

## PROLOGUE

SHALOM! MY NAME IS MATTHEW. IT HAS BEEN ALMOST 30 YEARS SINCE I SAW OUR LORD EXECUTED ON THE ROMAN CROSS, GIVEN BURIAL BY JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA, AND RAISED BY HIS FATHER—AND THAT...FOR US ALL. I WAS THERE ALONG WITH THE OTHER TEN AS A *CLOUD RECEIVED HIM OUT OF OUR SIGHT* FORTY DAYS AFTER HE ROSE AGAIN. AND SO, *TO THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD*, JESUS WAS *EXALTED*. IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY, AND AS I NOW MAKE PLANS TO GO OUT TO THE GENTILES WITH THE GOSPEL, I WAS REFLECTING BACK TO HIS START—BACK TO THE STORY OF JESUS' WONDERFUL BEGINNINGS—HIS BIRTH, INFANCY, AND YOUTH AS THEY HAPPENED. SO, I'VE INVITED TWO OLD FRIENDS OVER TO TELL THEIR STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH—HOW HE WAS THE SON OF ADAM, INDEED THE VERY SON OF GOD AS WELL AS ISRAEL'S MESSIAH.

AS MY GUESTS ARRIVE, THEY CAN ENTER IN WITH THEIR PART, BUT I NOW BEGIN WITH WHAT I AM WRITING TO MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN ON THE FAMILY ORIGIN OF JESUS. AND...KNOCK, KNOCK!

GREETINGS, MATTHEW, ARE YOU AWAKE?

JOHN, SHALOM! I INVITED YOU TO TELL YOUR STORY OF WHAT GOD IS MOVING YOU TO WRITE ON OUR GOOD MESSIAH'S BEGINNINGS. I WAS JUST STARTING, AND I'M SO GLAD YOU'VE MADE IT. COULD YOU... YES, MATTHEW. GOD IS GOOD, AND HE IS WORKING WITH ME ON WHAT TO WRITE—YES, IT IS THAT JESUS IS GOD *THAT ALL MAY BELIEVE THAT HE IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING THEY MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME*. SO, I START WITH GOD BEFORE JESUS CAME TO EARTH. [1]

## CHAPTER I                    *IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD*

*IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD*—THAT IS, NOT IN A BEGINNING TIME BUT IN ETERNITY. *AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD*. WHAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW IS THAT *THE WORD* WAS IN SOME WAY PART OF GOD. THOUGH GOD IN HIS ESSENCE WAS DISTINCT FROM, AND WAS MORE THAN *THE WORD*. THERE IS A TERM COINED FROM ARAMAIC WHICH I HEARD SINCE MY YOUTH IN SYNAGOGUE FOR *THE WORD OF GOD* OR *THE WORD OF JEHOVAH* IN *THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS*. THIS TERM IS *MEMRA*, AND IT WAS COINED FOR HOW *THE WORD* WAS USED—LIKE WHEN KING DAVID SAID, *HIS WORD RUNS VERY SWIFTLY*; OR WHEN THE PROPHET ISAIAH WROTE, *THE WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER*—HERE, *THE WORD* RUNS AND STANDS AS IF IT ACTUALLY IS A PERSON.

IN SYNAGOGUE, THE *MEMRA* WAS SEEN AS SOMETIMES DISTINCT FROM GOD LIKE WHEN *THE LORD SENT A WORD INTO JACOB, AND IT FELL IN ISRAEL*. BUT ALSO, IT SOMETIMES WAS THE SAME AS GOD HIMSELF AS IN...BY MEANS OF *THE WORD OF JEHOVAH WERE THE HEAVENS MADE*. SO, GOD TOLD ME, *THIS MEMRA WAS GOD AND IT WAS WITH GOD*; INDEED, *ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH THE WORD OR MEMRA; AND WITHOUT IT WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE*. ONLY THE ONE WHO IS GOD CAN DO THIS—HE IS THE *MEMRA*. MATTHEW, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DRAW THIS STORY OUT. YOU SEE...IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT THE LORD JESUS WAS BEFORE HE WAS BORN. NO, JOHN, IT'S ALL RIGHT; GO AHEAD.

THANK YOU; NOW, WHERE WAS I? WELL, HOW CAN THE *WORD* BE DISTINCT FROM GOD, AND AT THE SAME TIME BE THE SAME AS GOD? IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM GOD IN SOME WAY, YET IT WAS THE SAME AS GOD IN ESSENCE. YOU SEE, ONLY IN THE LORD JESUS AS THE *WORD* OR THE *MEMRA* CAN THIS SEEMING CONTRADICTION BE EXPLAINED. HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE PERSON OF THE FATHER OR THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT HE WAS THE SAME AS GOD IN ESSENCE; THEREFORE HE WAS GOD, TOO. THEN GOD TOLD ME... *AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH, AND TABERNACLED AMONG US*. *THE MEMRA* WAS ALSO THE MEANS BY WHICH GOD BECAME VISIBLE IN *THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS* AS WHEN *THE GOD OF GLORY APPEARED TO OUR FATHER ABRAHAM WHEN HE WAS IN MESOPOTAMIA* OR WHEN *JEHOVAH APPEARED AGAIN IN SHILOH, FOR JEHOVAH REVEALED HIMSELF TO SAMUEL IN SHILOH BY THE WORD OF JEHOVAH*. NOTICE, *REVEALED HIMSELF BY THE WORD*. IN THE DESERT WANDERINGS, MOSES REFERRED TO GOD AS THE *SHEKINAH* OR *ABODE* WHEN HE REVEALED HIS INVISIBLE FORM TO ISRAEL IN A VISIBLE WAY. IT OFTEN APPEARED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD SO THE ALL-PRESENT GOD REVEALING HIMSELF IN A LOCAL, PHYSICAL WAY WAS REFERRED TO AS THE *SHEKINAH GLORY*. MOSES SAID, *HE WAS NOT ABLE TO ENTER INTO THE TENT OF MEETING, BECAUSE THE CLOUD ABODE THEREON, AND THE GLORY OF JEHOVAH FILLED THE TABERNACLE*. THE *ABODE OF GLORY* IS OUR *SHEKINAH GLORY*, AND FOR ALMOST NINE HUNDRED YEARS, IT ABODE WITH ISRAEL EITHER AS A LIGHT, OR AS A FIRE, OR AS A CLOUD. BUT HOWEVER IT ABODE IN THE TABERNACLE OR THE TEMPLE, IT WAS BY MEANS OF *THE WORD*—BY MEANS OF HIS *MEMRA* ... UNTIL THE DAYS OF EZEKIEL.

IN THE DAYS OF THE PROPHET, ISRAEL HAD LONG SINCE DEPARTED FROM GOD, SO EZEKIEL WROTE, *AND THE GLORY OF JEHOVAH WENT UP FROM THE MIDST OF THE CITY*. NOW, AFTER SIX HUNDRED YEARS, THE *SHEKINAH GLORY* RETURNS—NOT AS A LIGHT, FIRE, OR CLOUD, WHICH WE COULD NEVER HAVE HANDLED. IT CAME IN FLESH AND BONE *WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, WHICH WE OURSELVES LOOKED AT WITH OUR EYES, AND OUR HANDS HAVE HANDLED*. IT CAME NOT COVERED BY THE ANIMAL SKINS OF THE TABERNACLE OR BY THE STONES OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE. IT CAME AS A MAN, AND ONCE AGAIN TABERNACLED WITH ISRAEL. TRULY, *THE WORD BECAME FLESH, AND TABERNACLED AMONG US*. *THE*

*MEMRA EMPTIED HIMSELF BY TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT, COMING IN THE LIKENESS OF MAN AS OUR FRIEND. YET, AS WE LOOKED AT HIM, THERE WAS NO APPEARANCE, NOR GRANDEUR TO HIM THAT WE SHOULD GAZE AT HIM...NO VISION THAT WE SHOULD TAKE PLEASURE IN HIM. THE SHEKINAH GLORY IN ITS FLESH APPEARED AS ANY OTHER JEWISH MAN OF OUR DAY. SO, WE WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN IT WAS HIM HAD GOD NOT TOLD US. THAT'S ALL I HAVE FOR NOW, MATTHEW.*

JOHN, THANK YOU FOR THAT. I WAS NOT ALLOWED IN SYNAGOGUE AS YOU KNOW BECAUSE OF MY JOB, SO THAT HELPS ME.

MATTHEW, IT IS WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME. NOW, I HAVE LONGED TO HEAR IN YOUR VOICE WHAT YOU RECEIVED FROM GOD ABOUT THE MESSIAH. GOD WOULD HAVE *ALL THINGS BE DONE PROPERLY AND IN ORDER*, SO WHAT COMES NEXT IN HIS BEGINNINGS? [2]

## CHAPTER II **FAMILY ORIGIN OF JESUS CHRIST**

WELL, JOHN...I WANTED TO SHOW JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH WE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR—AND SO, HE MUST HAVE NOT ONLY COME FROM THE HOUSE OF KING DAVID, BUT *THE ORIGIN OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID*, MUST HAVE BEGUN WITH THE FIRST JEW, ABRAHAM:

SO, ABRAHAM BEGAT ISAAC WHO BEGAT JACOB. HE BEGAT JUDAH WHO BEGAT PEREZ (BY TAMAR) WHO BEGAT HEZRON. HE BEGAT RAM (ALSO ARAM) WHO BEGAT AMMINADAB WHO BEGAT NAHSHON. HE BEGAT SALMON WHO BEGAT BOAZ (BY RAHAB) WHO BEGAT OBED (BY RUTH). HE BEGAT JESSE WHO BEGAT DAVID THE KING. NOW, HE BEGAT SOLOMON (BY HER OF URIAH) WHO BEGAT REHOBOAM WHO BEGAT ABIJAH. HE BEGAT ASA WHO BEGAT JEHOASHAPHAT WHO BEGAT JORAM (ALSO CALLED JEHOASH). HE BEGAT UZZIAH (ALSO AZARIAH) WHO BEGAT JOTHAM WHO BEGAT AHAZ. HE BEGAT HEZEKIAH WHO BEGAT MANASSEH WHO BEGAT AMON. HE BEGAT JOSIAH WHO BEGAT CONIAH OR (ALSO CALLED) JECHONIAH DURING THE DEPORTATION OF BABYLON.

BUT, MATTHEW, WHY DID...WELL, I KNOW WHY NOT ATHALIAH IN THE LINE OF MESSIAH—SHE USURPED THE THRONE OF DAVID; BUT WHY NOT MENTION THAT AHAZIAH, THE SON OF JORAM, BEGAT JOASH (ALSO CALLED JEHOASH) WHO BEGAT AMAZIAH WHO BEGAT UZZIAH? WE ARE TRYING TO BE ACCURATE AREN'T WE?

JOHN, I MAY NOT KNOW THE WHY'S AND WHY NOT'S OF THE LORD, BUT HE DOES. GOD IS PERFECT, AND HIS OVERVIEW OF THE DIVISIONS OF TIME IS PERFECT. SO, *ALL THE GENERATIONS FROM ABRAHAM UNTIL DAVID ARE FOURTEEN GENERATIONS; AND FROM DAVID UNTIL THE DEPORTATION OF BABYLON AR*

FOURTEEN GENERATIONS; AND FROM THE DEPORTATION TO *BABYLON* UNTIL THE CHRIST ARE FOURTEEN GENERATIONS.

HOWEVER, WE DO RUN INTO A PROBLEM, HERE, JOHN. THE MESSIAH IS NOT ALLOWED TO COME FROM THE SEED OF CONIAH. YOU SEE, THERE WAS A CURSE ON HIM, AND IT WENT LIKE THIS. JEREMIAH GAVE CONIAH, A *DECLARATION OF THE LORD*, "*AS I LIVE, EVEN THOUGH, YOU, CONIAH, THE SON OF JEHOIAKIM, KING OF JUDAH, WERE A SIGNET RING ON MY RIGHT HAND; YET, I WOULD TEAR YOU OFF; AND I WILL GIVE YOU OVER INTO THE HAND OF ONES SEEKING YOUR SOUL; INDEED, INTO THE HAND OF WHOM YOU, YOURSELF, ARE FILLED WITH FEAR FROM THEIR FACE; EVEN, INTO THE HAND OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON—THAT IS, INTO THE HAND OF THE CHALDEANS. I WILL CAUSE YOU AND YOUR MOTHER WHO BORE YOU TO BE CAST ONTO ANOTHER LAND WHERE NEITHER OF YOU WERE BORN; BUT, THERE, BOTH OF YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.* THEN, THE LORD CALLS UPON THE WHOLE EARTH TO BE A SURE WITNESS OF CONIAH'S FAILURE TO LISTEN TO THE WORD. SO, HE SAYS, "*O EARTH, EARTH, EARTH, HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD!*" AND SINCE CONIAH PAID NO ATTENTION TO IT, THE LORD'S JUDGMENT FALLS: "*WRITE DOWN THIS MAN AS 'CHILDLESS—A YOUNG MAN HAVING NO INCREASE IN HIS DAYS BECAUSE NO MAN FROM HIS SEED WILL HAVE INCREASE SITTING ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND RULING AGAIN IN JUDAH.'*" THERE IT IS... MESSIAH STILL MUST COME FROM THE HOUSE OF DAVID, BUT APART FROM THE SEED OF CONIAH.

SO, MATTHEW WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THAT? JESUS IS OUT OF THE SEED OF CONIAH.

TRUE, JOHN, BECAUSE HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS SEED...*AFTER THE DEPORTATION OF BABYLON AND JECHONIAH: HE BEGAT SHEALTIEL WHO BEGAT ZERUBBABEL. HE BEGAT ABIUD WHO BEGAT ELIAKIM WHO BEGAT AZOR. HE BEGAT SADOC WHO BEGAT ACHIM WHO BEGAT ELIUD. HE BEGAT ELEAZAR WHO BEGAT MATTHAN WHO BEGAT JACOB. AND, HE BEGAT JOSEPH THE HUSBAND OF MARY, BY WHOM WAS BORN JESUS, THE ONE WHO IS CALLED 'CHRIST'.* WE KNOW JESUS IS OUR MESSIAH, AND IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THROWN OF DAVID...

BUT, MATTHEW, YOU AND I BOTH BASE OUR WRITINGS ON THE PROMISE, *THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN.* JOHN—FACE IN HANDS MUTTERING, *WOE IS ME...WOE IS ME.*

HOLD ON, JOHN. LOOK! GOD HAS IT ALL WORKED OUT...YOU KNOW THAT. HE RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO SHOW HE WAS MESSIAH, DIDN'T HE. NOW...THIS WOULD BE BETTER COMING FROM LUKE FROM WHAT HE HAS TOLD ME, BUT THE REQUIREMENT IN *THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS* FOR ONE TO BE KING OVER ISRAEL OR JUDAH WAS THAT HE BE SANCTIONED BY ONE OF GOD'S PROPHETS, APPOINTED BY GOD, OR BE FROM THE SEED OF DAVID. ANYONE BECOMING KING OF JUDAH HAD TO FULFILL THE LATER REQUIREMENT—OF DAVID. IF HE WASN'T, THEN HE WAS CURSED LIKE THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST KING AHAZ IN *ISAIAH*. HE WRITES, *THUS THE LORD JEHOVAH HAS SAID, 'IT SHALL NOT STAND, NEITHER SHALL*

*IT COME TO PASS'*. ANYONE BECOMING KING OF ISRAEL OR THE TEN TRIBES OF SAMARIA...WELL, LET'S READ...AND IT CAME TO PASS AT THAT TIME, WHEN JEROBOAM HAD GONE OUT OF JERUSALEM, THAT THE PROPHET AHIJAH THE SHILONITE FOUND HIM ON THAT ROAD; AND AHIJAH SAID TO JEROBOAM, *THUS THE LORD HAS SAID, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, BEHOLD, I AM TEARING AWAY THE KINGDOM FROM THE HAND OF SOLOMON, AND I SHALL GIVE YOU THE TEN TRIBES.* HE WAS APPOINTED BY GOD. HERE'S ANOTHER ONE WHERE...*ELISHA THE PROPHET CALLED TO ONE FROM THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS, "TAKE THIS VIAL OF THE OIL IN YOUR HAND, AND GO TO RAMOTH-GILEAD. WHEN YOU ARRIVE THERE, SEE THERE JEHU, THE SON OF JEHOSEPHAT...TAKE THE VIAL OF THE OIL, AND POUR IT OVER HIS HEAD, AND SAY, 'THUS THE LORD HAS SAID, 'I HAVE ANOINTED YOU KING TO ISRAEL'.'* YOU SEE, JOHN, IN EVERY CASE AFTER THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM, GOD HAD ONE OF HIS PROPHETS APPOINT HIM KING OF ISRAEL. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID, AND IN FACT COULDN'T BE; BUT, I DON'T WANT TO STEAL ANY MORE OF LUKE'S THUNDER. SUFFICE TO SAY, GOD CAN'T BREAK HIS WORD ESPECIALLY IN APPOINTING HIS MESSIAH. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

WELL, MATTHEW, I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING BUT I DON'T SEE HOW IT APPLIES TO JESUS. I DO HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION, THOUGH, ABOUT YOUR RECORD...WHY DID YOU MENTION ONLY THREE WOMEN IN THE LINE OF.....

GREETINGS IN THERE! ARE YOU HOME, MATTHEW? JOHN, IT'S LUKE. WHAT TIMING, LUKE! HERE, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME WATER. I WAS JUST COMING TO YOUR RECORD OF JESUS' FAMILY ORIGIN.

YES, THANK YOU, MATTHEW...GREETINGS TO YOU, JOHN. SORRY, I'M LATE, BUT PLEASE, CONTINUE. LUKE, THE QUESTIONED WAS JUST RAISED ABOUT WHY TAMAR, RUTH, AND BATH SHEBA WERE THE ONLY WOMEN MENTIONED IN MY FAMILY ORIGIN OF MESSIAH. TRUE, JOHN?

YES, AND ONE DOESN'T USUALLY FIND WOMEN IN THEM AT ALL, EITHER.

TRUE ENOUGH, JOHN; BUT, THIS IS WHY—ALL THREE WERE GENTILE FAITHFUL. ALL THREE WERE IN THE LINE OF MESSIAH EITHER BY SIN OR DESCENDANTS BORN OUT OF SIN LIKE RUTH FROM MOAB, THE SON OF LOT BY HIS OWN DAUGHTER. GOD'S VIEW FOR WE JEWS IS THAT HIS MESSIAH CAME NOT ONLY TO RAISE UP THE TRIBES OF JACOB, AND TO RESTORE THE PRESERVED OF ISRAEL, BUT TO GIVE HIS SERVANT, THE MESSIAH, FOR A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES THAT BY GRACE HE BECAME GOD'S SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH. SO, I HAVE NO NEED TO RECORD EACH ONE OF MESSIAH'S ORIGIN IN THE HOUSE OF DAVID; I SHOW HE CAME TO SAVE THE GENTILE; I SHOW HIS GRACE OVERCOMES ALL SIN, AND FINALLY I LEAVE IT TO GOD TO ANSWER THE CURSE ON CONIAH...IT CAME ONE NIGHT IN A DREAM TO JOSEPH. [3]

LUKE, IT'S YOUR TURN. WHAT HAS THE LORD LAID ON YOUR HEART ABOUT THE FAMILY ORIGIN OF JESUS?

MATTHEW, I'M GOING TO LOOK AT IT FROM THE VIEW THAT JESUS WAS TRULY MAN—ACTUALLY FROM THE SEED OF ADAM AS WELL THE SEED OF DAVID; AND GOD HAS GIVEN ME THE LINE FROM JESUS BIRTH ALL THE WAY BACK LIKE SO: *JESUS HIMSELF... WAS THE SON AS WAS HELD OF JOSEPH WHO WAS OF THAT ELI WHO WAS OF THAT MATTHAT WHO WAS OF THAT LEVI ...*

I'M SORRY, LUKE, BUT ARE YOU SAYING JOSEPH AS WAS HELD... OR THOUGHT TO BECOME THE FATHER OF MESSIAH AND THIS IS REALLY MARY'S LINEAGE AS IN MARY'S ACTUAL FATHER, *THAT ELI*.

TRUE, JOHN, AS WAS SIMPLY RECORDED, AND FROM THERE BACK EVERYONE CERTAINLY WAS THAT ANCESTOR OF HERS AND NOT JOSEPH'S. I CONTINUE...*LEVI WHO WAS OF THAT MELCHI WHO WAS OF THAT JANNAI WHO WAS OF THAT JOSEPH WHO WAS OF THAT MATTATHIAS WHO WAS OF THAT AMOS. HE WAS OF THAT NAHUM WHO WAS OF THAT HESLI WHO WAS OF THAT NAGGAI WHO WAS OF THAT MAATH WHO WAS OF THAT MATTATHIAS. HE WAS OF THAT SEMEIN WHO WAS OF THAT JOSECH WHO WAS OF THAT JODA WHO WAS OF THAT JOANAN WHO WAS OF THAT RHESA. HE WAS OF THAT ZERUBBABEL WHO WAS OF THAT SHEALTIEL WHO WAS OF THAT.....*

HOLD ON RIGHT, THERE, LUKE! *THAT ZERUBBABEL WHO WAS OF THAT SHEALTIEL* CAN'T BE THE SAME AS *SHEALTIEL WHO BEGAT ZERUBBABEL* OF CONIAH FOR THEY, TOO, WERE UNDER THE CURSE OF THEIR FATHER, CONIAH. *THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN.*

TRUE, AGAIN, JOHN. THESE ARE TWO TOTALLY SEPARATE LINES WITHIN THE HOUSE OF DAVID FOR THE FATHER OF JOSEPH'S SHEALTIEL IS CONIAH, AND THE FATHER OF MARY'S SHEALTIEL IS...AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, NERI. THERE HAPPENED TO BE ONE AND TWENTY GENERATIONS FROM JOSEPH TO THAT SHEALTIEL. SO, IT GOES THAT HIS FATHER, *NERI*, WAS OF *THAT MELCHI* WHO WAS OF *THAT ADDI*. HE WAS OF *THAT COSAM* WHO WAS OF *THAT ELMADAM* WHO WAS OF *THAT ER* WHO WAS OF *THAT JESUS* WHO WAS OF *THAT ELIEZER*. HE WAS OF *THAT JORIM* WHO WAS OF *THAT MATTHAT* WHO WAS OF *THAT LEVI* WHO WAS OF *THAT SIMEON* WHO WAS OF *THAT JUDAS*. HE WAS OF *THAT JOSEPH* WHO WAS OF *THAT JONAM* WHO WAS OF *THAT ELIAKIM* WHO WAS OF *THAT MELEA* WHO WAS OF *THAT MENNA*. HE WAS OF *THAT MATTATHA* WHO WAS OF *THAT NATHAN* WHO WAS OF *THAT DAVID*. THERE ARE ALSO ONE AND TWENTY GENERATIONS FROM NERI TO DAVID THE KING.

SO, LUKE, DID I HEAR THAT MARY, IN FACT, DESCENDED FROM NATHAN, DAVID'S THIRD SON BY BATH SHEBA?

ABSOLUTELY, JOHN...LET ME GO ON. THE KING WAS OF *THAT JESSE*, WHO WAS OF *OBED* WHO WAS OF THAT *BOAZ*...

PLEASE, LUKE, FORGIVE ME, BUT THIS REMINDS ME OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH.

YES, MATTHEW, WHAT IS IT?

*THERE SHALL COME FORTH A SHOOT OUT OF THE STUMP OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH OUT OF HIS ROOTS SHALL BEAR FRUIT.* WITHIN THIS, ISAIAH IS SAYING THAT WHEN THE HOUSE OF DAVID IS REDUCED TO A STUMP, THEN SHALL A BRANCH WHO IS MESSIAH COME FORTH FROM THE SEED OF DAVID. SINCE WE, JEWS, ARE STILL BEARING UP UNDER THIS DOMINATION OF THE ROMANS, THE HOUSE OF DAVID SURE HAS BEEN HEWN DOWN LIKE A STUMP COMPARED TO THE GLORY IT ONCE HAD. PLEASE, LUKE, GO ON. *THAT BOAZ WAS OF SALMON WHO WAS OF NAHSHON WHO WAS OF AMMINADAB. HE WAS OF THAT ARNI (ALSO CALLED RAM) WHO WAS OF THAT HEZRON WHO WAS OF THAT PEREZ. HE WAS OF THAT JUDAH WHO WAS OF THAT JACOB WHO WAS OF THAT ISAAC. HE WAS OF THAT ABRAHAM WHO WAS OF THAT TERAH WHO WAS OF THAT NAHOR. HE WAS OF THAT SERUG WHO WAS OF THAT REU WHO WAS OF THAT PELEG. HE WAS OF THAT EBER WHO WAS OF THAT SHELAH (WHO WAS OF THAT CAINAN). HE WAS OF THAT ARPHAXAD WHO WAS OF THAT SHEM WHO WAS OF THAT NOAH. HE WAS OF THAT LAMECH WHO WAS OF THAT METHUSELAH WHO WAS OF THAT ENOCH. HE WAS OF THAT JARED WHO WAS OF THAT MAHALALEEL WHO WAS OF THAT CAINAN. HE WAS OF THAT ENOS WHO WAS OF THAT SETH WHO WAS OF THE ADAM WHO WAS OF THE GOD—* THREE AND THIRTY GENERATIONS FROM JESSE BACK TO GOD. [4] WOW, LUKE! YOU HAVE PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO THIS.

JOHN, THIS ISN'T THE HALF OF IT. WHY, I'M JUST GETTING STARTED. MATTHEW, SHOULDN'T I CONTINUE WITH MY RECORD OF MARY BEFORE WE RETURN TO YOUR RECORD ON JOSEPH?

I AGREE, MY GOOD DOCTOR, PLEASE...

### CHAPTER III MESSIAH'S BIRTH FORETOLD TO HIS PARENTS

MARY HAD A COUSIN, ELIZABETH, WHOM GOD HAD APPOINTED TO BEAR MESSIAH'S FORE-RUNNER IN HER LATER YEARS. HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS JOHN THE BAPTIZER, AND HIS MOTHER IN JUDEA WAS STILL ONLY *IN THE SIXTH MONTH* OF HER PREGNANCY, AND THIS IS WHEN *THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD TO A CITY OF GALILEE WHICH NAME WAS NAZARETH.* HE WAS SENT TO MEET WITH A VIRGIN WHO HAD BEEN ENGAGED TO JOSEPH, AND AS YOU, MATTHEW HAVE SAID, *THE NAME OF THE VIRGIN WAS MARY. NOW, GABRIEL HAVING COME IN FACE TO FACE WITH HER, SAID, 'WELCOME, GRACE BESTOWED UPON ONE, THE LORD IS WITH YOU'. BUT, SHE WAS UTTERLY CONFOUNDED OVER HIS SAYING, AND BEGAN DEBATING WHAT SORT OF GREETING THIS SHOULD BE. AND THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, 'STOP BEING AFRAID, MARY; FOR YOU FOUND GRACE WITH GOD ONCE AND FOR ALL. NOW,*

*BEHOLD, YOU WILL YOURSELF CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB. YOU WILL BRING FORTH A SON, AND YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME—YESHUAH. THIS ONE WILL BE GREAT, HE WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH ONE, AND THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF DAVID, HIS FATHER. HE WILL BE KING OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER; AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END. MARY SAID TO THE ANGEL, ‘HOW WILL THIS BE WHEN I DO NOT KNOW A MAN?’ AND THE ANGEL ANSWERED, AND SAID TO HER, ‘THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH ONE WILL CAST HIS SHADOW OVER YOU. INDEED, FOR THAT REASON, THIS HOLY ONE BROUGHT FORTH WILL BE CALLED, ‘SON OF GOD’. LOOK! ELIZABETH YOUR COUSIN—SHE HERSELF HAS INDEED CONCEIVED A SON IN HER OLD AGE, AND THIS IS THE SIXTH MONTH WITH HER WHO WAS CALLED BARREN; FOR WITH GOD EACH THING SPOKEN SHALL NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE. MARY SAID, ‘SEE, I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD. MAY IT COME TO PASS PER YOUR WORD’, AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.*

MATTHEW AND LUKE, TRULY, I DO UNDERSTAND. THE BIRTH OF OUR MESSIAH BY A VIRGIN FROM THE SEED OF DAVID ANSWERS THE CURSE UPON CONIAH.

EXACTLY, JOHN, BUT MORE THAN THAT—THERE WERE MANY OTHER SONS FROM THE SEED OF DAVID APART FROM THE LINE OF CONIAH THAT WERE ALIVE AT THAT TIME. WHY WAS MARY’S BABY THE MESSIAH? GABRIEL ANSWERS THAT QUESTION: *‘THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF DAVID, HIS FATHER. HE WILL BE KING OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER’?* THAT IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS AN APPOINTMENT BY GOD. ONLY YESHUAH FROM NATHAN, AND DOWN HIS LINE BY MARY RECEIVED THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT FROM GABRIEL. ONLY HE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENT OF THE KING OF ISRAEL. I GO ON: *THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL CAST HIS SHADOW OVER YOU. HE WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH, AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END’.*

LUKE AND MATTHEW, SURELY, JESUS IS GOD, AND HE WAS BEGOTTEN OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. YES, JOHN...YOU KNOW, NOW THAT LUKE HAS BROUGHT IT UP, I JUST HAVE TO MENTION HOW THE SCRIPTURE HAD ASSURED GOD’S PEOPLE THAT CONIAH’S CURSE IS OVERCOME. REMEMBER WHEN...*SYRIA WAS CONFEDERATE WITH EPHRAIM. AND THE HEART OF KING AHAZ AND THE HEART OF HIS PEOPLE TREMBLED, AS TREES OF THE FOREST TREMBLE FROM THE FACE OF THE WIND. THEN SAID THE LORD TO ISAIAH, ‘GO FORTH NOW, YOU AND SHEAR-JASHUB ( TRANSLATED...A REMNANT SHALL RETURN ), YOUR SON, TO MEET AHAZ AT THE END OF THE CONDUIT OF THE UPPER POOL TOWARD THE HIGHWAY OF THE CLEANING FIELD. SAY TO HIM, ‘BE GUARDED, AND BE QUIET. DON’T LET YOURSELF FEAR, NOR LET YOUR HEART BE TIMID...WITHIN THREESCORE AND FIVE YEARS SHALL EPHRAIM BE DASHED TO PIECES FROM BEING A PEOPLE...IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE, SURELY YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE ESTABLISHED...REQUEST A SIGN FOR YOURSELF FROM THE LORD YOUR GOD. EITHER MAKE IT IN THE*



DEEP, OR REQUEST TO MAKE IT HIGH ABOVE'. BUT AHAZ SAID, 'I AM NOT GOING TO ASK, AND I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THE LORD BE TEMPTED'. ISAIAH SAID, 'JUST LISTEN NOW, O HOUSE OF DAVID: IS IT A SMALL THING FROM YOU TO MAKE MEN TIRED THAT YOU TRY TO MAKE MY GOD TIRED, TOO? THEREFORE THE MASTER HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: PAY ATTENTION: A VIRGIN IS GOING TO CONCEIVE, AND SHE SHALL BEAR A SON. CONSEQUENTLY, SHE WILL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL (WHICH IS TRANSLATED: WITH US IS GOD)...AND IT HAPPENED JUST THAT WAY, DIDN'T IT LUKE?

TRULY, MATTHEW, BUT WE'RE NOT THERE, YET. I CONTINUE: NOW DURING THESE DAYS AFTER GABRIEL DEPARTED, MARY AROSE AND WENT HURRIEDLY INTO THE HILL COUNTRY TO A CITY OF JUDAH. SHE ENTERED ZACHARIAS' HOUSE, AND GREETED ELIZABETH. WHEN SHE HEARD MARY'S GREETING, THE BABY, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT YET PART OF HIS MOTHER'S WOMB, LEAPED IN HER WOMB. ELIZABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE. SHE SAID, 'BLESSED AMONG WOMEN ARE YOU, AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB! AND HOW IS THIS MINE THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD CAME TO ME...FOR, LOOK! AS THE SOUND OF YOUR GREETING CAME TO MY EARS, WITH REJOICING THE BABY JUMPED IN MY WOMB. HAPPY IS SHE WHO BELIEVED THAT THERE SHALL BE FULFILLMENT OF THE THINGS SPOKEN TO HER FROM BESIDE THE LORD.'

NOW, MARY SAID, 'MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD, AND MY SPIRIT REJOICED OVER MY GOD, MINE SAVIOR; BECAUSE HE HAS LOOKED UPON THE HUMBLE STATE OF HIS SERVANT. FOR, LOOK! ALL THE GENERATIONS FROM THIS ONE ON SHALL REGARD ME HAPPY; BECAUSE HE WHO IS ABLE DID ACCOMPLISH FOR ME GREAT THINGS, AND HOLY IS HIS NAME. HIS MERCY STAYS FOR GENERATIONS AND GENERATIONS TO THEM THAT FEAR HIM. HE WHO IS ABLE DID CARRY OUT MIGHT BY HIS ARM. HE DID MAKE ARROGANT ONES SCATTER BY THE THOUGHTS OF THEIR OWN HEARTS. HE DID BRING DOWN MIGHTY ONES FROM THRONES, YET EXALTED LOWLY ONES. HUNGRY ONES HE WHO IS ABLE DID FILL UP WITH GOOD THINGS, YET RICH ONES DID HE SEND AWAY AS EMPTY-HANDED ONES. HE DID HIMSELF TAKE HOLD OF ISRAEL, HIS PUPIL-SON, THAT ISRAEL MIGHT BE MINDFUL OF MERCY TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS SEED FOR EVER —JUST AS HE SAID TO OUR FATHERS.' AFTER THIS, MARY STAYED WITH HER ABOUT THREE MONTHS THEN RETURNED TO HER HOUSE. NOW IT HAPPENED THAT JOSEPH WENT UP FROM GALILEE TO JUDEA IN ORDER TO REGISTER ALONG WITH MARY FOR A DECREE WENT OUT FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS THAT A CENSUS...

LET ME INTERRUPT, LUKE, AGAIN. AS WE ARE REMEMBERING ALL THIS AS IT HAPPENED, SHOULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT HOW JOSEPH HANDLED THE NEWS OF MARY'S CONCEPTION NEXT?

GOOD CALL BY YOU, MATTHEW; PLEASE PROCEED.

NOW, AFTER MARY WAS BETROTHED TO JOSEPH YET BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND TO BE HOLDING IN HER WOMB BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS YOU, LUKE, HAVE JUST SET FORTH FOR US SO

WELL. *HOWEVER, JOSEPH, HER FIANCE, BEING RIGHTEOUS, AND NOT WILLING TO MAKE A SHOW OF HER, DETERMINED TO SECRETLY DIVORCE HER. BUT AFTER HE TOOK THESE THINGS TO HEART, OBSERVE: AN ANGEL OF THE LORD WAS SHONE TO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, 'JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY YOUR FIANCE TO YOURSELF BECAUSE THAT WHICH WAS BEGOTTEN IN HER IS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FURTHERMORE, SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME YESHUAH ( TRANSLATED: SALVATION ) BECAUSE HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. INDEED, THIS WHOLE THING IS COME TO PASS IN ORDER THAT THE WORD SPOKEN BY THE LORD THROUGH THE PROPHET BE FULFILLED, SAYING, 'PAY ATTENTION, THE VIRGIN SHALL HOLD IN HER WOMB, AND SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON. THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL WHICH IS BEING TRANLATED: WITH US IS THE GOD'".* THE ANGEL SPOKE THAT SAME PROMISE TO JOSEPH IN HIS DREAM THAT WAS GIVEN TO KING AHAZ BY ISAIAH ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS AGO. AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THEN HAPPENED?

MATTHEW, ARE YOU GOING TO LET LUKE GO ON...

EASY, JOHN, I'M ALMOST DONE...*NOW, AFTER JOSEPH WAS AWAKENED FROM HIS SLEEP, HE DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM, AND TOOK TO HIMSELF HIS WIFE. JOSEPH KNEW HER NOT UNTIL SHE HAD BROUGHT FORTH A SON, AND HE CALLED HIS NAME YESHUAH. [6]*

LUKE, GOD HAS LED YOU TO MUCH ON YESHUAH'S BIRTH, TOO; SO...

MATTHEW...AS YOU WISH.

#### **CHAPTER IV BIRTH OF JESUS THE CHRIST**

*AS I HAD MENTIONED, IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WENT OUT A DECREE FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE INHABITED EARTH BE REGISTERED. THIS CAME TO BE THE FIRST CENSUS WHILE CYRENIUS WAS GOVERNOR OF SYRIA. SO, ALL MADE THEMSELVES TRAVEL, EACH ONE TO HIS OWN CITY. INDEED, JOSEPH THEREFORE WENT UP TO REGISTER HIMSELF WITH MARY, BEING LATE IN PREGNANCY, FROM GALILEE OUT OF THE CITY, NAZARETH, INTO JUDEA INTO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH CITY IS CALLED BETHLEHEM. THIS WAS BECAUSE HE WAS PART OF THE HOUSE AND FAMILY OF DAVID. NOW IT CAME TO PASS, WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE FULFILLED THAT SHE BRING FORTH. INDEED, MARY DID BRING FORTH HER FIRST-BORN SON. SHE WRAPPED SWADDLING BANDS AROUND HIM FROM THE ROLLS KEPT THERE IN STABLES FOR PASSING BURIAL PROCESSIONS, AND LAID HIM IN A FEEDING-TROUGH AS THERE REMAINED NO PLACE FOR THEM IN THE INN. SO THAT WE NOT MISS THE POINT THAT*

GOD IS MAKING: YESHUAH WAS WRAPPED AT HIS BIRTH IN THAT WHICH HE WAS WRAPPED AT HIS DEATH. GOD'S POINT: UNLIKE THE REST OF MAN—BORN TO LIVE, YESHUAH WAS BORN TO DIE. INDEED, LUKE, HE WAS BORN TO DIE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE FOREVER.

WELL SPOKEN, JOHN.

CONTINUING...NOW, THERE USED TO BE SHEPHERDS IN THE SAME REGION OUT IN THE FIELD KEEPING WATCH BY NIGHT OVER THEIR FLOCK. BUT, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD BY THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, SO THEY FEARED A GREAT FEAR. THE ANGEL TOLD THEM, STOP BEING AFRAID. THIS IS THE REASON: HERE, I PROCLAIM TO YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY WHICH NEWS WILL BE TO ALL THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THERE WAS BORN TO YOU TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID...A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD. MOREOVER, THIS IS THE SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING BANDS, AND LYING IN A FEEDING-TROUGH. SUDDENLY, THERE CAME ABOUT THE ANGEL—A GREAT NUMBER OF HEAVEN'S ARMY PRAISING OUR GOD SAYING, 'GLORY BELONGS TO GOD ON HIGH, AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG MEN OF GOOD WILL'.

NOW, IT CAME TO PASS AS THE ANGELS WENT AWAY FROM THEM INTO THE HEAVENS, THE SHEPHERDS BEGAN UTTERING ONE WITH ANOTHER, 'LET US AT ONCE PASS THROUGH EVEN TO BETHLEHEM, AND OBSERVE THIS WORD SPOKEN TO US—THIS THING COME TO PASS WHICH THE LORD REVEALED TO US'. SO, HASTILY THEY WENT, AND FOUND THAT MARY AND JOSEPH OUT, ALSO THEIR BABY LYING IN THAT FEEDING-TROUGH. ONCE THEY RECOGNIZED HIM, THEY REVEALED THE WORD SPOKEN TO THEM ABOUT THIS SON. THEN ALL WHO HAD HEARD MARVELED CONCERNING THE WORD SPOKEN BY THE SHEPHERDS WITH THEM. YET, MARY KEPT TOGETHER ALL WHICH WAS SPOKEN JOINING THESE THINGS IN HER HEART. AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING THEIR GOD BECAUSE ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HEARD AND OBSERVED WERE JUST AS HAD BEEN TOLD THEM. [7]

THANK YOU SO MUCH, LUKE, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD CONTINUE AS IT HAPPENED FOR HE FULFILLED THE WHOLE LAW—EVEN IN HIS EIGHTH DAY.

## CHAPTER V RITUALS OF THE NEWBORN CHRIST

MATTHEW, THIS WAS GIVEN TO ME BY OUR GOD, TOO, AND THIS IS HOW IT GOES...

WHEN EIGHT DAYS WERE FULFILLED TO CIRCUMCISE HIM, JOSEPH AND MARY UNDER THE LAW OBEYED THE COMMAND FROM GOD TO ABRAHAM, THEIR FATHER WHOM GOD FIRST TOLD, 'YOU SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED IN THE FLESH OF YOUR FORESKIN; AND IT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU'. THUS, AS THE FIRST EVER HEBREW DID BEFORE THE LAW AND CIRCUMCISED HIS SON,

*ISAAC, WHEN HE WAS EIGHT DAYS OLD; SO, JOSEPH DID THIS SIGN OF THE COVENANT UNDER THE LAW TO MESSIAH, THE GREATEST HEBREW EVER, AND HIS NAME WAS CALLED YESHUAH—THAT NAME BID BY THE ANGEL BEFORE HE WAS CONCEIVED IN THE WOMB.*

*NOW, THE DAYS OF THEIR PURIFICATION WERE FULFILLED ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES SAYING, 'WHEN A WOMAN GIVES BIRTH AND BEARS A MALE, THEN SHE BECOMES UNCLEAN SEVEN DAYS—IT IS BECAUSE OF THE DAYS OF MENTRUAL FLOW THAT SHE BECOMES UNCLEAN. SO, ON THE EIGHTH DAY THE FLESH OF HIS FORESKIN SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED, AND FOR THIRTY-THREE DAYS SHE SHALL STAY IN THE BLOOD OF PURIFICATION. EVERYTHING HOLY SHE MAY NOT TOUCH, NOR ENTER THE HOLY PLACE UNTIL THE DAYS OF HER PURIFICATION ARE FULFILLED'. SO, THEY BROUGHT HIM UP TO JERUSALEM, TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF THE LORD THAT EVERY MALE OPENING A WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD. THEY BROUGHT HIM UP TO OFFER A SACRIFICE ACCORDING TO WHAT IS SAID IN THE LAW, 'A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES, OR TWO YOUNG MOURNING DOVES' FOR IT IS WRITTEN, 'IF SHE DOES NOT FIND ENOUGH IN HER HAND FOR A LAMB, THEN SHE SHALL TAKE TWO TURTLEDOVES OR TWO MALE MOURNING DOVES, ONE FOR A BURNT OFFERING AND ONE FOR A SIN OFFERING. SO, THE PRIEST SHALL CAUSE HER TO BE COVERED, AND SHE SHALL BE CLEAN'.*

*MARY AND JOSEPH WERE INDEED RIGHTEOUS, AND SURE TO OBEY THE LAW...WEREN'T THEY, LUKE. YES, JOHN...DOWN TO THE VERY SACRIFICE FOR THEY MUST HAVE OFFERED A LAMB HAD JOSEPH BEEN A PROSPEROUS BUSINESS. BUT LET ME GO ONE...MATTHEW, I AM ALMOST DONE.*

*NOTICE, THERE USED TO BE A MAN IN JERUSALEM TO WHOM WAS THE NAME, SIMEON. THIS MAN WAS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLDING FAST—TAKING TO HIMSELF ISRAEL'S FINAL SUMMON FOR GOD. SO, THE HOLY SPIRIT REMAINED UPON HIM; INDEED, IT HAD BEEN REVEALED TO HIM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPERIENCE DEATH BEFORE HE HAD BEHELD THE LORD'S MESSIAH. NOW, WHEN HIS PARENTS HAD BROUGHT IN THEIR SON, YESHUAH, THAT THEY MIGHT PERFORM WHAT HAD BEEN PRESCRIBED BY THE LAW CONCERNING HIM, SIMEON CAME BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE TEMPLE, AND HE ACCEPTED HIM INTO HIS CRADLED ARMS. SIMEON, THEN, PRAISED HIS GOD AND SAID, 'NOW, YOU ARE ABOUT TO DISMISS YOUR SERVANT IN PEACE, MASTER, ACCORDING TO THAT SPOKEN BY YOU; FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN OUR SALVATION—OUR YESHUAH FROM YOU WHICH YOU PREPARED BEFORE THE FACE OF ALL PEOPLES—A LIGHT INTENT ON REVELATION FOR GENTILES, AND INTENT ON YOUR GLORY FOR ISRAEL, YOUR PEOPLE. HIS FATHER AND MOTHER WERE BEGINNING TO MARVEL OVER THE THINGS BEING UTTERED ABOUT HIM—INDEED, SIMEON HONORED THEM. HE SPOKE WITH MARY, NOW, HIS MOTHER... 'HERE! THIS ONE IS BEING SET FOR A FALLING AND RAISING UP OF MANY IN OUR ISRAEL; INDEED, FOR A SIGN WHICH IS BEING CONTRADICTED IN ORDER THAT THE DOUBTINGS FROM MANY HEARTS MIGHT BE REVEALED; SO... YOUR OWN SOUL, MARY, SHALL A SWORD PIERCE THROUGH.'*

*ALSO, THERE USED TO BE A PROPHETESS, ANNA, THE DAUGHTER OF PHANUEL, FROM THE TRIBE OF ASHER. SHE, ADVANCED BY MANY DAYS, WAS A WIDOW FOR EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS AFTER LIVING WITH HER HUSBAND SEVEN YEARS FROM HER VIRGINITY. ANNA, NEVER WANTING TO BE APART FROM THE TEMPLE, RENDERED DUE SERVICE BY FASTING AND PRAYERS NIGHT AND DAY. INDEED, IN THAT SAME HOUR AFTER STANDING OVER JESUS, SHE IN TURN BEGAN TO OPENLY PROFESS AND SPEAK OF HIM ACCEPTING THE HOPE OF JERUSALEM'S REDEMPTION. [8] THAT'S REALLY ALL I HAVE RIGHT NOW, MATTHEW.*

THANK YOU SO MUCH, LUKE. I THINK WE ARE READY FOR THAT STRANGE VISIT FROM THE EAST. I'LL PICK IT UP UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD, HERE, JOHN.

No, no...YOU GO AHEAD. THIS IS GREAT.

## CHAPTER VI GENTILE FAITHFUL FIRST VISIT THE CHRIST CHILD

TIME WENT BY *AFTER JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDAEA*, AND THEY ABODE THERE WITH FAMILY IN THE CITY OF DAVID. THESE WERE, THOUGH, DURING *THE DAYS OF HEROD THE KING*. ONE DAY, *MAGI FROM THE EAST CAME TO JERUSALEM, SAYING, 'WHERE IS HE THAT WAS BORN KING OF THE JEWS; FOR WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND WE DID COME TO WORSHIP HIM'.*

O.K., MATTHEW! NOW I HAVE TO ASK YOU, WHO WERE THESE MAGI...WHERE WERE THEY REALLY FROM...I MEAN, WHERE IN THE EAST DID THEY LIVE?

WELL, JOHN, NOT THE FAR EAST BECAUSE IN THE SCRIPTURES, *EAST* JUST MEANS THE AREA OF MESOPOTAMIA. IN FACT, *MAGI* MEANS 'CONJURERS', BUT THEY WERE A CLASS OF WISEMEN FROM BABYLON.

HOW, MATTHEW, ON EARTH, DO YOU KNOW THAT?

JOHN, YOU KNOW THE STORY, SO...

MATTHEW, IF I KNEW THESE THINGS I WOULDN'T BE ASKING.

JOHN, JUST SIT YOURSELF BACK DOWN AND LET'S REVISIT IT. LUKE...YOU READY FOR THIS?

OH, I'M ALL EARS.

WELL, FRIENDS, WE GO BACK TO BOOK IV OF MOSES, PART TWENTY-TWO TO TWENTY-FOUR WHERE ISRAEL HAD COME TO MOAB JUST ACROSS THE JORDAN RIVER FROM THE PROMISED LAND. *ISRAEL HAD ALREADY MADE THE MOUTH OF ITS SWORD TO SMITE SIHON, KING OF THE AMORITES, AND WAS DONE*

*TAKING POSSESSION OF HIS LAND AS FAR AS THE SONS OF AMMON. THEY WERE DONE TAKING ALL THESE CITIES AND WERE DWELLING IN ALL THE CITIES OF THE AMORITES. THEN, OG THE KING OF BASHAN...*

I'M SORRY, MATTHEW, AMORITES, AMMON, OG...REALLY WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

JOHN, YOU ASKED ABOUT THE MAGI, YES?

YES!

THEN, PATIENCE AND HERE, FOLLOW ALONG WITH MY TORAH.

THIS IS NICE. HOW DID YOU GET THIS?

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH IT COST ME.

THAT'S WHY I ASKED.

A WHOLE DENARIUS...JOHN.

YOU DON'T MEAN IT.

I TOLD YOU, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW...JOHN, LET ME GO ON...*THE KING OF BASHAN WENT OUT FOR BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL—HE AND ALL HIS PEOPLE, SO THEY MADE THE SWORD TO SMITE HIM AND HIS SONS AND ALL HIS PEOPLE UNTIL NOTHING WAS LEFT OF HIM; AND WERE DONE INHERITING HIS LAND. NOW, THE SONS OF ISRAEL WERE ENCAMPING ON THE STEPPES OF MOAB ACROSS THE JORDAN FROM JERICHO, AND BALAK THE SON OF ZIPPOR WAS DONE SEEING ALL THAT ISRAEL HAD MADE OF THE AMORITES. SO, MOAB WAS DREADING THE FACE OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL, AND SAYING TO THE ELDERS OF MIDIAN, 'THIS CROWD CAUSES ALL AROUND US TO BE LICKED UP LIKE THE OX LICKING UP THE GRASS OF THE FIELD.'* BALAK SENDS MESSENGERS TO BALAAM, SON OF BEOR, TOWARDS PETHOR BY THE RIVER OF HIS PEOPLE'S LAND TO CALL HIM, SAYING, 'A PEOPLE HAVE SURELY COME FORTH FROM EGYPT. COME LOOK! HE HAS CAUSED THE SIGHT OF THE LAND TO BE COVERED, AND IS DWELLING IN FRONT OF ME. PLEASE, COME CURSE THIS PEOPLE FOR ME, NOW; BECAUSE HE IS MORE NUMEROUS THAN ME. PERHAPS I CAN TRY TO MAKE HIM SMITTEN AND DRIVEN FROM THE LAND, FOR I KNOW THAT HE WHOM YOU MAKE BLESSED IS BLESSED, AND WHOM YOU CURSE IS MADE CURSED.'

*THEY COME TO BALAAM AND REPEAT BALAK'S WORDS TO HIM, BUT BALAAM REFUSES TO GO WITH THEM. THEN BALAK FURTHER AGAIN SENDS LEADERS, GREATER AND WEIGHTIER THAN THESE. THEY SAID, "THUS SAYS BALAK THE SON OF ZIPPOR, 'LET NOTHING HINDER YOU FROM COMING TO ME. PLEASE, COME CURSE THIS PEOPLE FOR ME.'*

MATTHEW, YOU KNOW YOU ARE LEAVING A LOT OUT...I MEAN I AM TRYING TO FOLLOW ALONG HERE, AND YOU'RE LOSING ME.

JOHN, THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW JESUS WAS BORN KING OF THE JEWS...I'M NOT COVERING EVERY WORD OF EVERY PASSAGE...ONLY WHAT MOVES THIS STORY ALONG. MAY I GO ON?

O.K., MATTHEW...YES, PLEASE...

*NOW, GOD CAME TO BALAAM AT NIGHT, AND SAID TO HIM, 'SINCE THEY COME, GET UP AND GO WITH THEM; BUT ONLY THE WORD WHICH I SPEAK TO YOU—THAT, ARE YOU DOING.' SO, BALAAM WENT, AND HERE IS HIS PARABLE: BALAAM THE SON OF BEOR, AN UTTERANCE OF BALAAM, THE SON OF BEOR...A MAN'S UTTERANCE FROM THE OPENED EYE...AN UTTERANCE OF HE WHO HEARS THE WORDS OF GOD, AND KNOWS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOST HIGH—A VISION OF SHADDAI HE BEHOLDS AS HE FALLS AND HIS EYES ARE UNCOVERED: I SEE HIM, BUT NOT NOW; I BEHOLD HIM, BUT NOT NEAR—A STAR SHALL MARCH FORTH FROM JACOB. A SCEPTRE SHALL RISE FROM ISRAEL, AND SHALL SMITE THE CORNERS OF MOAB—EVEN THE SONS OF DESOLATION'S HEAD. EDOM SHALL BECOME A POSSESSION; YET ISRAEL SHALL ACT MIGHTILY; EVEN HE FROM JACOB SHALL HAVE DOMINION, AND DESTROY A REMNANT FROM THE CITY. AMALEK WAS HEAD OF NATIONS, BUT HIS LATTER END SHALL COME TO DESTRUCTION. WOE! WHO KEEPS LIVING APART FROM GOD DETERMINING IT?*

YOU SEE MY FRIENDS...ONE DAY A STAR WOULD SOMEWHERE APPEAR THAT WOULD SIGNAL THE ARRIVAL OF ONE WHO WILL ONE DAY VANQUISH ALL OUR ENEMIES. THIS STAR OUT OF JACOB WHO WOULD WIELD HIS RULING SCEPTER IS OUR STAR IN THE EAST THAT THE MAGI FOLLOWED HERE. A STAR SO UNUSUAL THAT THEY WOULD KNOW IT WAS THE STAR OF THIS VISION—LOW TO THE GROUND LIGHTING THE WAY, YET IT BURNED NOTHING UP; MOVING WEST, THEN WITHOUT A SET TRACK MOVING SOUTH; APPEARING THEN DISAPPEARING WITHOUT REASON, AND SO, LEADING THE MAGI TO JERUSALEM. ARE WE GOING TO FIND OUT WHY YOU THINK THEY ARE FROM BABYLON?

YES, JOHN! SURELY, YOU'RE LONGSUFFERING HAS PAID OFF. EITHER OF YOU, WHERE IS THE ONLY LAND FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES WHERE THERE ARE MAGICIANS, CONJURERS, AND SORCERERS? BABYLON!

I KNOW THAT AS WELL AS LUKE DOES, MATTHEW, BUT THERE ARE BOUND TO BE OTHER PLACES WITH WISE-MEN. HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT IT WAS BABYLON?

WELL, JOHN, WHEN LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS GIVEN—LITTLE IS NEEDED. SO, GOD LEADS US BY THE OBVIOUS, PLAIN, AND SIMPLE. IT'S AS EASY AS THIS, JOHN.

*IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, NEBUCHADNEZZAR DREAMED DREAMS. THEN, THE KING COMMANDED TO CALL FOR THE MAGICIANS, THE CONJURERS, THE SORCERERS AND THE CHALDEANS, TO MAKE HIS DREAMS CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THE KING. THE CHALDEANS ANSWERED BEFORE THE KING, 'THE MATTER WHICH THE KING ASKS IS DIFFICULT, AND THERE IS NOT ANOTHER WHO WILL MAKE IT VISIBLE BEFORE THE KING BUT GODS WHOLE DWELLING IS NOT WITH FLESH.' BECAUSE OF ALL OF THIS, THE KING HAD BECOME ANGRY IN GREAT FURY, AND COMMANDED TO DESTROY ALL THE WISE-MEN OF BABYLON. SO THE DECREE WENT FORTH, AND THEY SOUGHT DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS TO BE EXECUTED.*

*NOW, DANIEL WENT OFF TO HIS HOUSE TO REQUEST COMPASSIONS FROM THE GOD OF HEAVEN ABOUT THIS SECRET, AND TO DANIEL BY A VISION OF THE NIGHT, GOD REVEALED THE SECRET.*

*THEN, DANIEL ANSWERED GOD, 'MAY THE NAME OF GOD BECOME BLESSED FOREVER AND EVER BECAUSE HIS WISDOM AND MIGHT WHICH BELONG TO HIM ARE OF HIM. HE, HIMSELF, ALWAYS MAKES THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS CHANGE; HE MAKES KINGS PASS AWAY AND RISE UP; HE REPEATEDLY GIVES HIS WISDOM TO WISE-MEN AND HIS KNOWLEDGE TO ONES WHO KNOW UNDERSTANDING. HE IS THE ONE WHO REVEALS THE DEEP AND HIDDEN THINGS; HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT IS IN THE DARKNESS; AND THE LIGHT IS LOOSED WITH HIM.' AND, BECAUSE OF ALL THIS, DANIEL WAS HURRIEDLY BROUGHT IN TO THE KING'S PRESENCE AND SAID, 'THE MYSTERY WHICH THE KING REQUESTED, WISE-MEN CAN'T REVEAL, EXCEPT—THERE IS GOD IN THE HEAVENS WHO REVEALS MYSTERIES, AND HE HAS MADE KNOWN TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR WHAT WILL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS. SO, DANIEL DID REVEAL THE MYSTERY OF THE DREAM, AND CONCLUDED, THE DREAM IS TRUE, AND ITS INTERPRETATION IS TRUSTWORTHY.' THE KING ANSWERED DANIEL, 'IT'S TRUE.... YOUR GOD IS GOD OF GODS AND LORD OF KINGS; INDEED, HE HAS REVEALED MYSTERIES BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO REVEAL THIS MYSTERY'; AND AT THAT POINT, KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR GAVE DANIEL VERY GREAT GIFTS, AND MADE HIM RULER OVER THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF BABYLON AND CHIEF OF PREFECTS OVER ALL THE WISE-MEN OF BABYLON.*

AND SO, YOU SEE, JOHN AND LUKE, JUST LIKE THAT...ALL THE WISE-MEN OF BABYLON—HOPELESS UNDER THE DREAD OF IMMINENT EXECUTION...HAD BEEN PARDONED, AND THEIR LIVES SAVED BY THE FAITH OF ONE MAN, DANIEL—NOT BY HIS FAITH IN DREAMS, BUT BY HIS FAITH IN THE GIVER AND REVEALER OF DREAMS, GOD HIMSELF. AND THESE MAGI WE SEE HERE MUST BE ONES WHO FOLLOWED AFTER THE SAME WISE-MEN DANIEL SAVED. THEY BELIEVED IN OUR MESSIAH. THEY, THEN, HAD BOOK IV OF MOSES AND BALAAM'S VISION OF THE STAR. THEY HAD THE BOOK OF DANIEL, SO THEY KNEW WHEN *MESSIAH SHALL BE CUT OFF*—HIS DEATH IN PART IX, AND THEREFORE WERE LOOKING FOR THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH. BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE THE BOOK OF MICAH WRITTEN HERE IN THE LAND.

WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT THAT?

JOHN, WE ARE GETTING TO THAT RIGHT NOW...YES, LUKE?

DID YOU FIND OUT HOW MANY MAGI CAME TO JERUSALEM?

GOD DIDN'T TELL ME, BUT LET'S GO ON ...SO, WHEN *HEROD THE KING HEARD IT, HE WAS DISTURBED, AND ALL JERUSALEM WITH HIM.* NOTE...*ALL JERUSALEM WITH HIM*—I'M GUESSING MORE THAN ONE OF TWO—PROBABLY A GREAT CARAVAN ASKING ABOUT THE NEW KING OF THE JEWS TO DISTURB HEROD AND THE WHOLE CITY. *FURTHER, UPON GATHERING TOGETHER ALL THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES OF THE PEOPLE, HEROD HIMSELF BEGAN INQUIRING FROM THEM WHERE THE CHRIST WAS BORN.* THE



PRIESTS AND SCRIBES TOOK HEROD TO THE PROPHET MICAH WRITING ABOUT THE CHRIST, AND TOLD HIM, *'IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA: FOR SO IT IS WRITTEN THROUGH THE PROPHET, "AND YOU, BETHLEHEM—LAND OF JUDAH, ARE IN NO WISE LEAST AMONG THE RULERS OF JUDAH; BECAUSE OUT OF YOU, WILL COME FORTH A ONE RULING WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.*

BUT, I WANT TO TAKE US BACK TO SEE WHAT MICAH HIMSELF WROTE ABOUT YESHUAH, OUR MESSIAH-- WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL HEROD. HE WRITES, *'BUT YOU, BETH-LEHEM EPHRATHAH, WHO ARE LITTLE TO TURN OUT AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH—OUT OF YOU, HE IS COMING FORTH TO BECOME RULER IN ISRAEL FOR ME; INDEED, HIS PLACES OF GOING FORTH ARE FROM BEFORE DAYS OF OLD.*

NOTE: MICAH WRITES BETH-LEHEM EPHRATHAH WAS VERY LITTLE COMPARED TO THE REST OF JUDAH, YET FROM THIS LITTLE PART OF A TOWN, YESHUAH WOULD COME FROM ETERNITY PAST AS GOD TO BE A MAN, AND KING OF ALL ISRAEL.

TRULY, NO ONE DARE QUESTION THAT YESHUAH IS GOD FROM THIS SCRIPTURE ALONE.

MATTHEW, BEING A PHYSICIAN, THERE IS SOMETHNG SMALLER ABOUT THIS—BETHLEHEM, I SEE; BUT WHY IS EPHRATHAH WITH IT?

UH, LUKE, THERE IS A BETHLEHEM IN GALILEE, ISN'T THERE, MATTHEW?. MAYBE....

JOHN, THAT BETHLEHEM WAS OF THE TRIBE OF ZEBULUN, BUT PLAINLY, MICAH WRITES MESSIAH WAS FROM A PART OF BETHLEHEM OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, CALLED EPHRATHAH. AND THIS IS WHY: JACOB'S SON, JUDAH, WENT INTO TAMAR, HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, AND SHE BORE HIM PEREZ. *THE SONS OF PEREZ WERE HEZRON AND HAMUL. THE SONS OF HEZRON, WHO WERE BORN TO HIM WERE JERAHMEEL, RAM, AND CHELUBAI.*

NOW, FROM RAM COMES THE LINE OF MESSIAH THROUGH DAVID, BUT THIS CHELUBAI IS THE SAME NAME AS CALEB WHO CONQUERED THE LAND—OUR LXX SHOWS IT IS THE SAME NAME. FURTHER, HE MARRIED A WOMAN NAMED—GUESS WHO?

EPHRATHAH!

EXACTLY, LUKE, AND SHE BORE HIM HUR; *AND HUR, THE FIRST-BORN OF EPHRATHAH, WAS THE FATHER OF BETHLEHEM, .*

SO, SOME TIME BEFORE KING DAVID, A LITTLE TOWN IN JUDEA WAS NAMED AFTER THAT MAN, BETHLEHEM, THE SON—REALLY GREAT GRANDSON OF EPHRATHAH. AND THE PART OF TOWN WHERE BETHLEHEM, HIMSELF, SETTLED CAME TO BE NAMED AFTER HIS GREAT GRANDMOTHER, EPHRATHAH. THIS HAPPENED DURING THE TIMES OF THE JUDGES; FOR, IN THE TIME OF SAMUEL, THE LAST JUDGE, THERE CAME ALONG A MAN NAMED *JESSE, THE EPHRATHITE OF BETHLEHEM OF JUDAH*, THE FATHER OF KING DAVID.

WOE, MATTHEW...THIS BOTHERS ME—WHY WOULD THE LINE OF MESSIAH HAVE TO SETTLE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S PART OF BETHLEHEM.

MAYBE, JOHN, IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS: GO BACK TO *RUTH*, AND HER FATHER-IN-LAW, ELIMELECH—HE WAS AN EPHRATHITE OF BETHLEHEM DESCENDED FROM CALEB'S LINE. RIGHT?

RIGHT, NOT THE ONE WHO CONQUERED THE LAND.

RIGHT, BUT CALEB'S BROTHER, RAM, WAS IN THE LINE OF MESSIAH FROM WHOM CAME BOAZ, FATHER OF KING DAVID. NOW, ONE DAY BOAZ COMES ACROSS RUTH IN THE BARLEY FIELD, AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS. BOAZ REDEEMS HER WHEN HE SAYS BEFORE THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, '*WITNESSES ARE YOU THIS DAY THAT I HAVE BOUGHT ALL THAT BELONGED TO ELIMELECH FROM THE HAND OF NAOMI. INDEED, ALSO, RUTH THE MOABITNESS, THE WIFE OF MAHLON, HAVE I ACQUIRED TO ME FOR WIFE TO MAKE THE NAME OF THE DEAD STAND UP ON HIS INHERITANCE. WITNESSES ARE YOU THIS DAY.*'

WHEN BOAZ DID THAT, *ALL THE PEOPLE AND THE ELDERS WHO WERE AT THE GATE EXCLAIMED, WITNESSES, THEN PRAYED, 'LORD, MAY YOU SET THIS WOMAN WHO COMES TO YOUR HOUSE LIKE RACHEL AND LEAH—TWO OF THEM WHO BUILT THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, AND YOU MAKE HER STRENGTH IN EPHRATHAH, AND PROCLAIM HER NAME IN BETHLEHEM'*

AND THIS PRAYER, MY GOOD FRIENDS, WAS ANSWERED—GOD'S WORD CANNOT BE BROKEN...FOR ONE DAY, MANY, MANY YEARS LATER, YESHUAH WAS BORN IN THAT PLACE—*BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH*. [9] NOW LET'S RETURN TO OUR DAY. AFTER HE WAS TOLD *CHRIST WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM-EPHRATHAH, HEROD SECRETLY CALLED THE MAGI, AND FROM THEM LEARNED EXACTLY THE TIME OF THIS SHINING STAR. SO, SENDING THEM TO BETHLEHEM, HE SAID, 'GO AND INQUIRE CLOSELY ABOUT THIS CHILD. NOW, WHEN YOU HAVE FOUND OUT, REPORT TO ME THAT I ALSO MIGHT GO, AND KNEEL BEFORE HIM. NOW, THEY WHO HEARD THE KING DEPARTED. AND, SEE, THE STAR WHICH THEY SURVEYED IN THE EAST APPEARED, AND THE MAGI REJOICED AN EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY UPON OBSERVING IT; SO, THE STAR LED THEM FORTH, UNTIL ARRIVING IT WAS MADE TO STAND ABOVE WHERE THE CHILD WAS LIVING. UPON REACHING THE HOUSE, THE MAGI SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER, AND FALLING...*

WHOA, MATTHEW! YOU MEAN THEY SAW HIM IN A STABLE?

NO, JOHN, IT WAS A HOUSE, AND THIS WAS TWO YEARS LATER.

NOW, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT...I MEAN, WHERE DID GET A HOUSE?

THIS WAS THEIR HOME OF RECORD, JOHN; OF COURSE THEY HAD FAMILY, THERE. NOW, ASIDE FROM GOD TELLING ME THIS AND MORE TO BE ADDED IN A MOMENT, HEROD HAD *SECRETLY LEARNED THE EXACT TIME OF THIS SHINING STAR*. TRUE?

TRUE, SO, GOD REVEALED IT TO YOU, PLEASE GO ON.

YES, AND WHEN HE LEARNED THIS, WE MUST CONCLUDE BOTH THE MAGI AND HEROD, NOW, UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS STAR APPEARED AT THE MOMENT YESHUAH WAS BORN. SO, *REACHING THE HOUSE, THE MAGI WORSHIPPED HIM. THEN, OPENING THAT OF THEIR TREASURES, THEY OFFERED TO HIM GIFTS—GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.* NOTE, HERE, THAT EVEN IF THE RULERS IN JERUSALEM DIDN'T KNOW OR SIGNAL YESHUAH'S COMING, THESE GENTILE WORSHIPPERS DID... WITH GOLD—A SIGN THAT HE IS KING, WITH FRANKINCENSE WHICH SCENT RISES HEAVENWARD—A SIGN HE IS GOD, AND WITH MYRRH OINTMENT TO PREPARE YESHUAH'S BODY FOR BURIAL—A SIGN OF HIS DEATH. *THEN, AFTER THAT WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MAGI DID?*

WELL, I LAY A WAGER THEY DIDN'T GO BACK TO HEROD.

NO NEED TO DO THAT, BUT EXACTLY—*THEY WITHDREW INTO THEIR OWN COUNTRY THROUGH ANOTHER WAY AFTER BEING ADVISED THROUGH A DREAM NOT TO RETURN TO HEROD.* [10]

## CHAPTER VII            ESCAPE TO EGYPT

NOW, YOU KNOW WHEN HEROD FOUND THE MAGI *HAD LEFT TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY THROUGH ANOTHER WAY* THIS DID NOT MAKE HIM HAPPY. IN FACT, *BECAUSE HEROD SAW THAT HE HAD BEEN DECEIVED BY THE MAGI, IT MADE HIM ANGRY BEYOND MEASURE, SO HE SENT THAT YESHUAH BE SLAIN.* BUT GOD IS WATCHING FOR AFTER THE MAGI HAD LEFT, *AN ANGEL OF THE LORD MAKES HIMSELF VISIBLE TO JOSEPH THROUGH A DREAM SAYING, "GET UP; JOIN THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER TO YOURSELF, AND FLEE INTO EGYPT. STAY THERE UNTIL I TELL YOU FOR HEROD IS ABOUT TO SEEK THE CHILD TO DESTROY HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL. SO, HE WHO GOT UP TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER WITH HIMSELF BY NIGHT, AND WITHDREW INTO EGYPT. THEN, HEROD SLEW ALL THE MALE CHILDREN IN BETHLEHEM AND WITHIN ALL HER DISTRICTS FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD EXACTED FROM THE MAGI.*

YOU SEE, AGAIN, THEY HAD TO HAVE BEEN LIVING ELSEWHERE AFTER THIS LONG AS HEROD HAD FOUND OUT YESHUAH COULD HAVE BEEN UP TWO YEARS OLD FROM QUESTIONING THE MAGI. SO, HE SLAUGHTERED EVERY MAN-CHILD THAT AGE AND YOUNGER. *THEN WAS FULFILLED WHAT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH JEREMIAH THE PROPHET, SAYING, 'A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH WITH WEEPING AND MUCH LAMENTING. RACHEL IS WEEPING OVER HER CHILDREN AND NOT WANTING TO BE COMFORTED BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT.'*

MATTHEW, WHAT EXACTLY IS IT ABOUT RAMAH THAT IS FULFILLED IN HEROD'S SLAUGHTER?

WELL, LUKE, JEREMIAH WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF PROPHECYING ABOUT THE FINAL REGATHERING OF ISRAEL—*THE LORD SAYS, 'THERE IS HOPE FOR ISRAEL'S LATTER END FOR I WILL TURN THEIR MOURNING INTO JOY, COMFORT THEM, AND MAKE THEM REJOICE FROM THEIR SORROW WHEN THEY SHALL COME AGAIN FROM THE LAND OF THE ENEMY, AND THEIR CHILDREN SHALL COME AGAIN TO THEIR OWN BORDER.*

NOW, GOD MOVES JEREMIAH TO WRITE THAT BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THEM...*NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON, AND ALL HIS ARMY CAME AGAINST JERUSALEM, BESIEGED IT, AND THE CITY WAS PENETRATED. THEN, ALL THE MEN OF WAR FLED, AND WENT OUT OF THE CITY BY NIGHT; BUT, THE CHALDEAN ARMY WAS PURSUING AND OVERTAKING THEM.* NOW, HERE, IS HOW THIS IS FULFILLED IN HEROD'S SLAUGHTER OF OUR DAY. FROM JERUSALEM NORTHWARD TOWARD *BABYLON* THESE CAPTIVES *PLODDED—BOUND IN CHAINS.* THE LAST THEY SAW OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY WAS RAMAH OF BENJAMIN ON THE NORTHERN EDGE—FAMOUS FOR DEBORAH AND SAMUEL WHO JUDGED ISRAEL FROM THERE. AND, IT WAS *FROM RAMAH, THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD HAD LET JEREMIAH GO, WHEN HE HAD TAKEN HIM AMONG ALL WHO WERE CARRIED AWAY CAPTIVE FROM JERUSALEM AND JUDAH.* SO, IN *RAMAH—OVER* SONS THEY WOULD NEVER SEE AGAIN, A VOICE OF JEWISH MOTHERS *BEING HEARD—LAMENTATION AND BITTER WEEPING. RACHEL MADE TO WEEP OVER HER CHILDREN—REFUSES TO BE COMFORTED FOR HER CHILDREN FOR THERE WAS NOTHING OF THEM.* NOW, IN BETHLEHEM LIKE IN RAMAH—JEWISH MOTHERS, AGAIN, *BITTERLY WEEPING* FOR THE LIVES OF INFANT SONS TAKEN BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES. YOU FOLLOW ME? GOOD!

LET'S GO ON... YESHUAH, HOWEVER, HAVING BEEN SAVED FROM THE SLAUGHTER, WAS IN EGYPT UNTIL THE END OF HEROD, AND THERE, JOHN AND LUKE, SO THAT GOD'S WORD NOT BE BROKEN AND *WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY THE LORD THROUGH THE PROPHET BE FULFILLED, SAYING, 'OUT OF EGYPT DID I CALL MY SON.'* GOD IS COMPARING THE FULFILLMENT OF YESHUAH CALLED OUT OF EGYPT TO OUR NATION WHO NEWLY BORN WAS *CALLED OUT OF EGYPT.* THE LORD SAID THROUGH HOSEA ABOUT ISRAEL, *I TAUGHT EPHRAIM,* WHO TOOK ISRAEL'S AS THEY WERE THE LARGEST TRIBE; TRULY GOD DECLARES, *I MYSELF MADE EPHRAIM WALK—HE TOOK THEM UPON HIS ARMS, BUT THEY KNEW NOT THAT I HAD HEALED THEM. I USED TO DRAG THEM ALONG WITH CORDS OF MAN—WITH ROPES INTERWOVEN OF LOVE, AND USED TO STOOP THAT I MIGHT FEED HIM.*

NOW, TO YESHUAH, GOD WOULD ALSO GIVE *ALL THINGS INTO HIS HAND* WHO WAS *CALLED OUT OF EGYPT,* YET HE WOULD DO HIS FATHER'S WILL PERFECTLY TO THE END SAYING, *'NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE.'* INDEED, HERE IS WHERE THIS FULFILLMENT IN OUR DAY CONTRASTS THE TWO SONS FOR THE NATION-SON, ISRAEL WAS NOT—I SAY, NOT LIKE OUR YESHUAH. THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT TO

THE END EVEN AS GOD SENT THE PROPHETS WHO CALLED THEM; AND IN THIS WAY THEY WENT FROM THEIR FACE—TO THE BAALS, THEY KEPT MAKING SACRIFICES, AND TO IDOLS, THEY KEPT MAKING SACRIFICES SMOKE; EVEN AS GOD REMINDED THEM, WHEN ISRAEL WAS A CHILD, THEN I LOVED HIM, AND CALLED MY SON OUT OF EGYPT. THEREFORE, HOSEA WRITES THE COMING JUDGMENT—ISRAEL IS NOT ABOUT TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF EGYPT; BUT ASSYRIA—HE SHALL BECOME HIS KING BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO REPENT. A SWORD SHALL THRASH HIS CITIES, MAKE HIS BORDERS CEASE, AND AS A RESULT OF THEIR DEVICES, HE SHALL DEVOUR ISRAEL COMPLETELY. SO, GOD BRINGS THE NATION-SON TO AN END WITH A FLOOD WHEN—KING OF ASSYRIA FINDS CONSPIRACY IN HOSHEA, ISRAEL'S LAST KING, FOR HE HAD SENT MESSENGERS TO PHAROAH OF EGYPT. THEREFORE, KING OF ASSYRIA STOPS HIM, BINDS HIM IN A HOUSE OF CONFINEMENT. KING OF ASSYRIA GOES UP THROUGH ALL THE LAND, EVEN TO SAMARIA, THE CAPITAL, BESIEGES HER, AND TAKES ISRAEL AWAY TO ASSYRIA.

YOU SEE, MY FRIENDS; BOTH SONS WERE CALLED OUT OF EGYPT, BUT ALL PRAISE BELONGS TO THE SON, YESHUAH, WHO SHALL HAVE ONE DAY MADE ALL THINGS NEW FOR US BY HIS OWN DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.

NOW, BACK TO OUR DAY...AFTER THAT HEROD BROUGHT ABOUT HIS OWN END, SEE; AN ANGEL OF THE LORD SHOWED HIMSELF BY A DREAM TO JOSEPH IN EGYPT. HE SAID, 'AFTER AWAKENING, TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER TO YOURSELF, AND PASS INTO THE LAND OF ISRAEL FOR THEY ARE DEAD WHO WERE SEEKING THE CHILD'S LIFE. JOSEPH, WHO HAD AWAKENED, TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER TO HIMSELF, AND ENTERED THE LAND OF ISRAEL. HOWEVER, AFTER HEARING THAT ARCHELAUS WAS REIGNING OVER JUDAEA INSTEAD OF HIS FATHER HEROD, HE WAS MADE AFRAID TO GO AWAY THERE, AND BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY A DREAM, JOSEPH WITHDREW INTO THE REGIONS OF GALILEE. HAVING COME, HE SETTLED IN A CITY CALLED NAZARETH IN ORDER THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS BE FULFILLED WHICH WAS HE SHALL BE CALLED A NAZARENE. YOU KNOW WHAT A BAD REPUTATION NAZARETH HAD THEN.

YOU MEAN, STILL HAS...REMEMBER HOW NATHANIEL REMARKED WHEN HE HEARD JESUS WAS FROM THERE.

I WONDER, CAN ANYTHING GOOD BE FROM NAZARETH, STILL—WELL, BESIDES JESUS' MOTHER, OF COURSE.

I SHOULD SAY, JOHN, BUT LET'S COME TO THE POINT...NAZARETH HAD A VERY POOR REPUTATION, SO NATHANIEL'S THINKING WAS...EVERYONE FROM THERE DOES, TOO. SO MUCH SO THAT THE PROPHETS FORETOLD THAT EVEN JESUS WOULD BEAR THAT CONTEMPT, THOUGH UNFAIRLY, JUST BECAUSE HE GREW UP, THERE. ISAIAH, MORE THAN ANY OTHER PROPHET, TOOK UP THIS POINT OF CONTEMPT. WHEN HIS HOUR HAD COME IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, ISAIAH RECORDS HIS DEJECTION: I HAVE TOILED

IN VAIN. I HAVE MADE MY STRENGTH TO PERISH FOR NO PURPOSE. FOR THE MESSIAH TO FULLY REALIZE HE CAME TO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT... WAS A TERRIBLE THING, INDEED. SO, THE FATHER SENT AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN WHO APPEARED TO MESSIAH, STRENGTHENING HIM. IN AGONY—HIS SWEAT LIKE DROPS OF BLOOD, MESSIAH IS REMINDED BY THE ANGEL OF THE WORDS OF ISAIAH: AND NOW SAYS THE LORD WHO FORMED ME FROM THE WOMB FOR HIS SERVANT TO MAKE JACOB RETURN TO HIM, 'IT IS TOO SLIGHT BECAUSE YOU ARE MY SERVANT TO MAKE THE TRIBES OF JACOB RISE UP AND MAKE ISRAEL RETURN. INDEED, I SHALL GIVE YOU AS LIGHT TO NATIONS THAT YOU BECOME MY SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.' SO, THIS WICKED GENERATION OF JACOB REJECTED ITS MESSIAH; NEVERTHELESS, GENTILES WITHOUT NUMBER TO THE END OF THE EARTH SHALL SEE THE LIGHT. THAT IS WHAT THE FATHER KNEW THE SON NEEDED TO HEAR AGAIN IN HIS HOUR OF NEED. ISAIAH WRITES ON, THUS SAYS THE LORD, THE REDEEMER OF ISRAEL—ITS HOLY ONE, THAT EVEN THOUGH, FOR A SEASON, MESSIAH IS GIVEN UP FOR THE DESPISING OF SOUL, FOR THE ABHORRING OF A NATION, FOR A SLAVE OF RULERS; NEVERTHELESS, KINGS SHALL SEE AND RISE; PRINCES, INDEED, ARE GOING TO BE MADE TO BOW THEMSELVES DOWN TO HIS SERVANT BECAUSE THE LORD IS TRUSTWORTHY. THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL IS GOING TO CHOOSE YOU. AND SO, DESPITE THE DESPISING, GOD'S WILL BE DONE.

KING DAVID, ALSO, FORETOLD THE DESPISING OF MESSIAH WHEN HE EXCLAIMED FROM THE CROSS, 'I AM A WORM, AND NOT A MAN—A REPROACH OF MAN, AND DESPISED OF PEOPLE. ALL WHO SEE ME MAKE A MOCKERY OF ME. THEY MAKE THE MOUTH GAPE OPEN WITH THE LIPS. THEY MAKE THE HEAD WAVING, SAYING, 'TURN ROUND TOWARD THE LORD; LET HIM GIVE HIM ESCAPE; LET THE LORD DELIVER HIM BECAUSE HE HAS DELIGHTED IN HIM.'

KING SOLOMON WRITES OF THIS CONTEMPT IN A STORY TOLD WHERE A SMALL CITY FOUND A POOR WISE MAN IN IT WHO BY HIS WISDOM DELIVERED THE CITY FROM A GREAT KING WHO HAD BUILT GREAT SIEGE-WORKS AGAINST IT. YET, NO MAN REMEMBERED THAT POOR MAN. SO, SOLOMON WROTE THAT, EVEN THOUGH, WISDOM IS BETTER THAN STRENGTH, YET THE POOR MAN'S WISDOM IS DESPISED, AND HIS WORDS—NOTHING OF THEM ARE HEARD.'

MATTHEW, I WAS COMPARING WORDS ONCE ON THIS, AND MUCH EARLIER IN HIS WRITING, DOESN'T ISAIAH MENTION THIS CONTEMPT SAYING, THERE SHALL COME FORTH A SHOOT OUT OF THE STOCK OF JESSE, AND A SHOOT FROM HIS ROOTS SHALL BEAR FRUIT.'

WHAT IS THERE ABOUT DESPISING THE MESSIAH IN THAT PASSAGE, JOHN?

WELL, IF YOU COMPARE THE WORD FOR NAZARETH AND THE WORD FOR SHOOT, THEY'RE THE SAME THING, TRUE?

TRUE, JOHN. YOU ARE RIGHT THAT ISAIAH IS TALKING ABOUT THE MESSIAH, HERE, YOU SHOULD KNOW I ONCE OVERHEARD A RABBI ARGUING WITH ONE OF MY DISCIPLES ON THIS VERY MATTER.

AND?

AND, HE RIGHTLY ANSWERED MY DISCIPLE, "A CITY IS NOT A TREE."

"A CITY IS NOT A TREE...IS IT SOME KIND OF RIDDLE?"

JOHN, THE PROPHECY IS FULFILLED IN THAT THE MESSIAH GREW UP IN NAZARETH—A CITY...A CITY *DESPISED*, YES, BUT NEVERTHELESS—A CITY, NOT A TREE, BRANCH OR PLANT. THE POINT—BEING BOTH THE CITY, NAZARETH, AND THE MESSIAH SHALL BE *DESPISED*, BUT THE WORD FROM WHICH *NAZARETH* AND *SHOOT* ORIGINATE CAN MEAN A LOT OF THINGS—MAYBE A PLANT, OR A CONSECRATED ONE, OR EVEN A CROWN, BUT NEVER, EVER DOES EITHER WORD MEAN *DESPISED*. GET IT?

I'M CHEWING ON IT, BUT GO AHEAD.

GOOD! WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT, I'M GOING TO CLOSE THIS MEETING WITH ONE MORE FROM ISAIAH ON THIS POINT: *HE IS DESPISED AND FORSAKEN OF MEN—A MAN OF SUFFERINGS AND KNOWN BY SICKNESS—INDEED, LIKE HIDING OUR FACE FROM HIM, HE IS DESPISED FOR WE HAD REGARDED HIM NOT.* [11]

I'LL PRAY, NOW, FOR OUR SAFE JOURNEYS AND BLESSED MINISTRIES UNLESS EITHER OF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD TO THESE BEGINNINGS OF JESUS THE MESSIAH.

ACTUALLY, MATTHEW, I HAVE ONE MORE THING TO COMPLETE OUR RECORD OF MESSIAH'S BEGINNINGS.

WONDERFUL, LUKE, PLEASE...

## **CHAPTER VIII      APPRENTICING THE SON**

YES, WELL, AS YOU HAD SAID, *THEY—JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS RETURNED INTO GALILEE, TO THEIR OWN CITY NAZARETH, AND THIS—BECAUSE THEY ACTUALLY HAD ACCOMPLISHED ALL THINGS THAT WERE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE LORD—THIS LAW, OR THE LAW OF MOSES AS REGARDS HIS CIRCUMCISION, DEDICATION, AND HIS CALLING OUT OF EGYPT OF WHICH MOSES SPOKE.*

THAT WAS IN HIS SECOND BOOK—PART TWELVE TO FOURTEEN, YES, LUKE?

YES, JOHN, THAT'S THE ONE. AND IN NAZARETH, *MESSIAH CONTINUED TO GROW AND WAS MADE STRONG BEING FILLED TO FULLNESS WITH WISDOM—INDEED, THE GRACE OF GOD WAS CONSTANT UPON THIS ONE.*

*NOW, HIS PARENTS USED TO GO TO JERUSALEM EVERY YEAR AT THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. SO, WHEN HE HAD BECOME TWELVE AND ABOUT TO ENTER ADULTHOOD, THEY WENT UP TO JERUSALEM ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF THE FEAST FOR IT WAS AT THIS AGE ALSO THAT A BOY WAS TO BE APPRENTICED TO HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS. NOW, AFTER THEY COMPLETED THE SEVEN DAYS ALSO OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD AND WERE RETURNING HOME, THE BOY, JESUS, REMAINED IN JERUSALEM.*

*INDEED, YOU SEE, HIS PARENTS DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT BECAUSE THEY SUPPOSED HIM TO BE IN THE CARAVAN, THEY WENT A DAY'S JOURNEY, THEN BEGAN SEARCHING HIM OUT AMONG THEIR RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES. NOT HAVING FOUND HIM, THEY RETURNED TO JERUSALEM, AGAIN SEARCHING HIM OUT, THERE. AND IT HAPPENED AFTER THREE DAYS, THEY DISCOVERED HIM IN THE TEMPLE SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEACHERS—BOTH HEARING THEIR WORDS AND QUESTIONING THEM SO THAT ALL HEARING HIS WORD WERE CONTINUALLY AMAZED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERS. NOW, WHEN THEY BEHELD HIM, THEY WERE STRUCK IN ASTONISHMENT, AND HIS MOTHER SAID TOWARDS HIM, 'CHILD, WHAT IS IT YOU DID US THIS WAY? HERE, YOUR FATHER AND I TORMENTED WERE LOOKING TRYING TO FIND YOU.' BUT, JESUS SAID TOWARDS THEM, 'WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WERE LOOKING TO FIND ME? HAD YOU NOT KNOWN THAT I MUST BE AMONG THE THINGS OF MY FATHER?' BUT, THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE WORD WHICH HE SPOKE TO THEM FOR HE WAS SPEAKING OF BEING APPRENTICED TO THE BUSINESS OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER.*

MATTHEW, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING.

LUKE, IF I MAY TIE THIS TO ISAIAH'S POINT ON CONTEMPT... YOU SEE, FROM THE EARLIEST OF HIS YEARS, GOD THE FATHER HAD BEGUN HIS SON'S APPRENTICESHIP, PREPARING FOR HIS FATHER'S THINGS—YEARS BEFORE YOUNG JESUS EVER MADE THIS TRIP TO JERUSALEM. FROM ISAIAH, AGAIN, WE HEAR HOW HIS HEAVENLY FATHER WOKE HIS SON UP EACH MORNING TRAINING HIM FOR HIS LIFE'S WORK: *'THE LORD YAHWEH HAS GIVEN ME A TONGUE FOR ONE TAUGHT THAT I MIGHT KNOW HOW TO TEACH THE FAINT A WORD.*

OH, MATTHEW, THERE'S THAT WORD, AGAIN, I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

WHAT WORD, JOHN?

YOU KNOW, *MEMRA*—THE REVELATION OR PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF GOD HIMSELF... AND USED PERFECTLY FOR HOW MESSIAH EVEN IN TEACHING GAVE OF HIMSELF—THE WORD TO TEACH WE WHO ARE FAINT.

WELL SAID, MY FRIEND. SO, I GO ON... AND HERE IT IS: *HE MAKES ME WAKE UP MORNING BY MORNING; HE MAKES MY EAR TO HEAR LIKE THE ONES TAUGHT. THE LORD JEHOVAH SHALL OPEN MINE EAR, AND I MYSELF SHALL NOT BE DISOBEDIENT—A BACK, I SHALL NOT TURN AWAY. MINE OWN BACK—I SHALL*



GIVE TO SMITERS. *INDEED, MY JAWS—I SHALL GIVE TO THOSE YANKING THEM BARE. MY FACE—I SHALL NOT HIDE FROM INSULTS AND SPIT. THEN, THE LORD YAHWEH IS GOING TO HELP ME, THEREFORE I SHALL NOT BE CONFUSED. THEREFORE, I SHALL SET MY FACE LIKE THE ROCK-FLINT, AND I WON'T BE ASHAMED.* THUS, HIS HEAVENLY FATHER APPRENTICED JESUS. LUKE, I HAD TO GET THAT IN. THAT IS A GREAT PASSAGE, BUT I ONLY A LITTLE LEFT. AFTER HIS PARENTS RECOVERED JESUS FROM THE TEMPLE, *HE CAME DOWN WITH THEM TO NAZARETH, AND KEPT SUBJECTING HIMSELF TO THEM. YET, HIS MOTHER WAS CAREFULLY KEEPING ALL THAT SPOKEN IN HER HEART. AS FOR JESUS, HE KEPT INCREASING IN THE WISDOM AND MATURITY—INDEED, WITH GRACE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND MEN.* AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE, FOR NOW.

### EPILOGUE

SO, THERE WE CLOSE FOR YOU TWO HAVE CARAVANS TO CATCH. AND THERE, WE LEAVE THE STORY OF MESSIAH'S BEGINNINGS—IN NAZARETH UNTIL WE MET HIM AND HE LET US COME ALONG SIDE HIM AS HE WENT OUT, AND CHANGED THE WORLD FOREVER. SO, FATHER, GO WITH US, AS YOUR MESSIAH SAID, *I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS ALL THE DAYS—UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE, AND NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, HELP US TO OBEY HIS LAST WORDS ON THIS EARTH TO US: MAKE ALL THE NATIONS DISCIPLES BY BAPTIZING THEM IN YOUR NAME, OF YOUR MESSIAH, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HELP US OUR FATHER, DISCIPLE ALL THE NATIONS BY TEACHING THEM ALL WHATSOEVER OUR MESSIAH COMMANDED US. IN HIS WONDERFUL NAME, AMEN.*

*AMEN: COME, LORD JESUS!*

THANK YOU, JOHN... SHALOM, YOU TWO...GOD GO WITH YOU.

SHALOM, SHALOM, MATTHEW!

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND NOTES

[1] Acts 1:9 & 2:33, MATTHEW WAS MARTYRED ABOUT 60 A.D (FOXES BOOK OF MARTYRS) HAVING THOUGHT TO HAVE COMPLETED HIS GOSPEL FIRST BY 50 A.D. LUKE WRITES HIS GOSPEL BY 60 A.D. AND ACTS BY THE DEATH OF THE APOSTLE PAUL BEFORE 65 A.D. JOHN WRITES HIS GOSPEL ABOUT 85 A.D. (UNGER'S BIBLE DICTIONARY), JN 20:31.

[2] JN 1:1-2, 14, PSA. 147:15, ISA. 40:8, ISA 9:8, PSA. 33:6, ACTS 7:2, 1 SAM 3:21, EX 40:35, EZE 11:23, JN. 1:1, PHIL 2:7-8, IS. 53:2, 1COR. 14:40

3] MATT 1:1 – 11, 2 KGS. 9 & 11-15, 2CHR.26.3 & 2KGS 15.1-2, JERE. 22:24-26 & 29-30 (V.30 IN THE LXX, *WILL NOT GROW OR WILL NOT INCREASE* MAY BE THE BETTER READING VIS-À-VIS LINEAGE AND ITS POWER)(1CHR. 3:18-19—*ZERUBBABEL, SON OF PEDAHIAH, SON OF SHEALTIEL*), MATT.1:12-17, JN.10:35, 1 Kgs. 11:29 & 31, 2 Kgs. 9:1-3, ISA. 49:6, JN. 1:14 & EPH.2.8

4] LU. 3:23-27, JN.10:35, LK. 3:27-3:32, ISA.11:1, LK. 3:33-3:38, COMPARE TO 1 CHR. 1:1 TO 1:24-25 AND GEN. 5:3-32 AND 11:10-26 ( LU.3:35-36—*SHELAH<CAINAN<ARPHACHSHAD* NOT IN GEN. 11:12-13 EXCEPT IN LXX WHERE THEY AMEND THE HEBREW TEXT—LUKE'S READING FOLLOWS THE LXX; ALSO NOT IN 1 CHR. 1:18 AND NOTHING AT ALL IN THIS VERSE OF LXX), 1CHR. 1:26-3.5 & 3:10-3:18.

5] LU. 1:26-2:2, ISA 7:1-14, LU.1:15

6] MATT.1-18-25, ISA. 7:14

7] LU. 2:1:20

8] LU. 2:21-38, GENESIS 17:9-14 AND 21:4, LEV. 12:2-4; "EVERY MALE...HOLY TO THE LORD" IS A SUMMARY OF NUM.18.15-17, LEV. 12:8

9] MATT. 2:1-2, NUMBERS 21:24-25, Numbers 21:33-35, 22:1-7, v.14-20, NUM 24:15-23 Daniel 2:1-2 Daniel 2:10-13, vv17-28, vv. 45-48 [JERE.39.3 SEE THE RAB-MAG OR CHIEF SOOTHSAYER WITH KING NEB] MATT. 2:3-23, MICAH 5:2, JOS 19.15, 1CHR. 2:4-5, 2:9 [MASSORETIC

AND LXX], 2:10-15, 2:19, 1CHR. 2.24 [ALSO CALLED CALEB-EPHRATHAH, 2.42 [MESHA WAS CALEB'S VERY FIRST BORN], 2:50-51 [ FROM CALEB AND EPHRATHAH COMES HUR, FATHER OF SALMA, THEN BETHLEHEM ],, 4:4, 1SAM.17:12, RUTH1:2, 4:3-4, 9-11.

10] MATT. 2:7-12

11] MATT.2:16A, 2:13-14, 2:16B-18, JERE.31.13-17, 39.1-5, JERE.40.1, JUD.4.5, 1SAM.7.17, MATT. 2:15, HOS. 11:3-4 [3MS OF LAQACH], LUKE 22:42, JN.3.35, HOS.11:2, 11:1, 11:5-6, 2KGS17:4-6, PHIL.2:7B, MATT. 2:19-23, JN.1;46, ISA.49.4, JOH 1.11, LUK.22.43-4, ISA.49:5-6, LUK.11.29, ISA.49.7, PSA. 22:6-8, ECCL 9:14-16, ISA. 11.1, 53.2-3

12] LUKE 2:39-52, Ex. 12-14, LEV. 23:5-8, ISA. 50.4-7 [THE HEBREW PERFECT TENSE IS A COMPLETED ACTION, AND CAN BE TRANSLATED IN THE PAST OR FUTURE. IN THE CONTEXT, BOTH IN ISAIAH'S TIME AND DURING JESUS' APPRENTICESHIP, MESSIAH'S PASSION IS STILL FUTURE. THUS, *I SHALL NOT TURN AWAY*], REV. 22.20