

Theology Matters: The Gospels

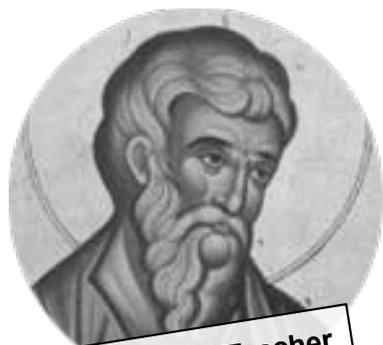
Session 3: Purpose - Matthew and Mark

Each of the gospels tells the story of Jesus in a particular way, for a particular purpose.

In this session, we will look at Matthew and Mark and try to work out why they emphasise certain themes about Jesus' life and what specific claims they may be trying to make.

Purpose: Matthew

Compare these passages and note the similarities or differences. How is Matthew presenting Jesus?

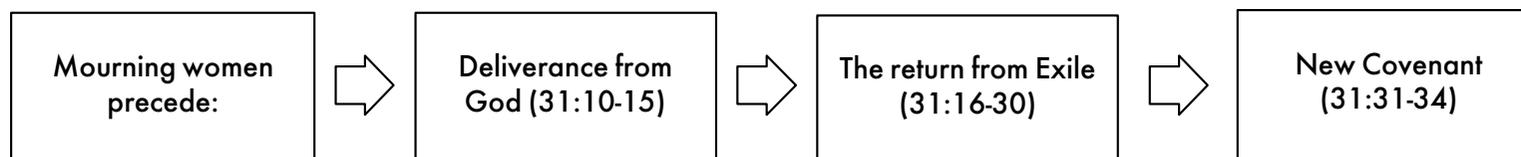
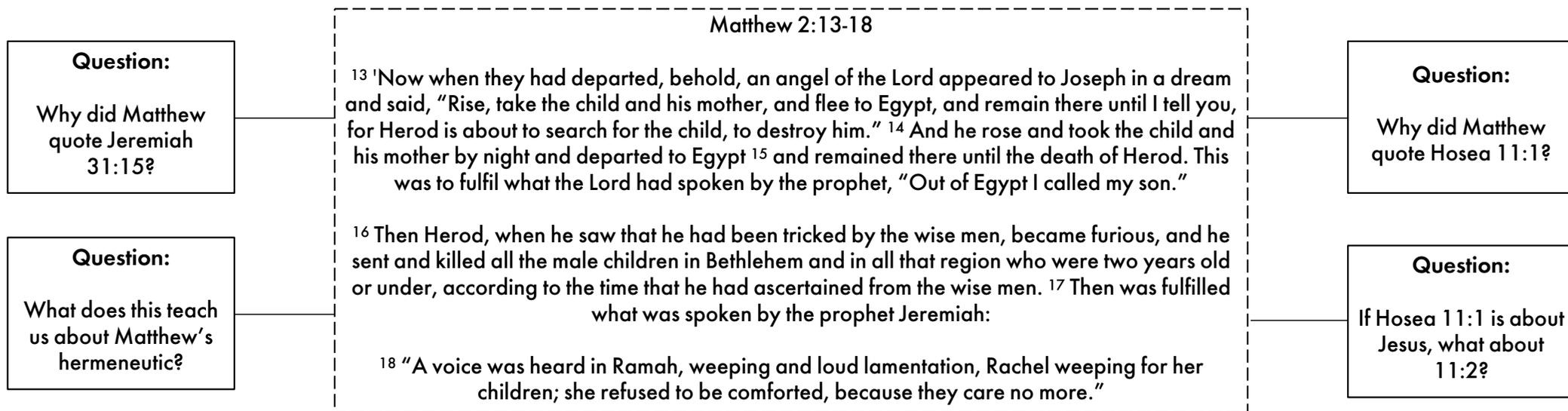
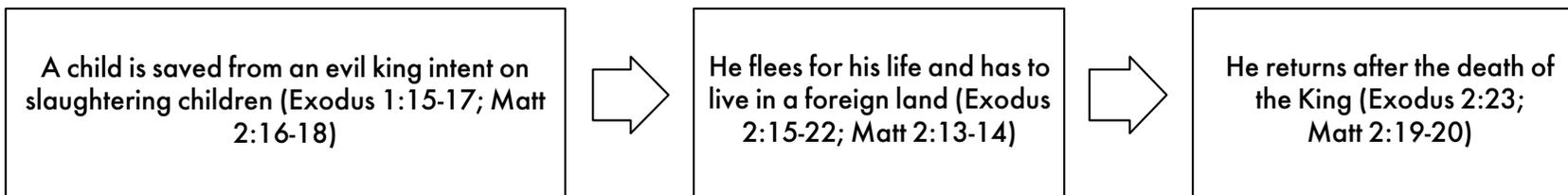


The Human/Teacher

- Often described as 'the most Jewish' gospel because of his attention to detail about Jewish customs, his focus on ethics and the law, his criticism of the Jewish leaders, and his regular reference to OT scriptures
- It may have been written to Jewish Christians, or Christians in areas with large Jewish populations (Syria or Palestine?) helping them to see Jesus as the fulfilment of the OT and giving them an ethical framework for how to live as kingdom people
- A large amount of Matthew's gospel is given over to sustained blocks of Jesus' teaching

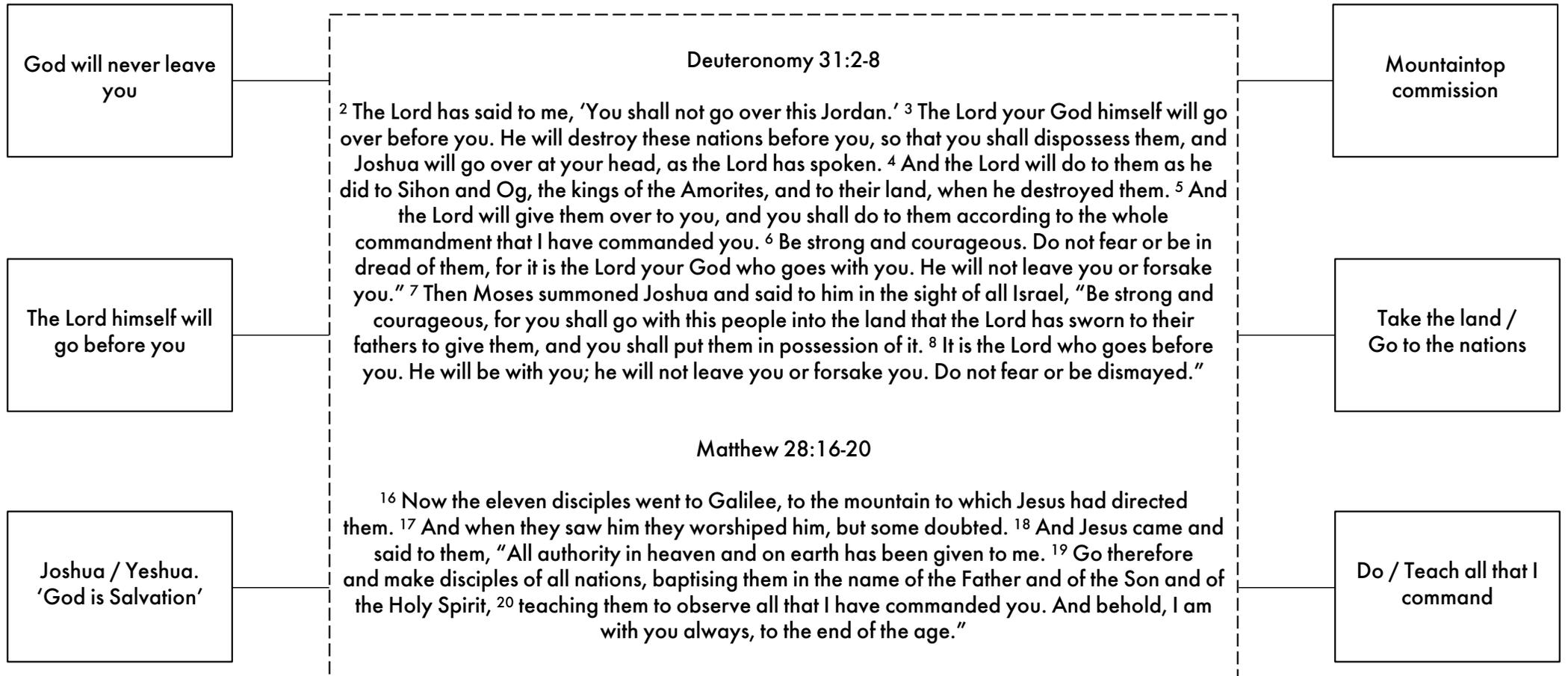
Old Testament	Matthew	Significance
Exodus 1:15-17	2:16-18	
Exodus 2:15-22	2:13-14	
Exodus 2:23-3:4, 7-10	2:19-20	
Exodus 4:22	3:17	
Deuteronomy 8:2	4:1-2	
Exodus 19:20-20:17ff	5:1-2ff	

Purpose: Matthew



Purpose: Matthew

Compare Matthew's Great Commission with Deuteronomy 31



Purpose: Mark

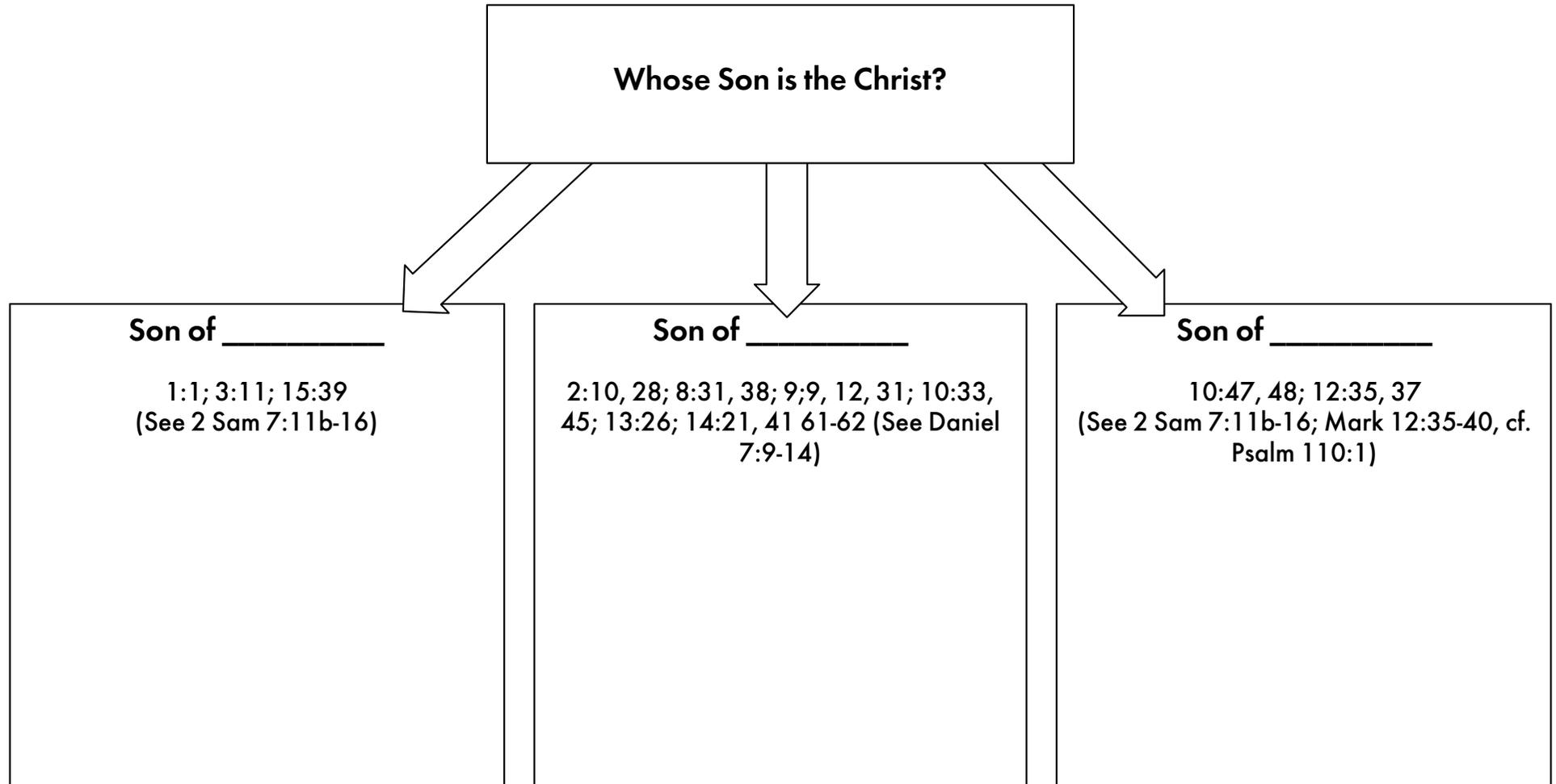


- The first gospel account to be written
- Written to Gentiles. Translates Aramaic phrases and explains Jewish customs (e.g. hand-washing in 7:3-4)
- Mark was not an eyewitness, but was 'Peter's Interpreter' (Eusebius' *Historica Ecclesiastica*, 3.39.15; Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* 106; Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* 3.1.2; Tertullian, *Adversus Marcion* 4:5 etc)
- Peter had a close relationship with Mark (1 Peter 5:13 – "my son")
- Compare Mark's structure to Peter's proclamation of the gospel

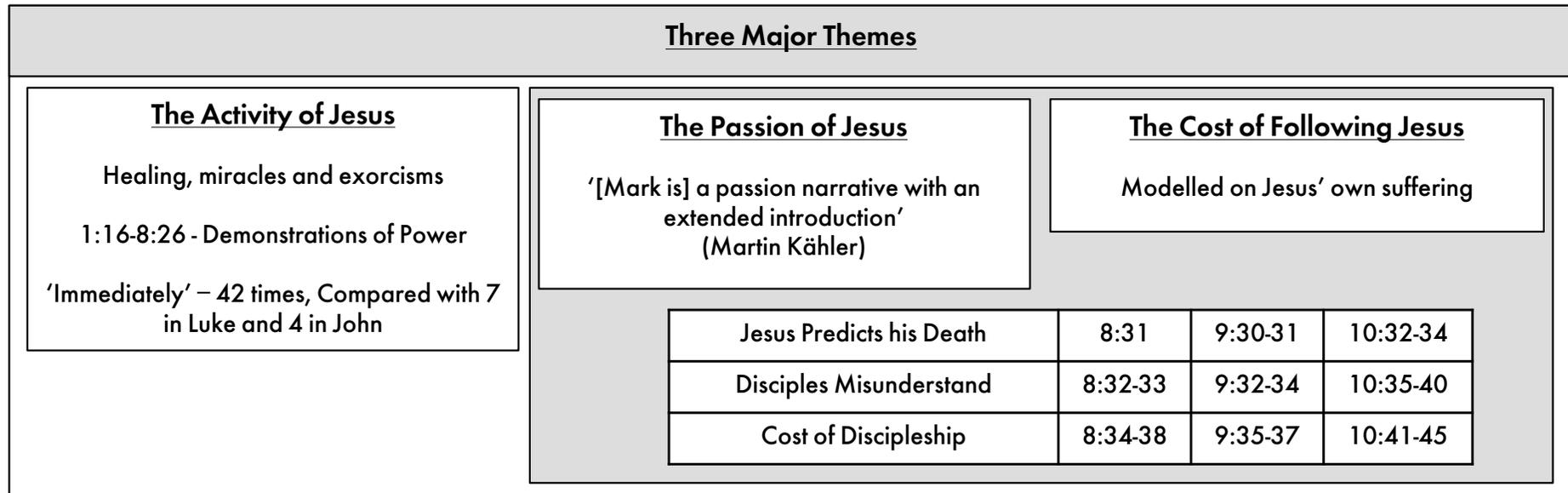
Acts 10	Mark
'Good News' (v36)	'The beginning of the good news' (1:1)
'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit' (v38)	The coming of the Spirit on Jesus (1:10)
'Beginning in Galilee' (v37)	The Galilean ministry (1:16-8:26)
'He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil' (v38)	Jesus' ministry focuses on healings and exorcisms
'We are witnesses of everything he did... in Jerusalem' (v39)	The ministry in Jerusalem (ch 11-14)
'They killed him by hanging him on a cross' (v39)	Focus on the death of Christ (ch 15)
'God raised him from the dead on the third day' (v40)	'He has risen! He is not here' (16:6)

Purpose: Mark

What title is Jesus given? By whom? And what is its meaning/significance?



Purpose: Mark



Passage	Theme	Setting
1.1-15	Introduction	
1:16-6:6	Demonstration of Jesus' Authority	Ministry in Galilee
6:7-8:26		Ministry beyond Galilee
8:27-10:52	Testing of Jesus' Authority Through Suffering	Journey to Jerusalem
11:1-13:37		Judgment on Jerusalem
14:1-16:20		Death and Resurrection