



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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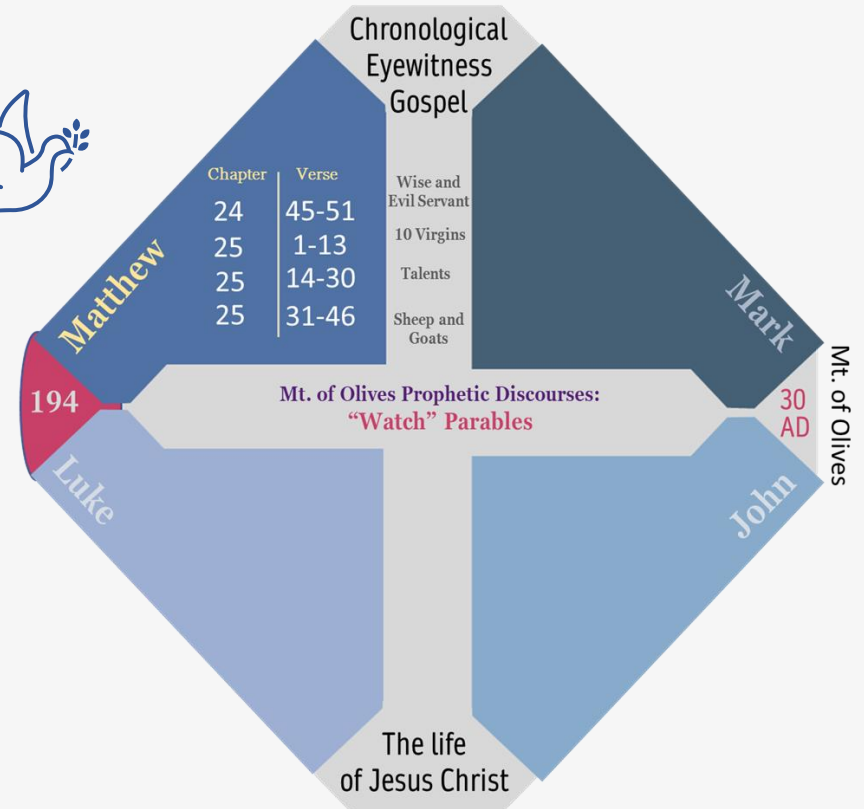
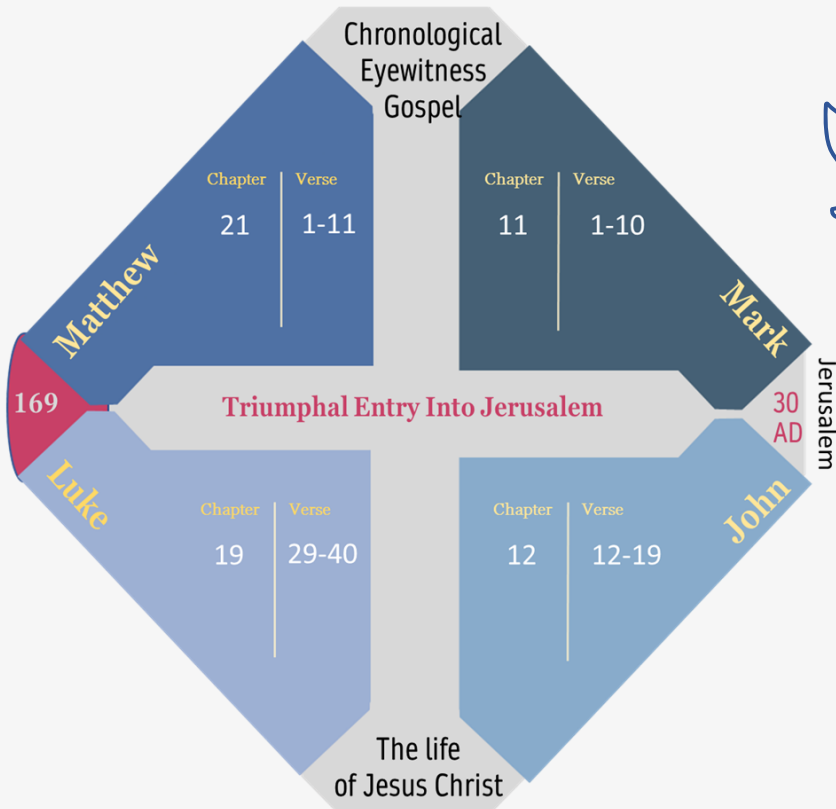
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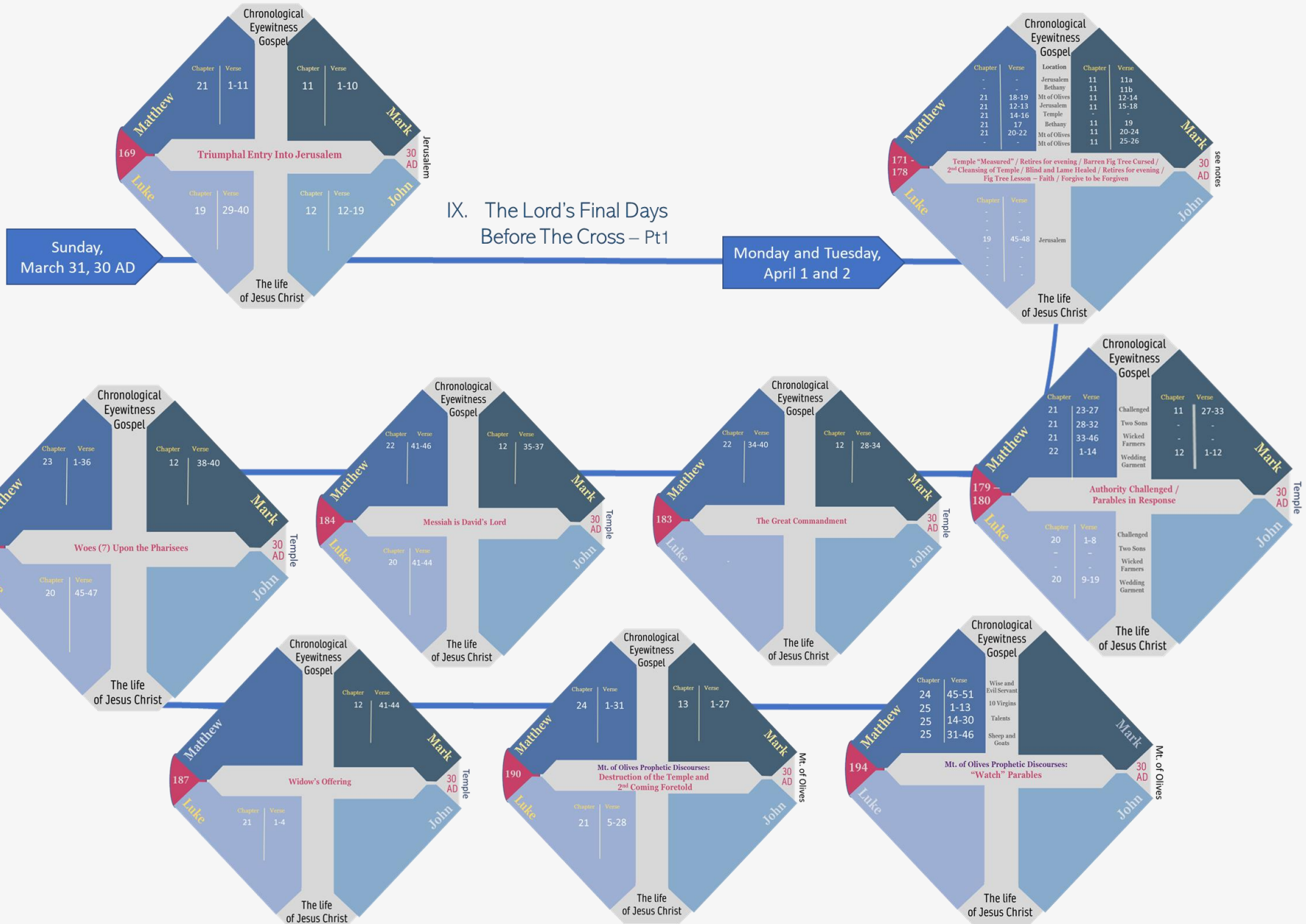
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

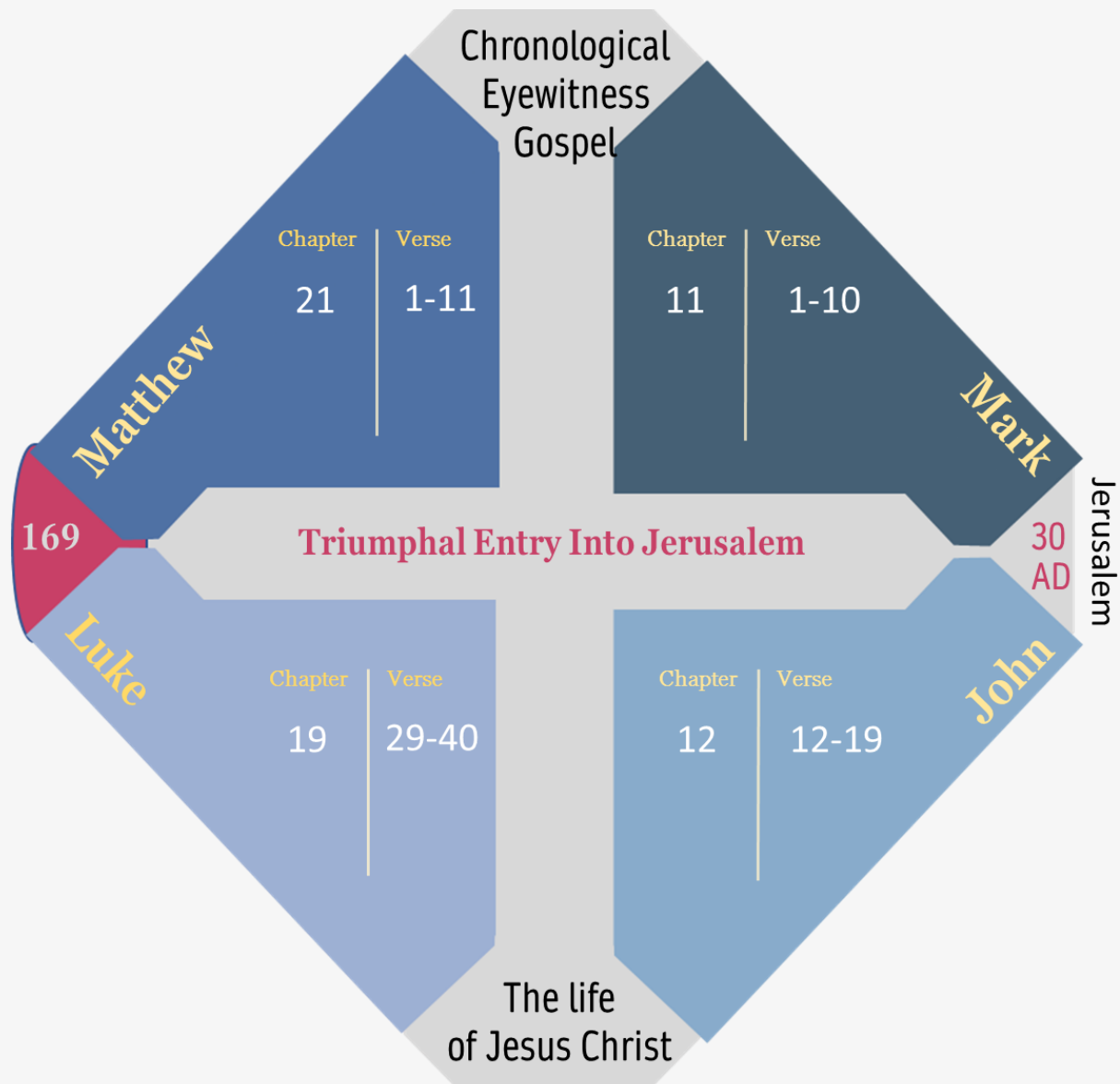
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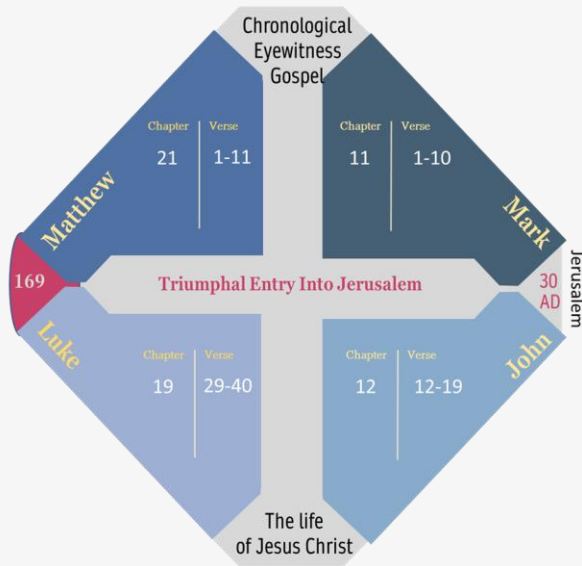
Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 9





IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

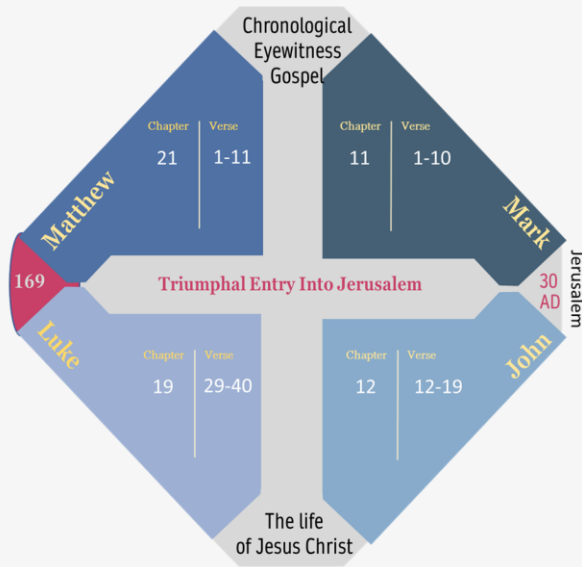


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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.”**

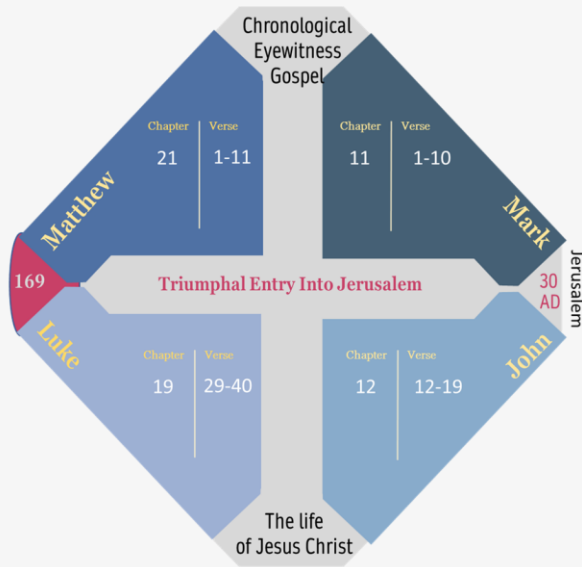
(1st day of the week)
Sun. Mar.31, 30 AD



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!

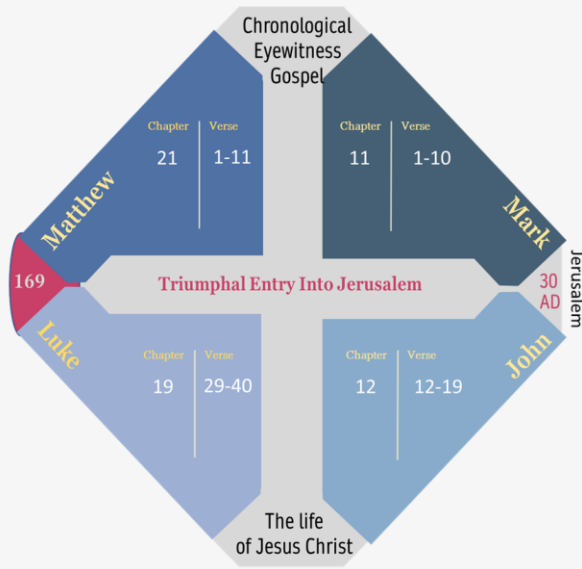
Praise God in highest heaven!”

“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!”



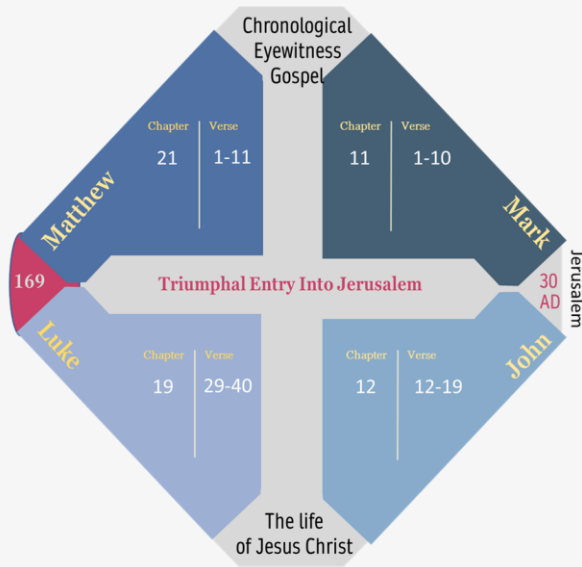
Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

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!”

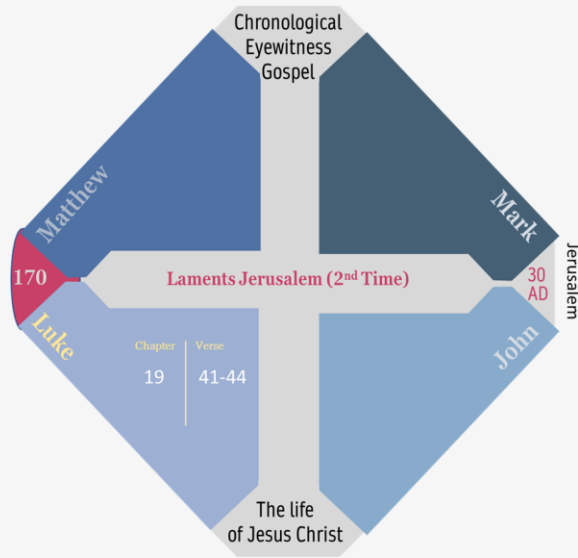


He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

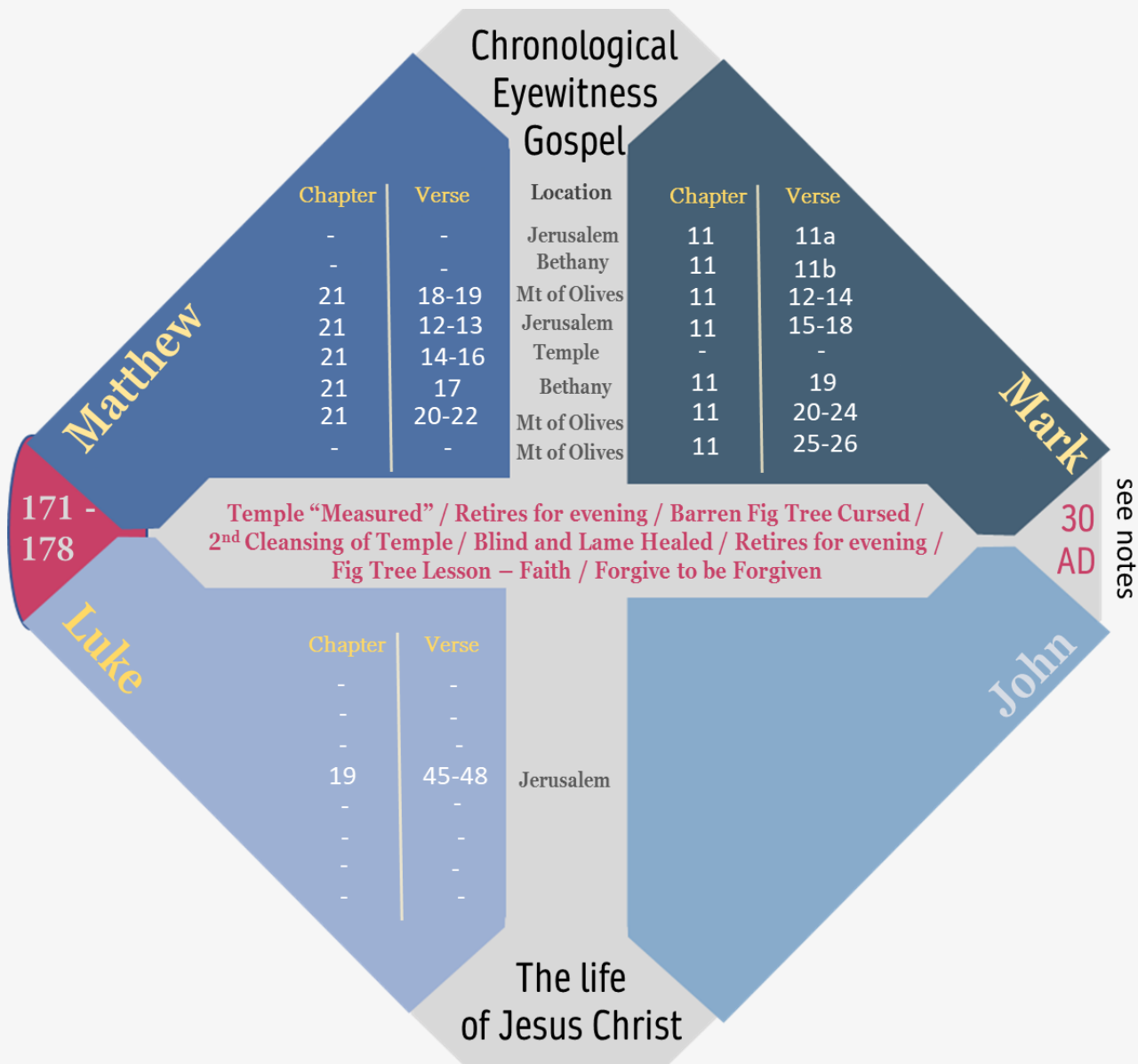
The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

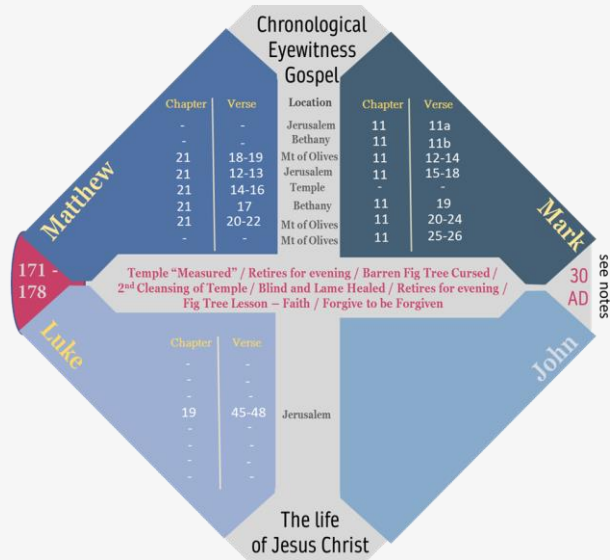


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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



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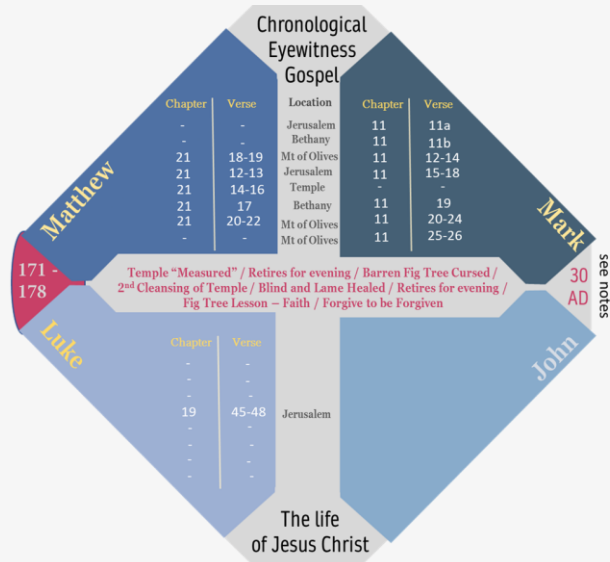
2nd day of the week
Mon. April 1, 30 AD

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.

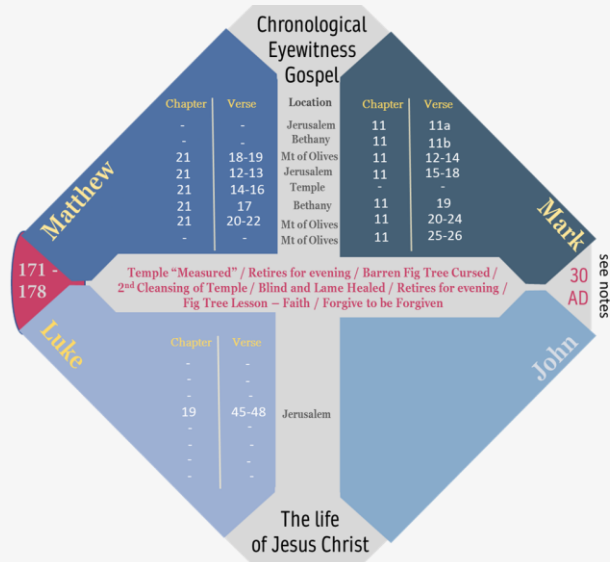
The next morning as they were leaving Bethany and returning to Jerusalem, Jesus was hungry. He noticed a fig tree beside the road in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. Then Jesus said 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.

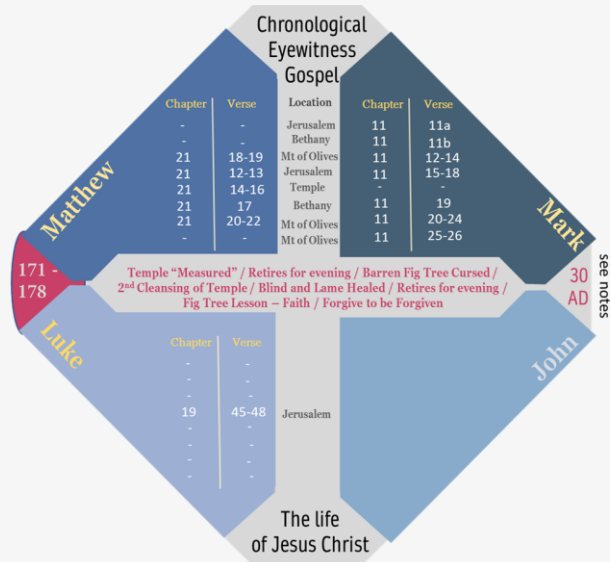


The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”

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.

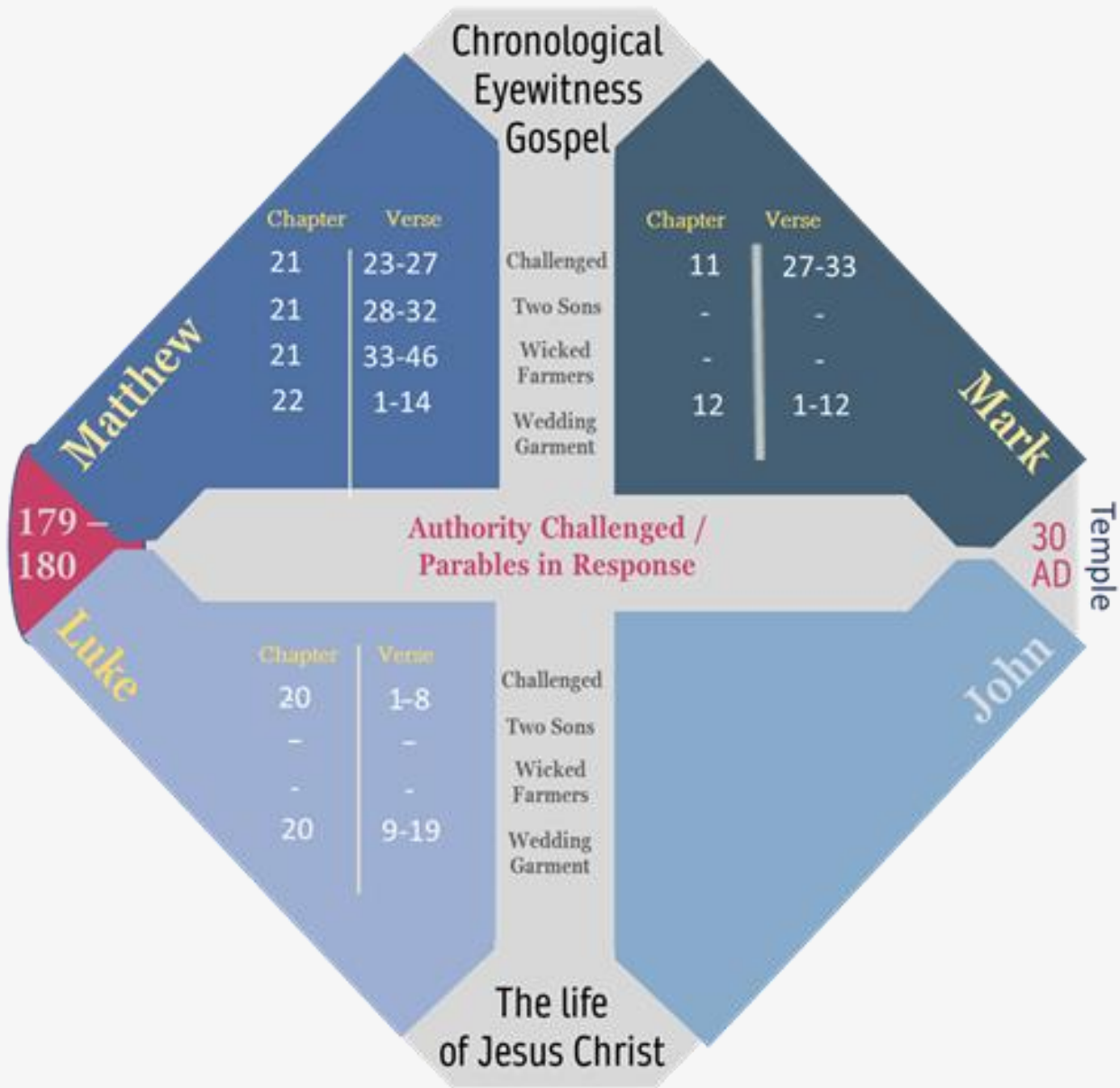
The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”



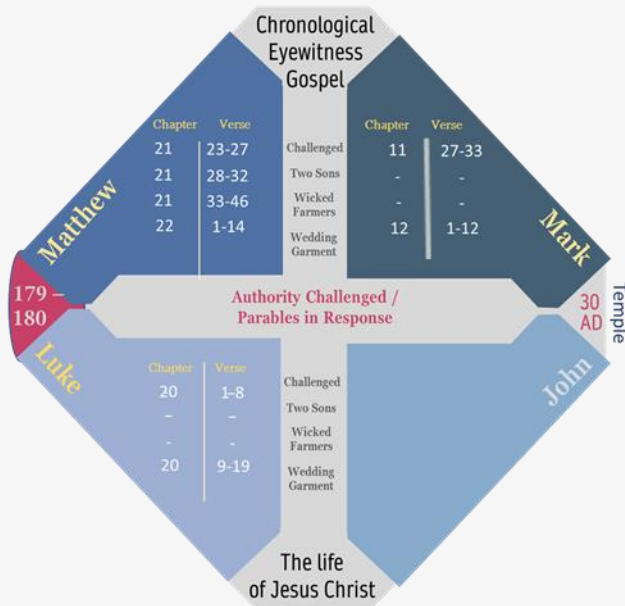
The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?”

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.”



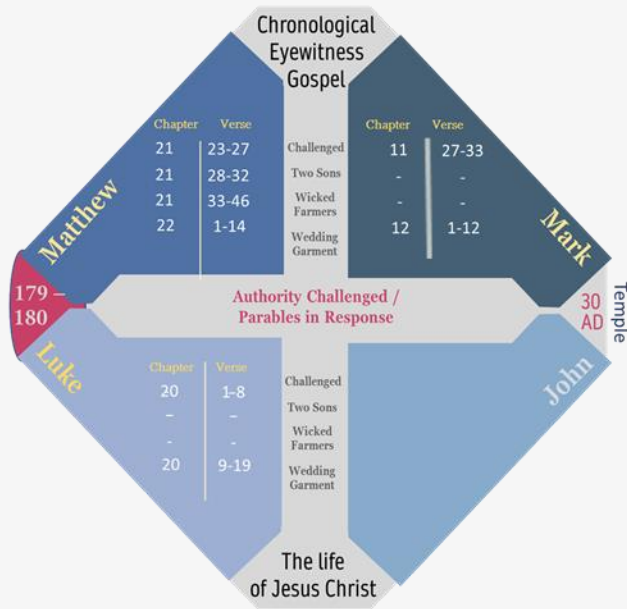
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS



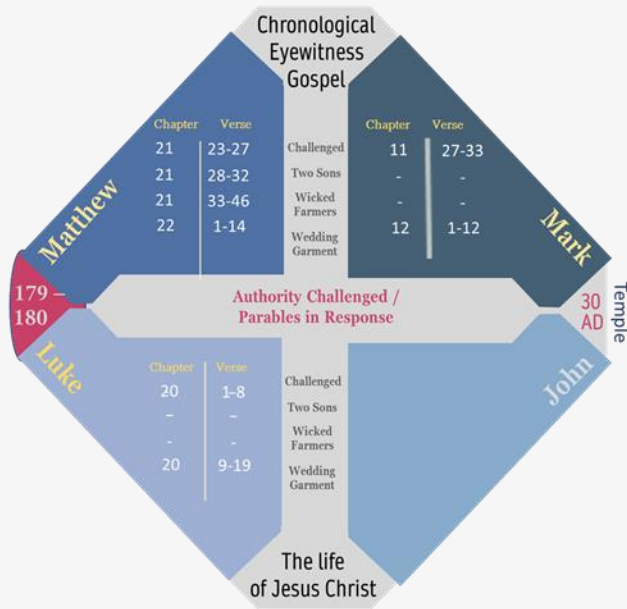
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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.”



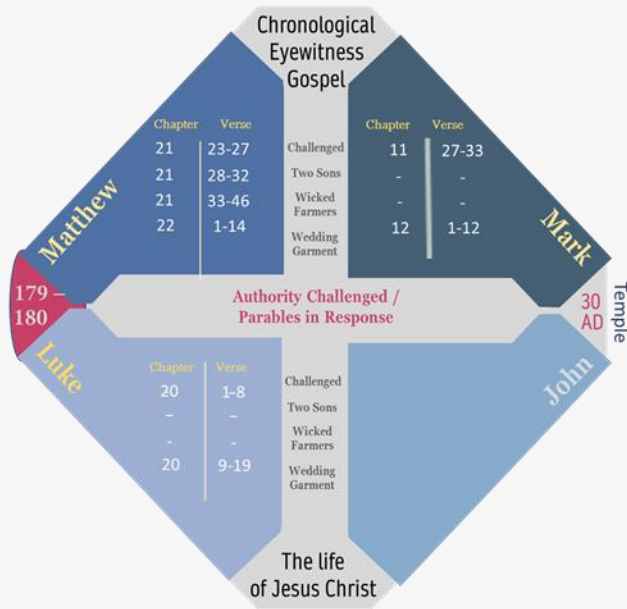
The Two Sons

“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.”

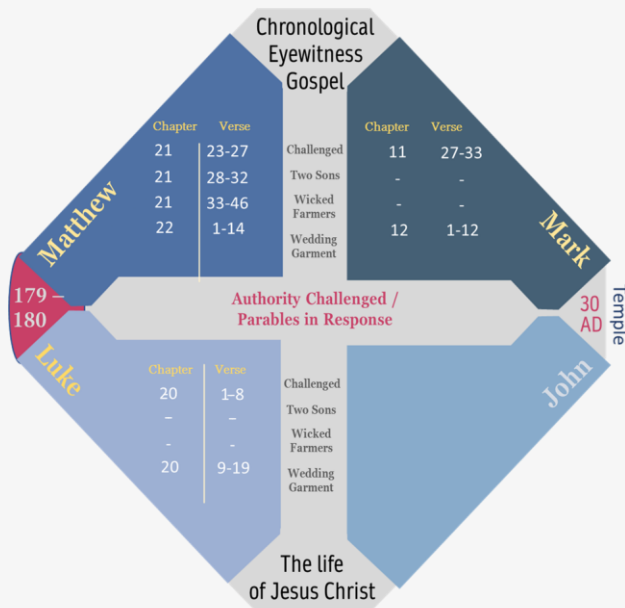
Then Jesus explained his meaning: “I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn’t believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this 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.

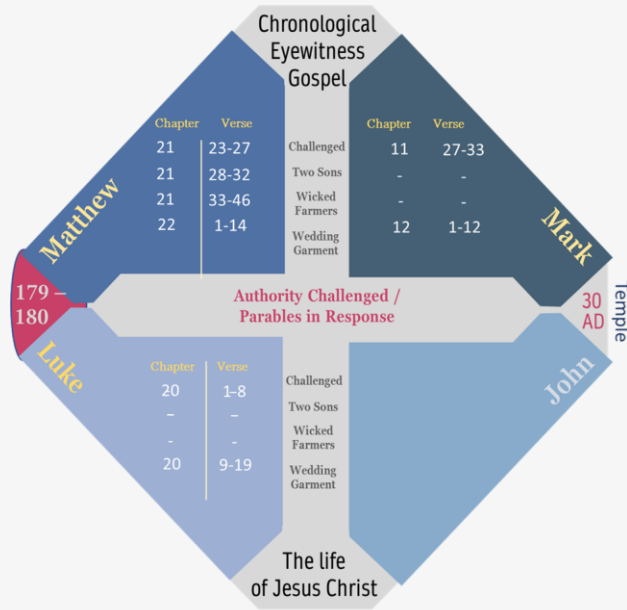


The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly.

“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?”



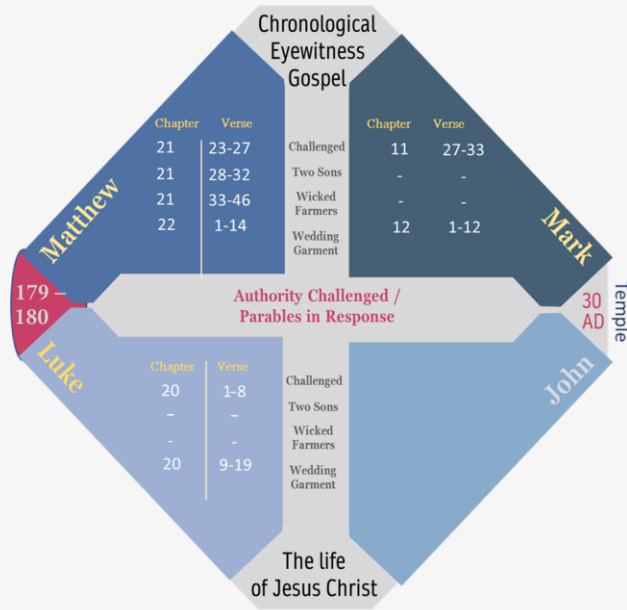
The religious leaders replied, “He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.”

“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.

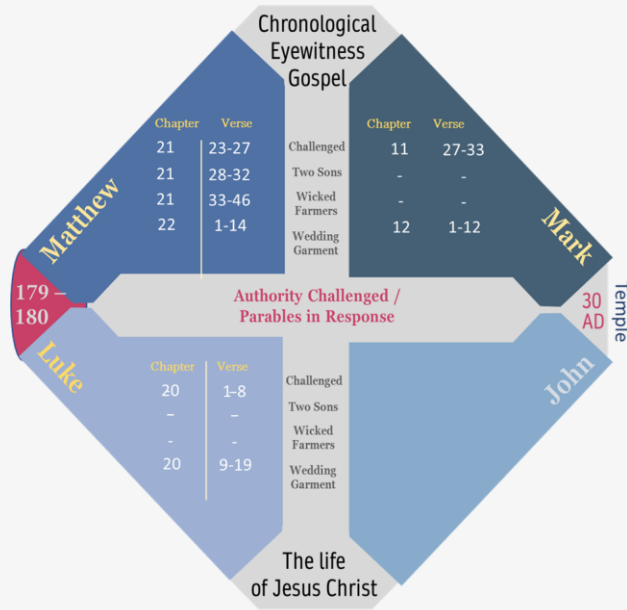
Jesus looked at them and said, “What does this Scripture mean?”

‘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.”

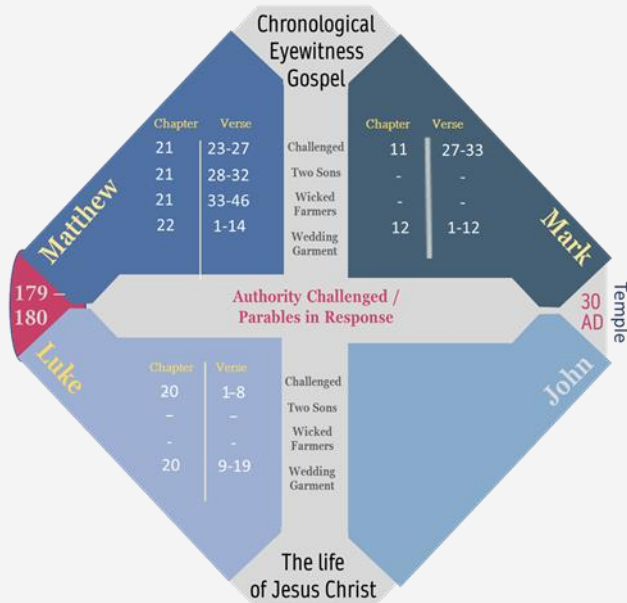
The religious leaders, the leading priests and Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus immediately upon hearing this parable, because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the people’s reaction.



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.

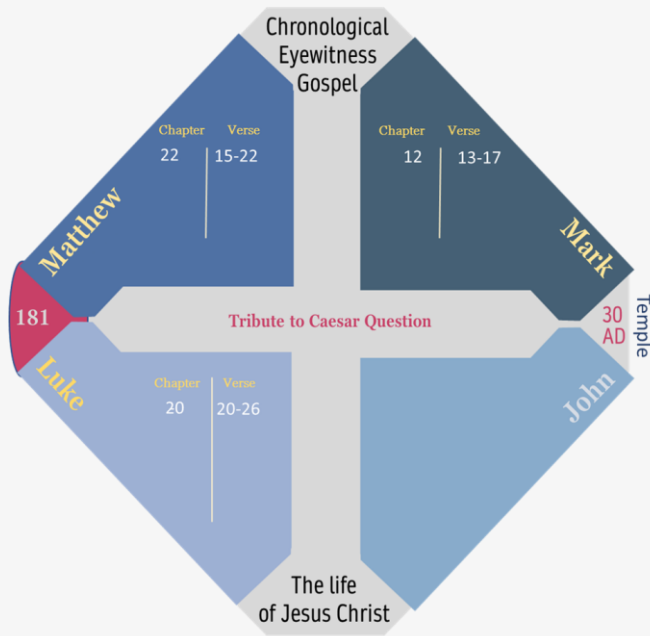


“The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ So the servants brought in everyone 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.”

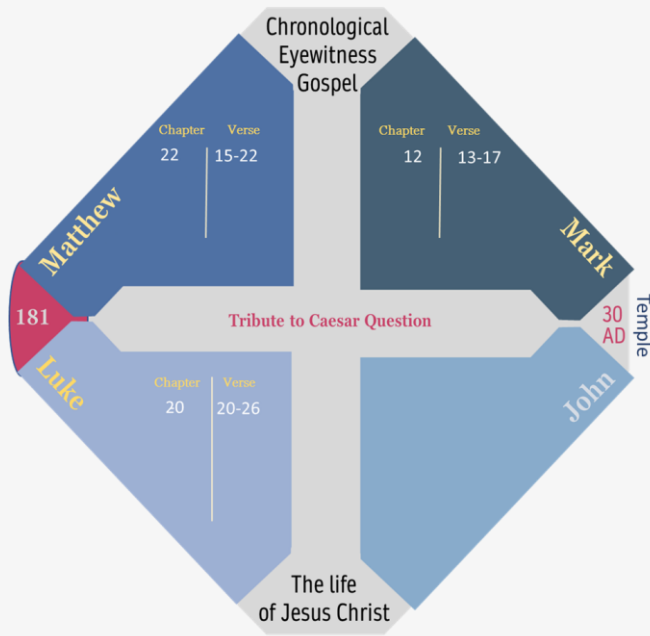
The religious leaders were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet, so they left him and went away.



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

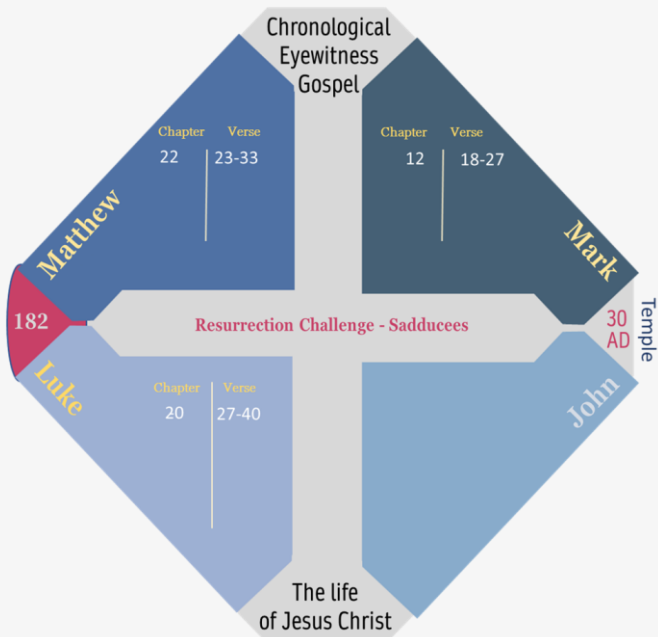
Tribute to Caesar Challenge

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.

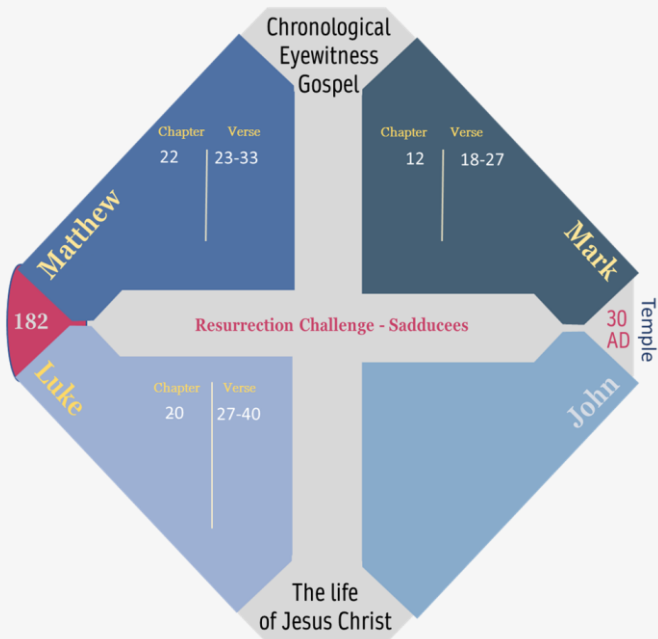


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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!”

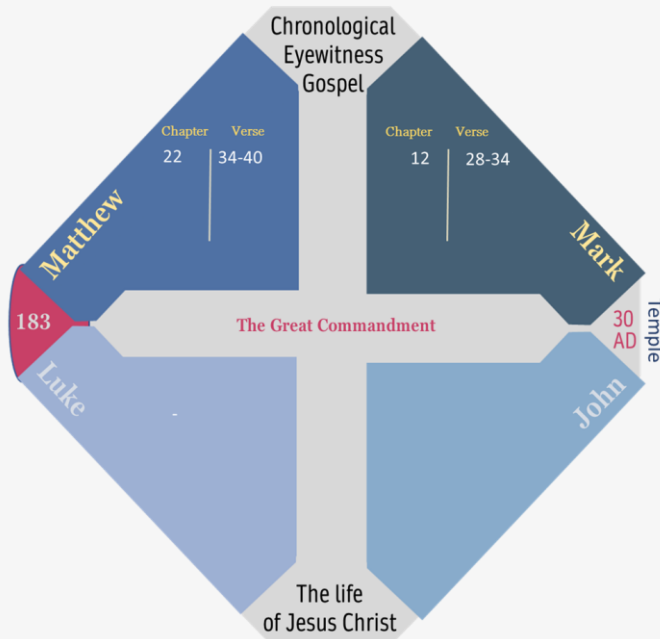
Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.



“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.

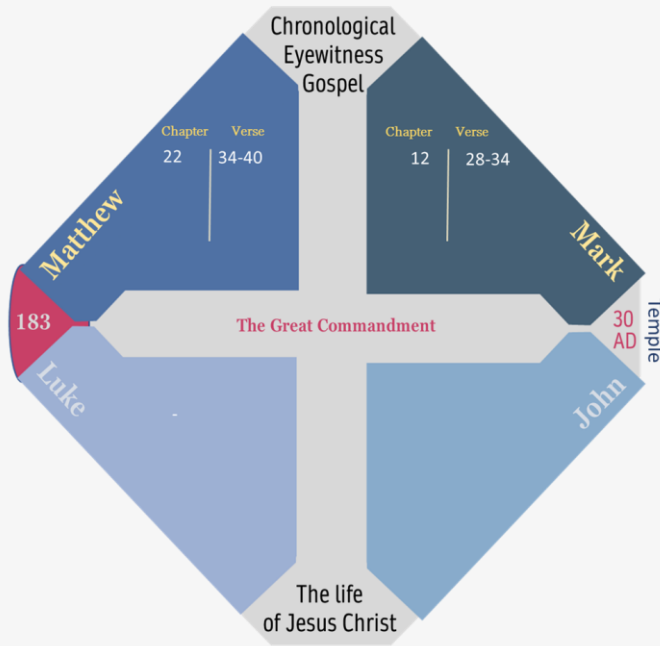


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

The Great Commandment

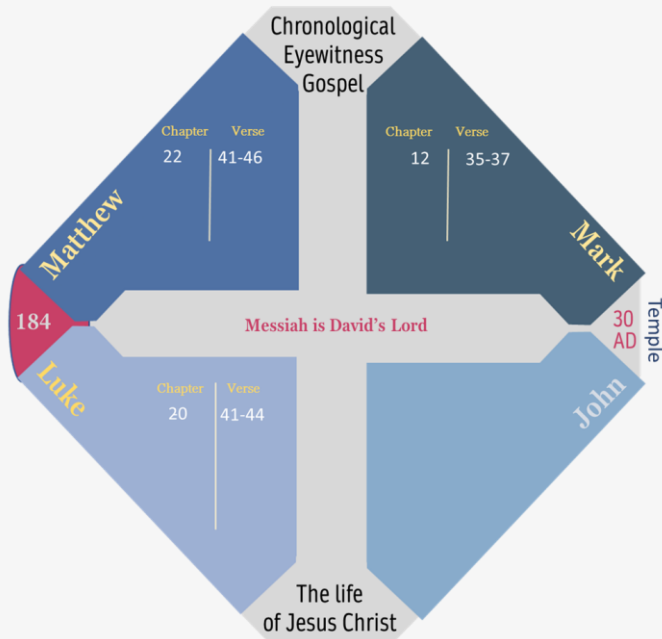
But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, and tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which 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.



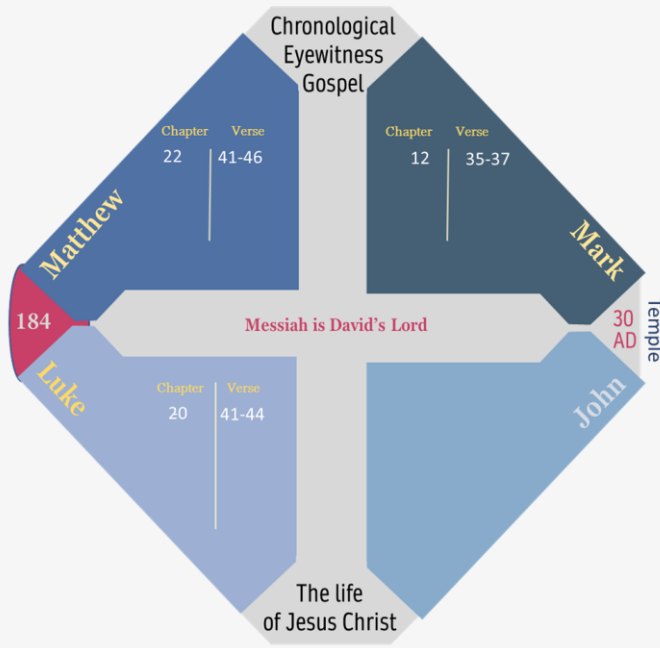
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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?”

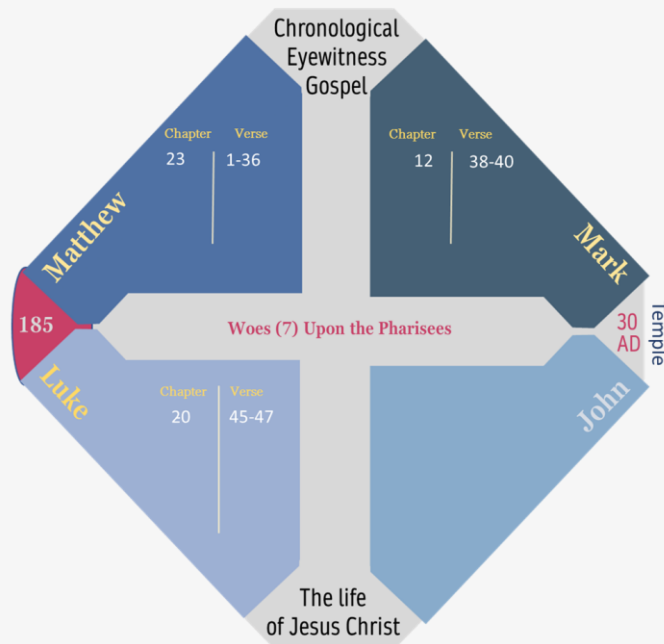


“Then, why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote in the book of Psalms:

“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.



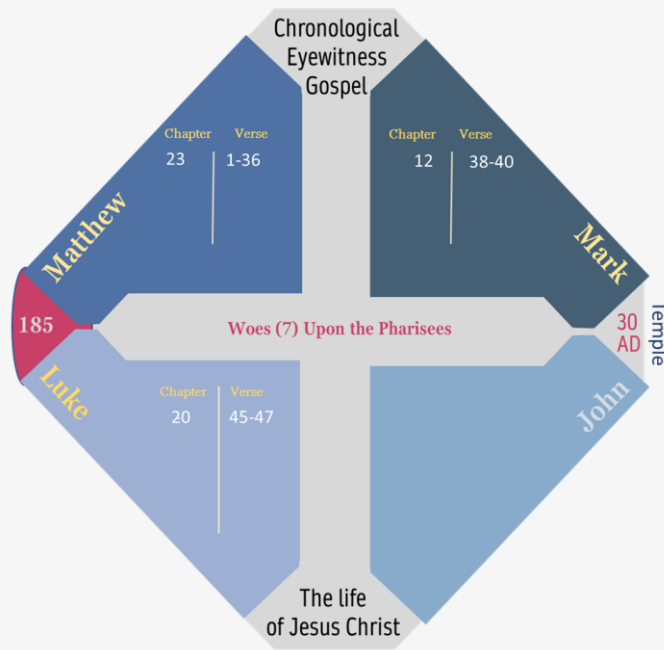
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

Seven Woes upon the Pharisees

Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said, “**Beware of these teachers of religious law!**

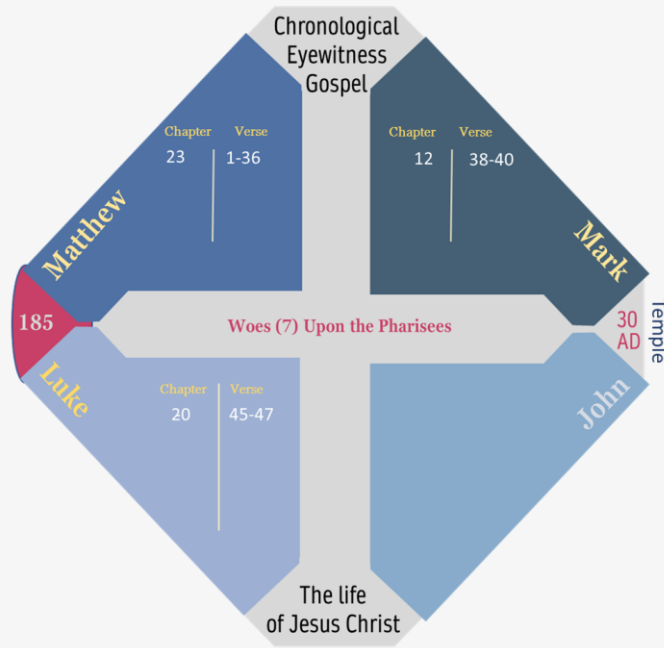
“The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease 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.’



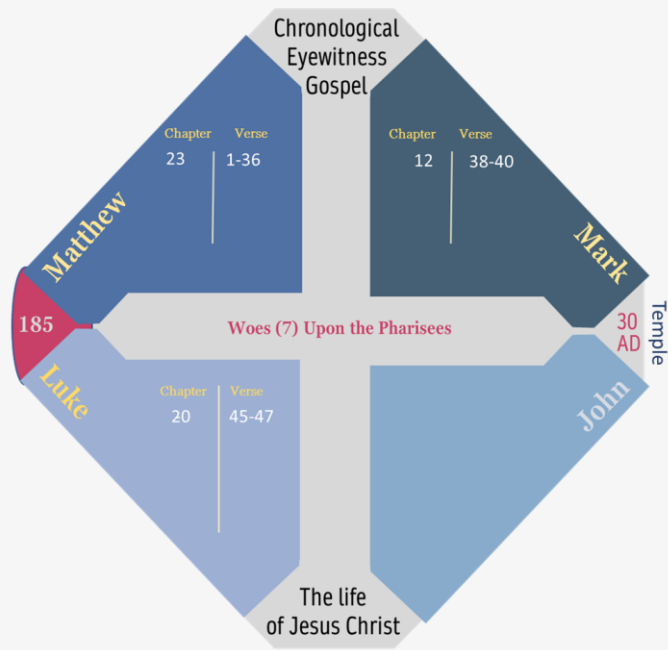
“Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your Father. And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest 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.



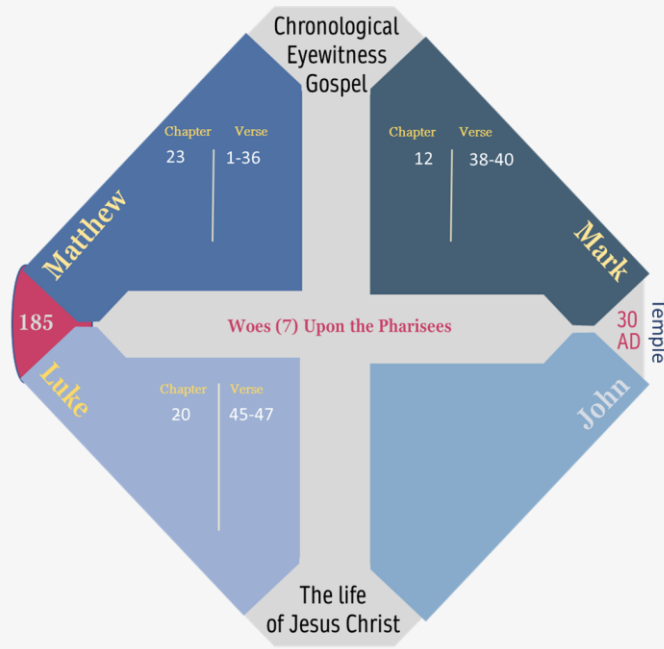
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!

“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!

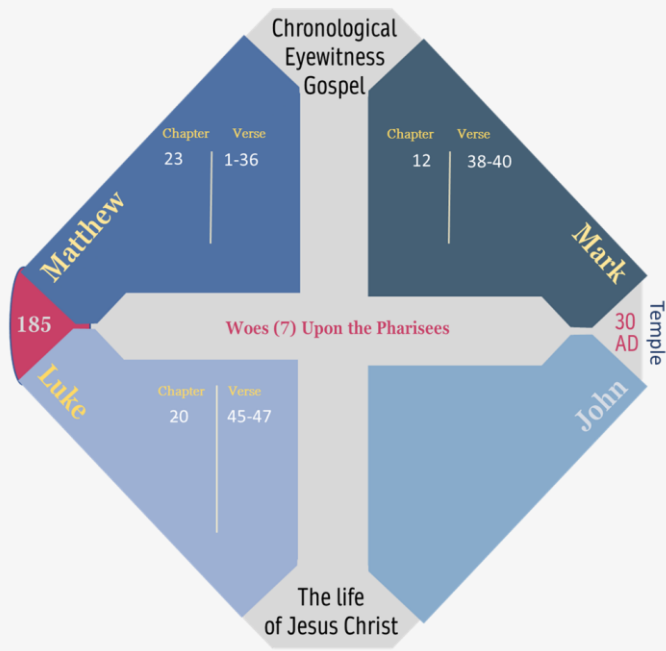
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.



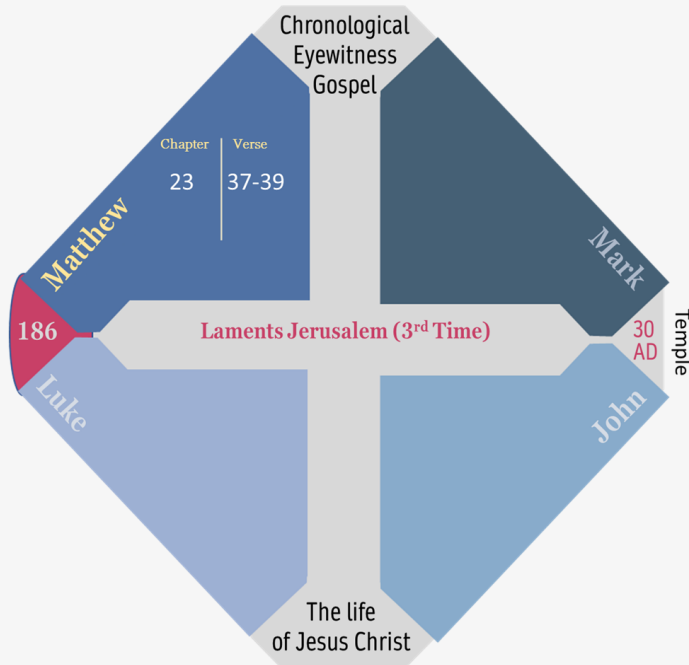
“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with 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.’

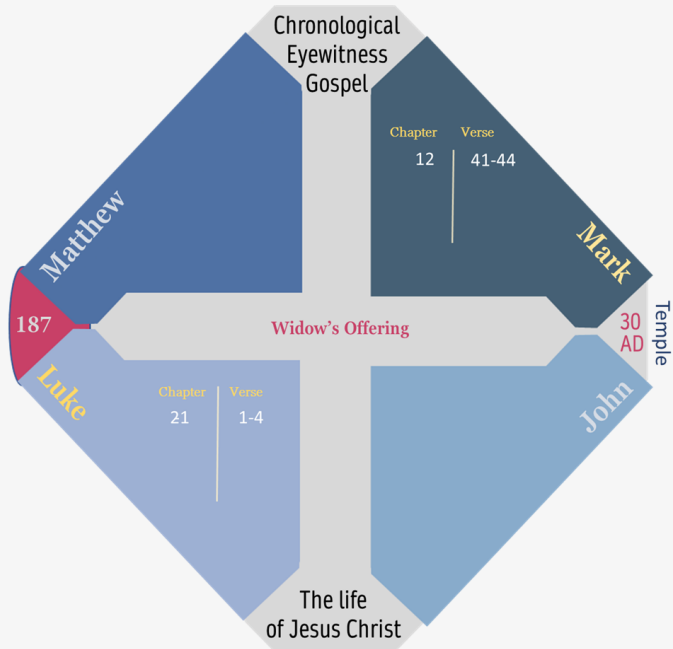
“But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started. Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?



“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.



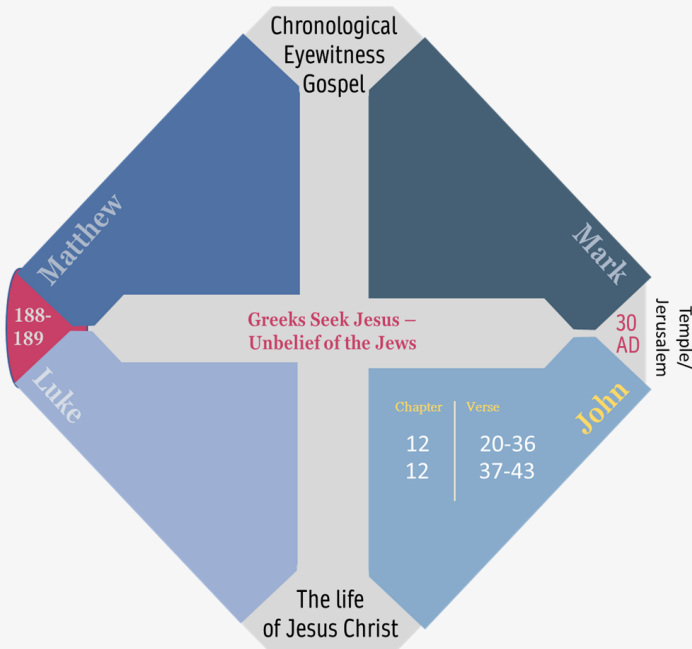
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’”



IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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.

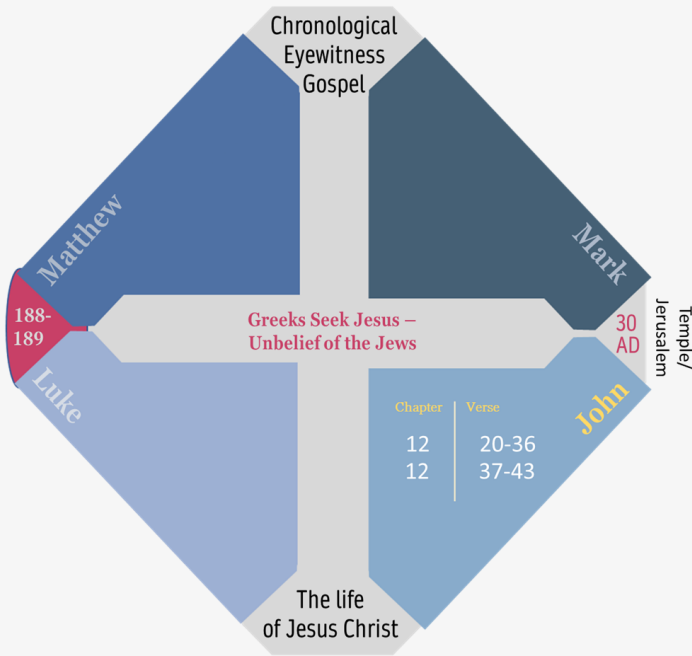
Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **“I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”**



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.

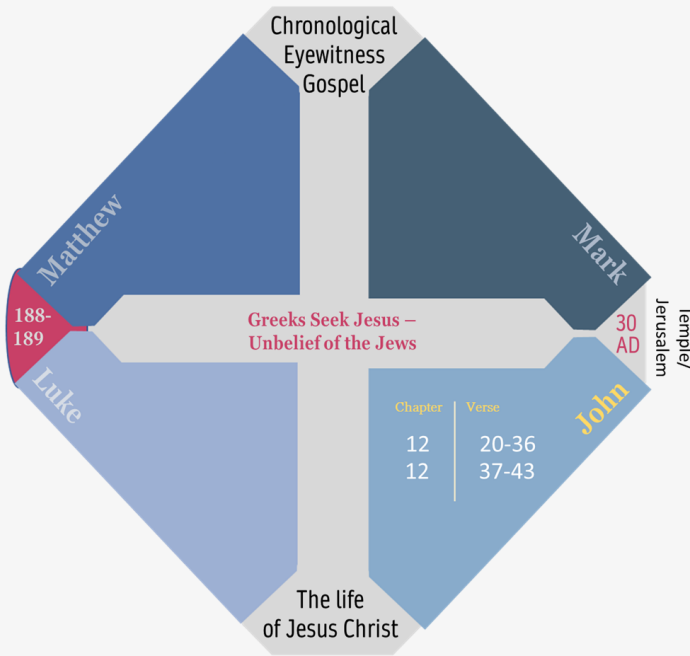
Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will 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.

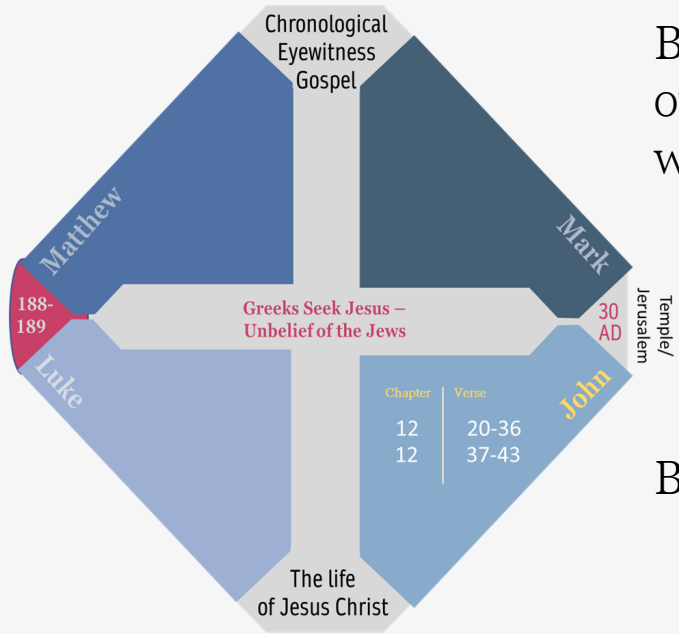
Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this to indicate how he was going to die.



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.



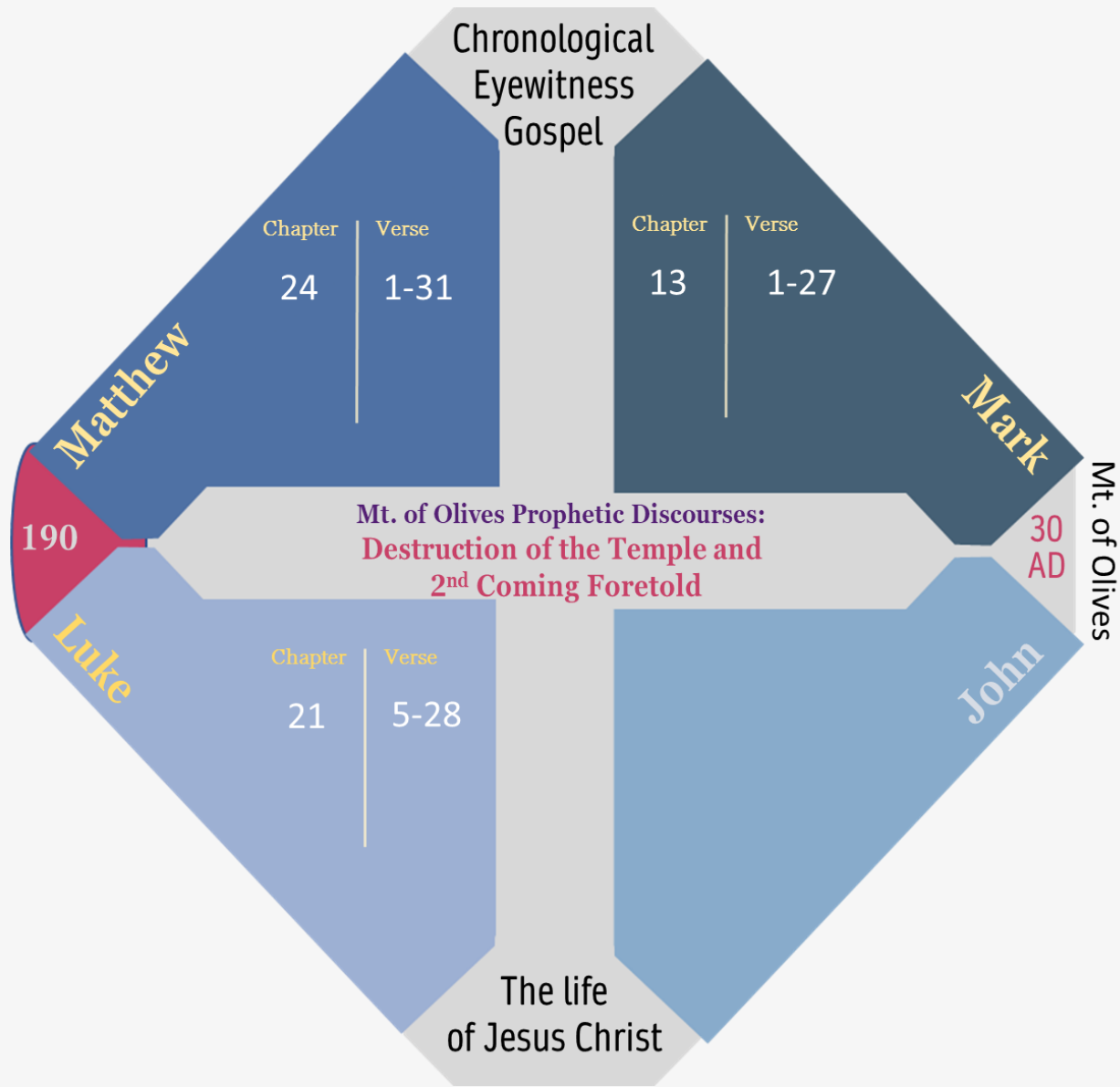
But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

“LORD, who has believed our message?
To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?”

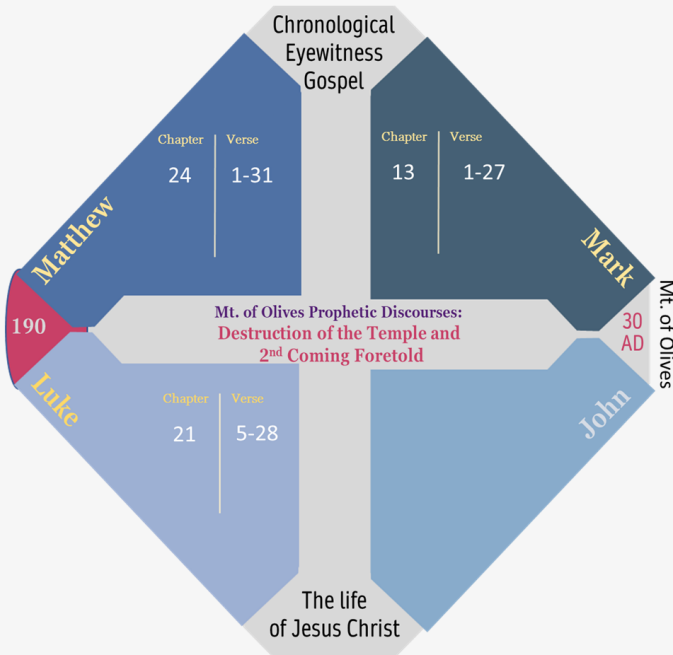
But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

“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

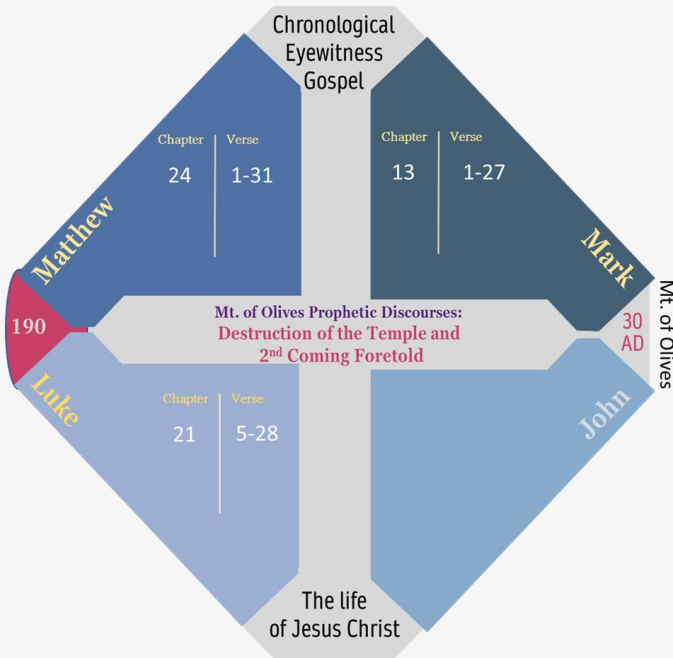


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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!”

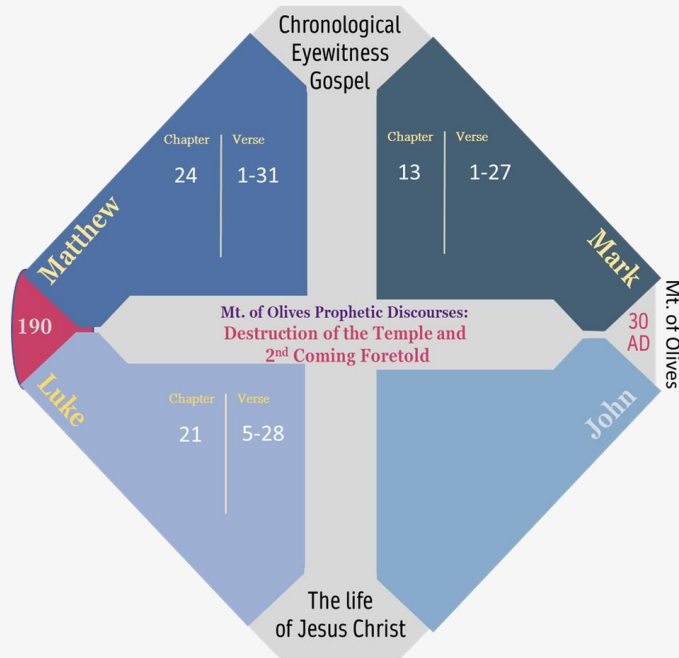
Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled? What sign will signal your return and the end of the 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.

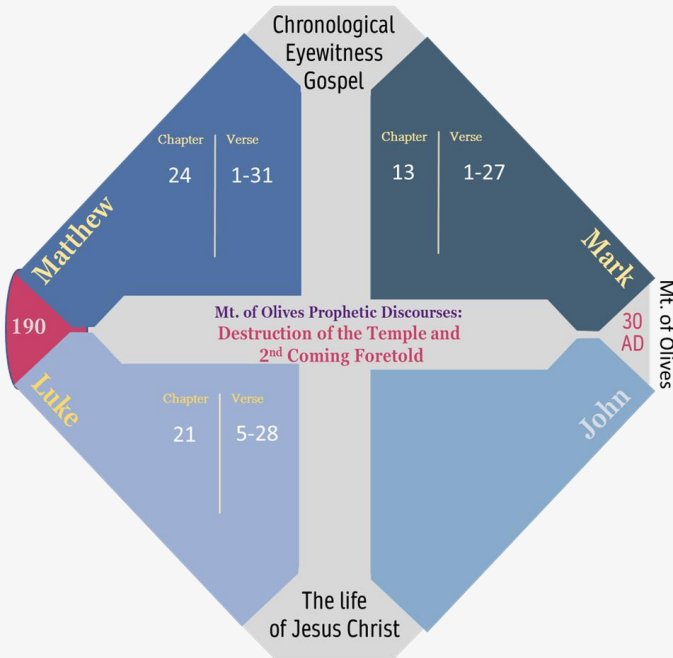
“And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. Then he added, “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and great earthquakes and plagues in many lands - in many 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.

Episode 9



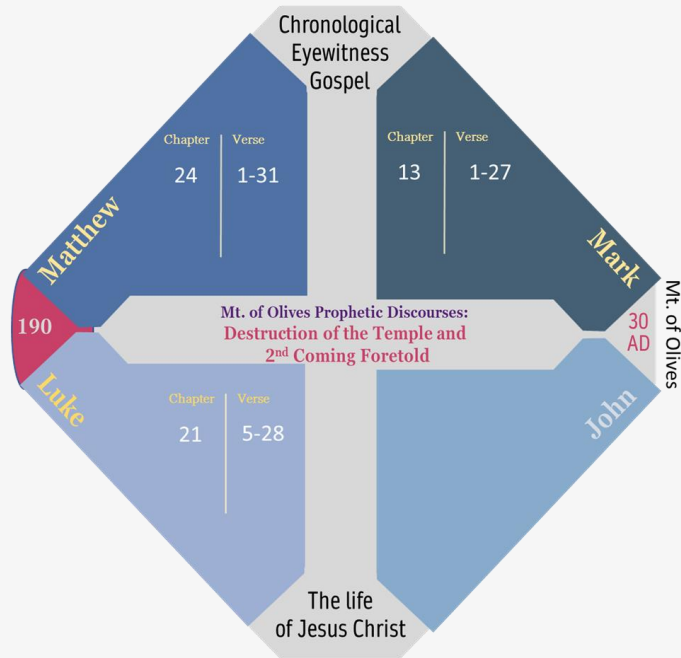
“Before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before 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.



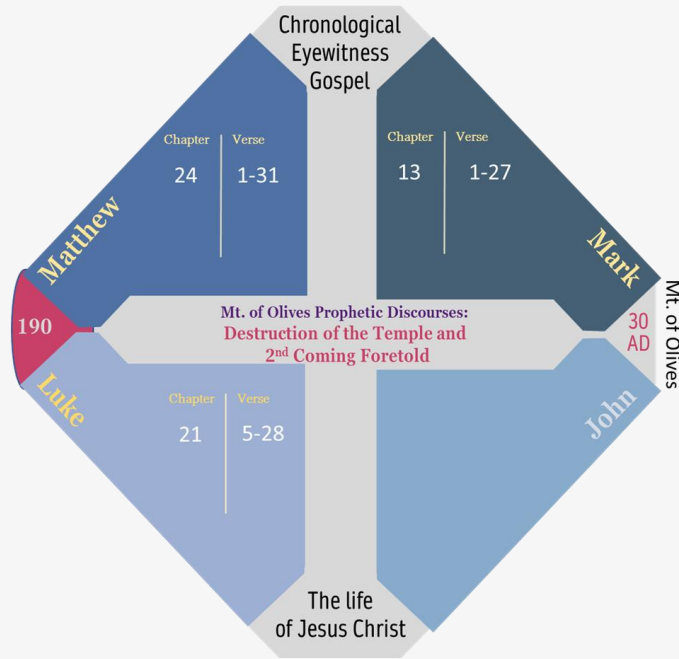
“When these things begin to happen, watch out! Even those closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. They will even kill some of you. And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But not a hair of your head will perish! By standing firm, you will win your 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.

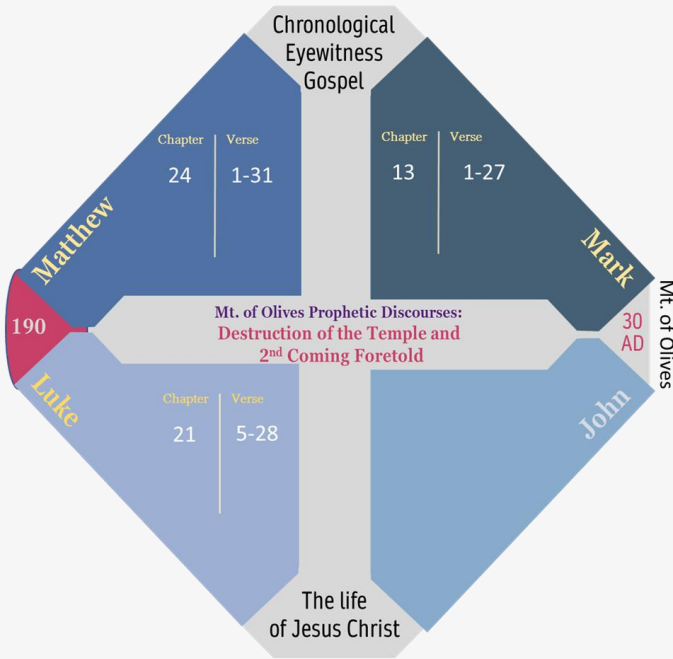
“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the abomination that causes desolation standing in the Holy Place where he/it should not be.” (Reader, pay attention!)



“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.

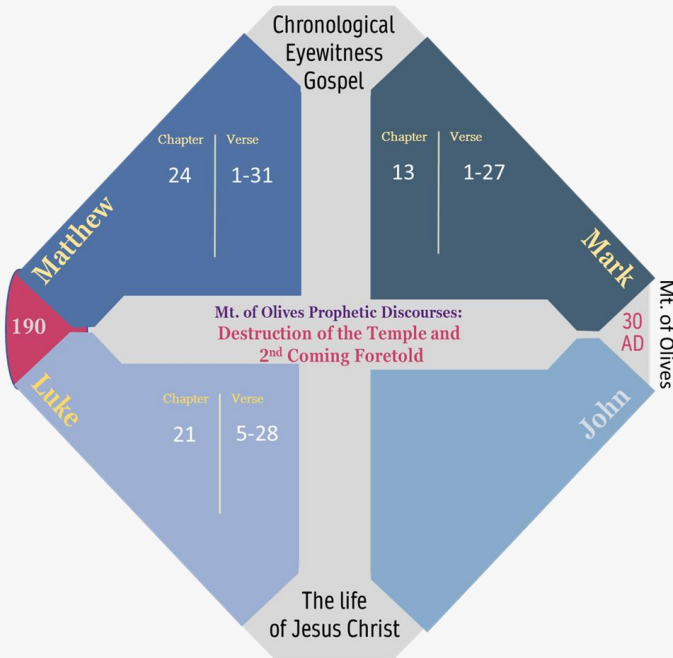
“For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.

“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!

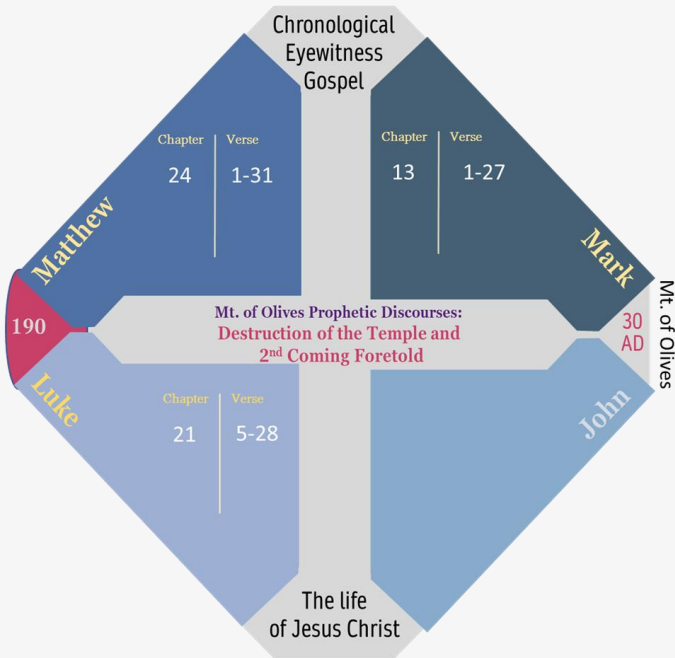


“For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they 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,

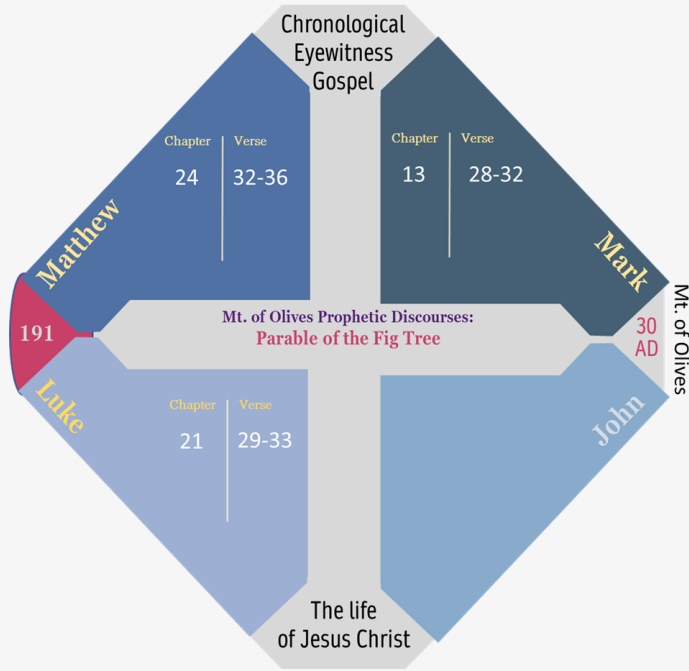
- the sun will be darkened,
- the moon will give no light,
- the stars will fall from the sky,
- and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

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.

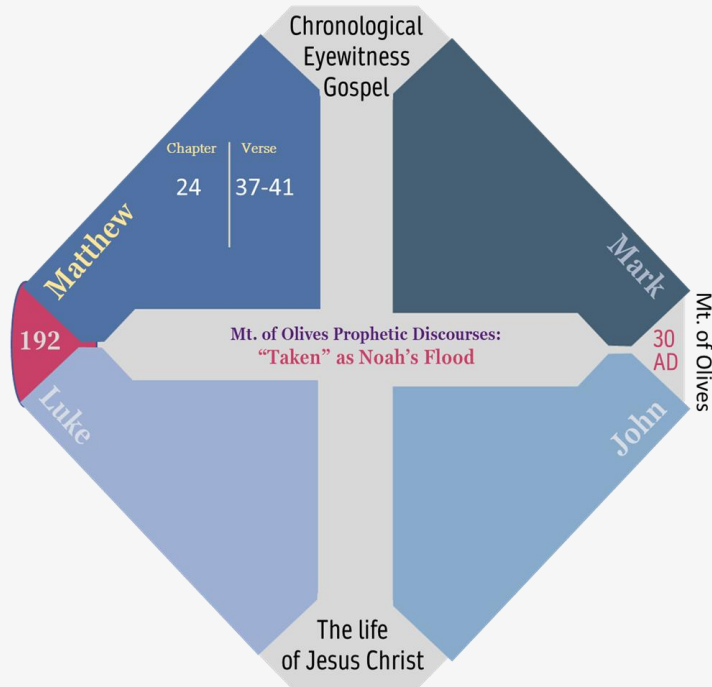
So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”



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.

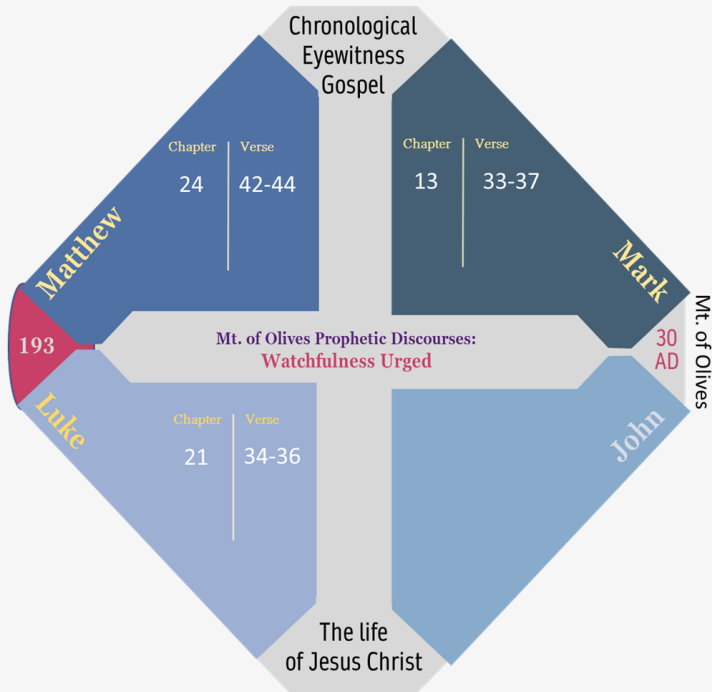
“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.



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.

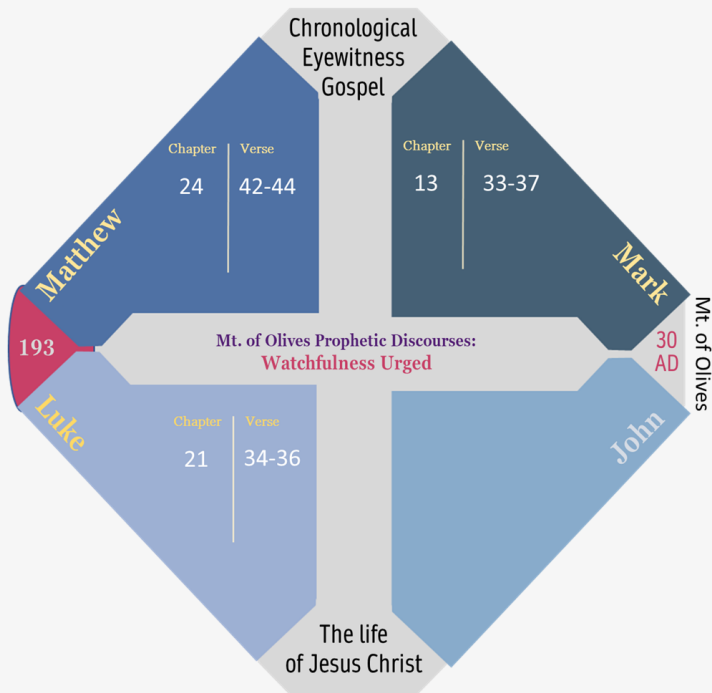
“Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.



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.

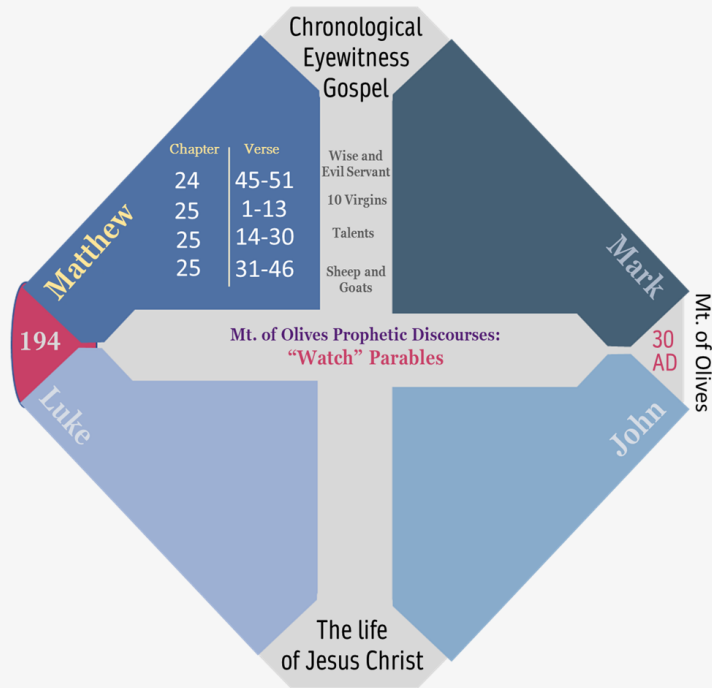
“Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man. And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! 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.

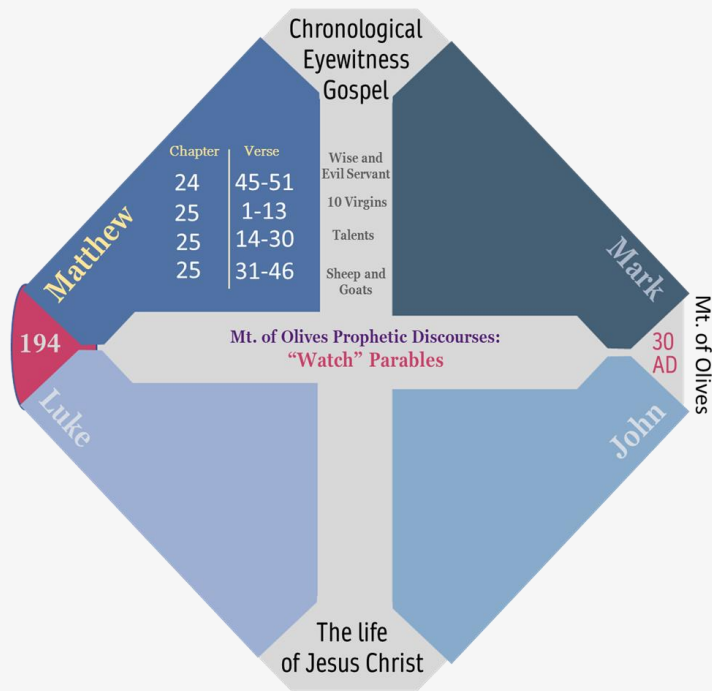


IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

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

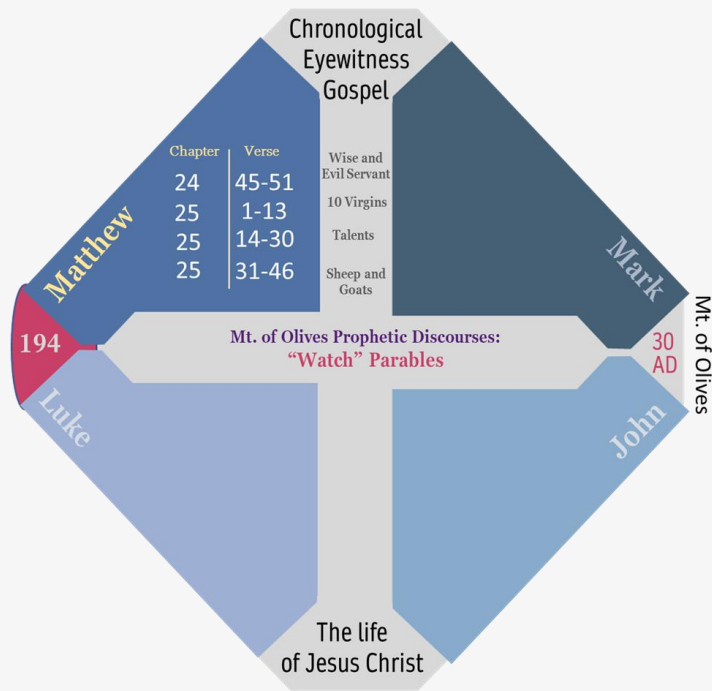


“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom 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.’

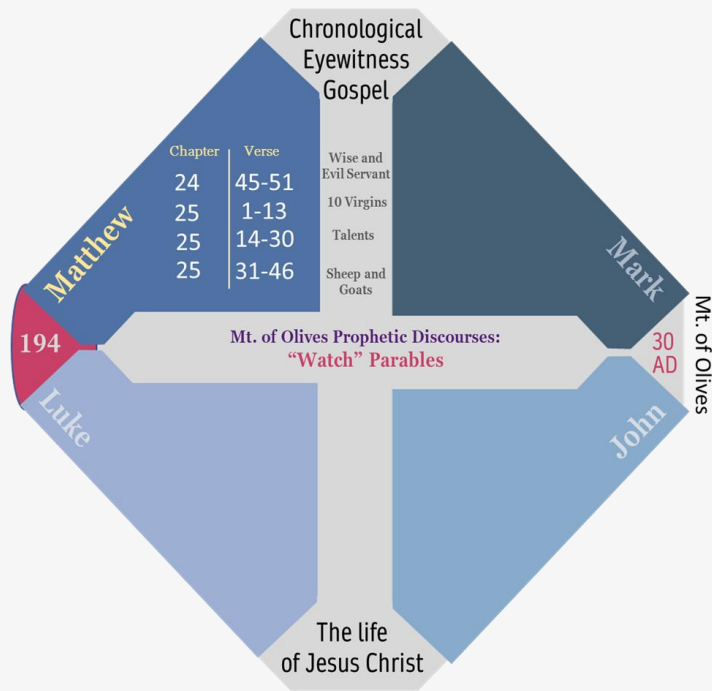
“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’



“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!’

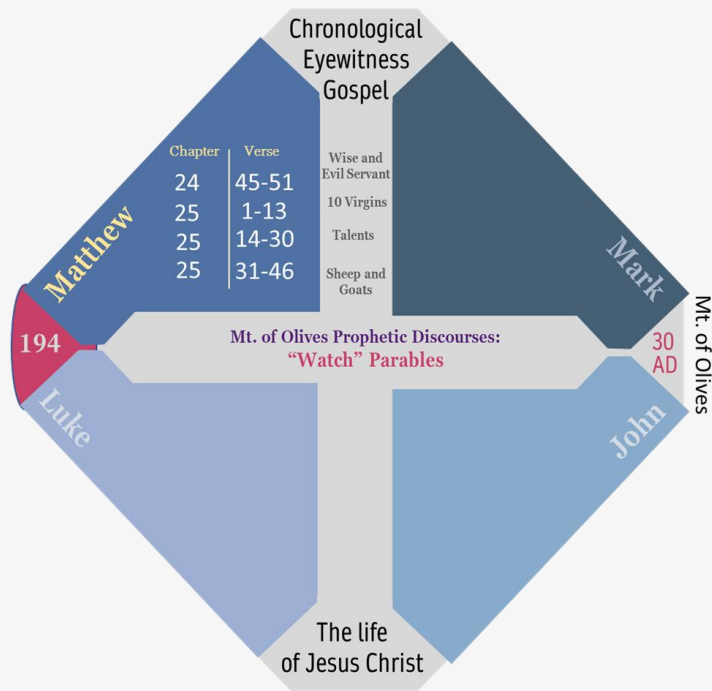
“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.



(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.

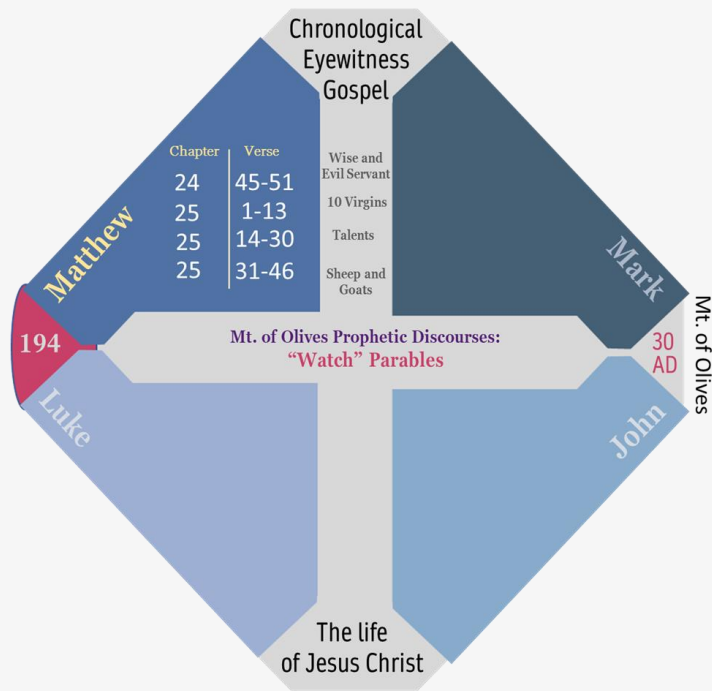


“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“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.’

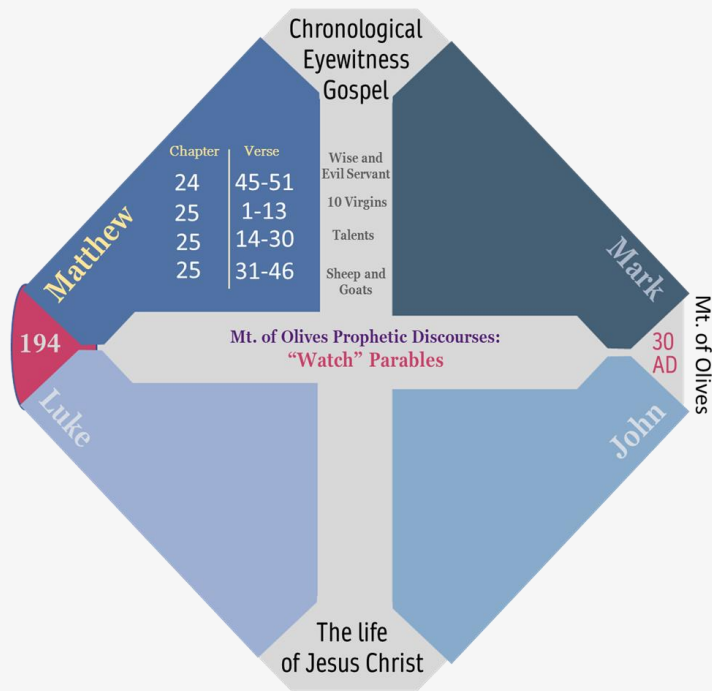
“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’



“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.’

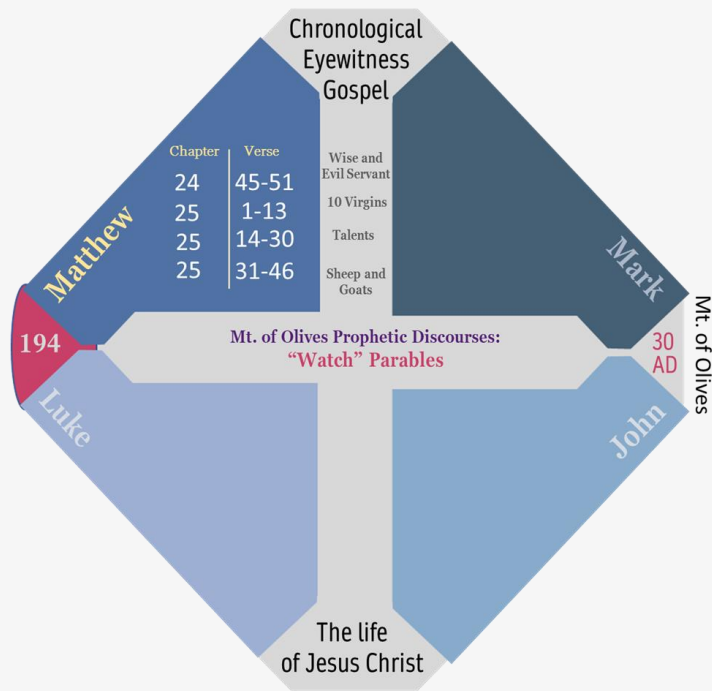
“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



(4) - Sheep and the Goats

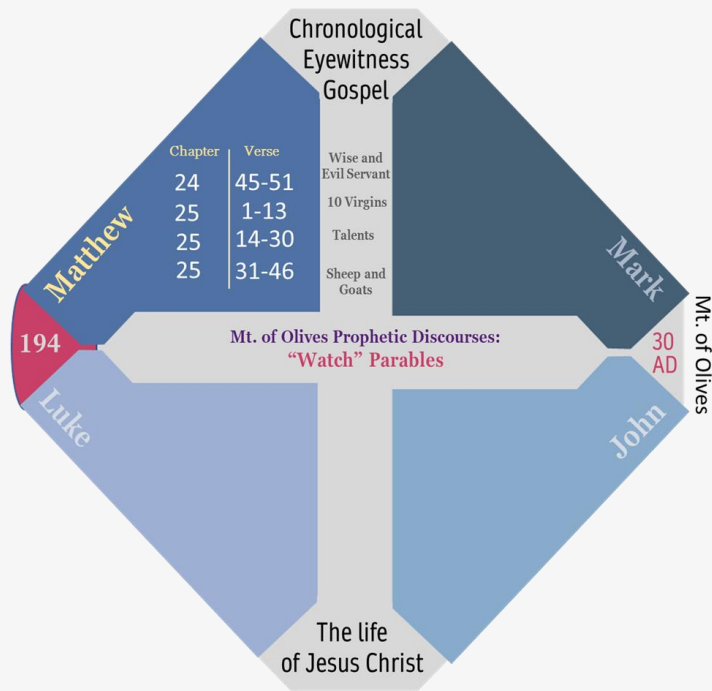
“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats 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.’

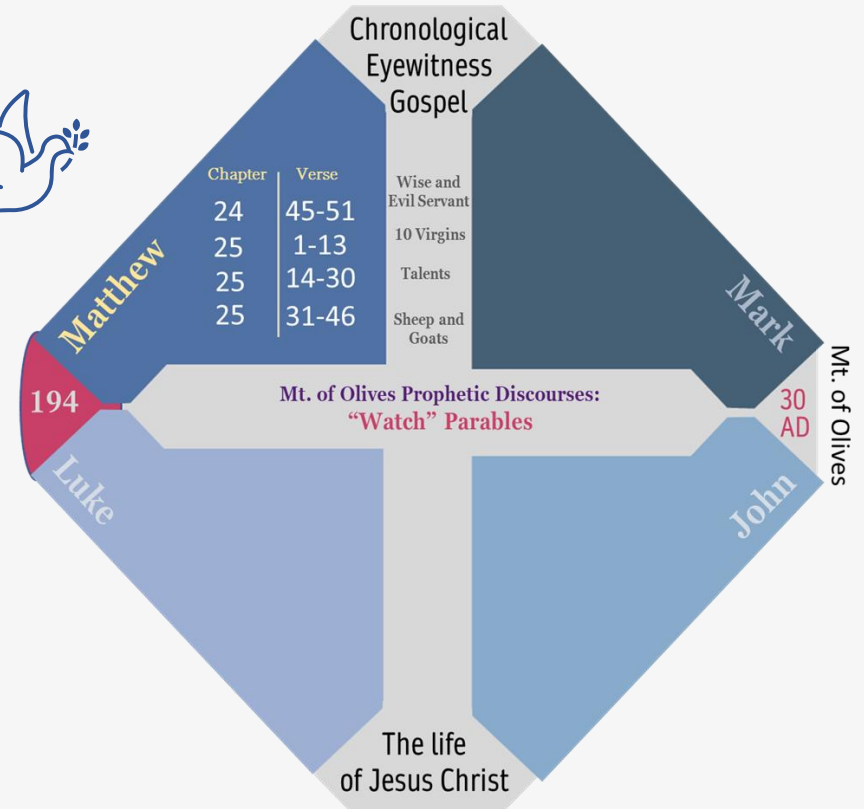
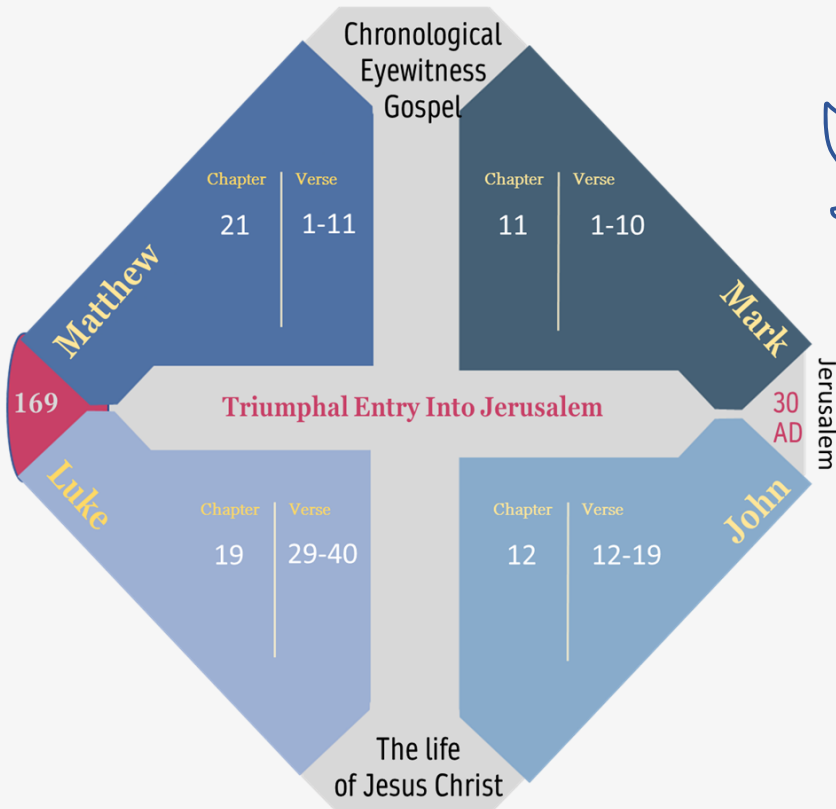
“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

“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.”

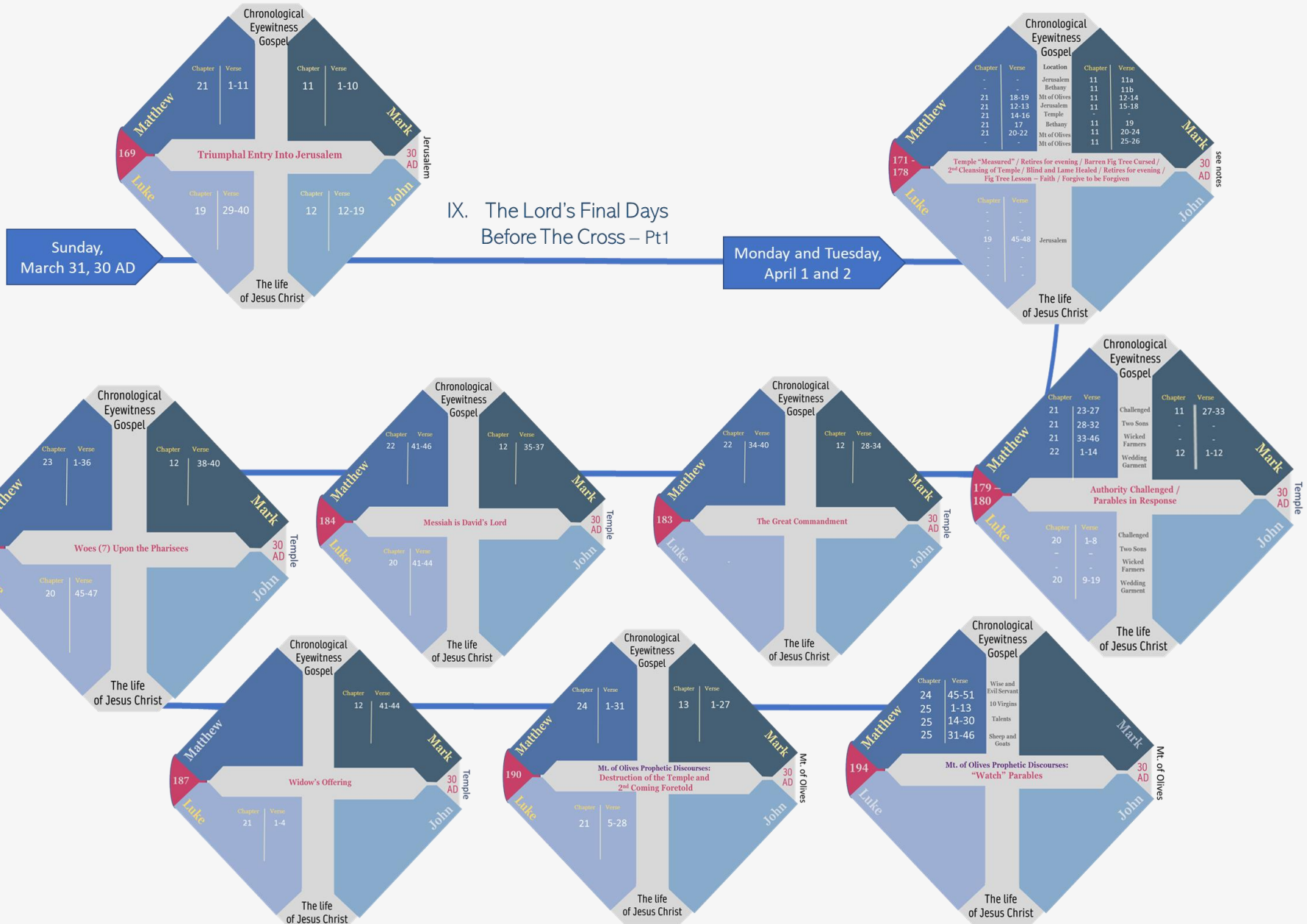
IX. THE LORD'S FINAL DAYS AT JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CROSS

(Part 1)



Chronological Eyewitness Gospel:

The Life of Jesus Christ - Episode 9





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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