

Theology Matters: The Gospels

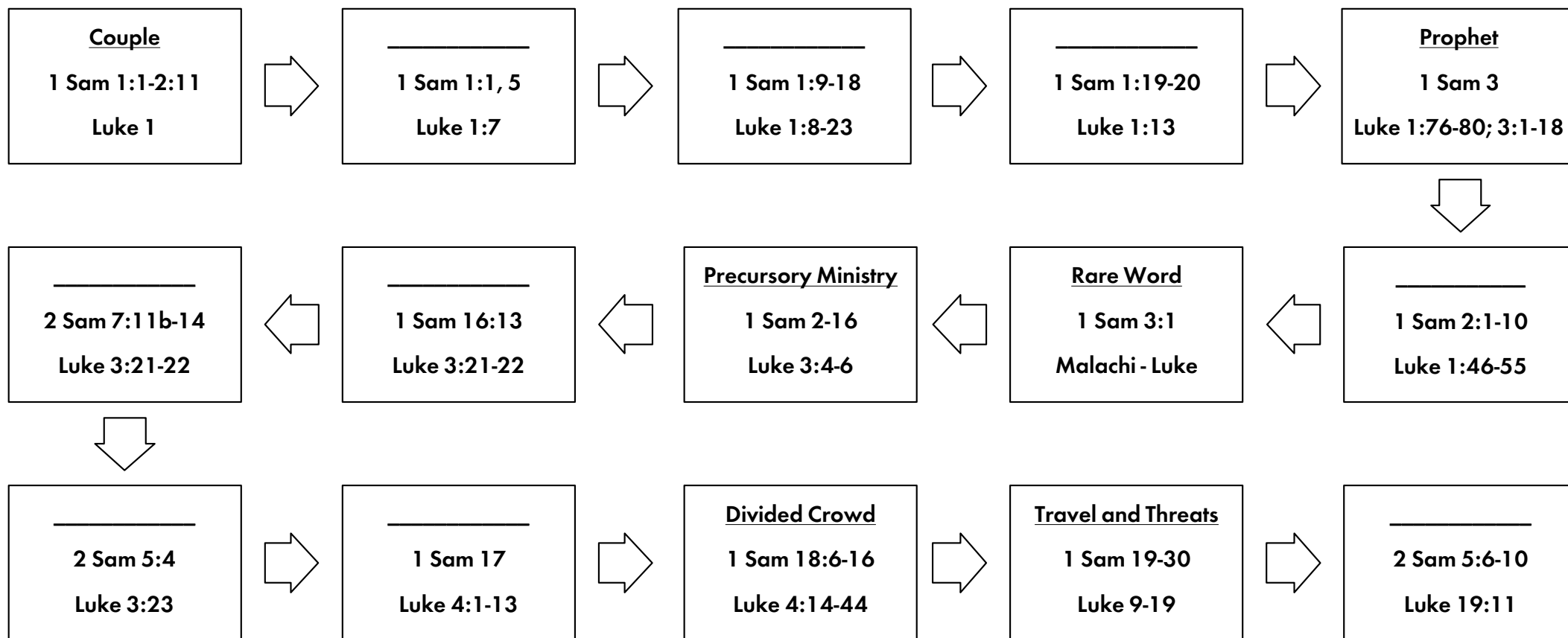
Session 4: Purpose - Luke and John

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

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

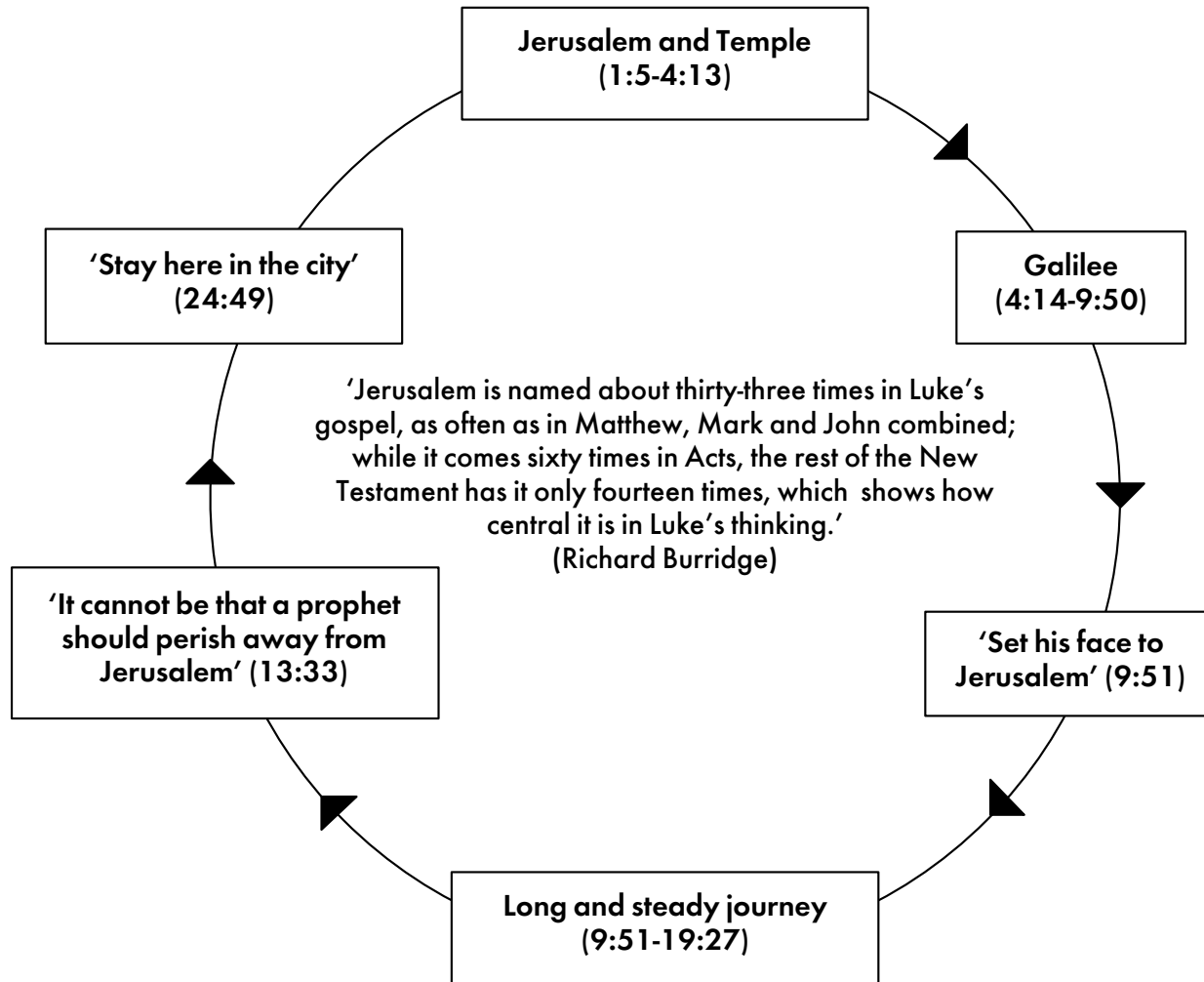
Purpose: Luke

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



Purpose: Luke

Jerusalem (the city of David) plays a significant role in Luke's gospel



Question:

If Luke portrays Jesus as the New David, how does Acts portray the church?

(cf. 1 Kings 4:34; 10:1-9; Ps 72:1, 20; 89:19-37)

Purpose: Luke

The bearing of burdens

Jesus bears burdens	Jesus provides strength to bear burdens
Jesus appears to the meek and lowly	Begins and ends in the Temple (1:5-23; 24:53)
Mary's viewpoint (2:19, 51) and her family	Prayer (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 11:1-4; 18:1-8; 22:40 etc)
Shepherds (2:9) rather than Wise Men	Holy Spirit: 18x. 57 in Acts. 6 in Mark. 12 in Matt
Angel appears to Mary (1:26) rather than Joseph (Matt 2:20)	Joy and Praise (ch 1-2 repeatedly; 10:17, 21; 15:7, 10; 19:37; 24:41, 53)
Warnings to the rich (12:13-21, 22-34; 16:14, 19-31; 18:18-25; 9:1-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written as a two-parter, along with Acts (cf. Acts 1:1) - Luke was an historian and doctor (Col 4:10-11, 14) and a companion of Paul (see the "we" passages in Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16) - Seems to have written with Gentiles in mind, and part of his agenda is to show how the message of the Jewish Messiah is relevant for all people.
Eating with Sinners (5:29-32; 15:1-2; 19:7)	
The Lepers (5:12-16; 7:22; 17:11-19), crippled (5:17-26; 7:2) and blind (7:21-22; 18:35-43)	
Tax Collectors (5:27-30; 15:1-2; 19:1-10)	
Lost Coin (15:8-10) and Prodigal Son (15:11-32)	
Women: Mary x 13. Widow of Nain (7:11-17); Woman with ointment (7:36-50)	
Gentiles: Good Samaritan (10:29-37); Centurion (7:1-10) etc	



Purpose: John

Theme	Prologue	Gospel
The pre-existence of the Logos or Son	1:1-2	17:5
In him was life	1:4	5:26
Life is light	1:4	8:12
Light rejected by darkness	1:5	3:19
Yet not quenched by it	1:5	12:35
Light coming into the world	1:9	3:19, 12:46
Christ not received by his own	1:11	4:44
Being born to God and not of flesh	1:13	3:6, 8:41-42
Seeing his glory	1:14	12:41
The 'one and only' Son	1:14, 18	3:16
Truth in Jesus Christ	1:17	14:6
No-one has seen God, except the one who comes from God	1:18	6:46



'Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name... This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.'

(John 20:30-31; 21:24-25)

Purpose: John

Think about the passages and their contexts. Identify the claim Jesus is making and explore its implications

7) _____
John 15:1-17; Ps 80:9-16; Is 5:1-7; 27:2-5; Jer 2:21;
Ezek 15:1-8

1) _____
John 6:1-15, 25-69; Exodus 16

6) _____
John 14:1-14; Exodus 26:31-35; Leviticus 16;

2) _____
John 8:12-30; 7:2, 14; Exodus 13:21

5) _____
John 11:1-44; Dan 12:2-3; Isa 26:19; Hos 6:1-2;
13:14; Ezek 37:1-14

3) _____
4) _____
John 10:1-21; Num 27:15-17; Ezek 34:1-24; Micah
2:12-13; Psalm 118:19-20

