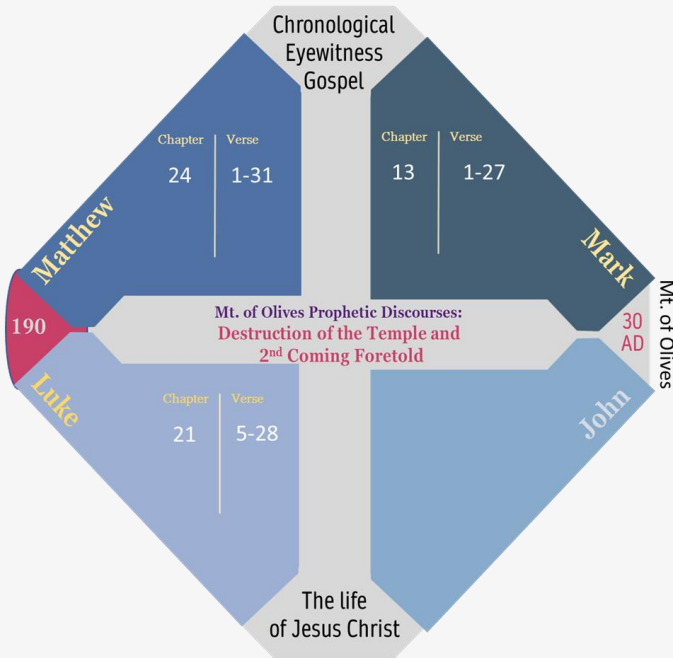
“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the abomination that causes desolation standing in the Holy Place where he/it should not be.” (Reader, pay attention!)



“And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived. Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. Those in Jerusalem must get out, and those out in the country should not return to the city. A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat.

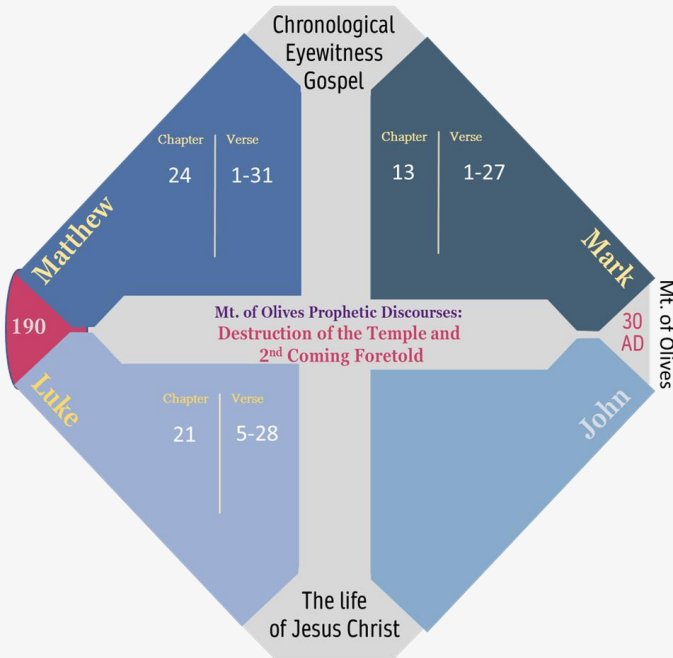
“For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.

“How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people. They will be killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.



“Pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For there will be greater anguish than at any time since God created the world - at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones. For the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.

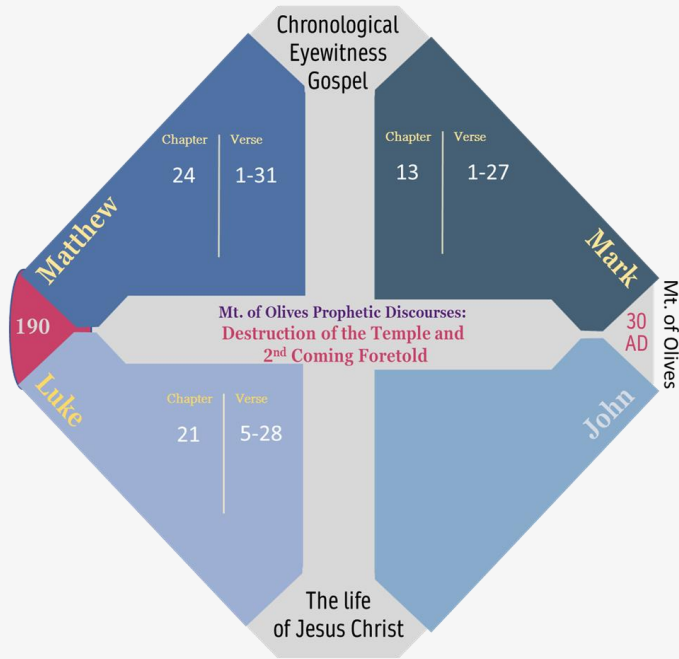
“Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah out in the desert,’ or ‘There he is, hiding here or there,’ don’t believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time!



“For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth. Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.

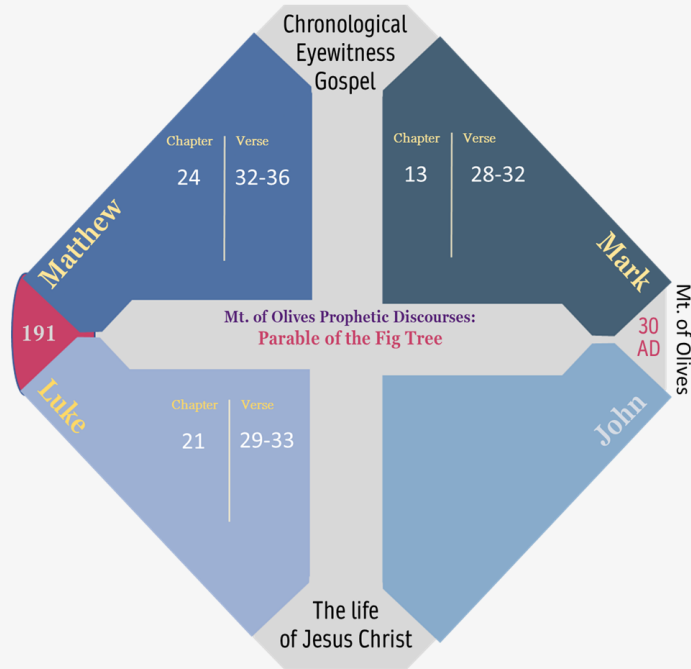
“At that time, immediately after the anguish of those days,
 the sun will be darkened,
 the moon will give no light,
 the stars will fall from the sky,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Episode 9



“And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

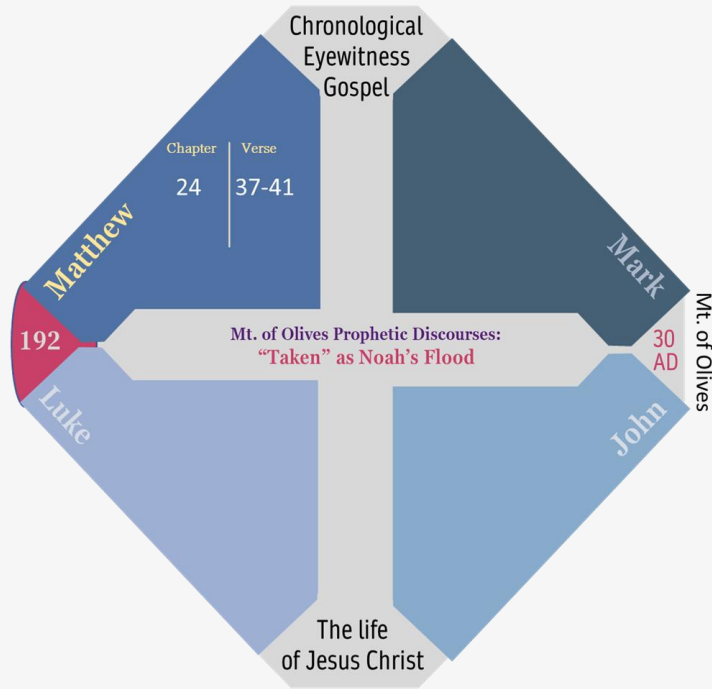
So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near – that the Kingdom of God is right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

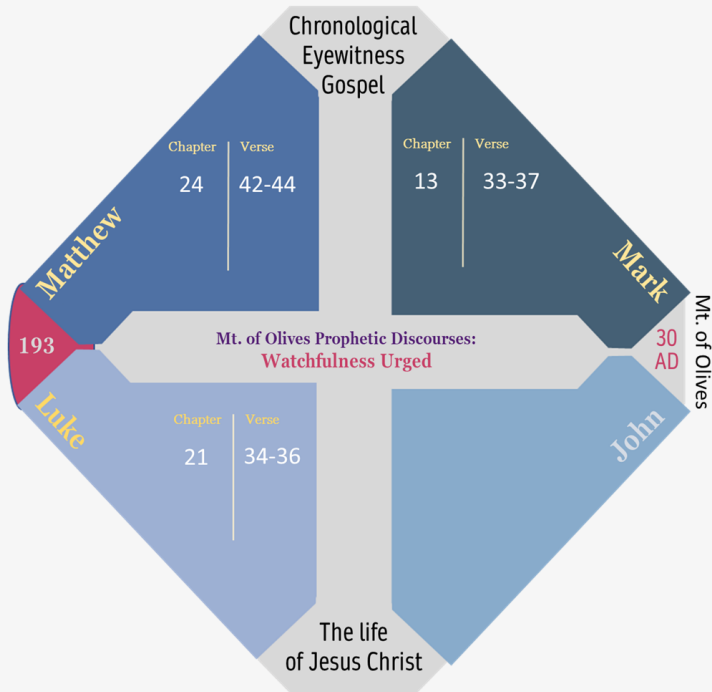
“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

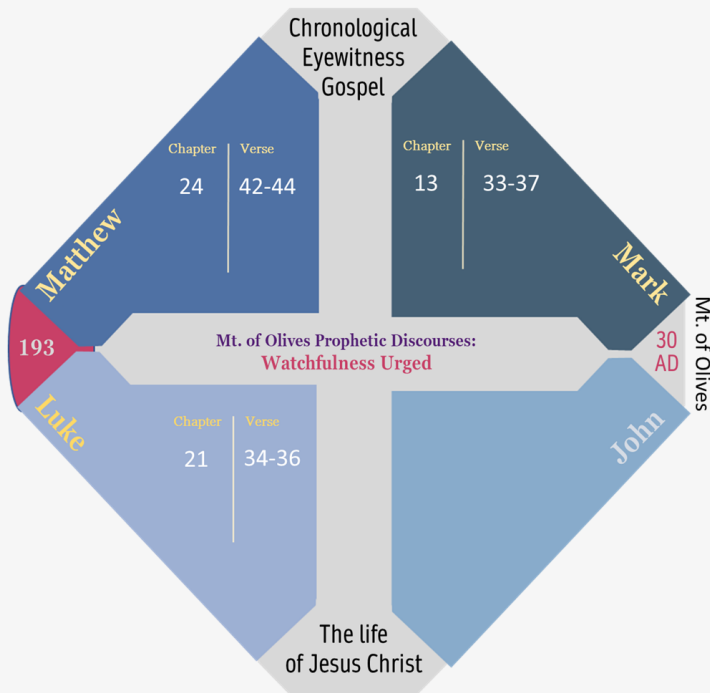
“Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

“Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life.

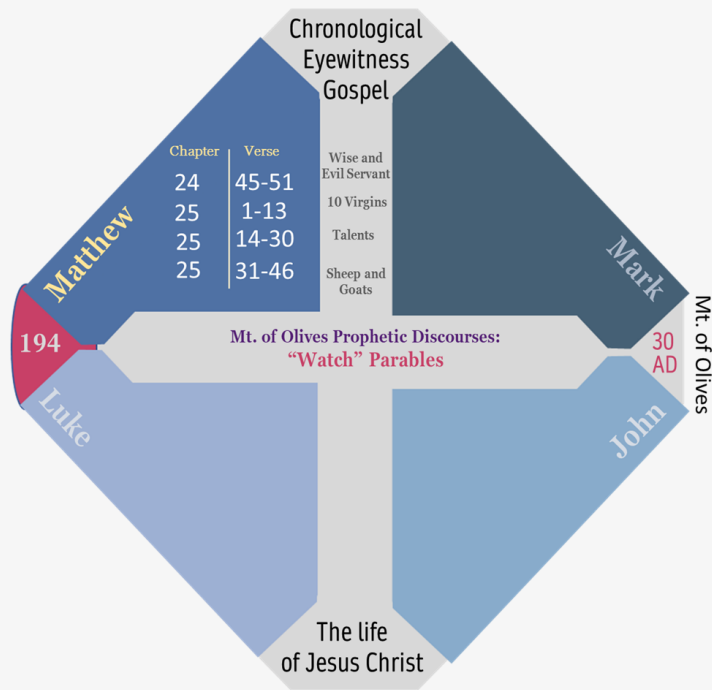
“Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man. And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!”



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

“The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his servants instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning.

“I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him. You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

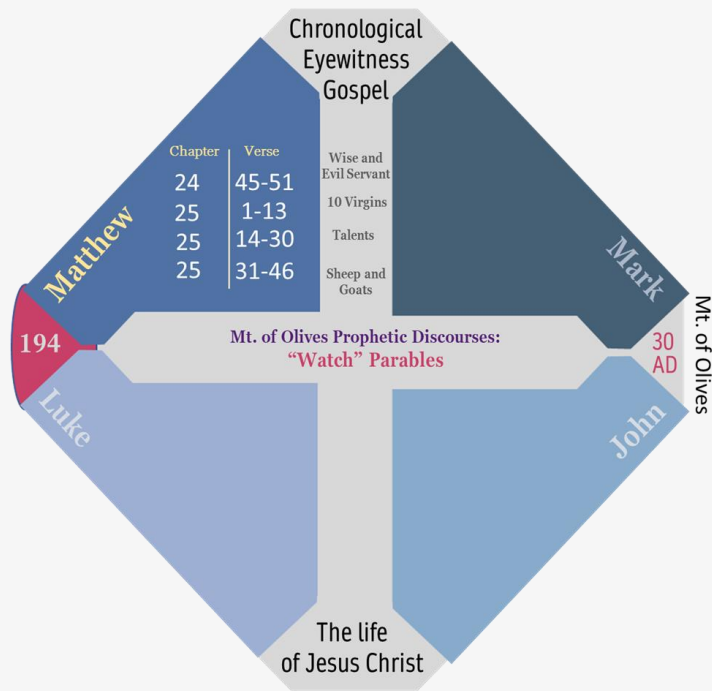


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Four "Watch" Parables: (1) - Wise & evil servants

“A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(2) - 10 Virgins

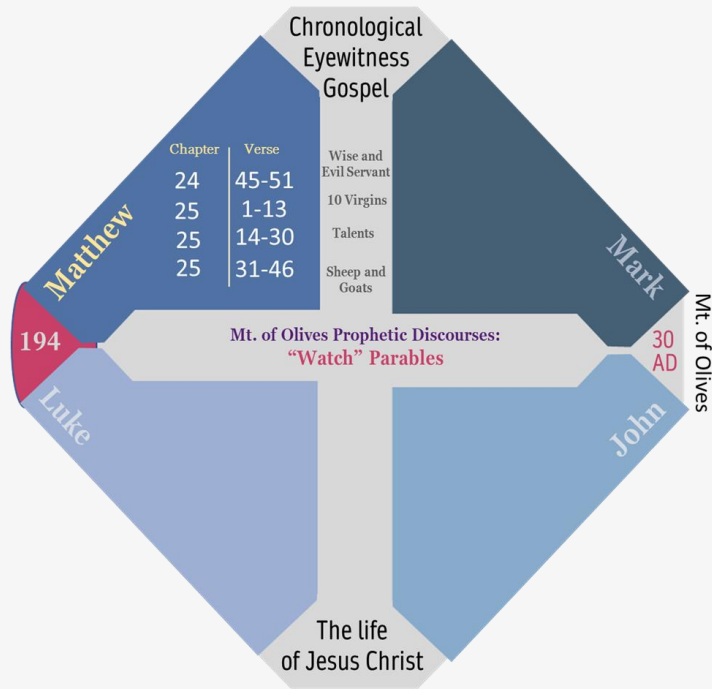


“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’

“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’

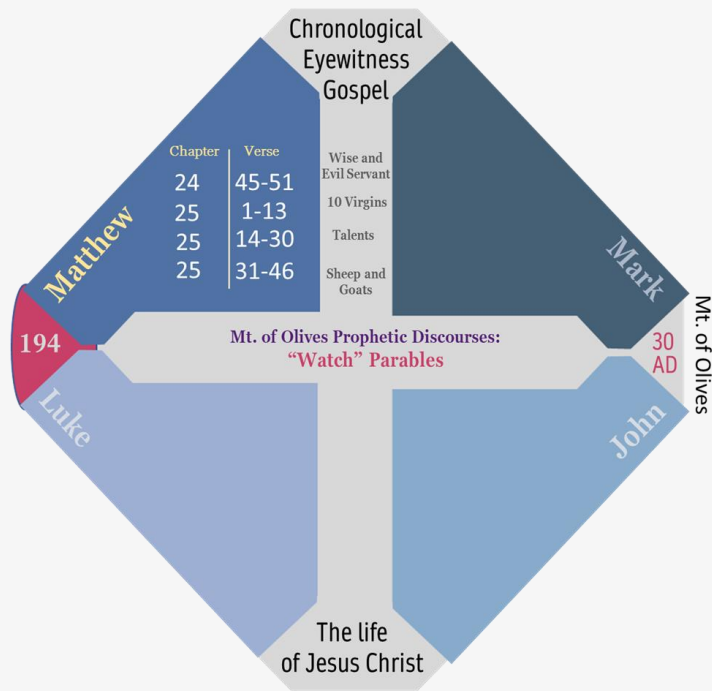
“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’



“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

“But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

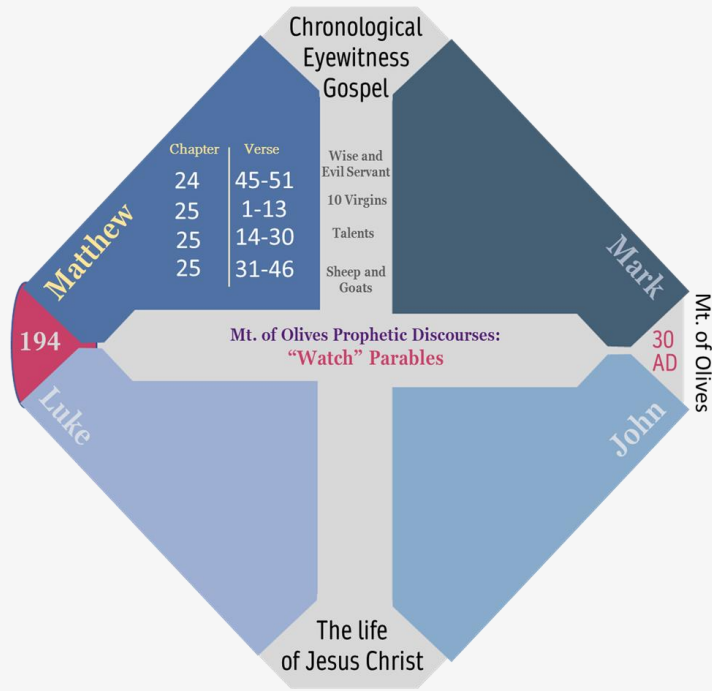
“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.



(3) – Talents

Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

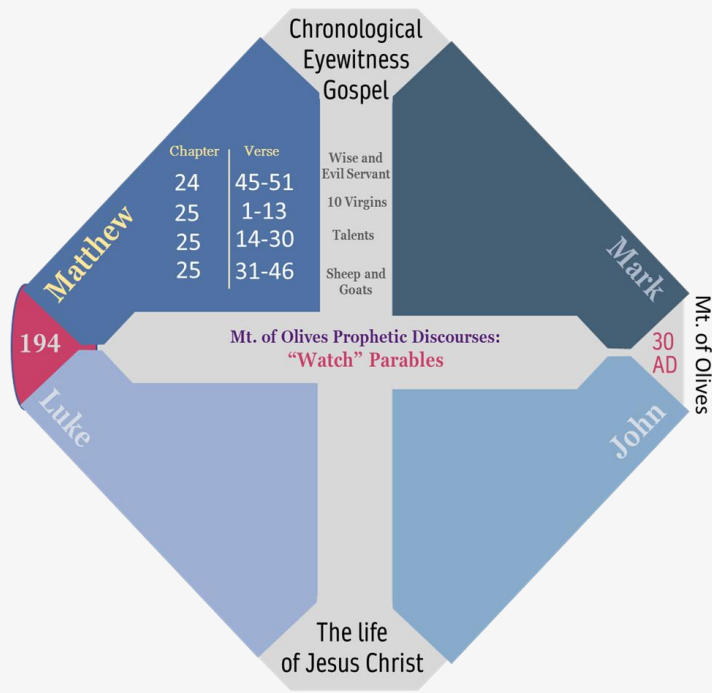


“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

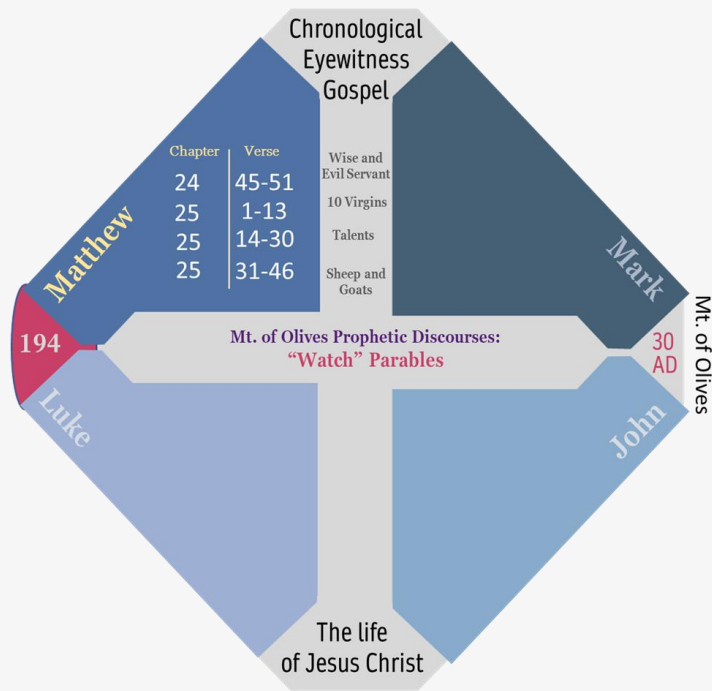
“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’



“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

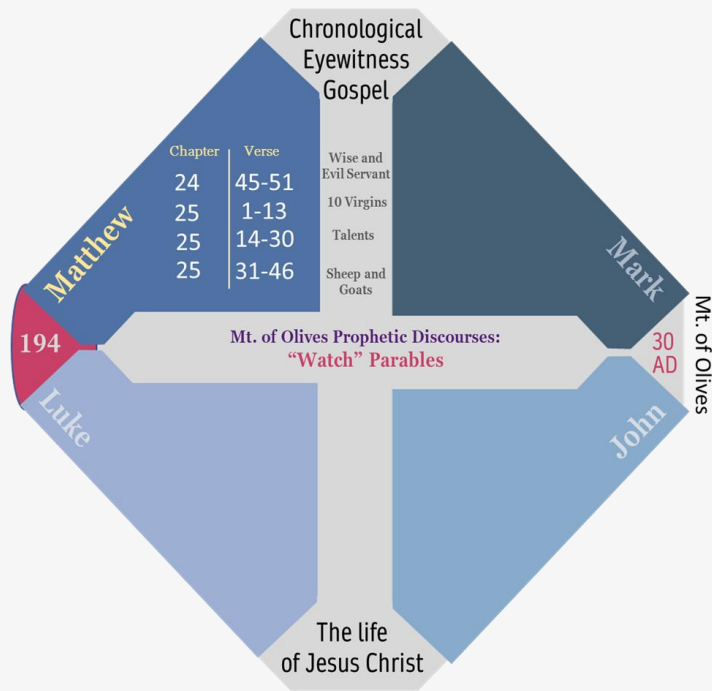
“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



(4) - Sheep and the Goats

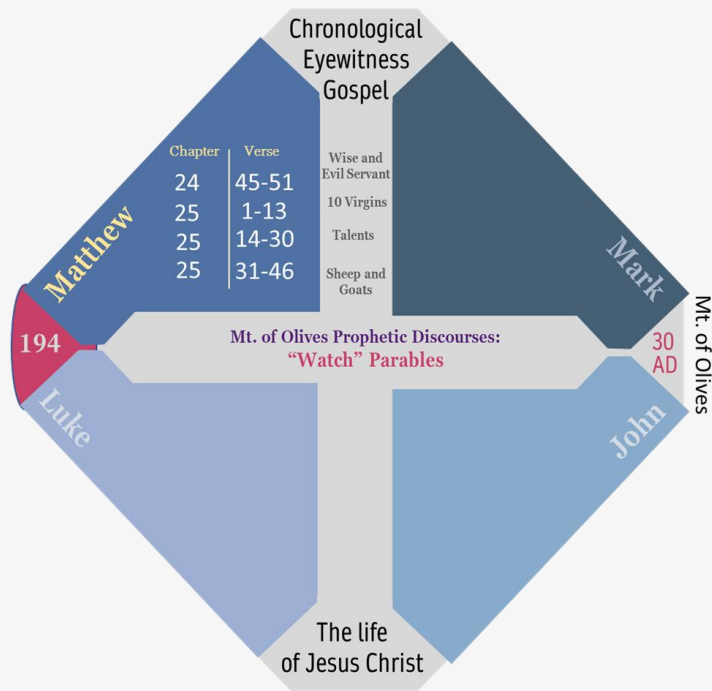
“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’



“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’



“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

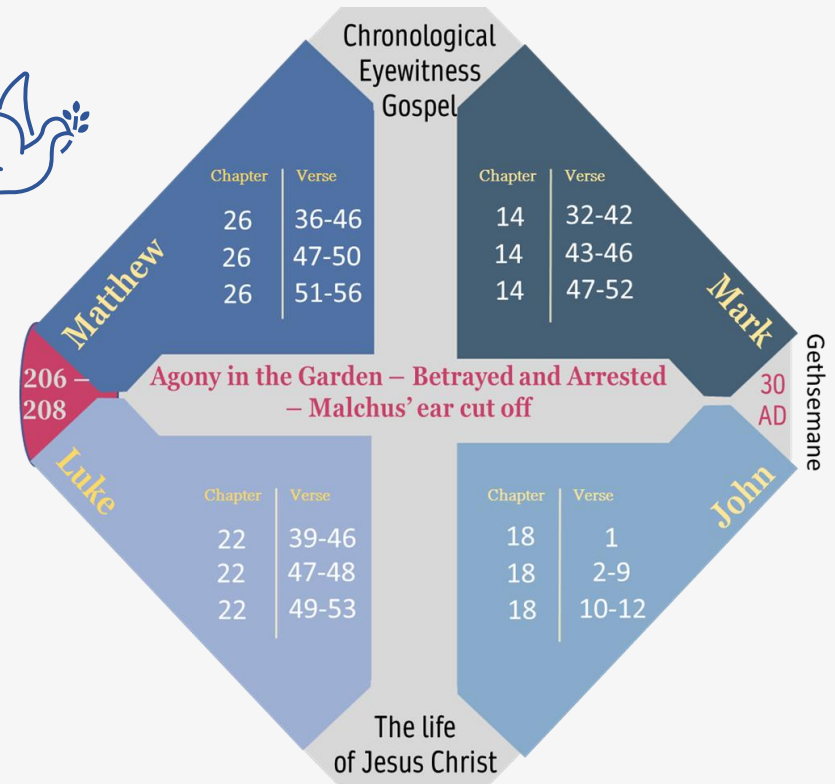
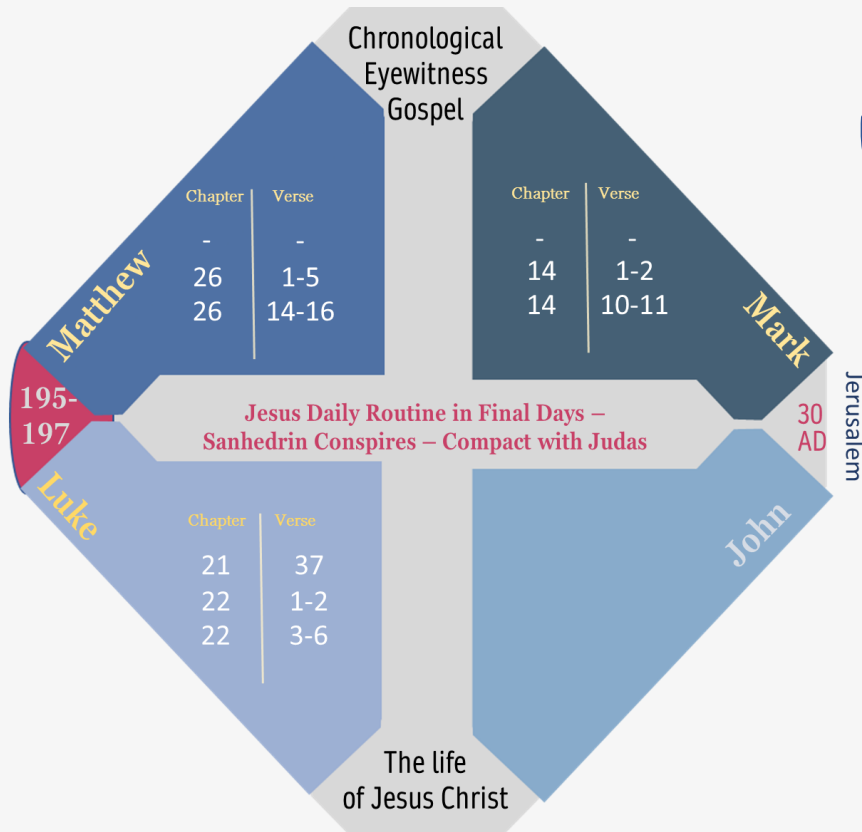
“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

“And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

“And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

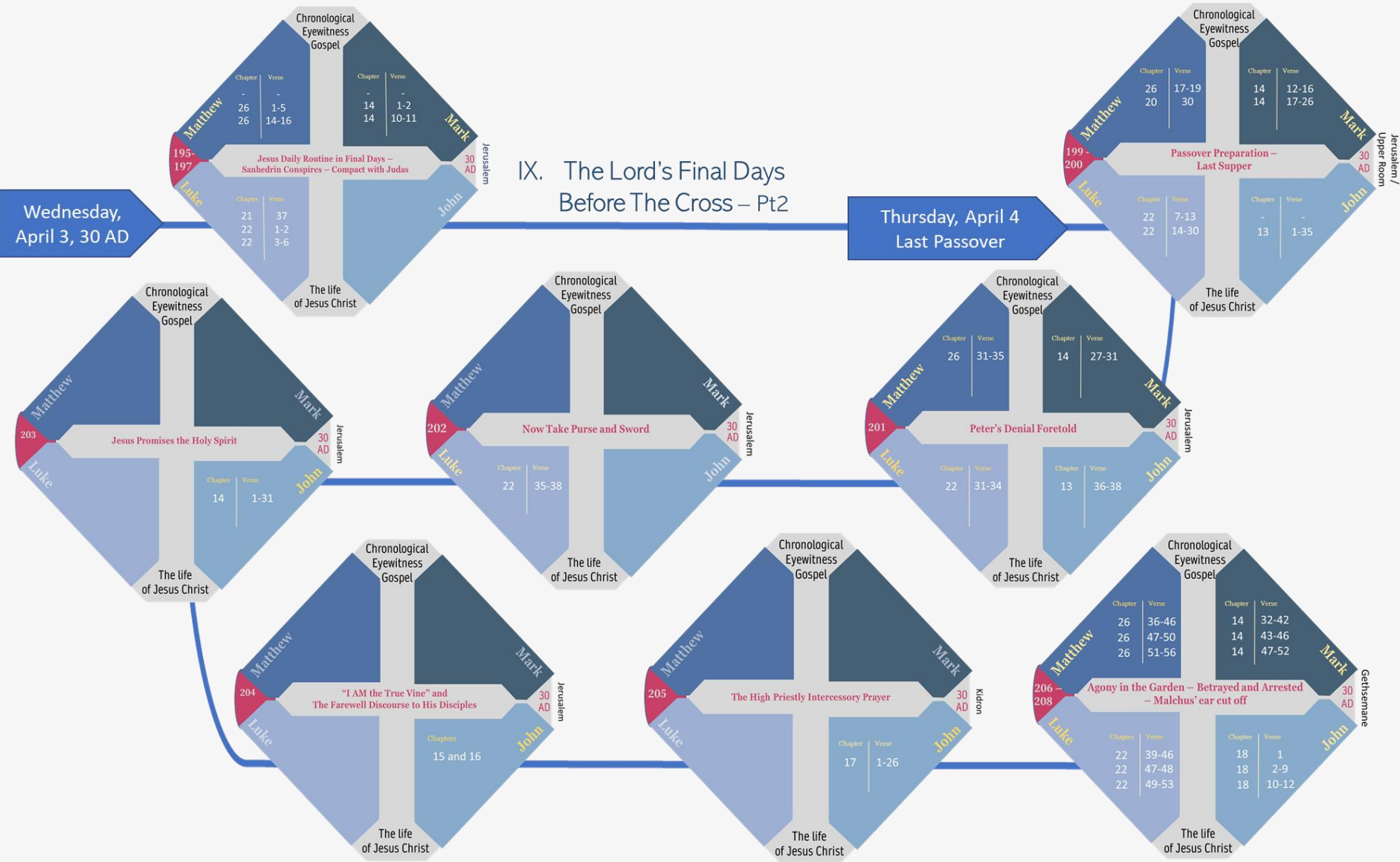
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

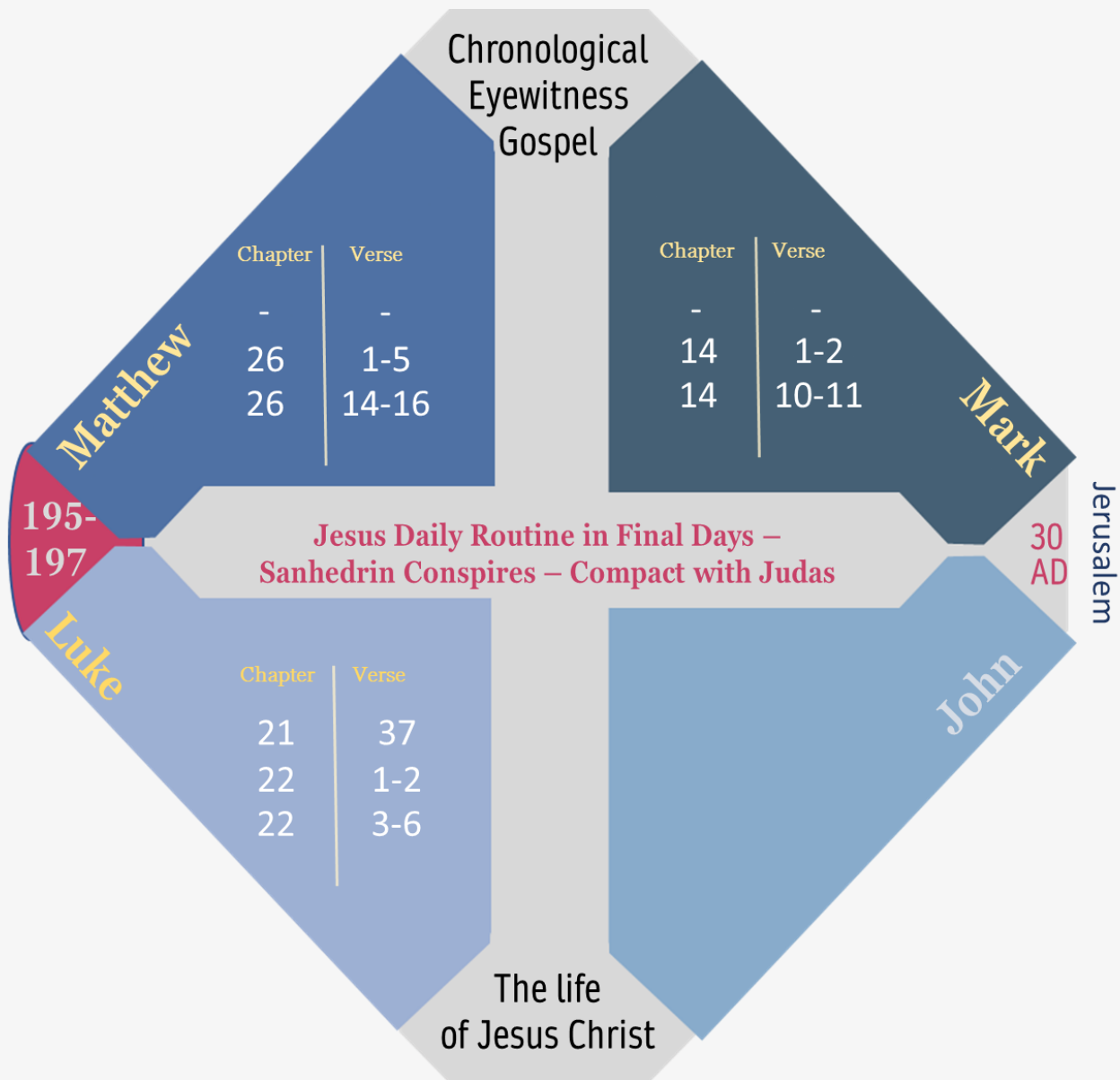
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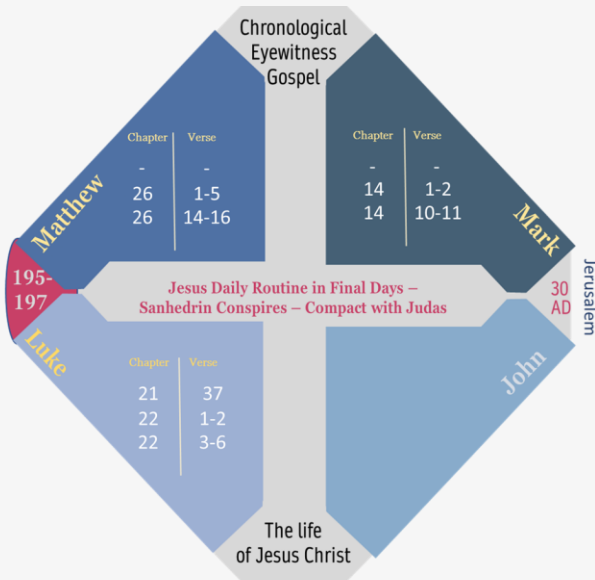
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 10

IX. The Lord's Final Days Before The Cross – Pt2





IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



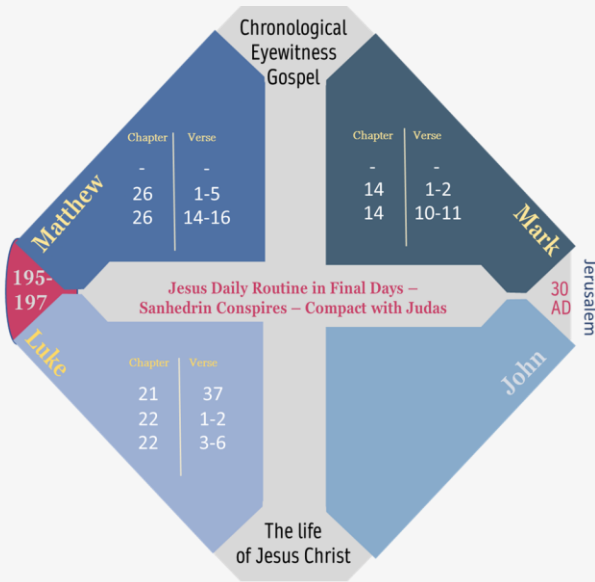
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

(4th day of the week)
Wed. April 3, 30 AD

Every day Jesus went to the Temple to teach, and each evening he returned to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. The crowds gathered at the Temple early each morning to hear him.

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, **“As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”**

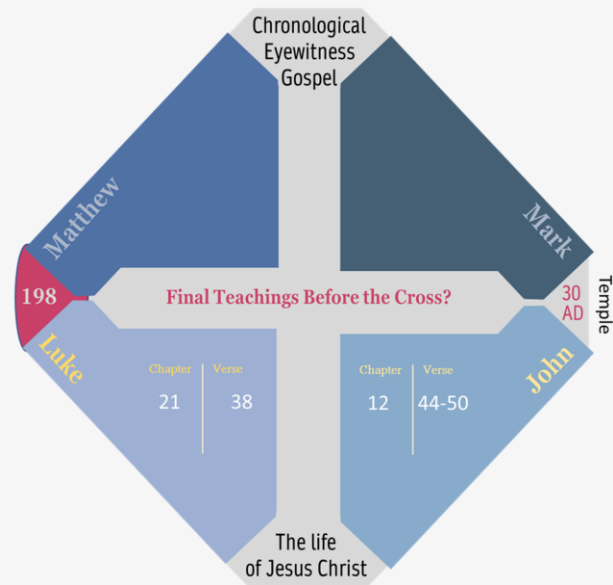
At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. It was now two days before the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him, but they were afraid of the people’s reaction. “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”



(4th day of the week)
Wed. April 3, 30 AD

Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss and arrange the best way to betray Jesus to them.

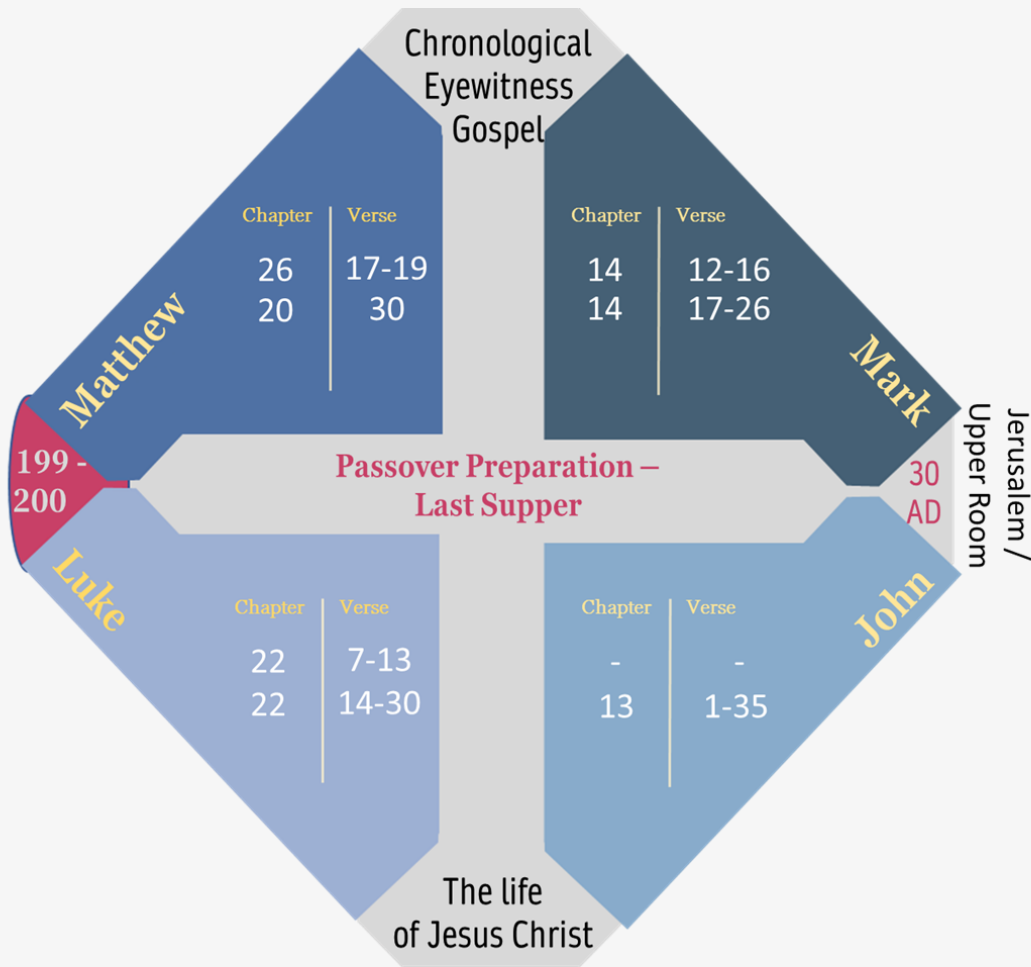
He asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him thirty pieces of silver. So he agreed, and from that time on Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren’t around.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

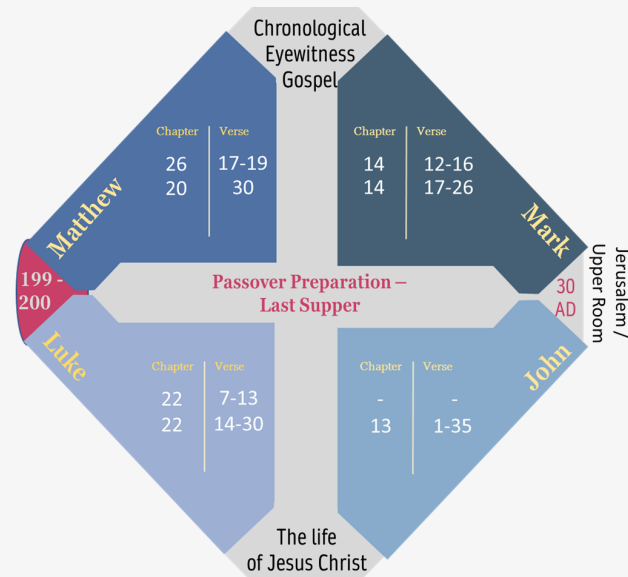
The crowds gathered at the Temple early each morning to hear him.

Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. But all who reject me, and my message, will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”



4th and Last Passover
(5th day of the week)
Thur. April 4, 30 AD
 [Near sunset as 14th Nisan begins]

IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

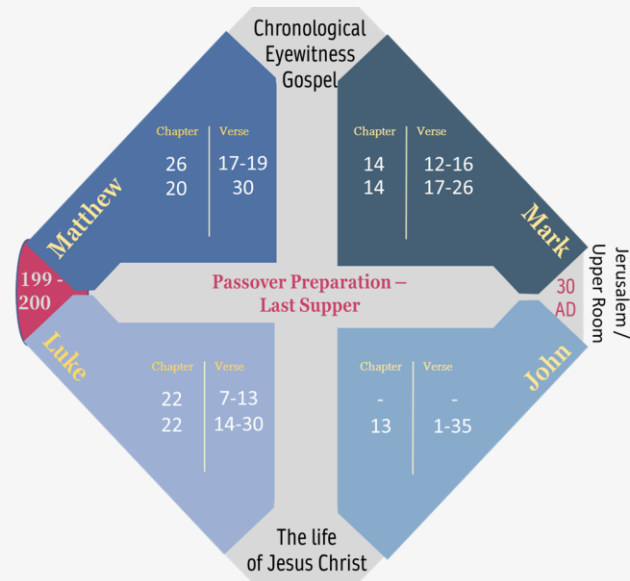
Thur. April 4, 30 AD

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?”

Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.”

“Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him.

“As you go into the city, as soon as you enter Jerusalem,” he told them, “you will see a certain man carrying a pitcher of water that will meet you. Tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.’ Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.” So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

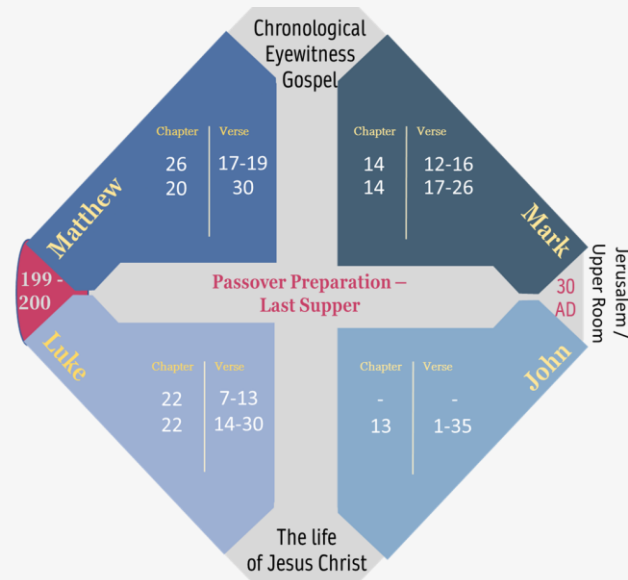


In the evening, the time came for Jesus and the apostles reclined together at the table. Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

“You have stayed with me in my time of trial. And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Episode 10

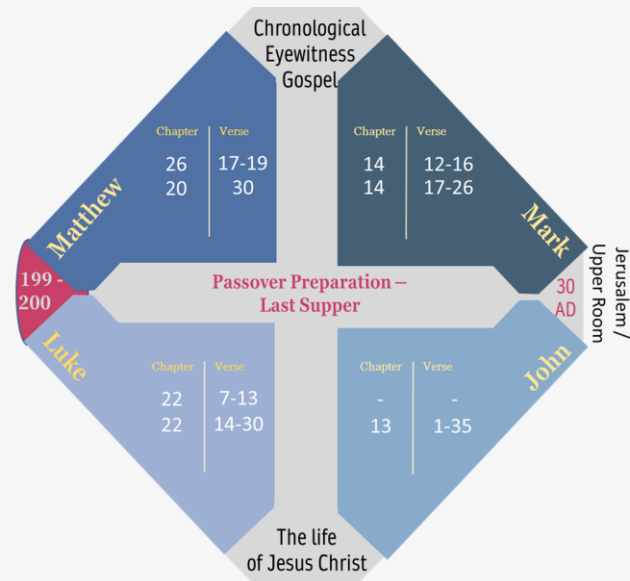


Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

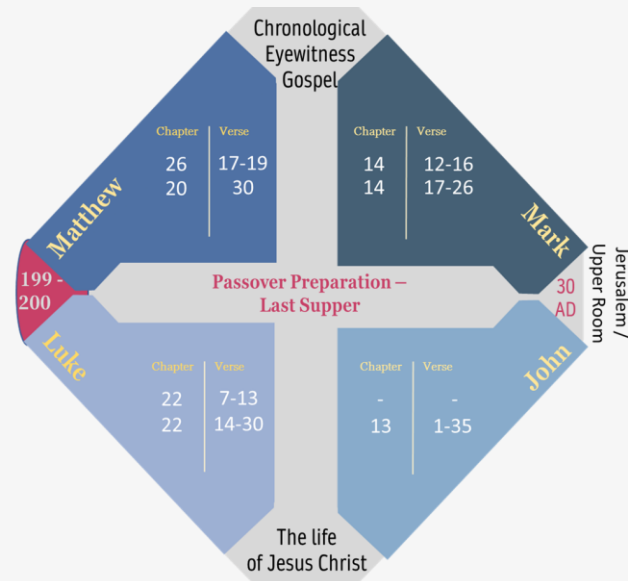
"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"



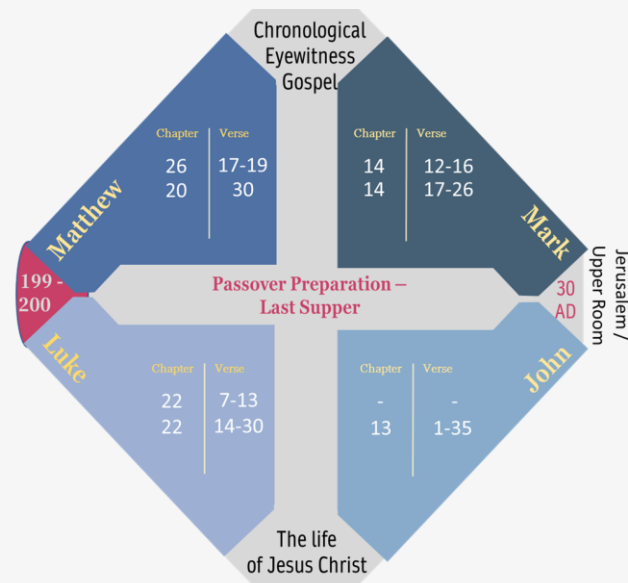
Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”

Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”

Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”



After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. “I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, ‘The one who eats my food has turned against me.’ I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah. I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.”

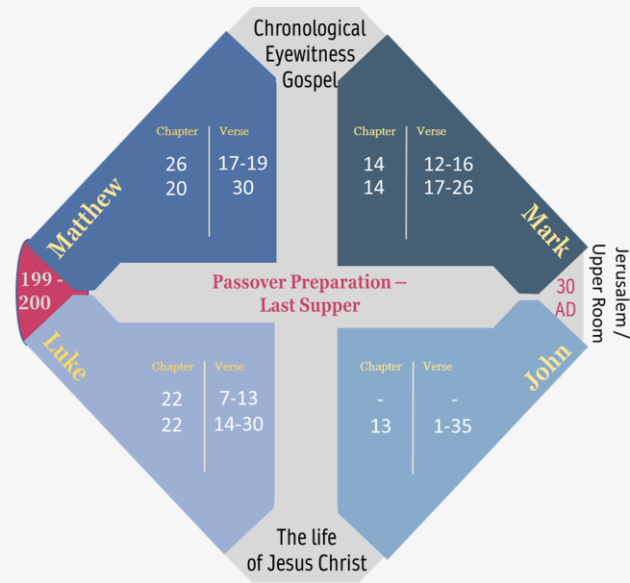


As the twelve were at the table eating, Jesus was deeply troubled and he exclaimed, “I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me. Here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me.”

The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, “Am I the one, Lord?”

He replied, “It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him - what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!”

The disciple Jesus loved (John) was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, “Who’s he talking about?” So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

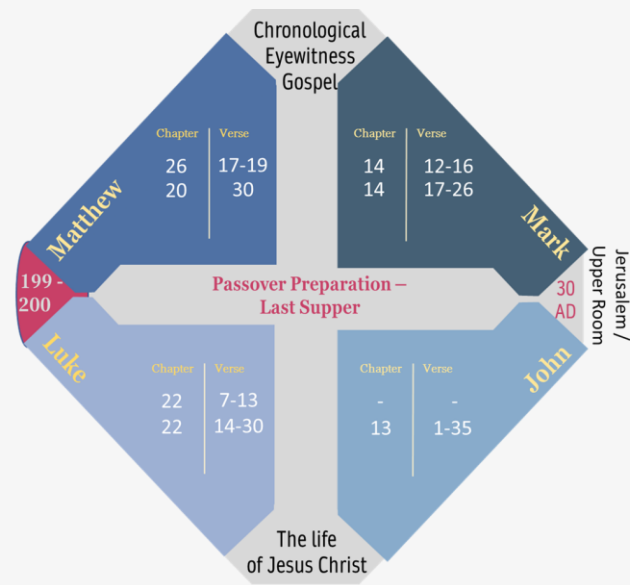


Jesus responded, “It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.” And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.

When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, “Rabbi, am I the one?”

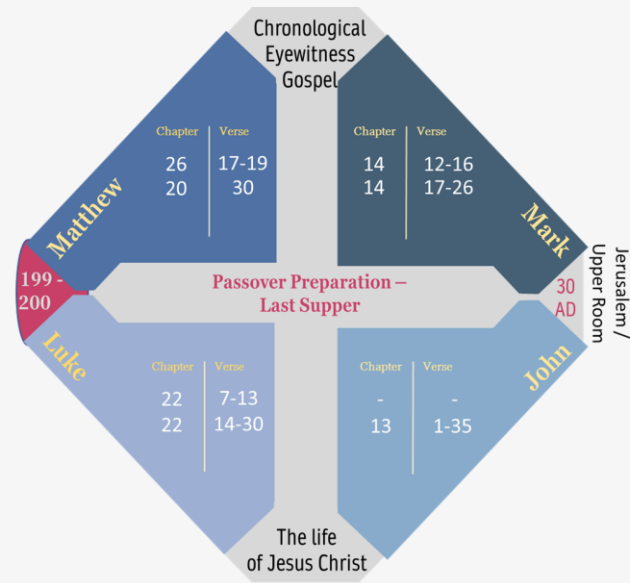
And Jesus told him, “You have said it.” Then Jesus told him, “Hurry and do what you’re going to do.”

None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. So Judas left at once, going out into the night.



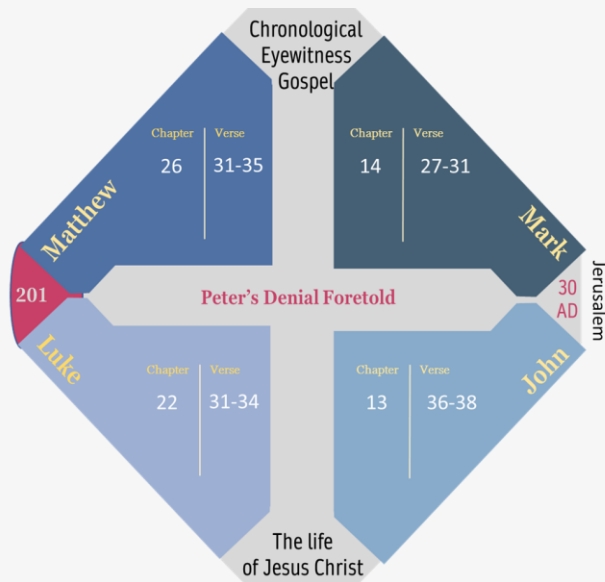
As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread, gave thanks to God for it and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



After supper he took another cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words - I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom - until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.”

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?”

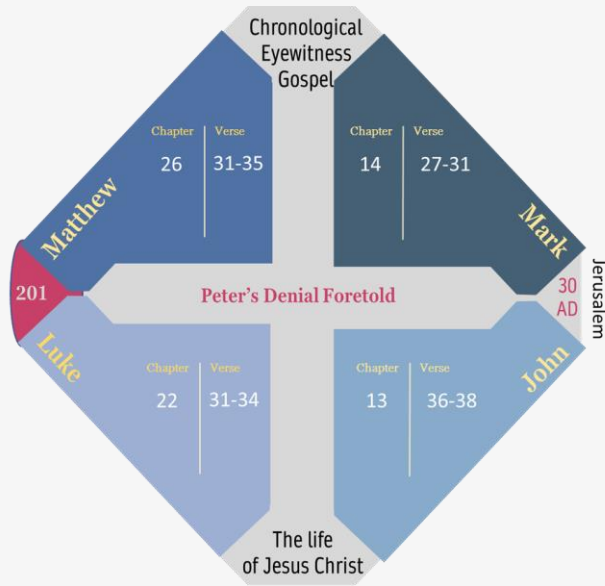
And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.”

“But why can’t I come now, Lord?” he asked. “I’m ready to die for you.”

On the way, Jesus told them, “Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say,
 ‘God will strike the Shepherd,
 and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”

Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.”



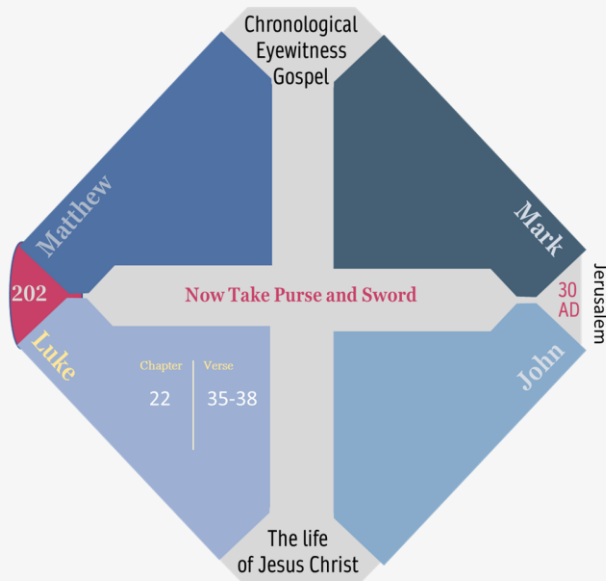
“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.”

Jesus answered, “Die for me? Peter, let me tell you something. I tell you the truth, this very night, before the rooster crows twice tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.

“No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!”

And all the others vowed the same.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

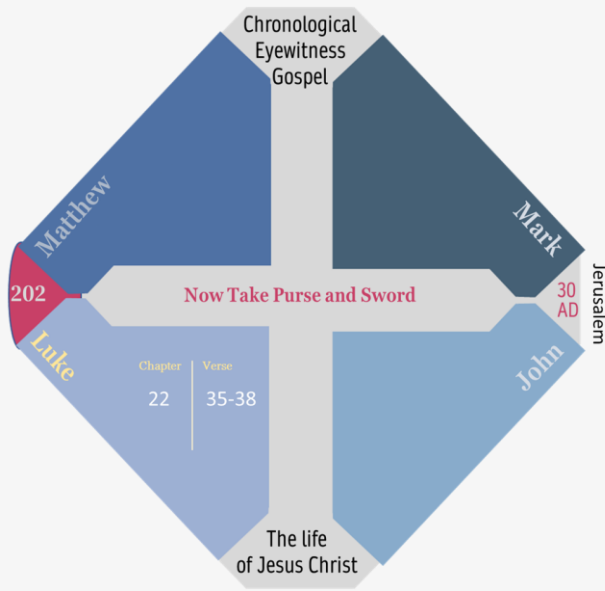
Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you out to preach the Good News and you did not have money, a traveler’s bag, or an extra pair of sandals, did you need anything?”

“No,” they replied.

“But now,” he said, “take your money and a traveler’s bag. And if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one! For the time has come for this prophecy about me to be fulfilled: ‘He was counted among the rebels.’ Yes, everything written about me by the prophets will come true.”

“Look, Lord,” they replied, “we have two swords among us.”

“That’s enough,” he said.

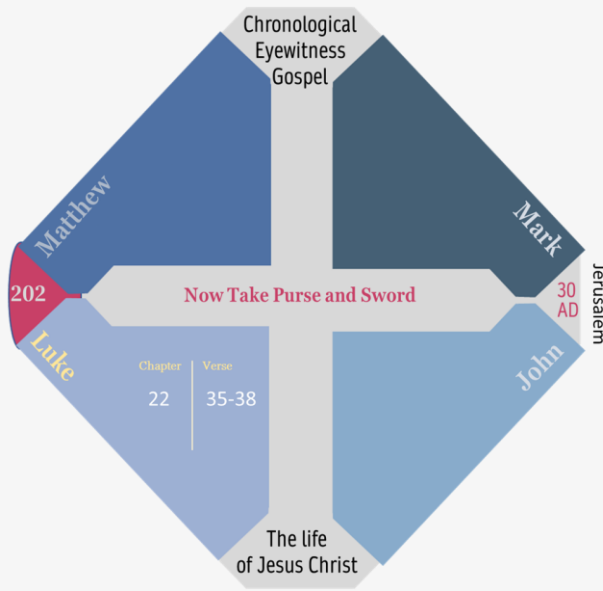


“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.”

“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

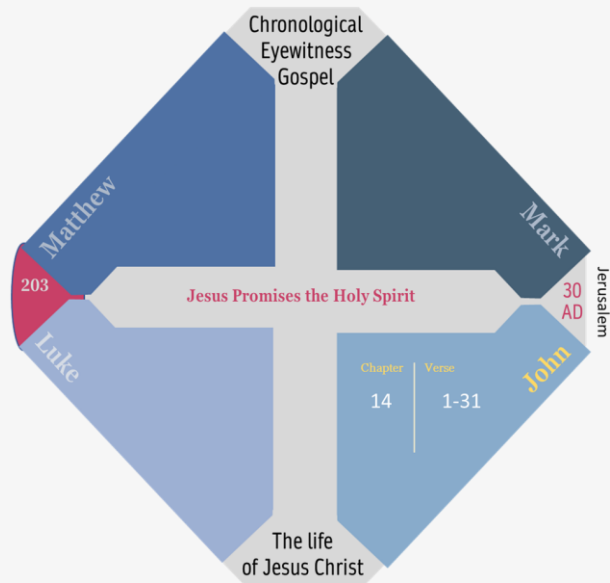
Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”



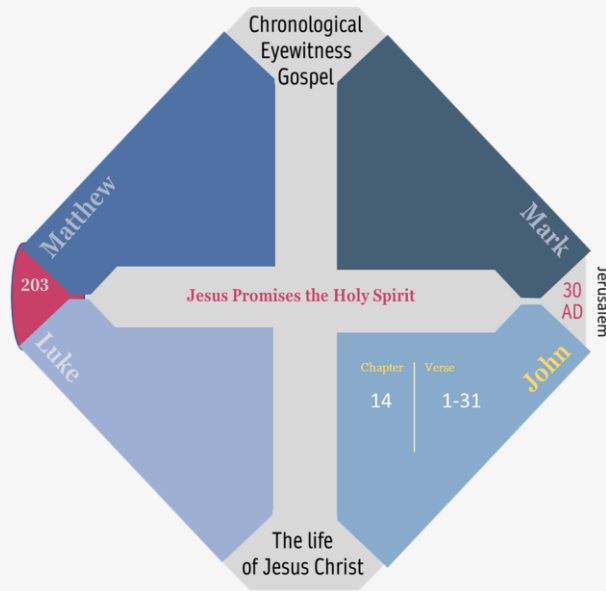
Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

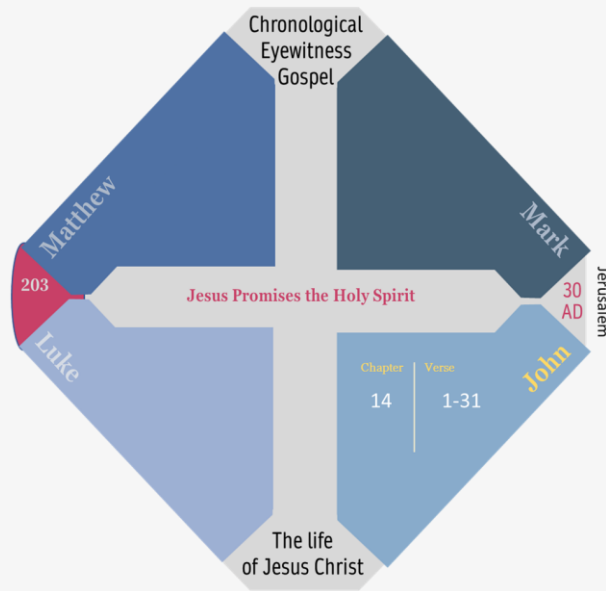
“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”



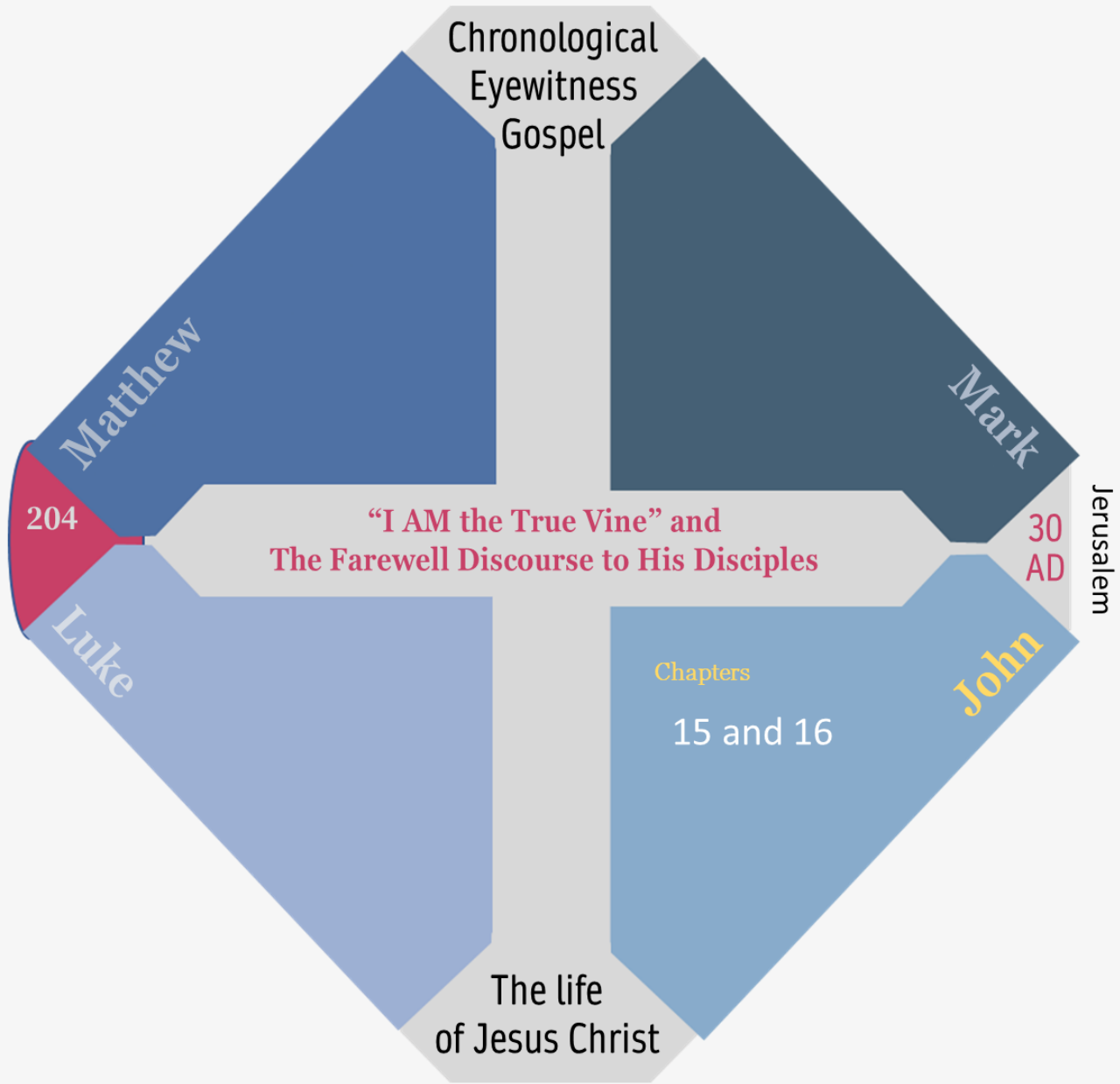
Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

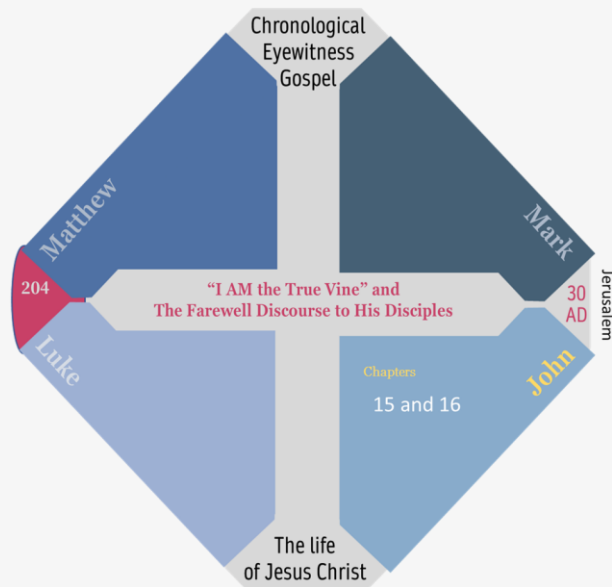
“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.



“I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let’s be going.



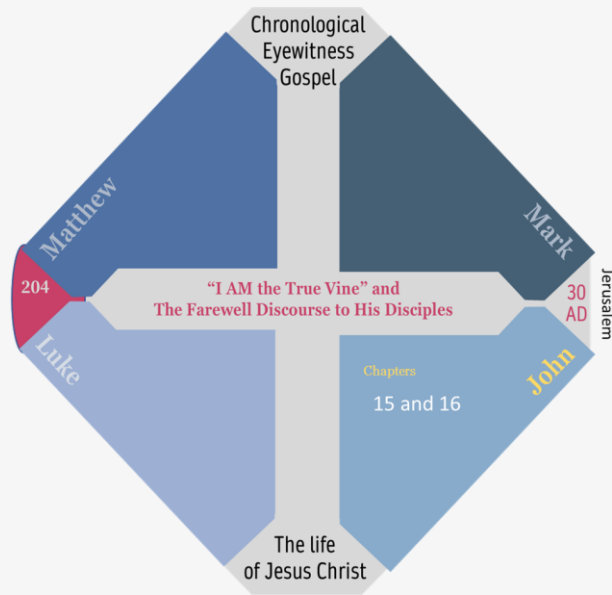
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

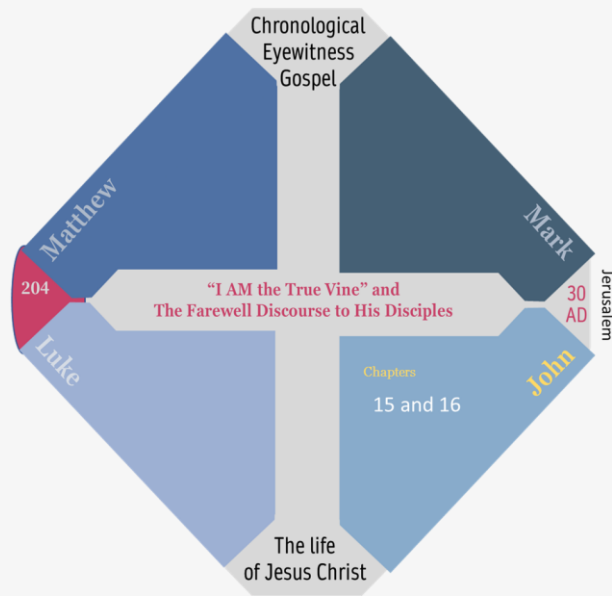
“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.



“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

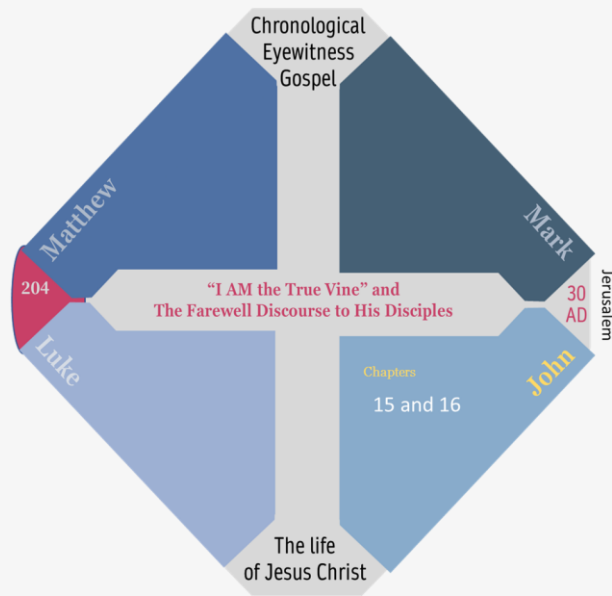
“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.



“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

“Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin.

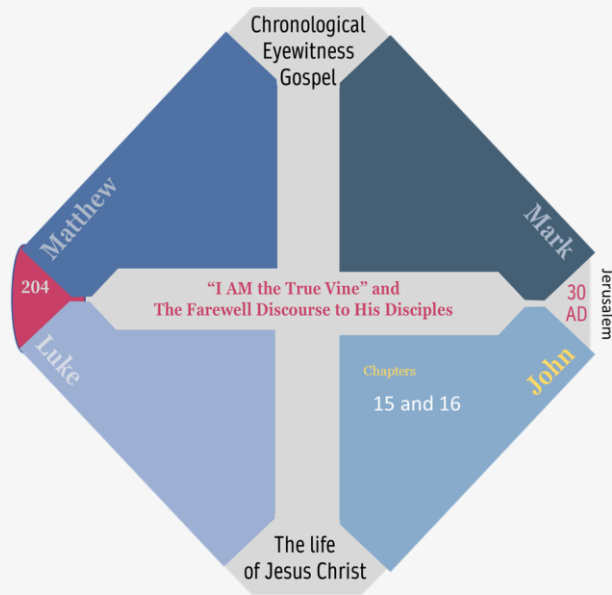
“Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’



“But I will send you the Advocate - the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

“I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith. For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. This is because they have never known the Father or me. Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.

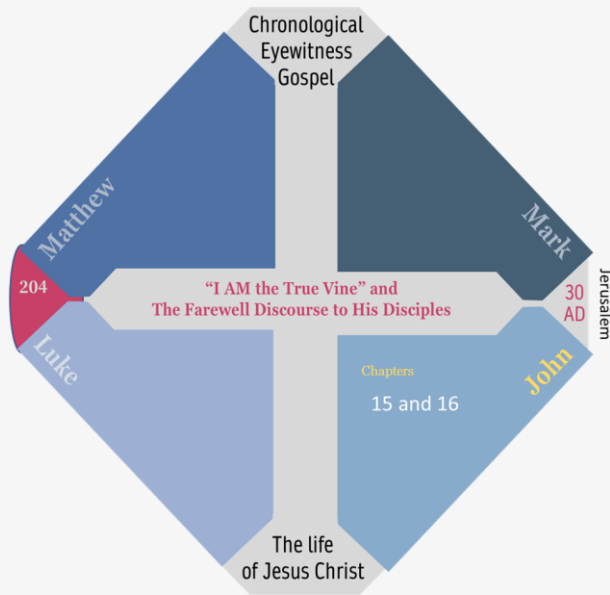
“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.



”And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

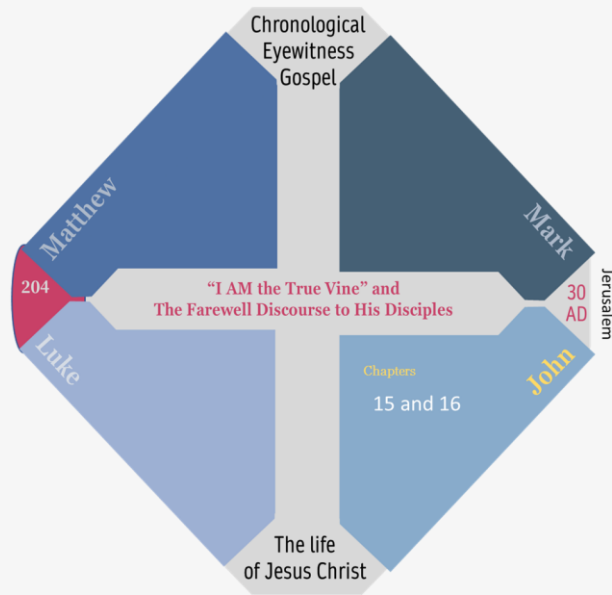
“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

“In a little while you won’t see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again.”



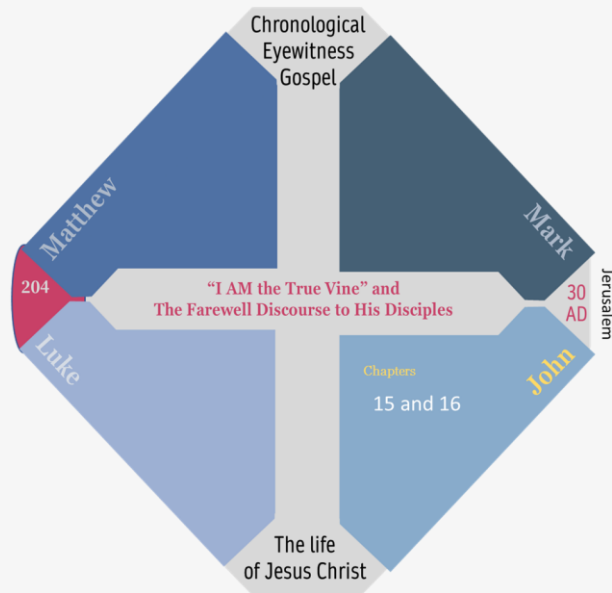
Some of the disciples asked each other, “What does he mean when he says, ‘In a little while you won’t see me, but then you will see me,’ and ‘I am going to the Father’? And what does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand.”

Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, “Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won’t see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy.



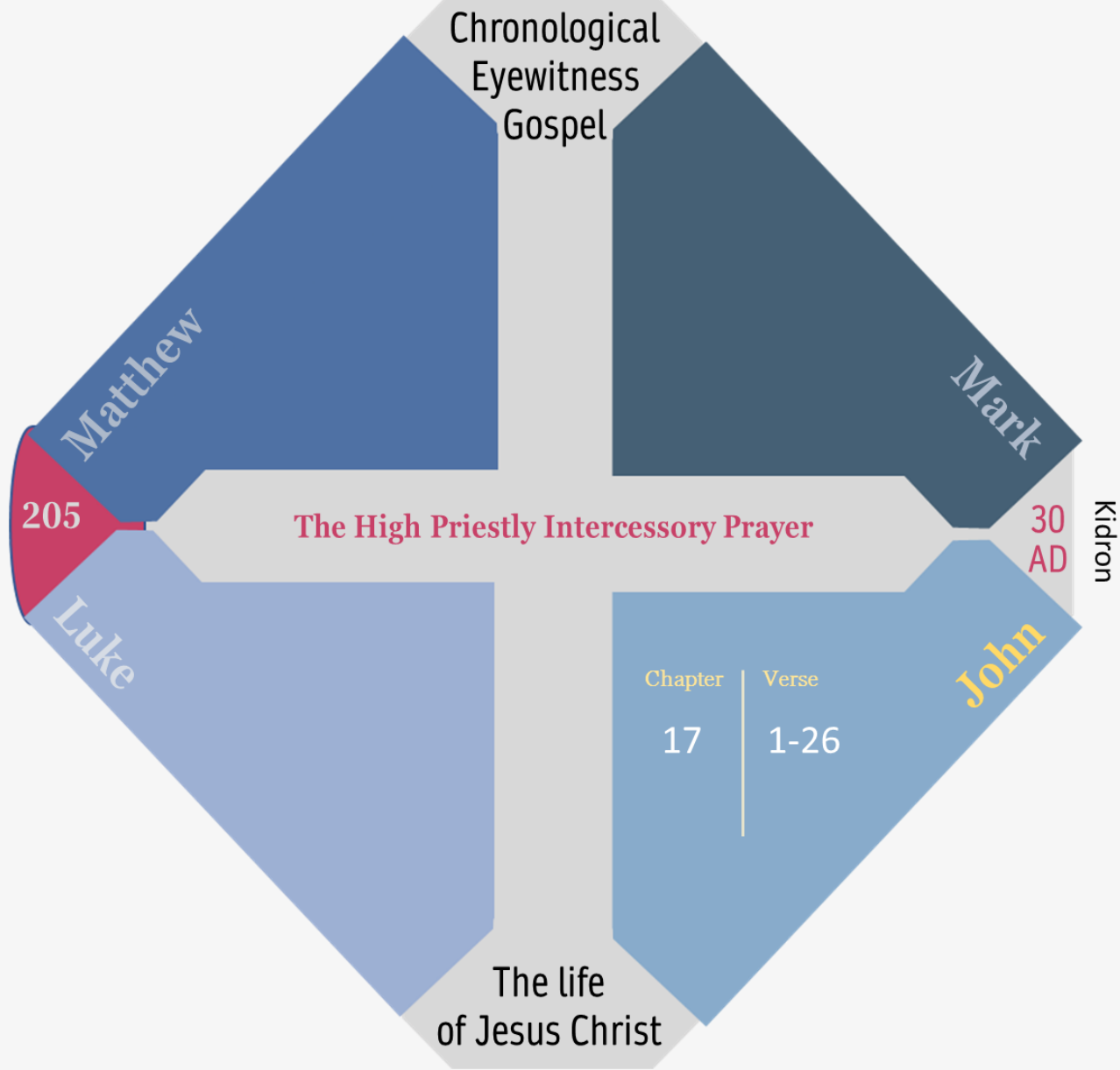
"It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

"I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God. Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father."

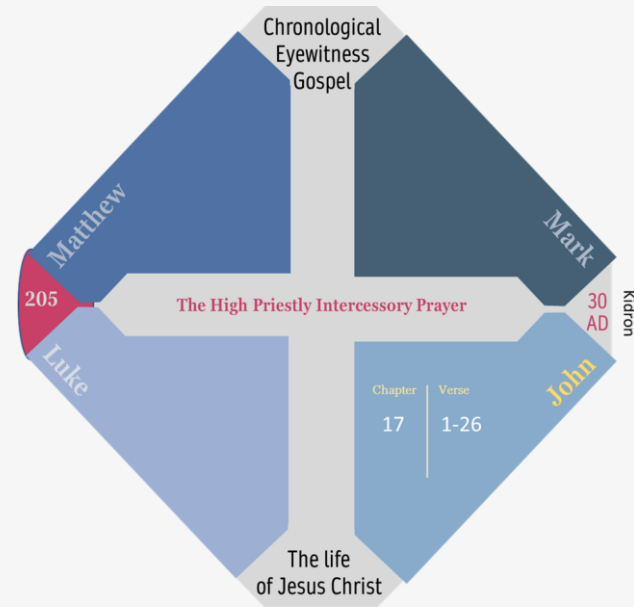


Then his disciples said, “At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively. Now we understand that you know everything, and there’s no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God.”

Jesus asked, “Do you finally believe? But the time is coming - indeed it’s here now - when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.”



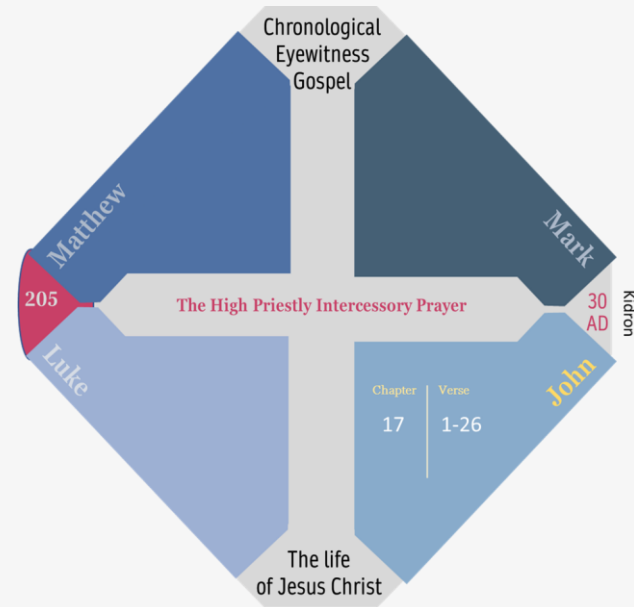
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



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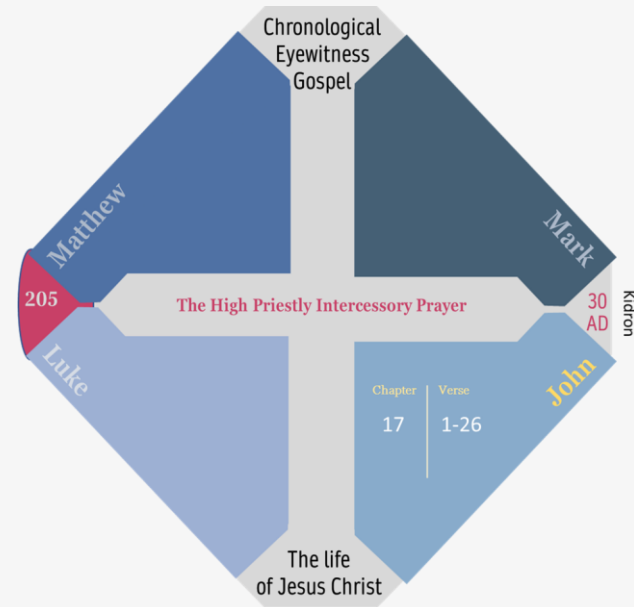
After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life - to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

“I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.



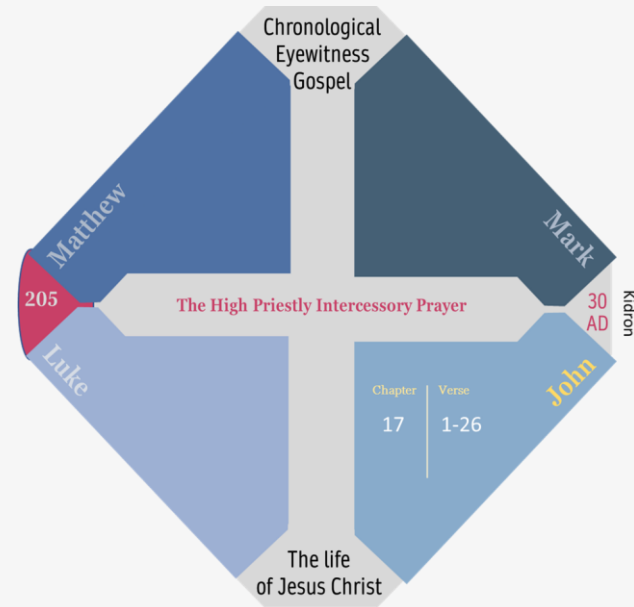
“My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. .”



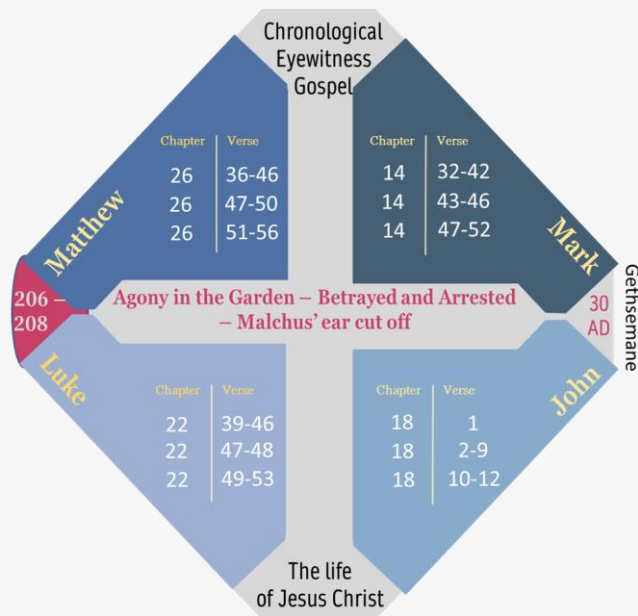
“I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.



“I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

“Oh righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

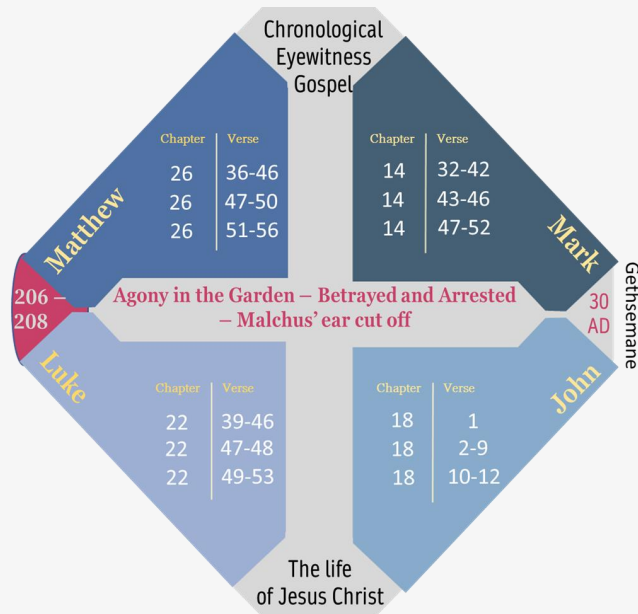


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John with him, and he became anguished, deeply troubled and distressed.

He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. Pray that you will not give in to temptation.”

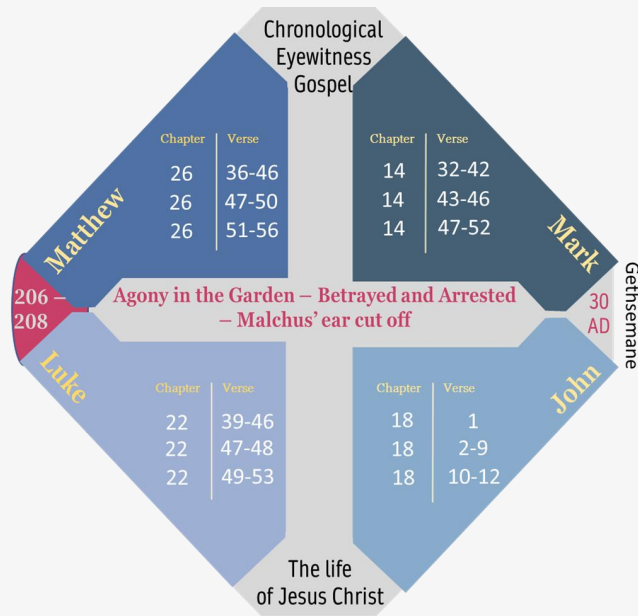
He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. “Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Father, if it is possible, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”



Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. **“Why are you sleeping?”** he asked them. **“Get up and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation.** He said to Peter, **“Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”**

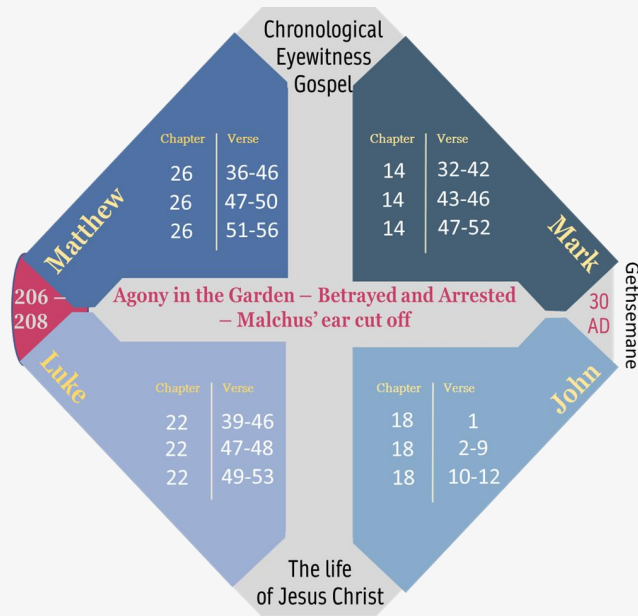
Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed the same prayer as before, **“My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.”** When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say.



So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. When he returned to them the third time, he came to the disciples and said, **“Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look, no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”**

And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people.

Judas, the betrayer, knew this place because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.



Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. “Who are you looking for?” he asked.

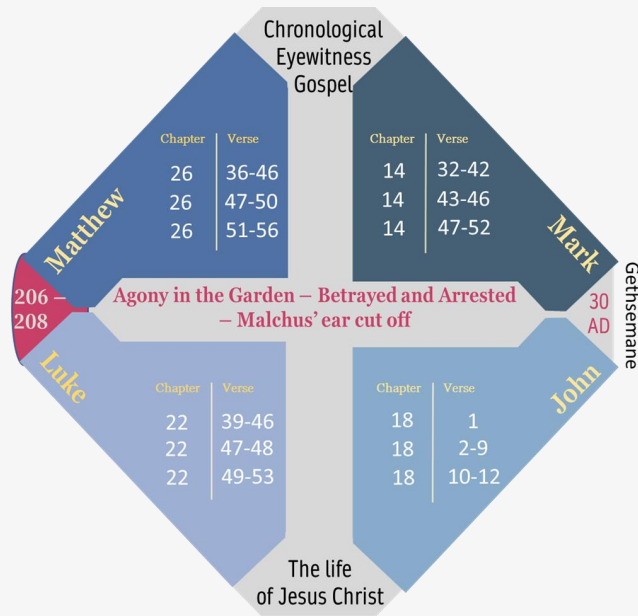
“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

“I AM he,” Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.)

As Jesus said, “I AM he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground! Once more he asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.”

“I told you that I AM he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.”



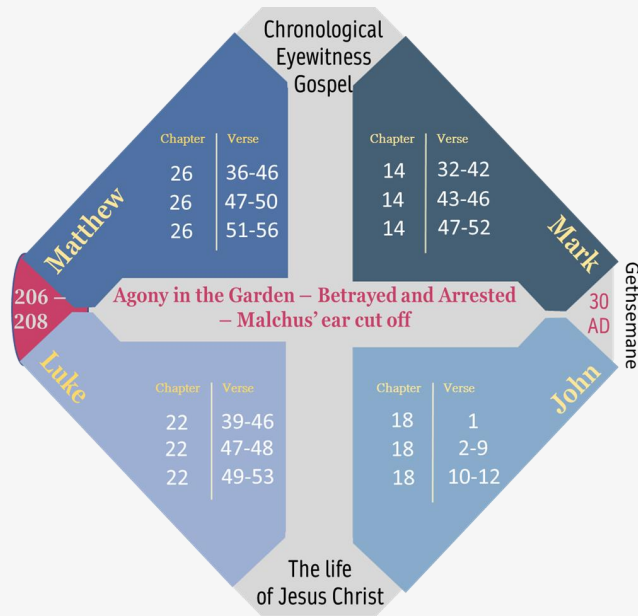
The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.” As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus, “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss.

Jesus said, “**“Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.”**”

Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

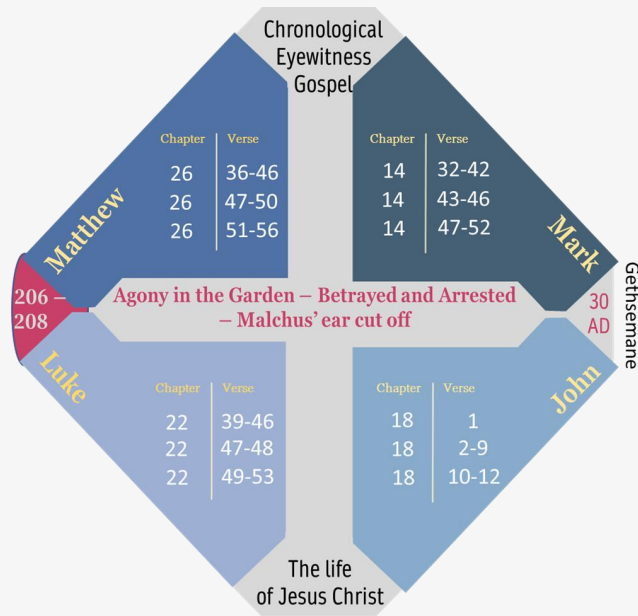
When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!”

Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant. But Jesus said, “**No more of this.**” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.



Then Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me? Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?”

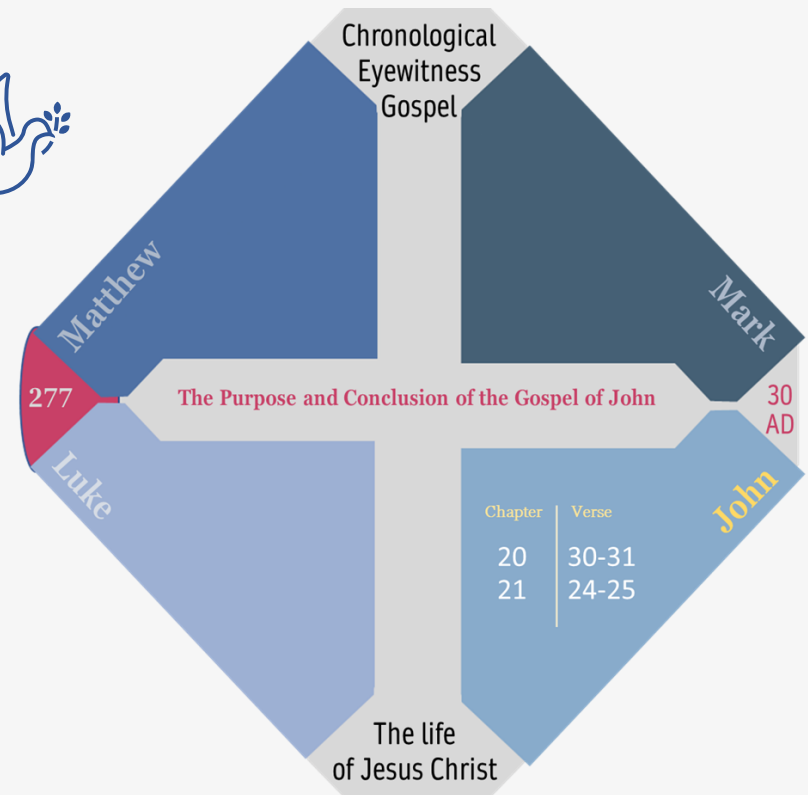
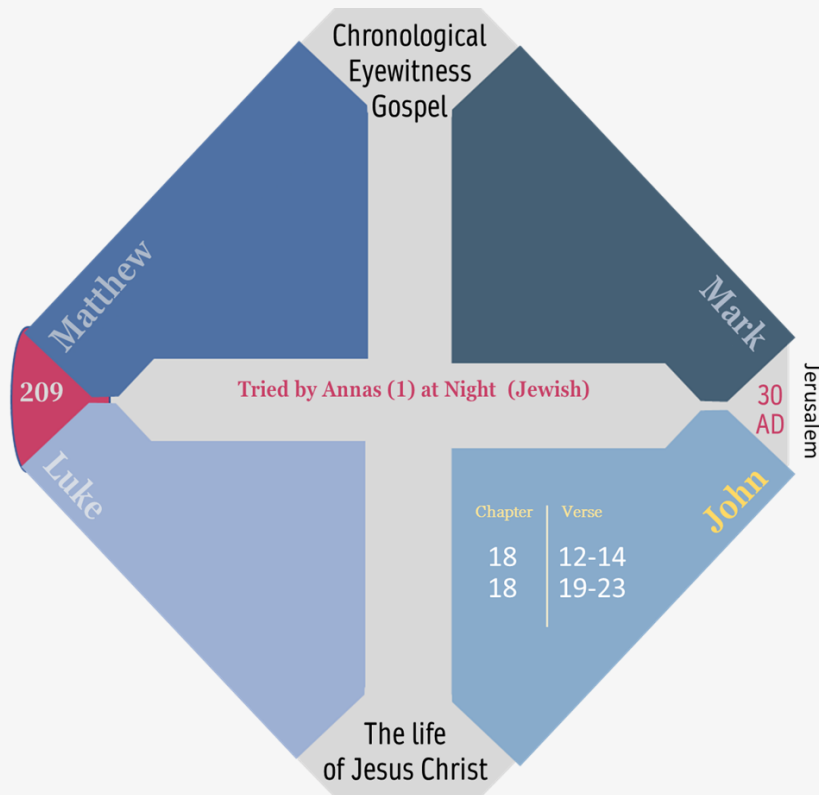
So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up.



In that same hour, Jesus said to the crowd leading priests, the captains of the Temple guard, and the elders who had come for him. “Am I some dangerous revolutionary,” he asked, “that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures - these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about me. This is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.”

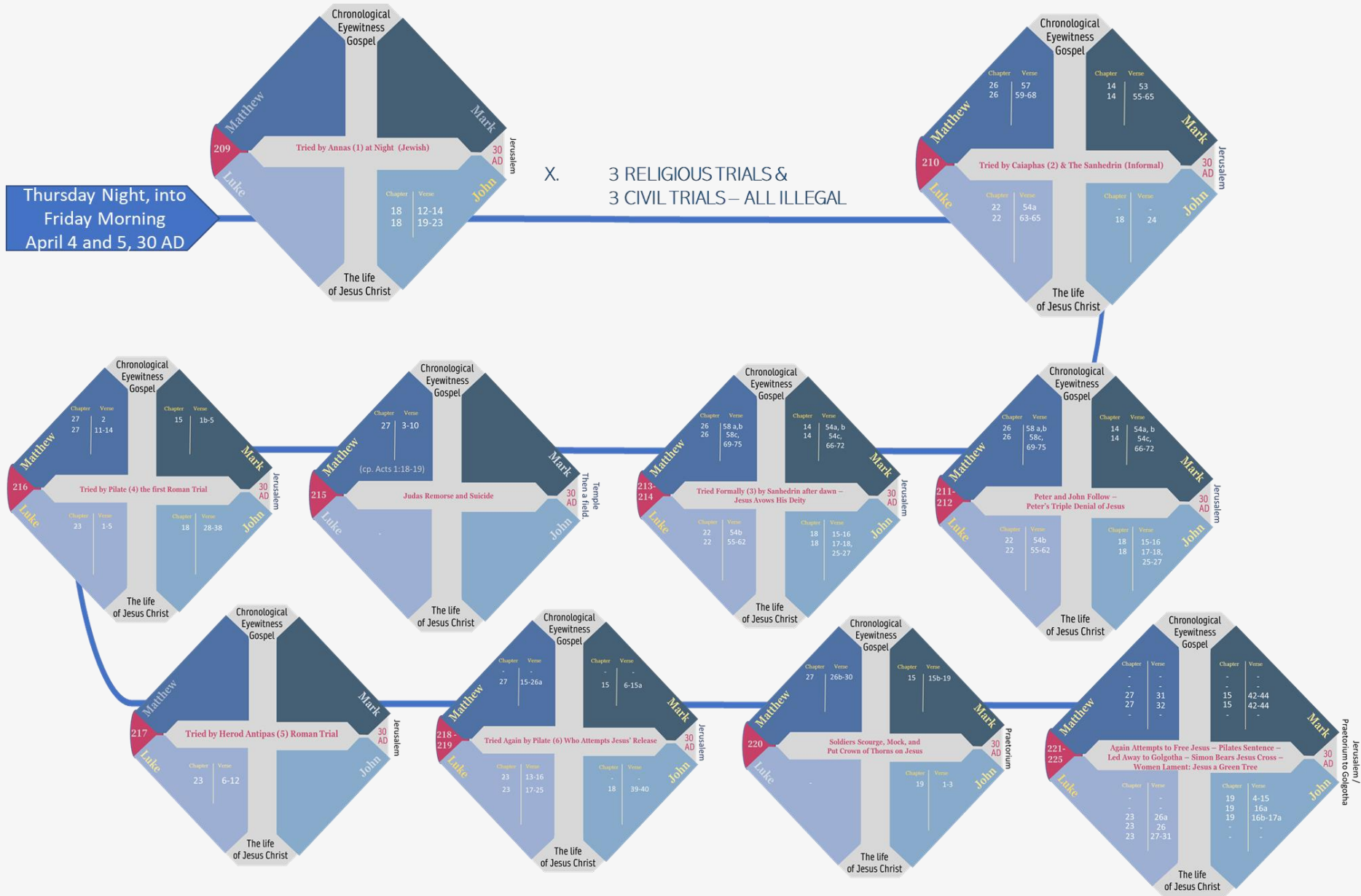
At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled. One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.

- X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL
- XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL
- XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS AFTERWARD

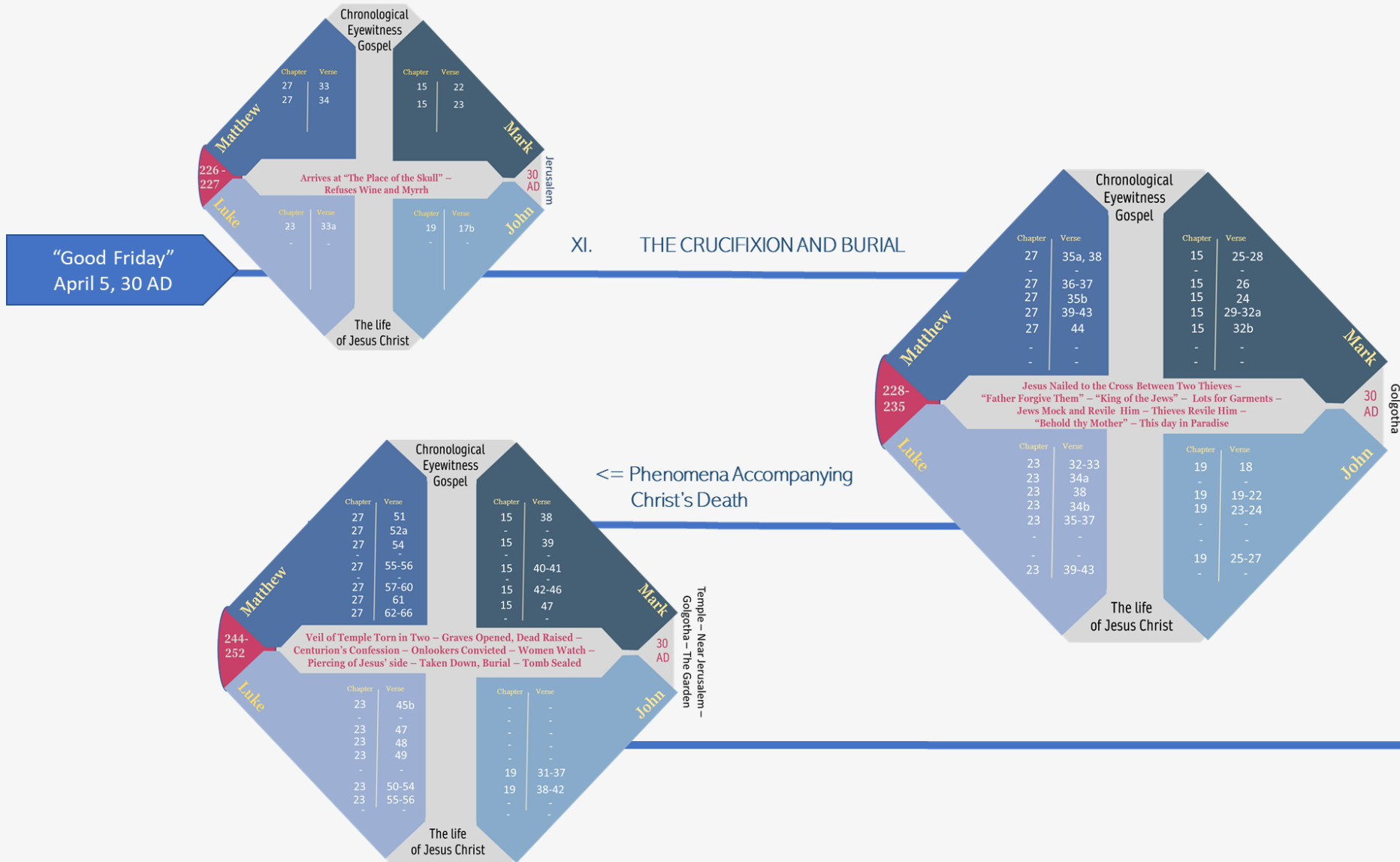


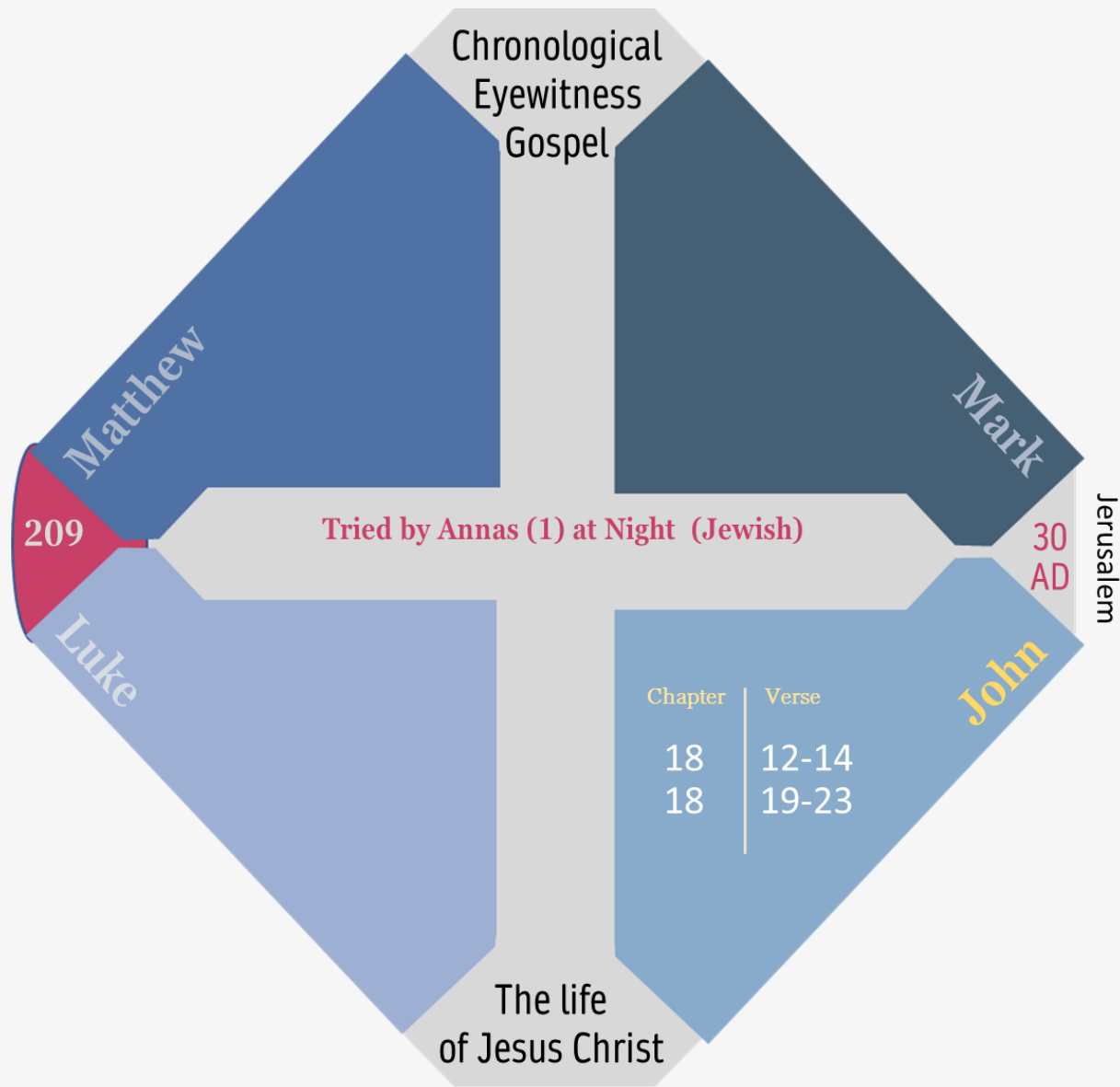
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 11



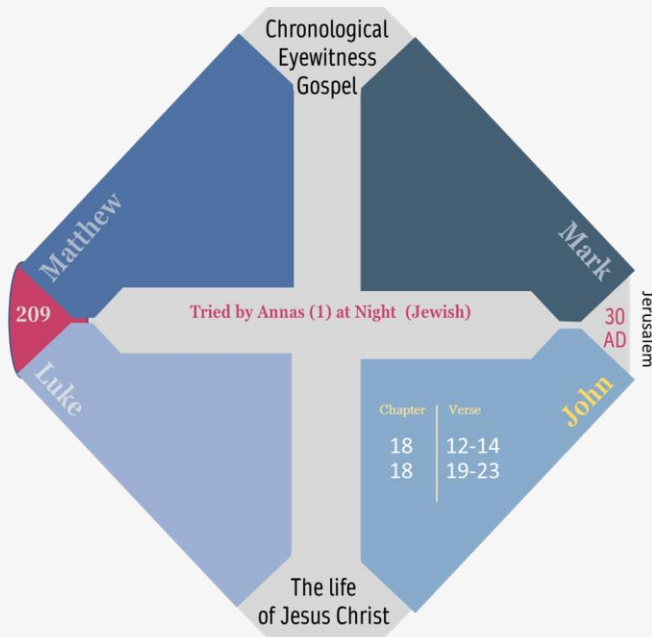
Episode 11





X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

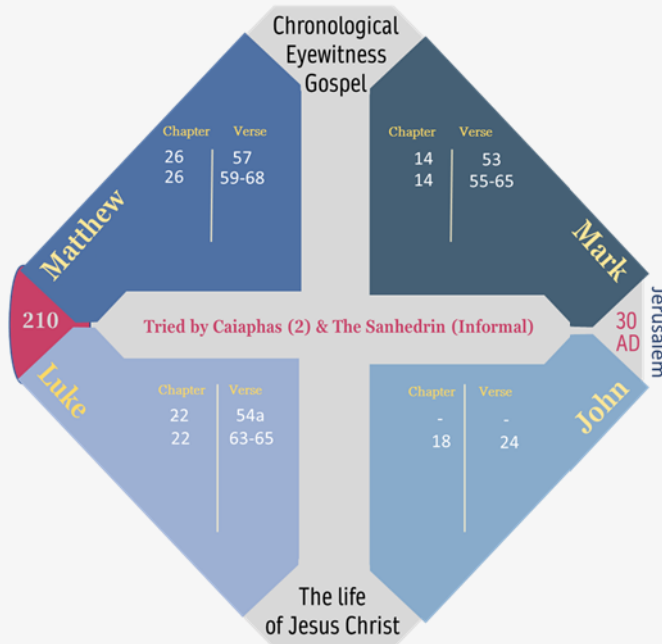
Episode 11



First, they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, “It’s better that one man should die for the people.”

Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered.

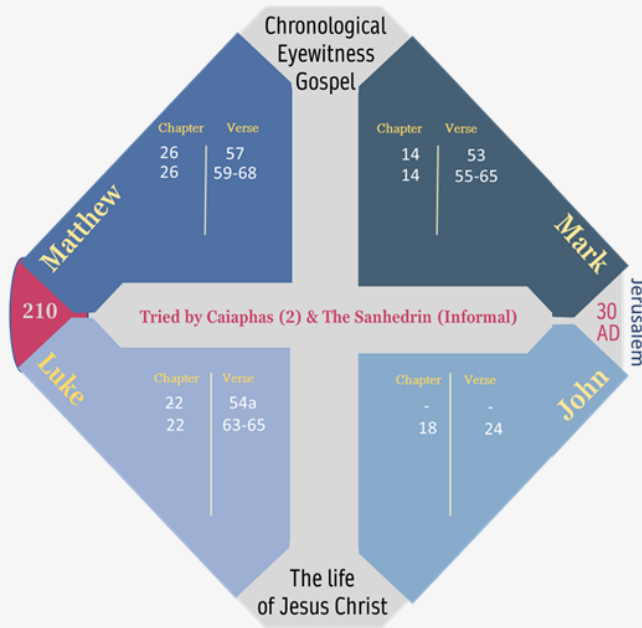
X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEG

Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against and witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any. Even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other.

Finally, two men came forward declared this false testimony: One said, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" The other testified, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Even then they didn't get their stories straight!

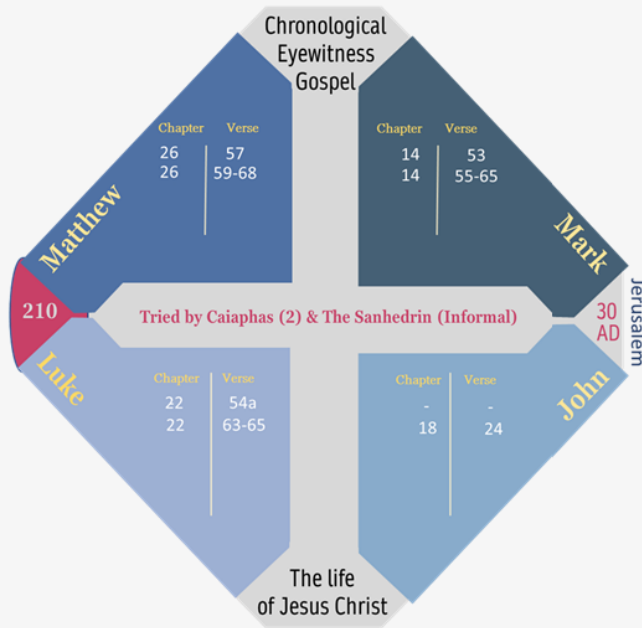


The high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. Jesus replied, “Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said.”

Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. “Is that the way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.

Jesus replied, “If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I’m speaking the truth, why are you beating me?”

Episode 11



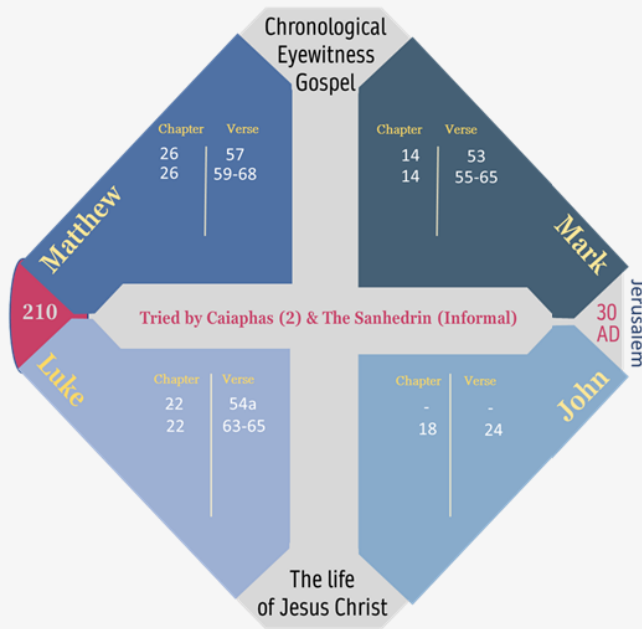
Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?” But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One? I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

Jesus said, “You have said it. I AM. And in the future, you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

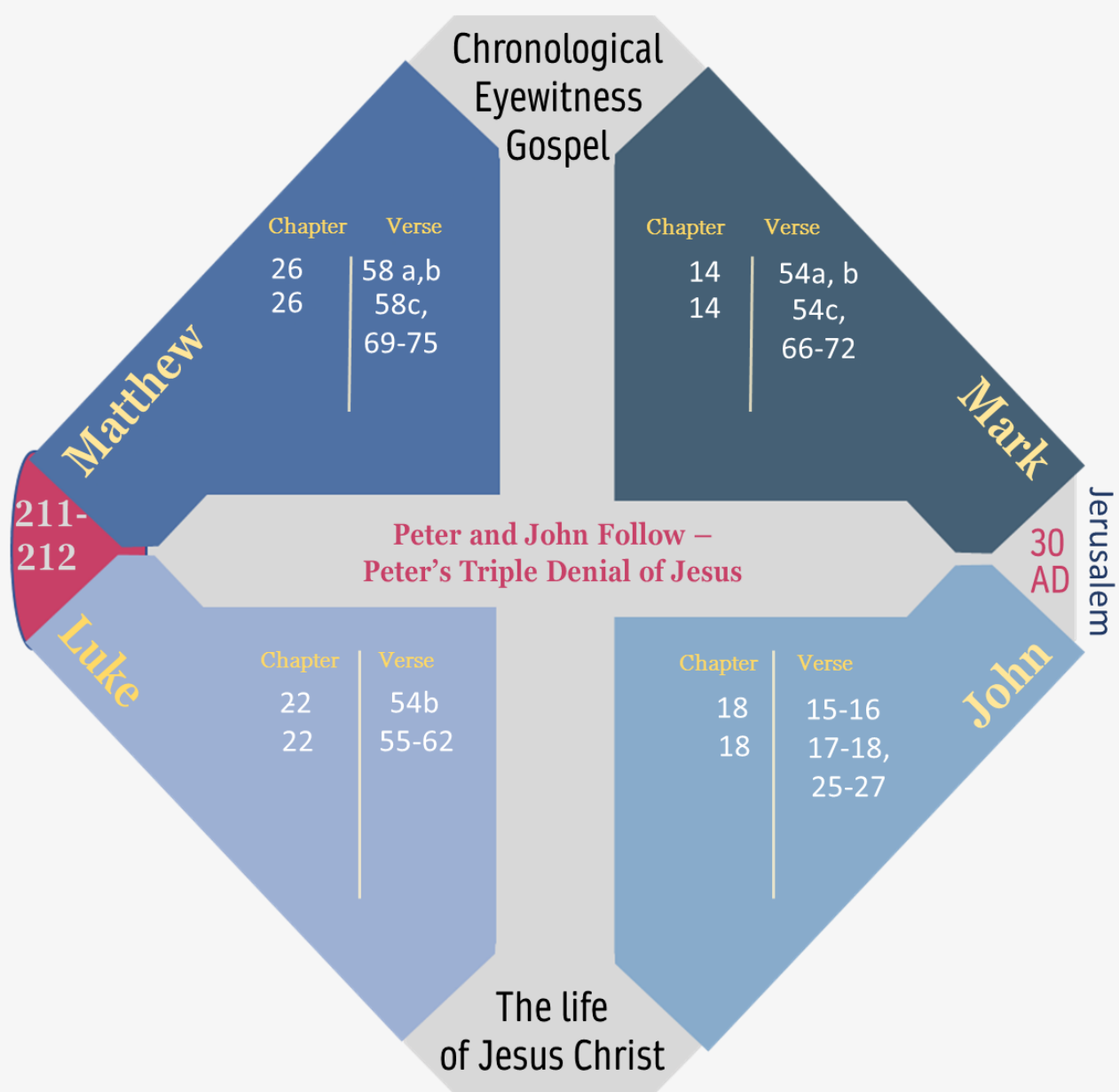
Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, ““Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?”

“Guilty!” they all shouted. “He deserves to die!”

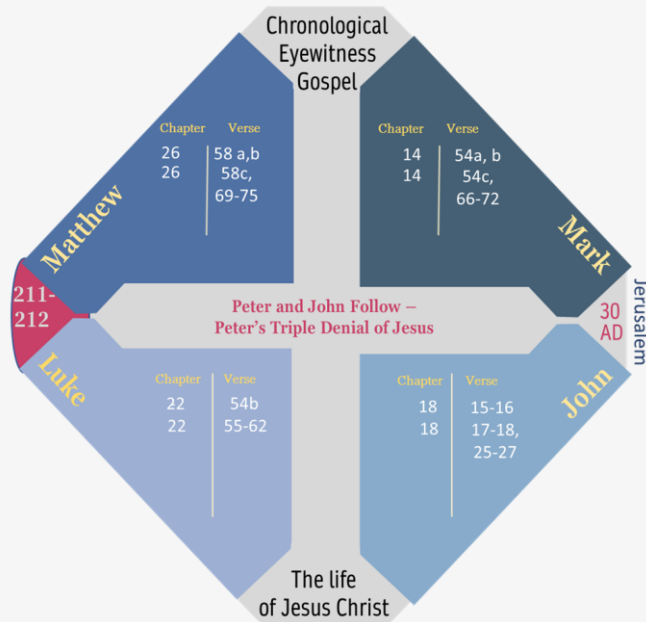
Episode 11



Then some of them began to spit in Jesus' face, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists, and some of them slapped him. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?" And the guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating him. They slapped him as they took him away, and they hurled all sorts of terrible insults at him.



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL



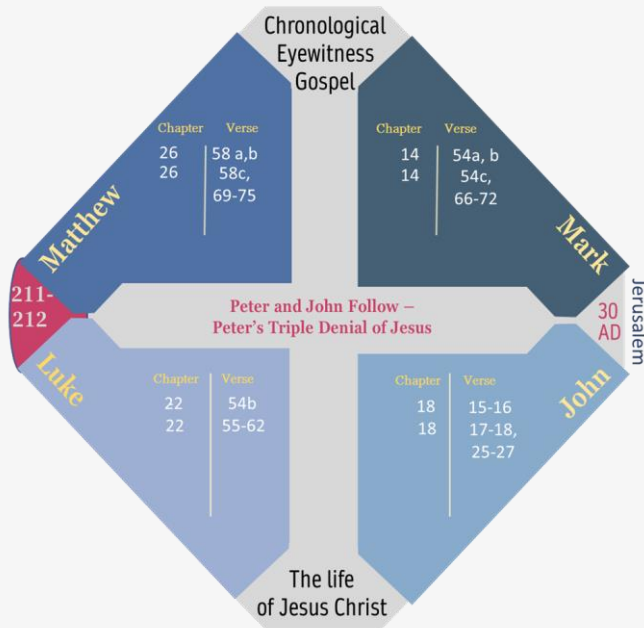
X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. But Peter had to stay outside the gate. Then the disciple who knew the high priest spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in.

The woman asked Peter, “You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?”

“No,” he said, “I am not.”

Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.

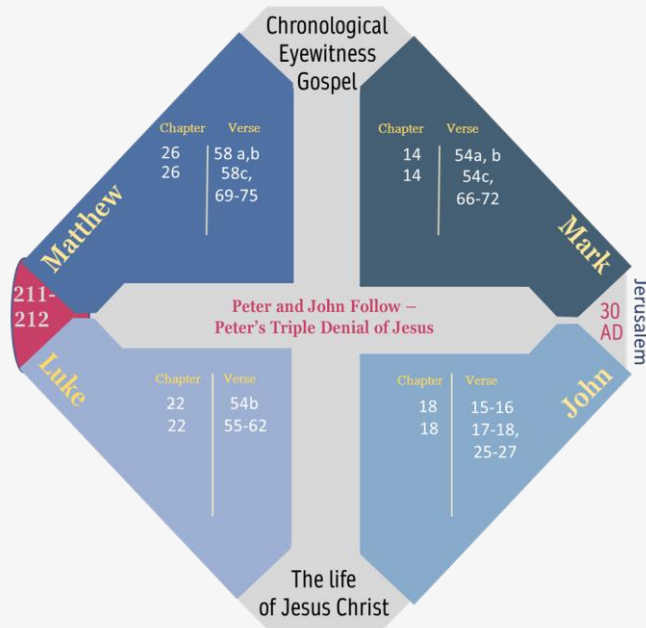


Meanwhile, as Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with the Galilean. You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.”

But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!”

“No, man, I’m not!” Peter retorted.

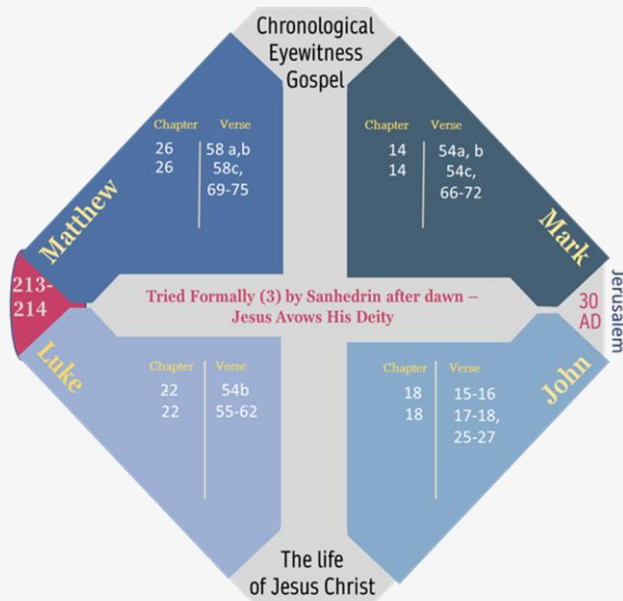
Peter denied it again, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said.



A little later, after about an hour, some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and someone else insisted, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean and he is a Galilean, too.”

Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying - Man, I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed the second time.

At that moment, the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “**Before the rooster crows twice tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.**” And he broke down and wept. He left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

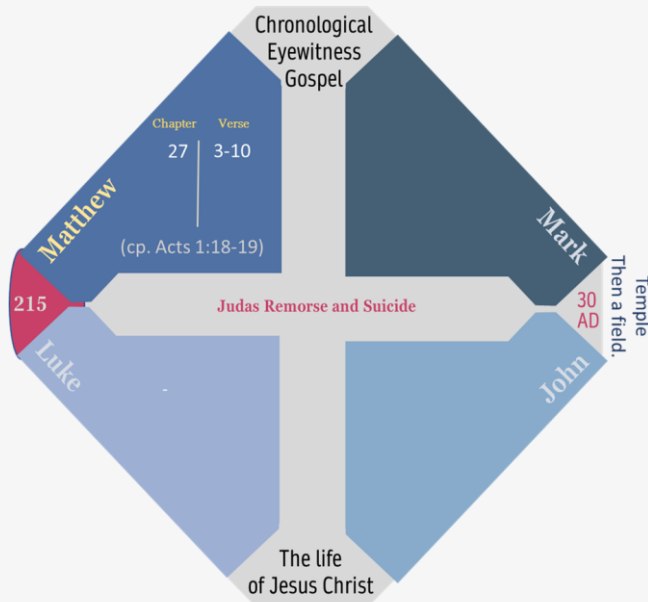
At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, “Tell us, are you the Messiah?”

But he replied, “If I tell you, you won’t believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won’t answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God’s right hand.”

They all shouted, “So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?”

And he replied, “You say that I am.”

“Why do we need other witnesses?” they said. “We ourselves heard him say it.”



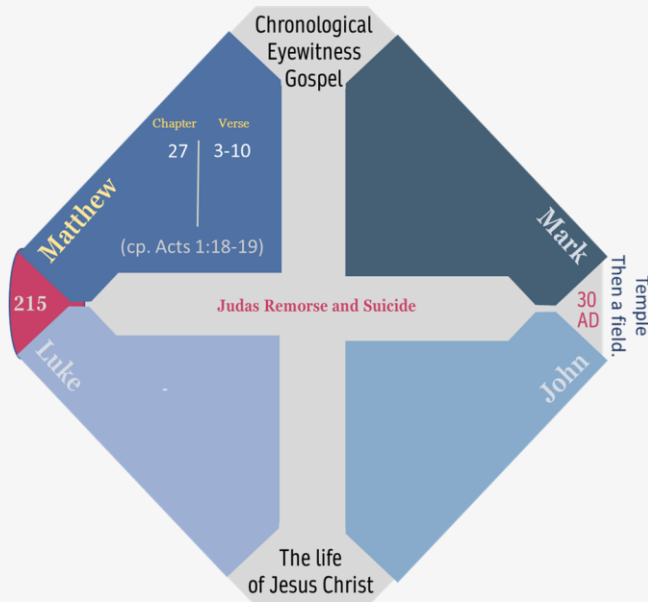
X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he declared, “for I have betrayed an innocent man.”

“What do we care?” they retorted. “That’s your problem.”

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

The leading priests picked up the coins. “It wouldn’t be right to put this money in the Temple treasury,” they said, “since it is the price for blood.”

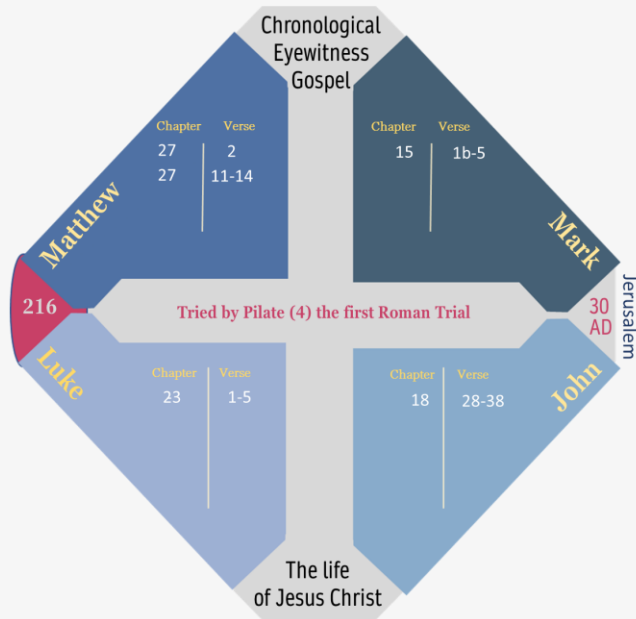


After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter's field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners. That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood.

(Note to reader: Acts 1:18 – 19 reports: Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means “Field of Blood.”)

This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah that says,

“They took the thirty pieces of silver—
the price at which he was valued by the people
of Israel,
and purchased the potter's field,
as the LORD directed.”



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

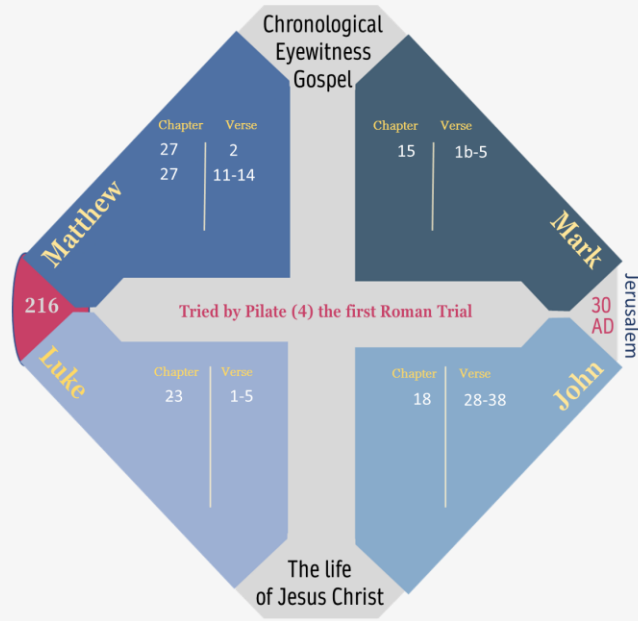
Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. The entire council took Jesus to Pilate.

His accusers didn’t go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn’t be allowed to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?” They began to state their case: “This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king.”

“Then take him away and judge him by your own law,” Pilate told them.

“We wouldn’t have handed him over to you if he weren’t a criminal! Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied. (This fulfilled Jesus’ prediction about the way he would die.)

Episode 11

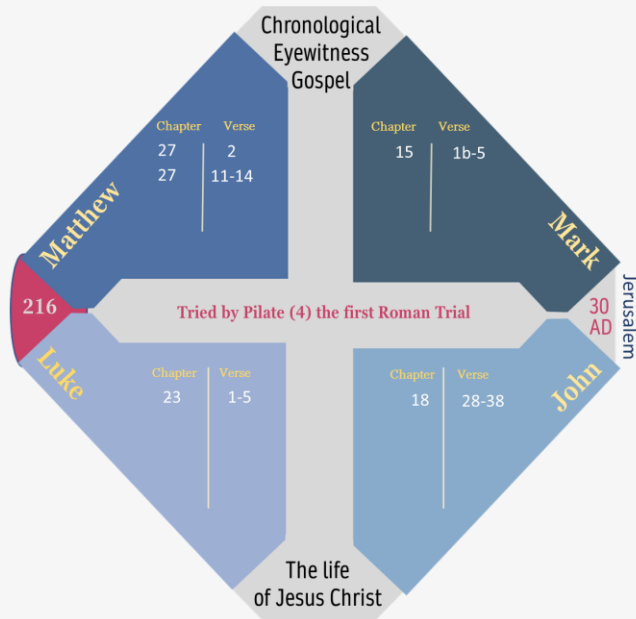


Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him.

Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”



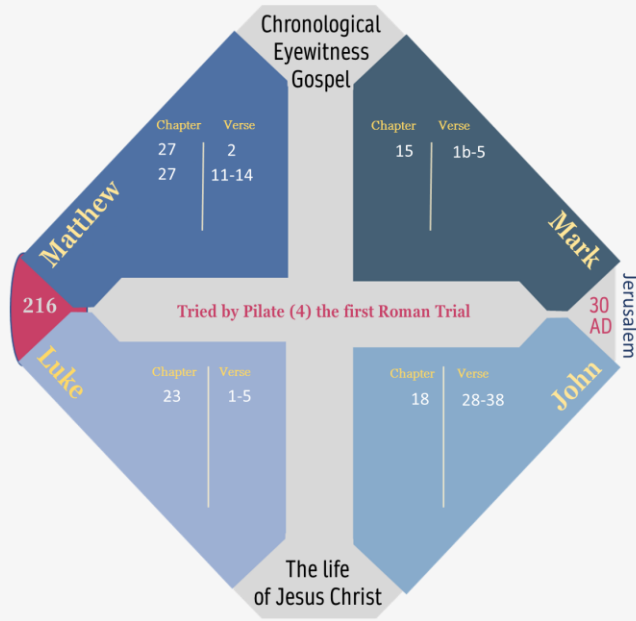
Pilate said, “So you are a king?”

Jesus responded, “You have said it. You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime.

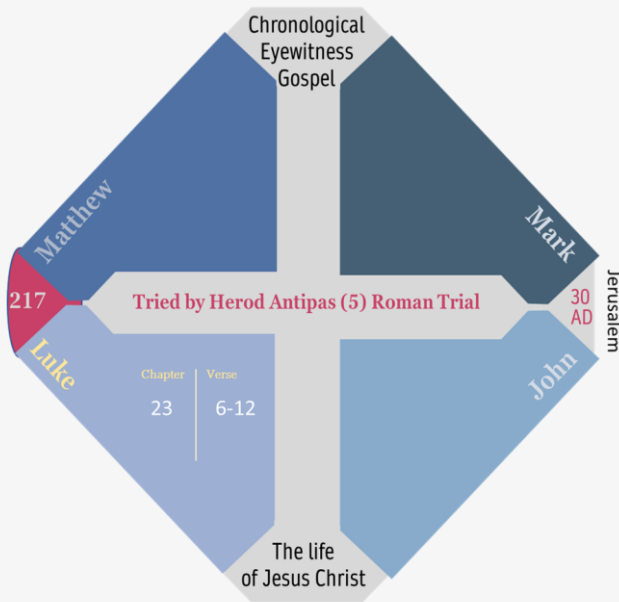
But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them?” But Jesus said nothing.

Episode 11



“Don’t you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?” Pilate demanded. But much to the governor’s surprise, Jesus made no response to any of the charges.

Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, “I find nothing wrong with this man!” Then they became insistent. “But he is causing riots by his teaching wherever he goes—all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!”



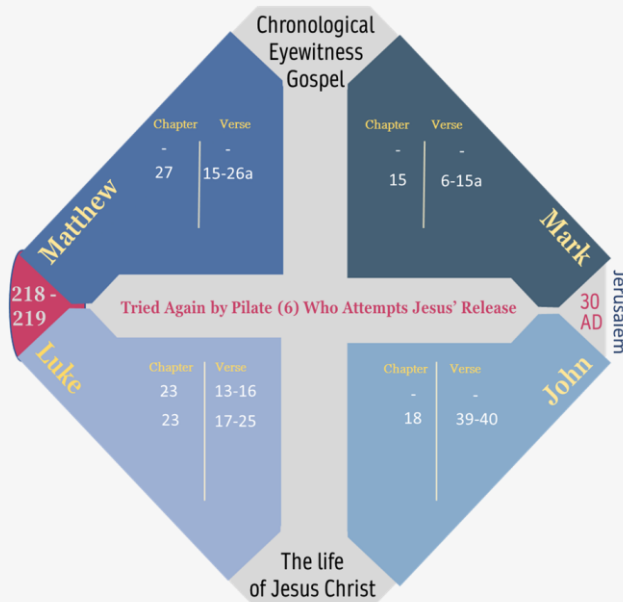
X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

“Oh, is he a Galilean?” Pilate asked. When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod’s jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.

Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer. Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations.

Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.)

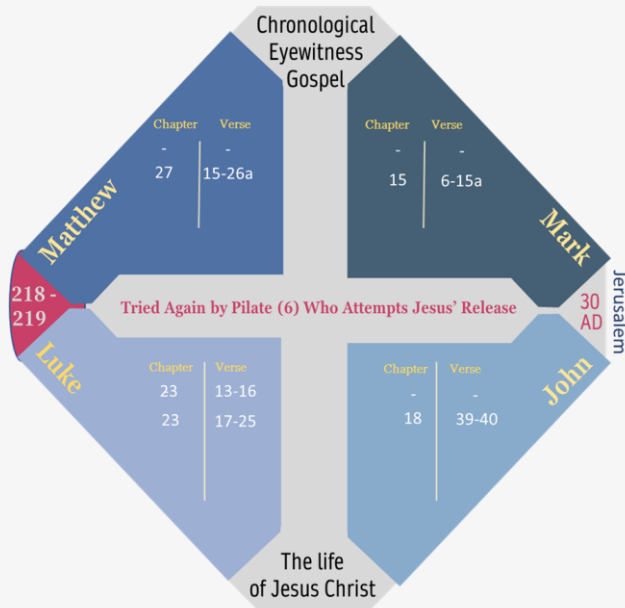
Episode 11



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, and he announced his verdict. “You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him.”

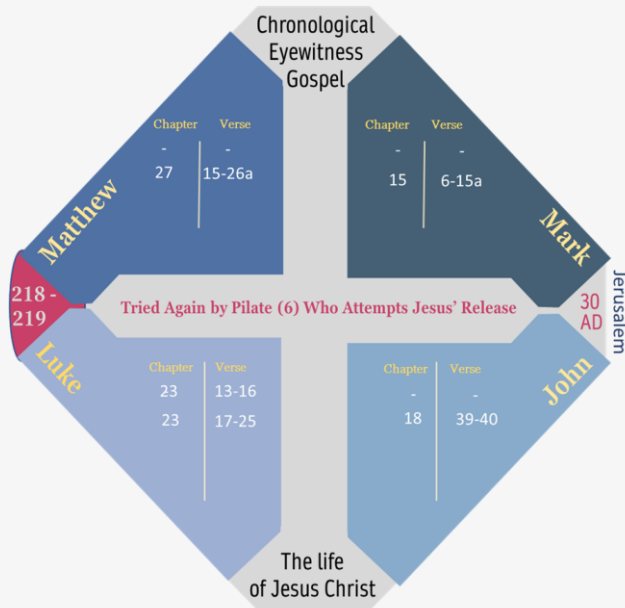
Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd - anyone the people requested, anyone they wanted. This year, one of the prisoners at that time was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.)



As the crowds gathered before Pilate’s house that morning, a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, “Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!” Pilate argued with them because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?” Pilate asked, “Which one do you want me to release to you - Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

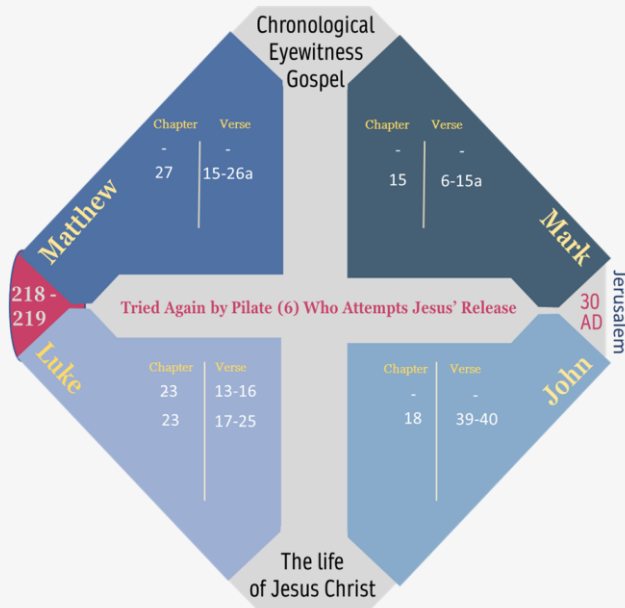
Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: “Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.”



Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus.

The crowd shouted back, “No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!”

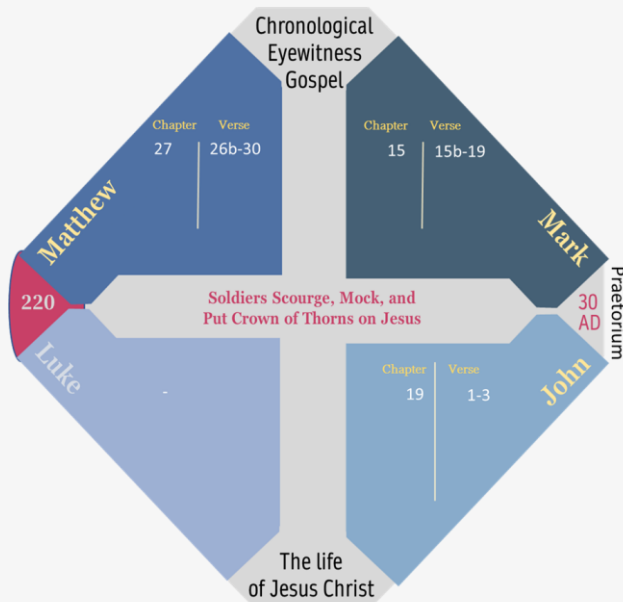
For the third time he demanded, “Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him.”



But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!"

And all the people yelled back, "We will take responsibility for his death - his blood be on us and on our children!"

So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. To pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished.

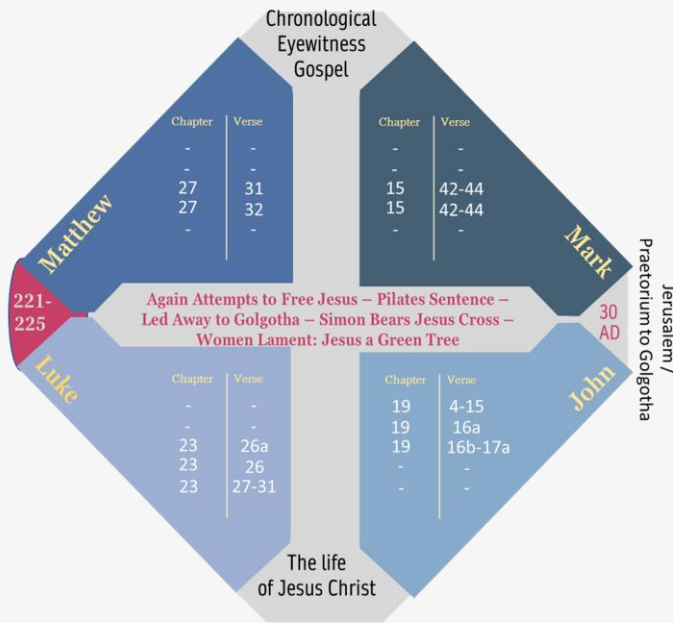


X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

Then Pilate ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. The soldiers wove thorn branches into a crown of thorns and put it on his head, they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter, and they put a purple robe on him. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it.



X. 3 RELIGIOUS TRIALS & 3 CIVIL TRIALS – ALL ILLEGAL

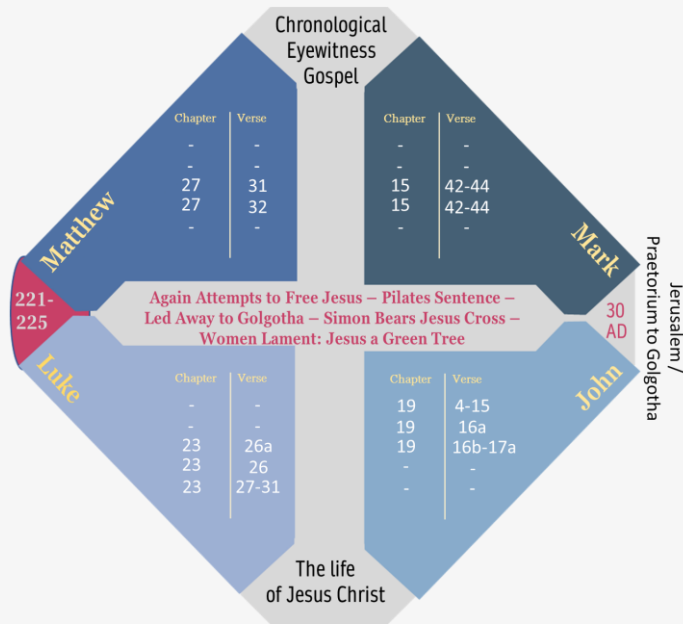
Pilate went outside again and said to the people, “I am going to bring him out to you now but understand clearly that I find him not guilty.”

Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, “Look, here is the man!”

When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“Take him yourselves and crucify him,” Pilate said. “I find him not guilty.”

The Jewish leaders replied, “By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God.”

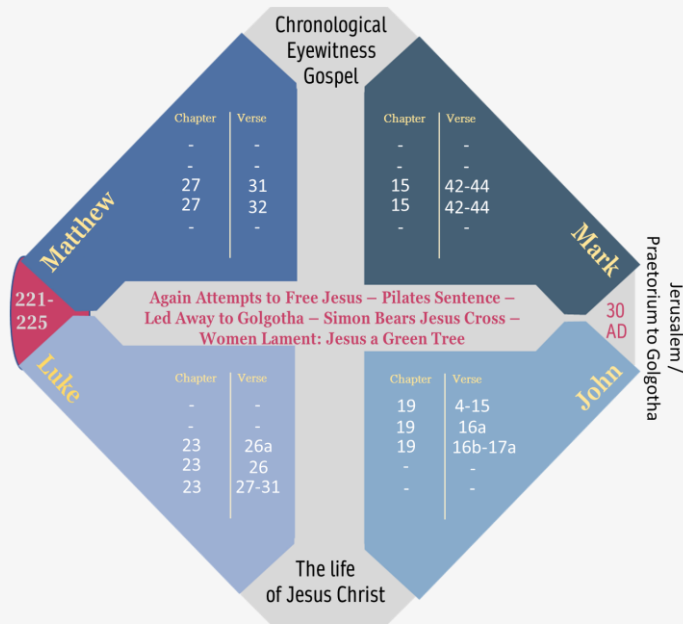


When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. “Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?”

Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.”

When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again.



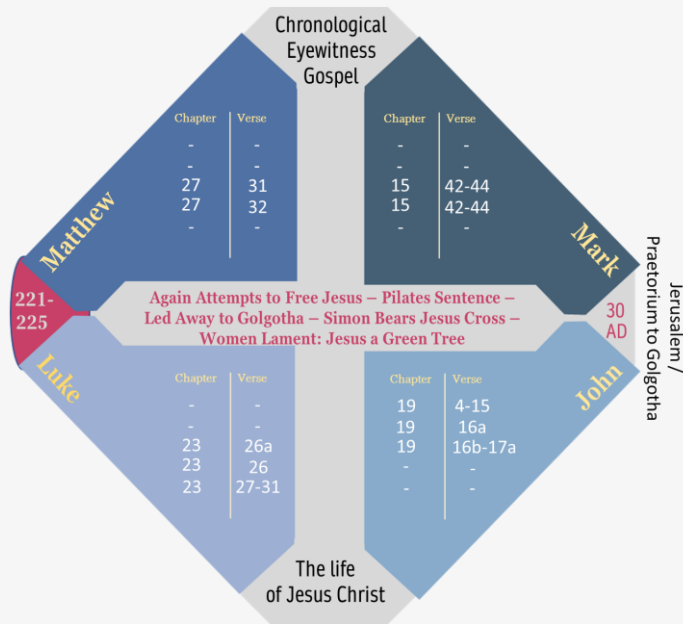
Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!”

“Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!”

“What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

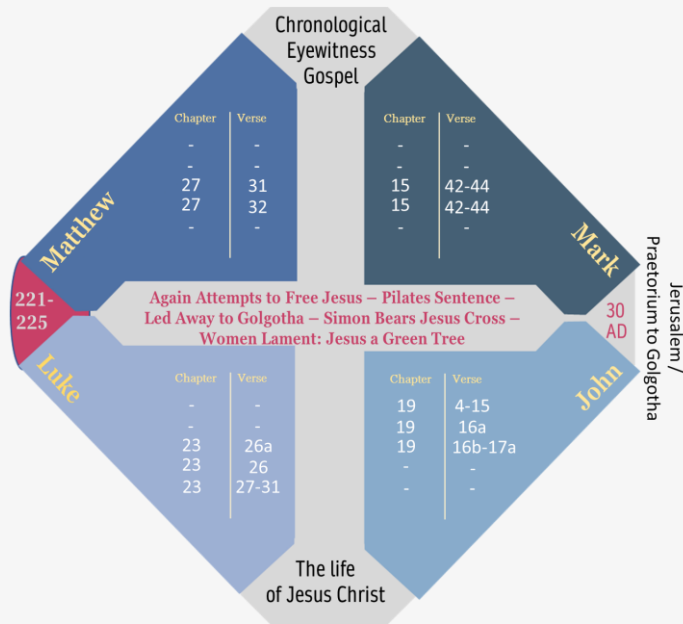
“We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.

Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.



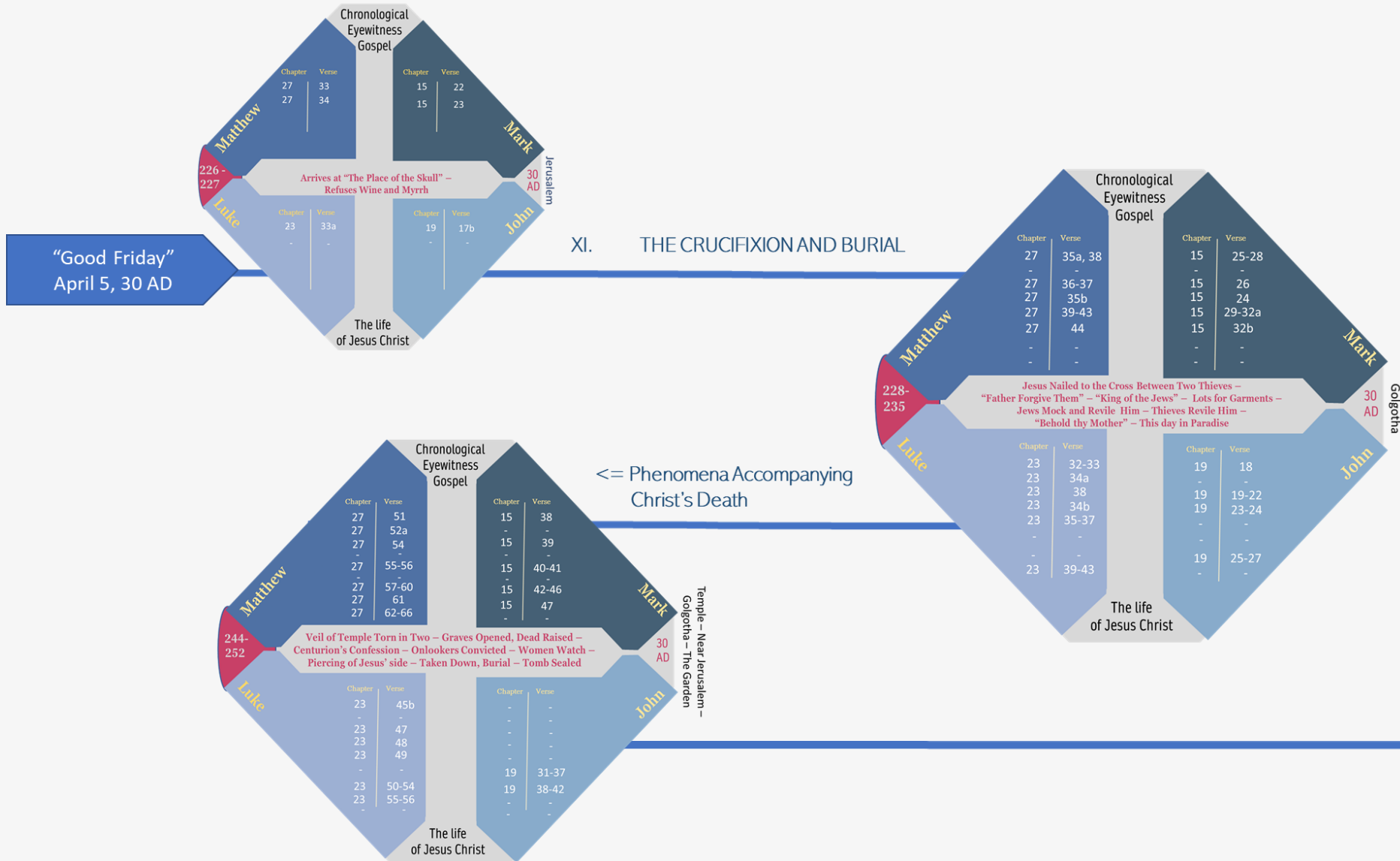
So they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by himself. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

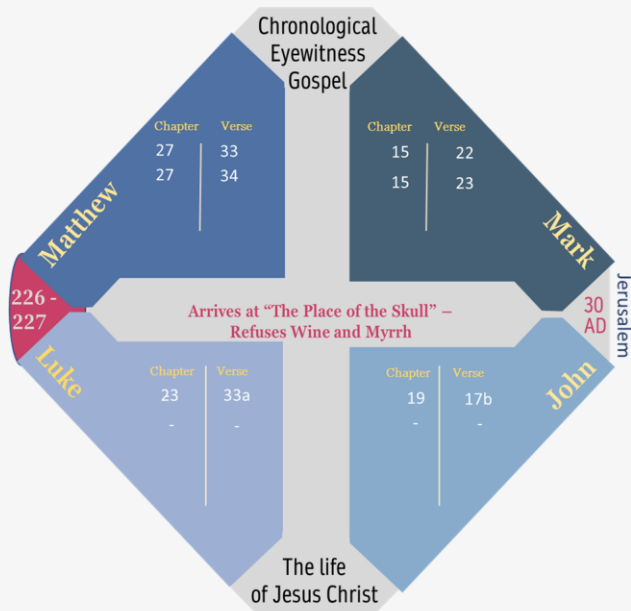
Along the way, they came across a passerby, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene. He happened to be coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.



A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Episode 11

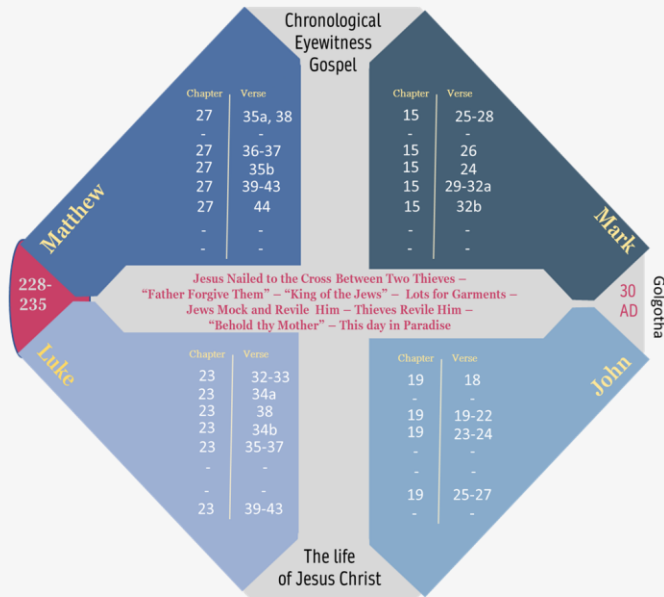




XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

When they came to a place called “The Place of The Skull” (in Hebrew *Golgotha*, in *Latin Calvary*).

They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it.

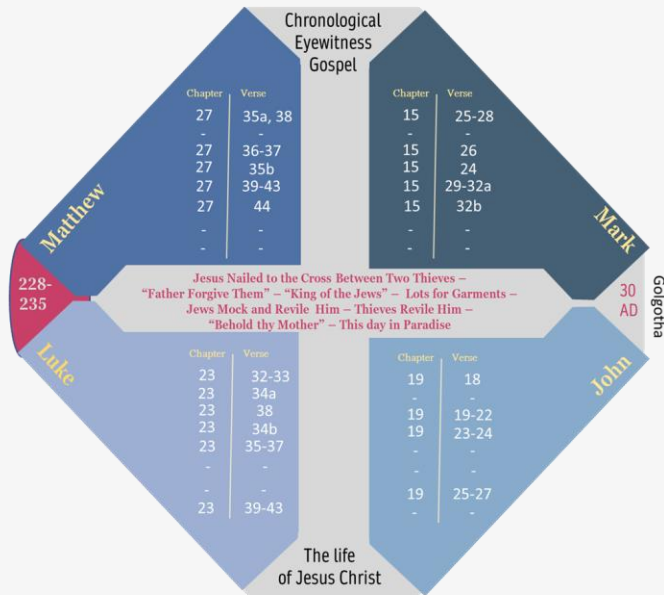


XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to the “Place called The Skull,” they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified - one on his right and one on his left. There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

And the Scripture was fulfilled that said, “He was counted among those who were rebels.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

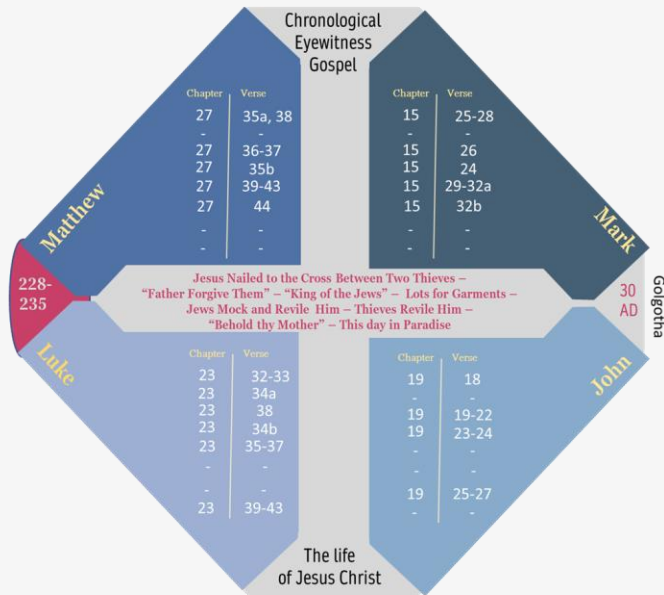


Pilate posted a sign on the cross. A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it.

Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, “Change it from ‘The King of the Jews’ to ‘He said, I am King of the Jews.’”

Pilate replied, “No, what I have written, I have written.”

Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.

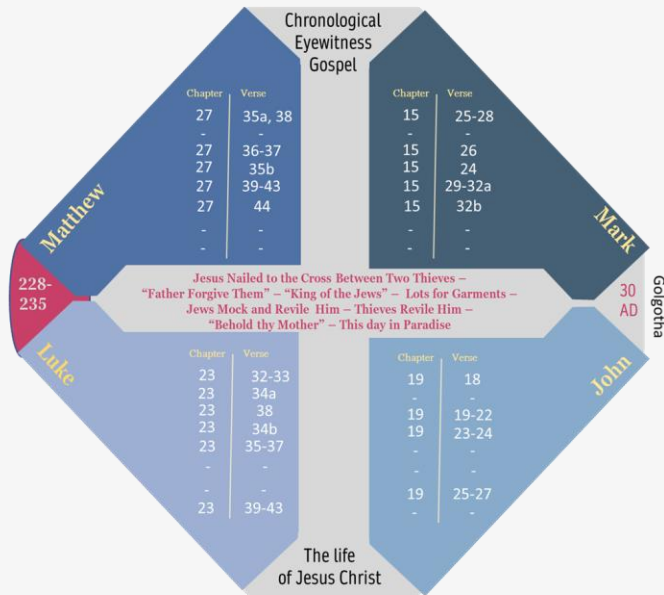


When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said, “Rather than tearing it apart, let’s cast lots for it.” So that is what they did. The soldiers gambled for his clothes by casting lots and fulfilled the Scripture that says, “They divided my garments among themselves and cast lots for my clothing.”

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. “Ha! Look at you now!” they yelled at him. “You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!”

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

Episode 11

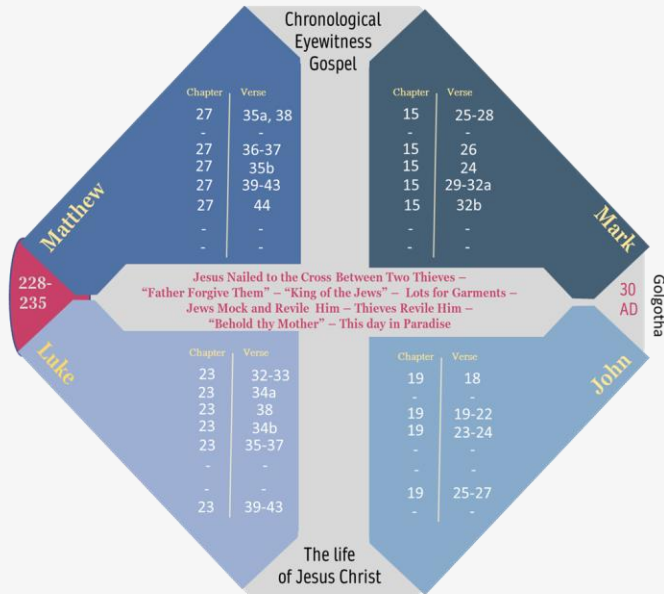


The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!

“He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

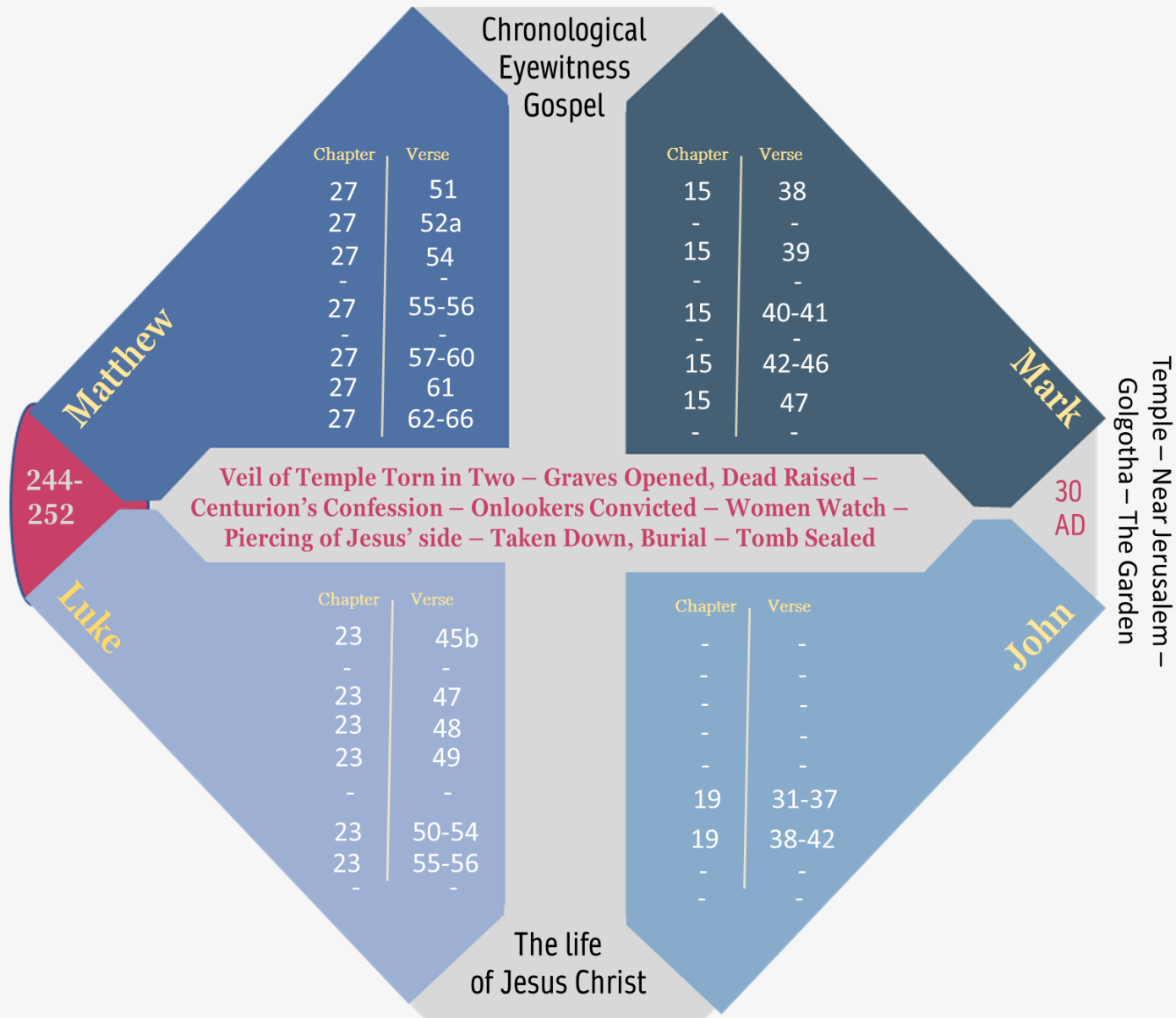


Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “**Dear woman, here is your son.**” And he said to this disciple (*Note to reader: presumably John, from the Gospel of John*), “**Here is your mother.**” And from then on, this disciple took her into his home.

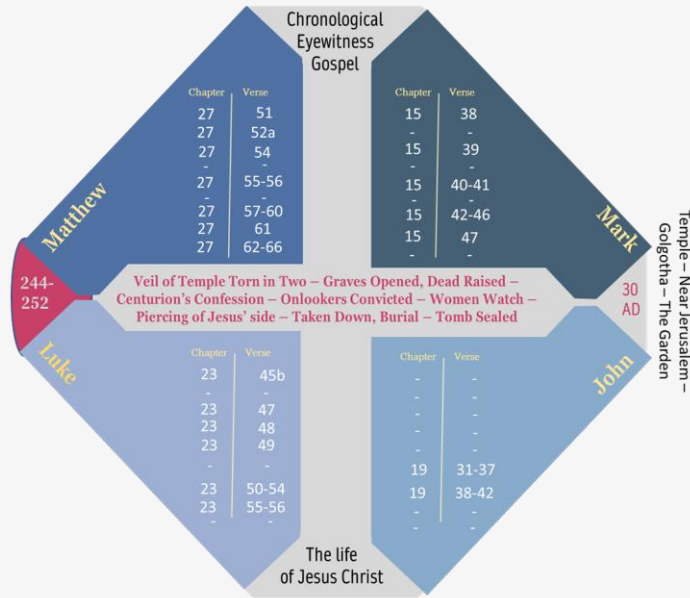
One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

And Jesus replied, “**I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.**”



XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL



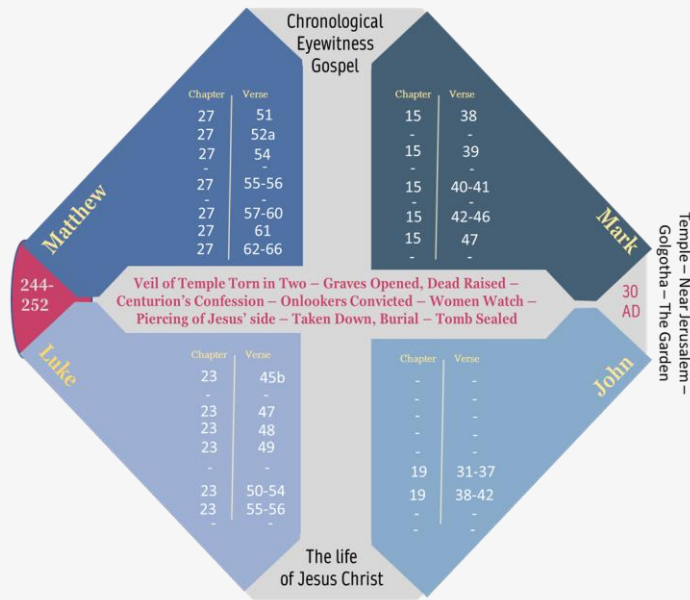
XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, at that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, down the middle, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. (They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.)

When the Roman officer, a Centurion overseeing the execution who stood facing him saw what had happened, how he had died, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." The Centurion and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. The Centurion and the others said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

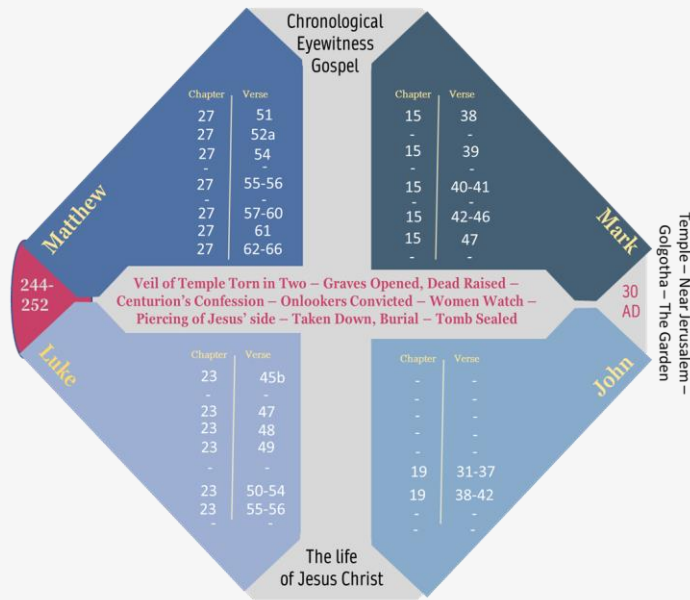


XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

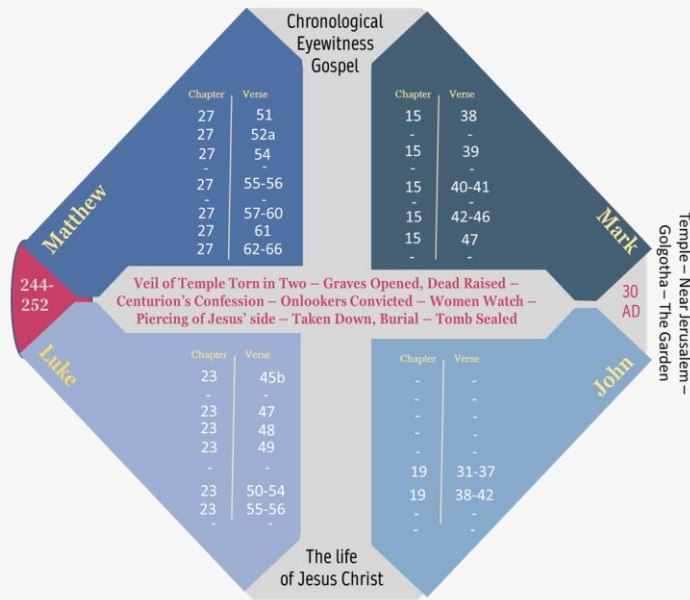
But Jesus' friends, including the many women who had followed him from Galilee to care for him stood watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome, the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee, and many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.



XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.) These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," and "They will look on the one they pierced."



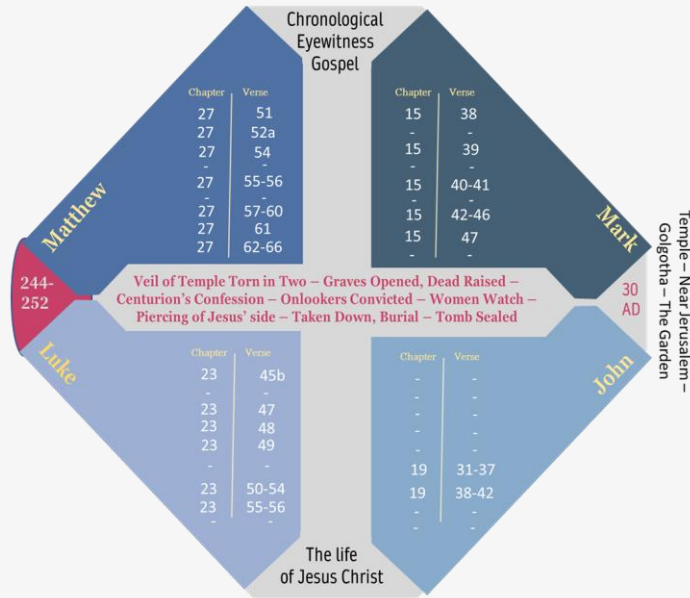
XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

As evening approached, there was a good and righteous man named Joseph who had become a follower of Jesus. He had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), and he was an honored member of the Jewish high council, but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come.

This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath. As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet. The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body and issued an order to release it to him.



XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

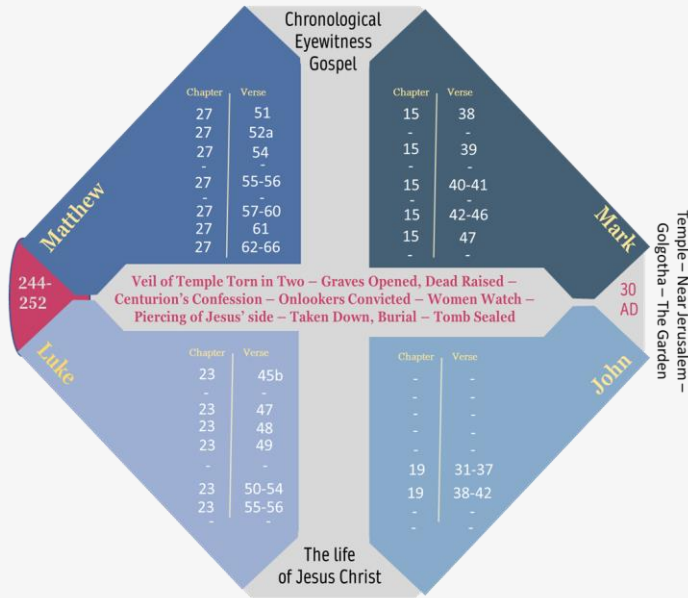
Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes.

Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus' body down from the cross and wrapped it in the long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left.

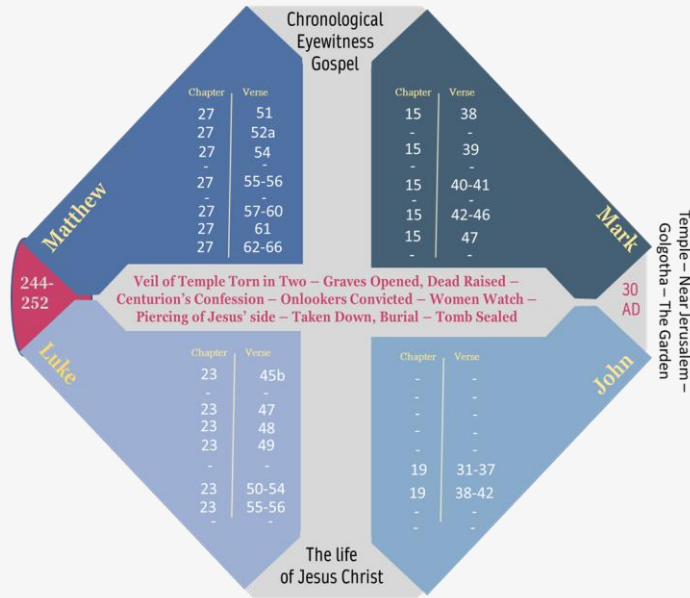


XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching, so they both saw where Jesus' body was laid. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law.

This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin.

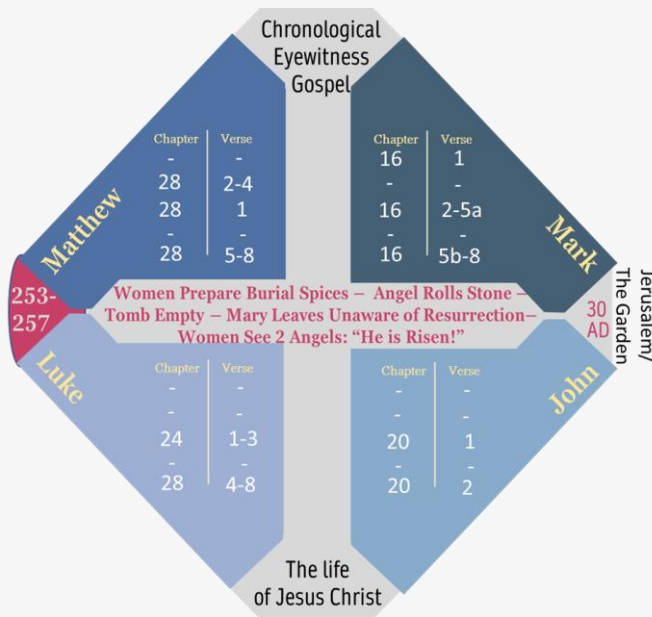


XI. THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Phenomena Accompanying Christ's Death

The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. They told him, “Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise from the dead.’ So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.”

Pilate replied, “Take guards and secure it the best you can.” So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.



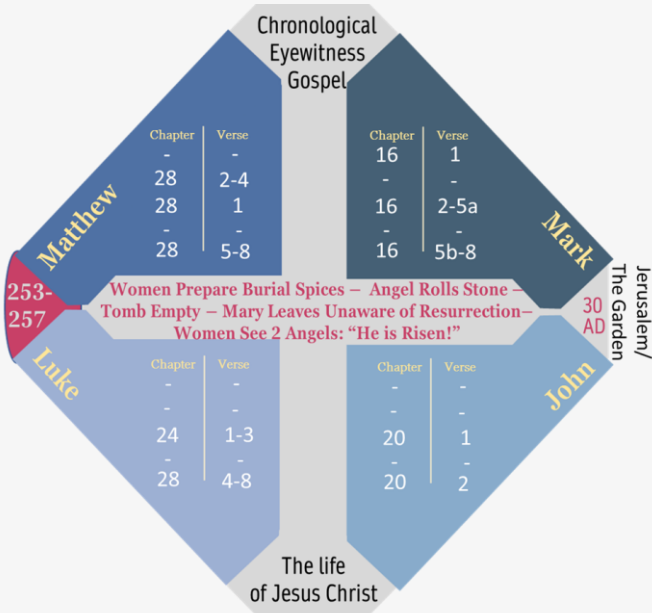
XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

SUN. APRIL 7, AD 30
NISAN 17

Saturday evening, early on Sunday Morning when it was still dark, when the Sabbath ended Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning at sunrise, the women went to the tomb taking the spices they had prepared.

On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

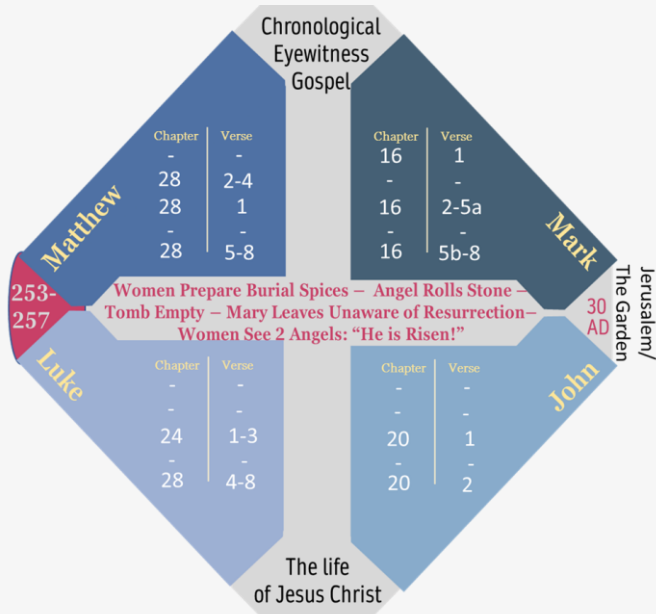
Episode 11



Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. As the women stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked. They were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground.

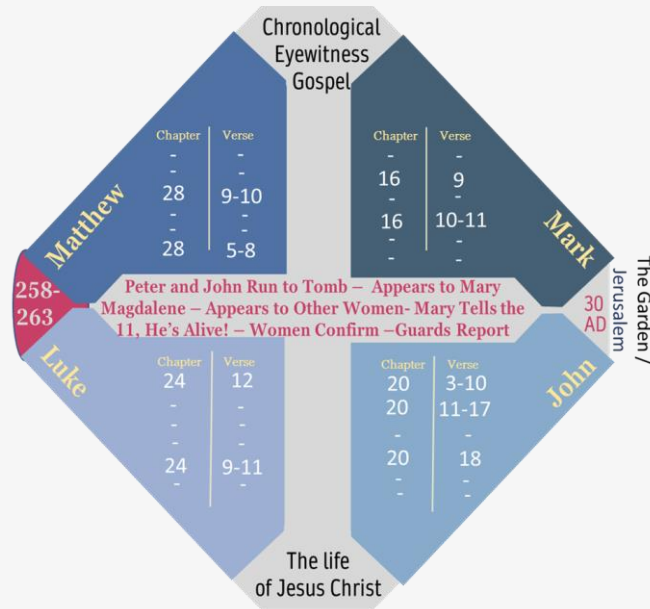
Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”

Then they remembered that he had said this.



The women were shocked, but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”

The women fled quickly from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message.

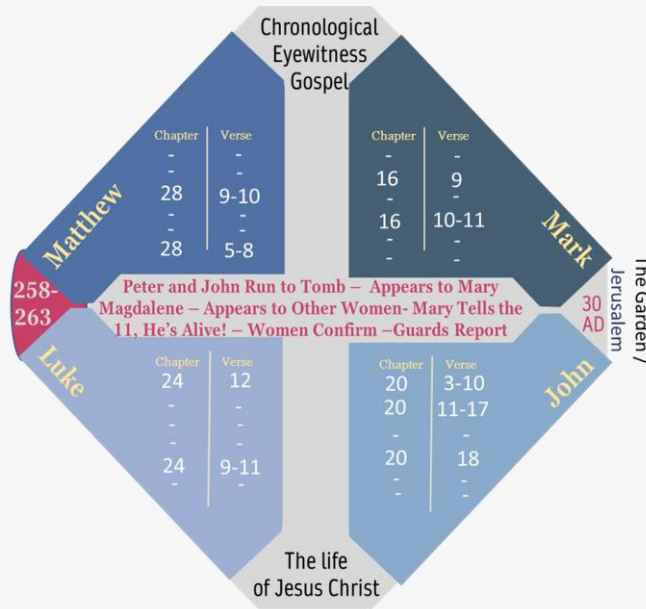


XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

SUN. APRIL 7, AD 30
NISAN 17

Mary Magdalene found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, so they immediately started out for the tomb. Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen. They were both running, but the other disciple (John) outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed - for until then, they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home again, wondering what had happened.



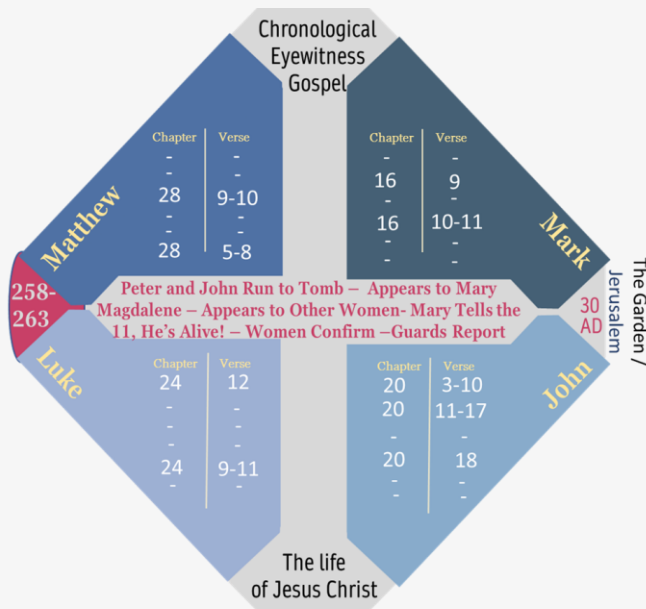
XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

SUN. APRIL 7, AD 30
NISAN 17

But Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” “Mary!” Jesus said.



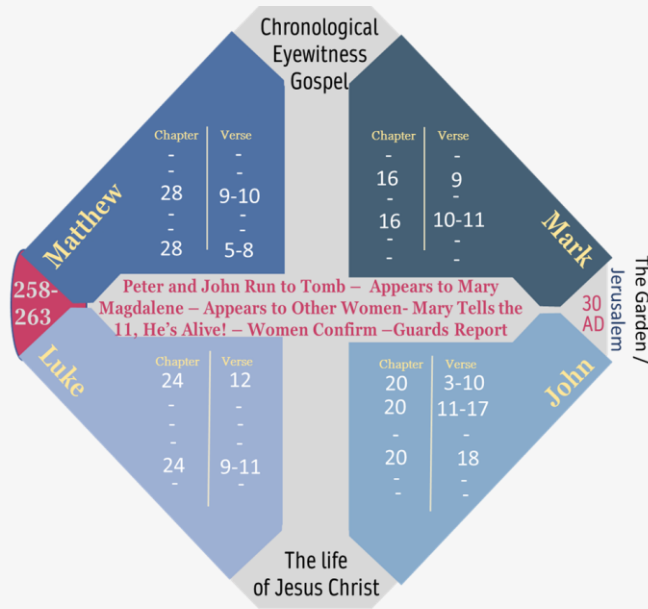
She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.

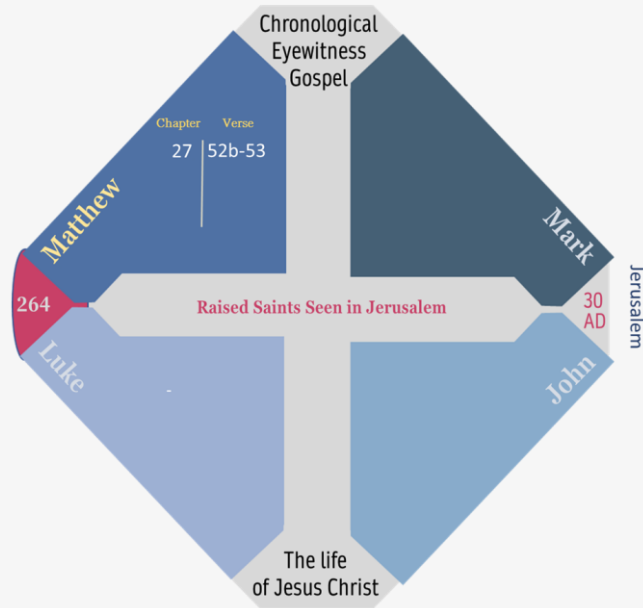
Episode 11



Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message. She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn’t believe her. The story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it.

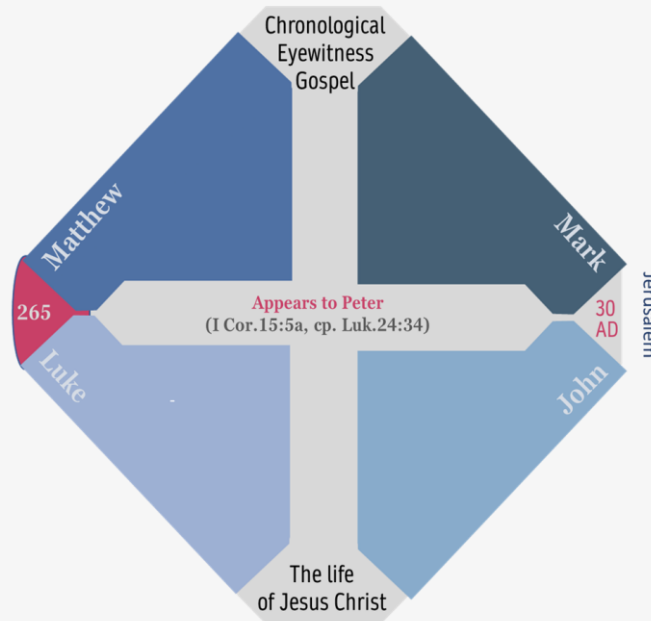
As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened. A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. They told the soldiers, “You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.’ If the governor hears about it, we’ll stand up for you, so you won’t get in trouble.” So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.

Episode 11



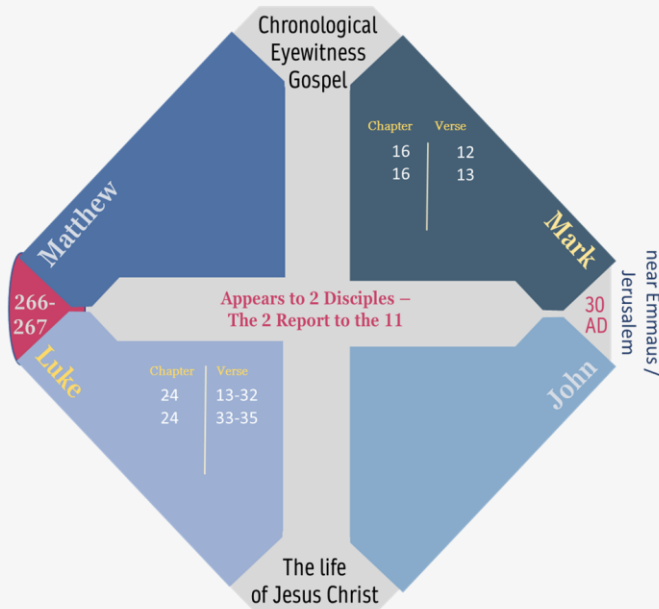
Tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER



Testimony from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church. Written about ten years later:

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.



XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

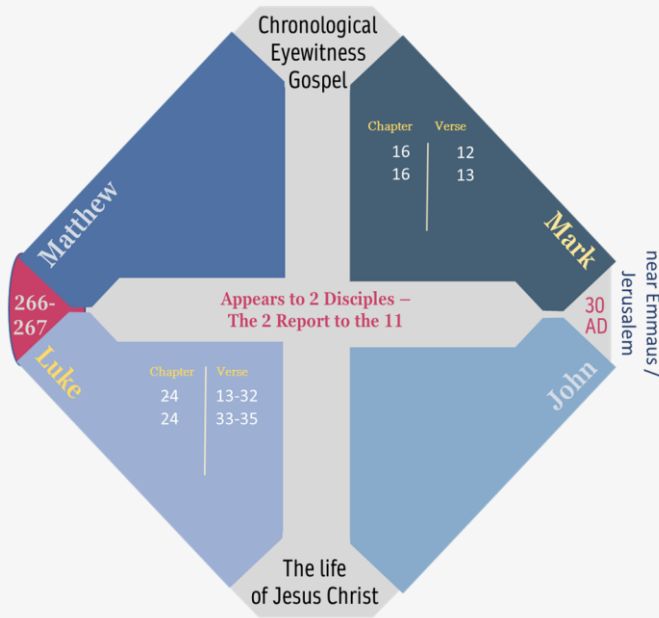
That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along, they were talking about everything that had happened.

Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, **“What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”**

They stopped short; sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”

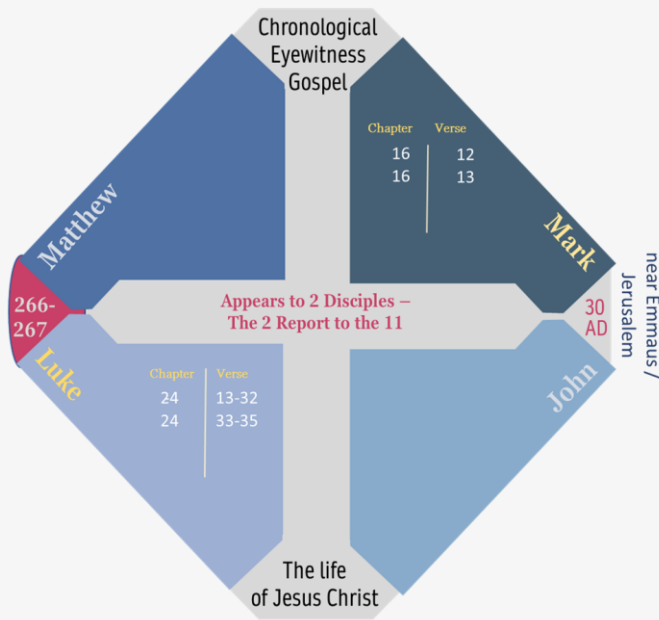
“What things?” Jesus asked.

Episode 11



“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

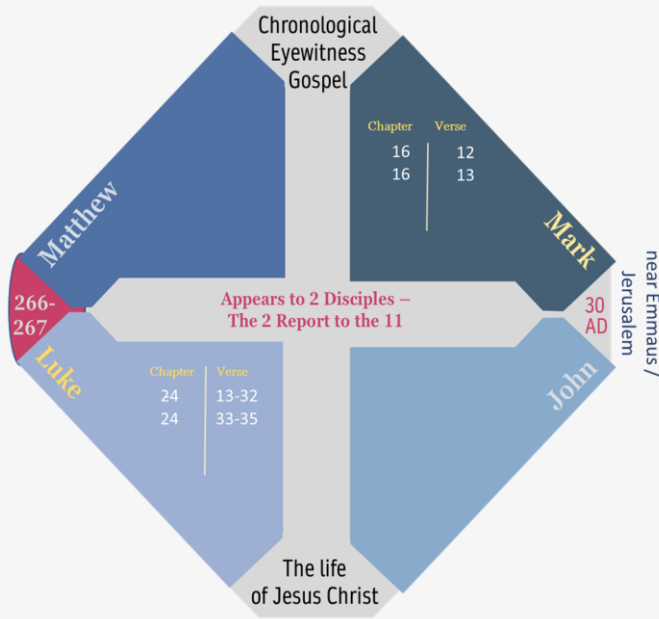


Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

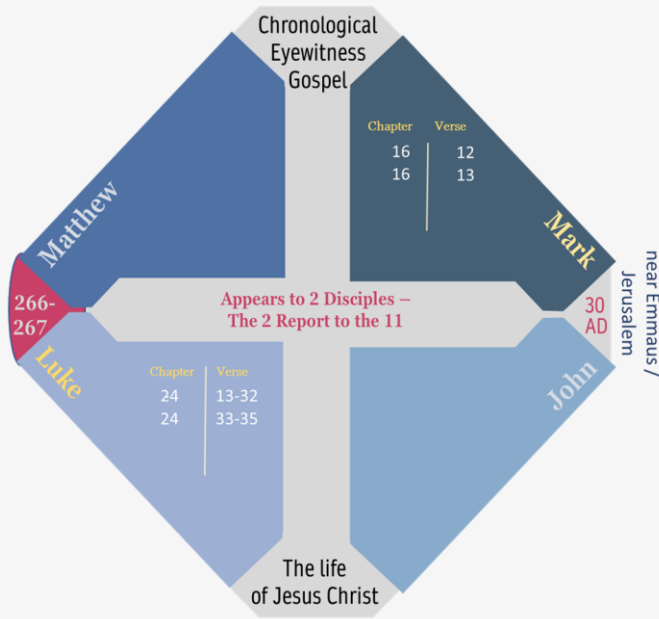
Episode 11



And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.” They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them.

Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. As they were eating, the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.

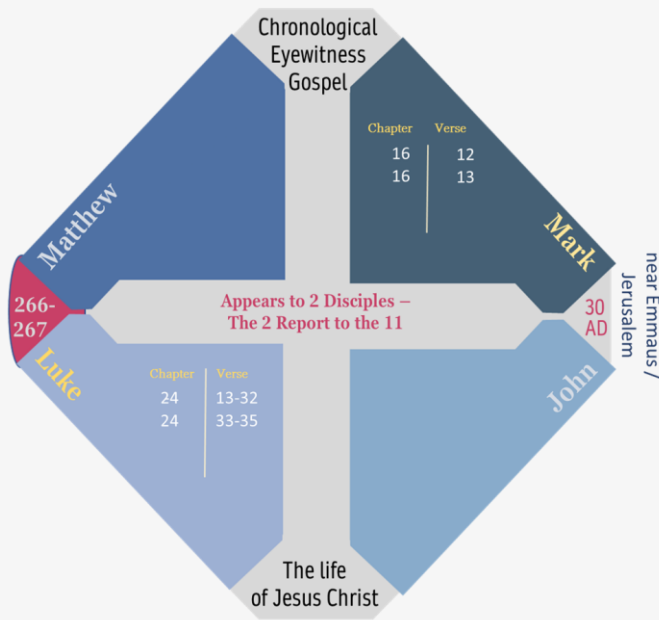
Episode 11



As Jesus spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! **“Why are you frightened?”** he asked.

He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead: **“Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.”**

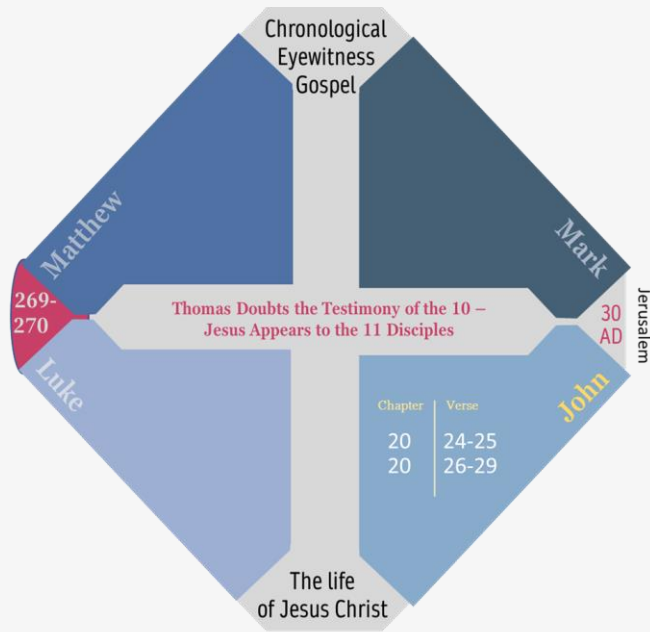
As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, **“Do you have anything here to eat?”** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.



Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.

Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”



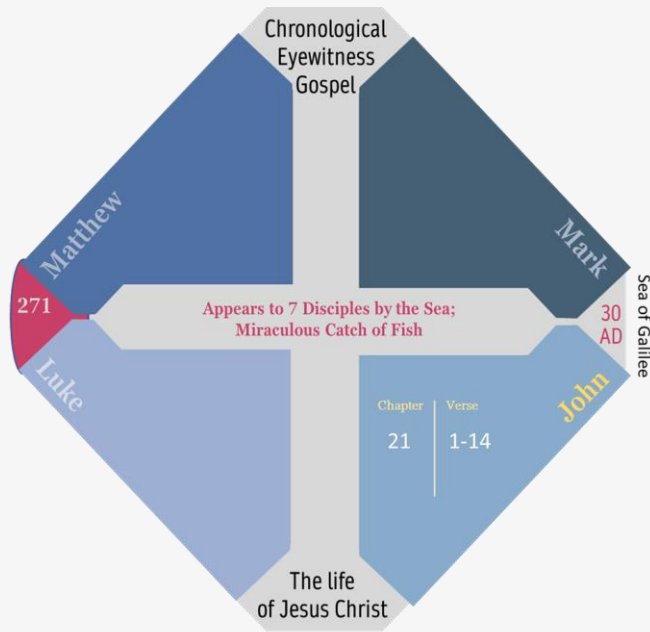
XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”



XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

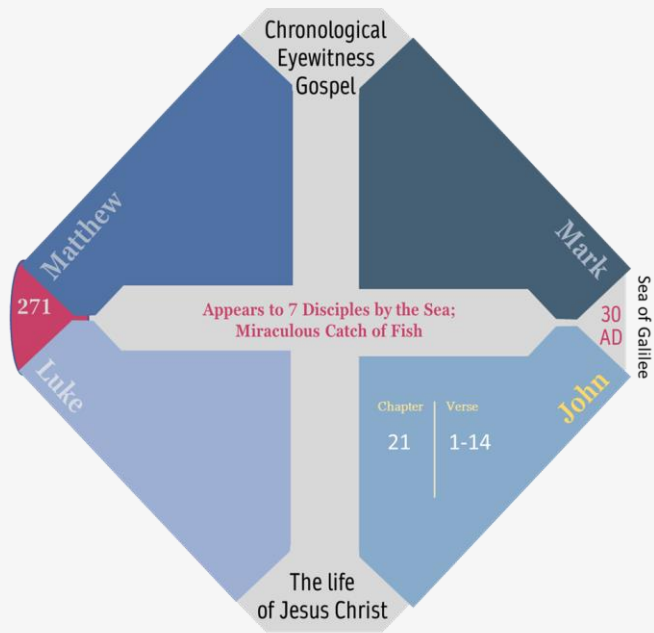
“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. He called out, “**Fellows, have you caught any fish?**”

“No,” they replied.

Then he said, “**Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!**” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it!

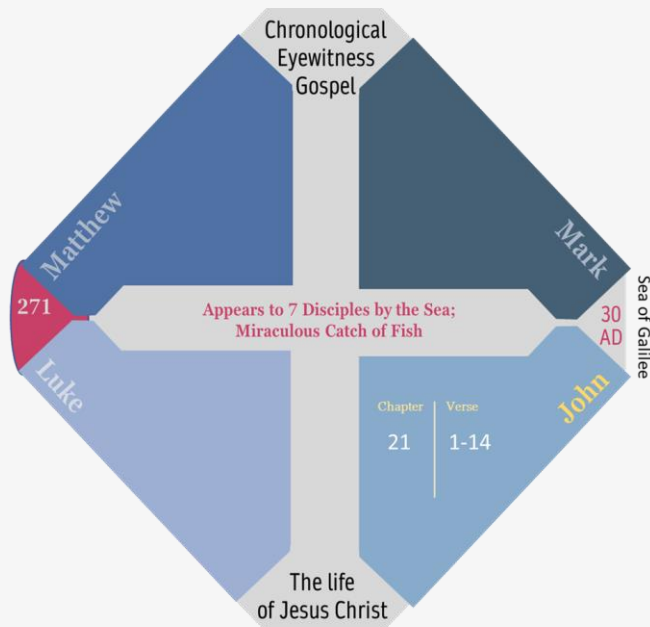
Episode 11



Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!”

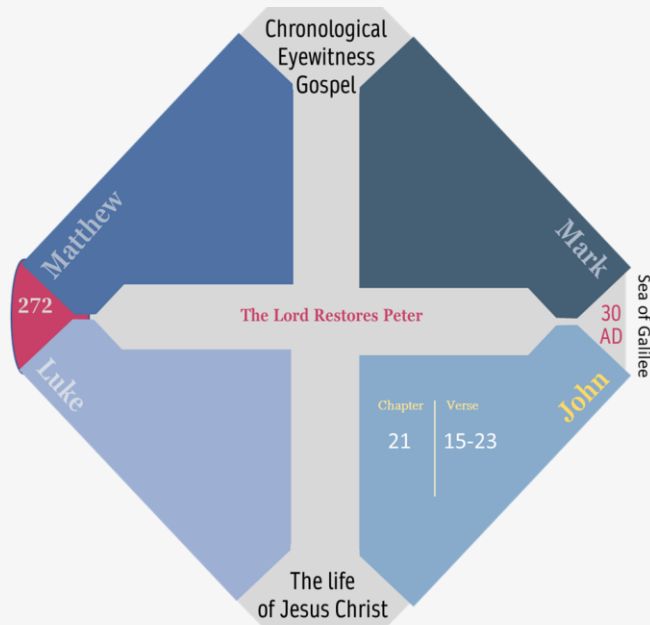
When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

Episode 11



“Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

“Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.



XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”
“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

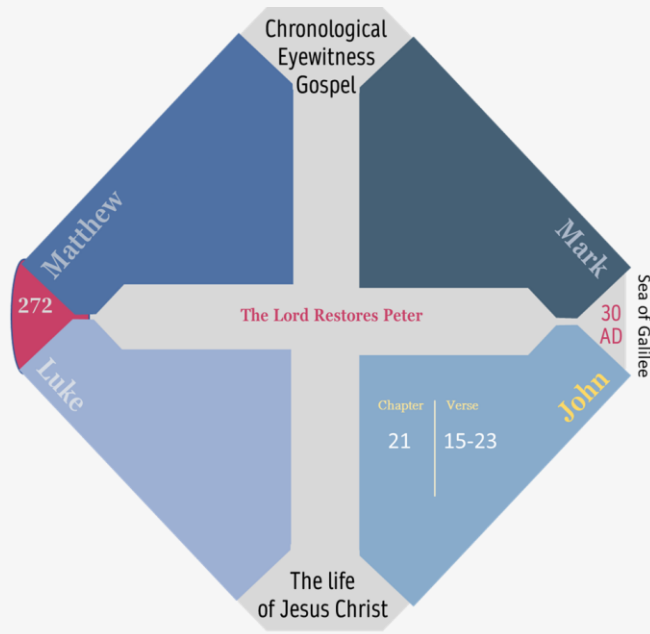
Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”
“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

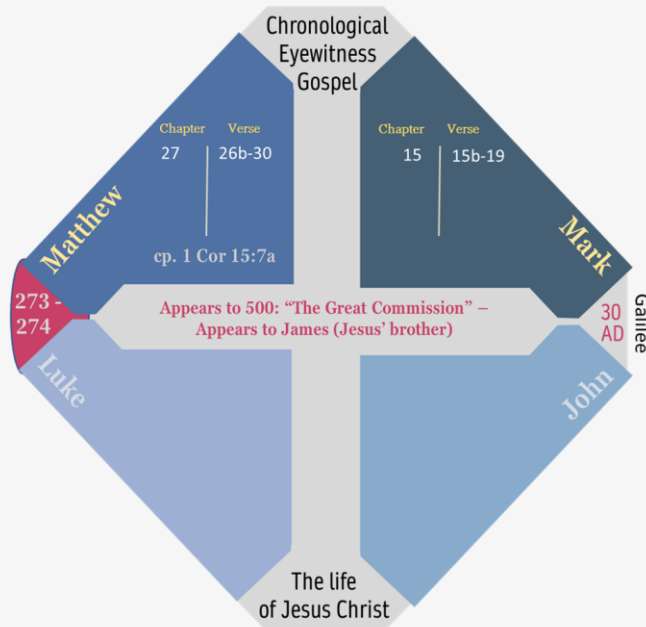
Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.”



“I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

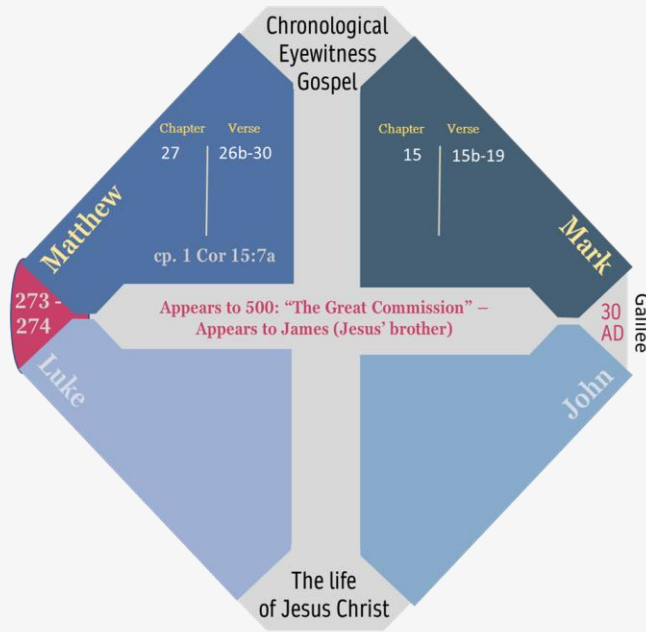
Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved (*John*) - the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” Seeing him, Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”



Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

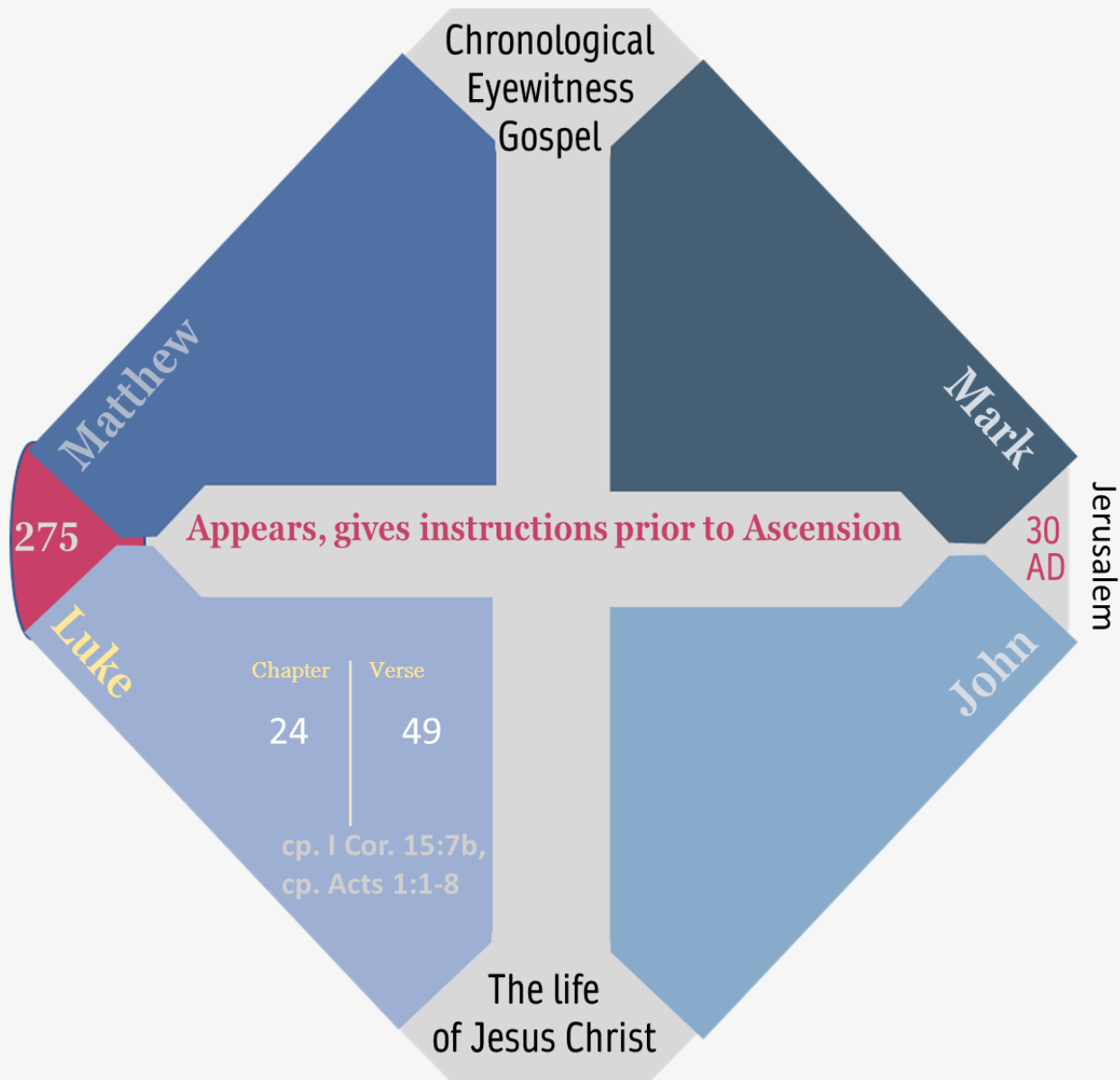
(Paul reports in his first letter to the Corinthian Church about 10 years later: he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James, and later by all the apostles.)



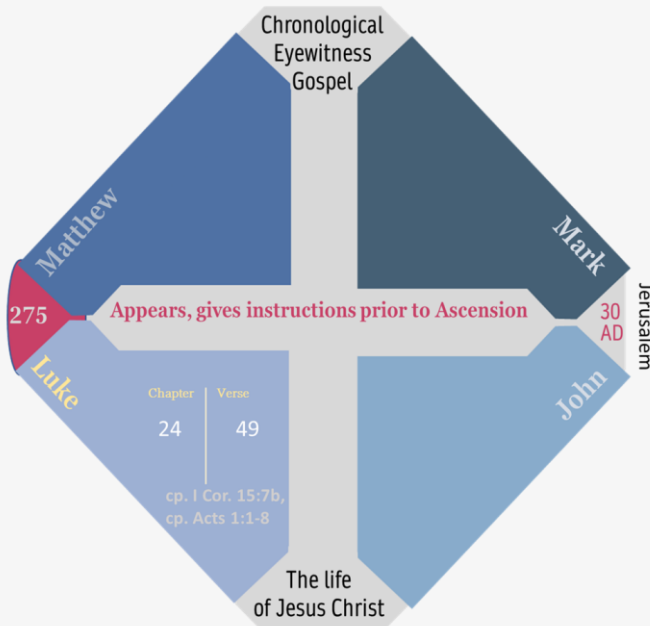
Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.



XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

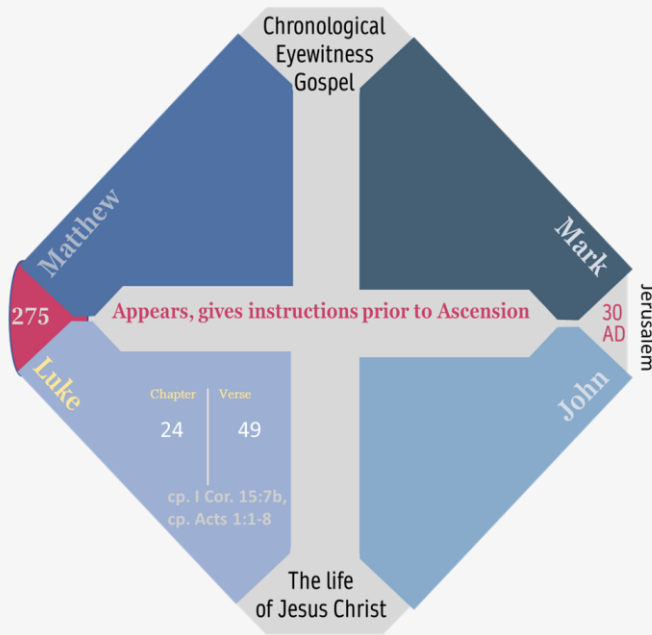


XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

Acts 1: 1 -5

In my first book I told you, Theophilus (*which means friend of God or (be)loved by God*), about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, **“Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**



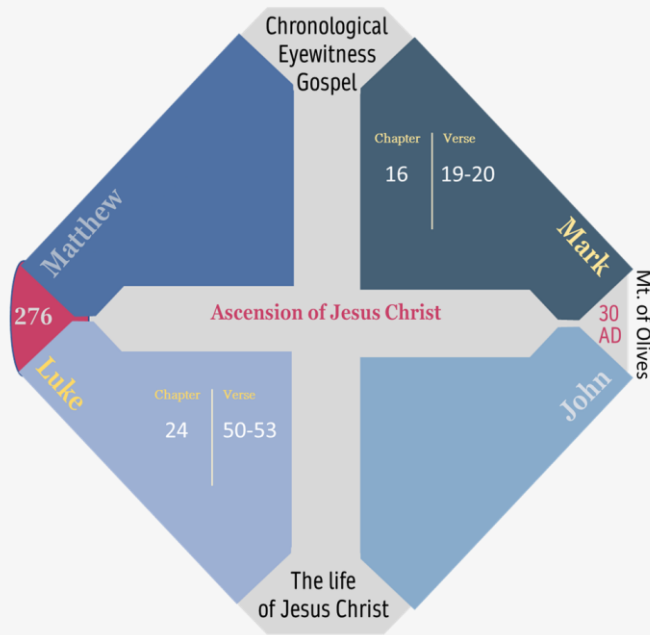
Luke 24:49

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Acts 1: 6 – 8

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

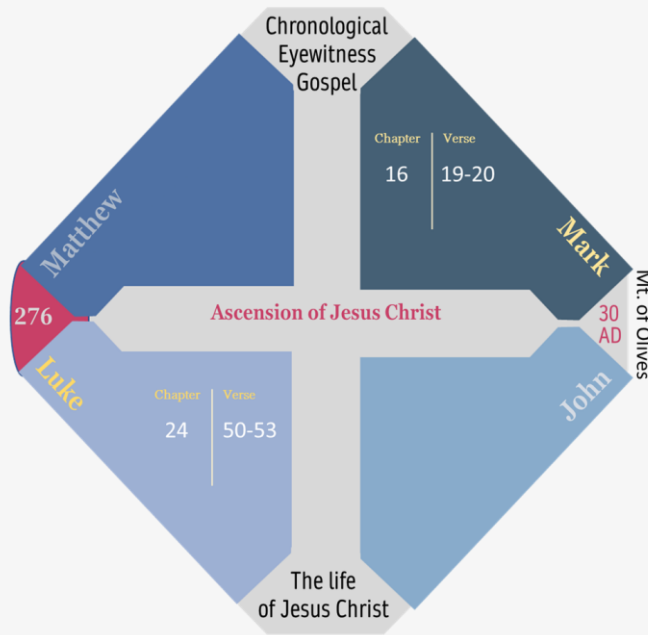


XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

40th day after resurrection inclusive
Thur. Iyar 26 – May 18
 (cp. Acts 1:9-12)

Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. He left them and was taken up to heaven. When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. So they worshiped him.

As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"



So Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath's day journey, filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God. Amen.

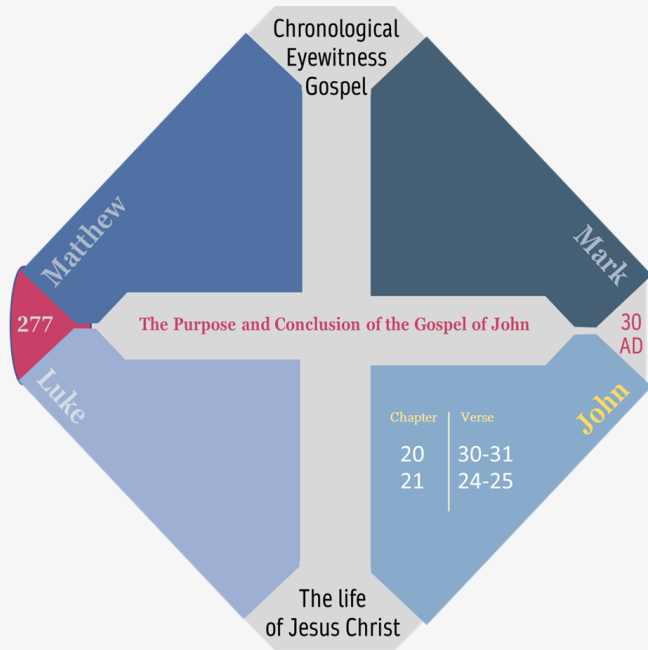
And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs. Amen.

XII. THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 40 DAYS LATER

40th day after resurrection inclusive

Thur. Iyar 26 – May 18

(cp. Acts 1:9-12)



And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

This is the disciple who testifies of these things (John) and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel: The Life of Jesus Christ

Matthew

1

Luke

And the Word was God

Chapter	Verse
1	1-5
1	9-14