### Luke

## Chapter 1

1Since many others have already taken on the job of putting together a statement of the facts regarding the things we believe 2(as they were given to us by those who were eyewitnesses from the earliest [times], and by caretakers of the message)... 3It seemed good for me to trace everything accurately from the start, then write it down for you in the order that it happened, O mighty TheoPhilus, 4so that you can have confidence in the things you’ve been taught by word of mouth.  
  
  
  
5In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a Priest named ZechariAh who was of the division of AbiJah. He had a wife named EliZabeth [meaning, My God has Sworn], who was a descendant of Aaron. 6Both of them were found righteous by God, because they obeyed all the commandments and requirements of Jehovah.  
  
7However, they never had children and they were both advanced in years, so EliZabeth was [beyond child-bearing age].  
  
8Then it was while [ZechariAh] was assigned as the Priest before God (in his division of Priests, 9following the custom of the Priesthood), that he had been chosen by lot to enter the temple sanctuary of Jehovah to burn incense there. 10Since it was the scheduled time for offering incense, a large crowd of people had also gathered outside to pray.  
  
11Well, Jehovah’s messenger then appeared to [ZechariAh], standing on the right-hand side of the incense altar! 12Well, upon seeing him, ZechariAh was very frightened!  
  
13However, the messenger said to him:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid ZechariAh, because your prayers have been heard! Your wife EliZabeth will give birth to a son for you, and you must call his name John [Greek: YoHanain, meaning Jehovah Is Merciful].  
  
 14‘He’ll be a great joy for you, and a delight… In fact, many people will rejoice at his birth, 15because he’ll be great in the eyes of Jehovah.  
  
 ‘[This son] won’t drink any wine or liquor at all, and he will be filled with Holy Breath while he’s still in his mother’s womb!  
  
 16‘Thereafter, he will turn many sons of IsraEl back to their God Jehovah, 17and he’ll travel before him with the power and spirit of EliJah as he prepares a people for the Lord – by turning the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the [hearts] of those who don’t obey to righteous good sense.’  
  
18But ZechariAh asked the messenger:  
  
 ‘How can I be sure of this? After all, I’m quite old and my woman is advanced in years.’  
  
19Then the messenger replied:  
  
 ‘I’m GabriEl – someone who stands before God – and I was sent to bring this good news to you!  
  
 20‘But because you don’t believe these words (which will come true right on time), {Look!} you’ll be silent and won’t able to talk until the day that these things happen!’  
  
  
21Meanwhile, the people who were waiting [outside] for ZechariAh started wondering why he was taking so long in the temple sanctuary. 22So when he [finally] came out [of the sanctuary] and couldn’t speak, they realized that he’d just seen a supernatural vision… He gestured to them with his head, but he couldn’t talk.  
  
23Well, when his service time [in the Temple] was finished, he went back home, 24and that’s when his wife EliZabeth became pregnant.  
  
However, she hid herself for five months, saying:  
  
 25‘It’s Jehovah’s will that I do this, so that people won’t laugh at me.’  
  
26Well, it was in her 6th month that the Messenger GabriEl was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin who was engaged to a man named JoSeph who was from the house of [King] David. This virgin’s name was Mary [Greek: Mariam].  
  
28And when he came to her, he said:  
  
 ‘Rejoice, you most beloved person, because Jehovah is with you!’  
  
29Well, these words bothered her, because she wondered just what type of greeting that was.  
  
30Then the messenger said:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid Mary, because you’ve found God’s favor.  
  
 31‘Look! You’ll conceive in your belly and give birth to a son whom you are to name Jesus [Aramaic: IShoah, Hebrew: YeShuah, meaning Jehovah’s Salvation]. 32He will be great and he’ll be called the Son of the Most High, and Jehovah God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.  
  
 33‘He will then rule over the house of Jacob throughout the ages, and there’ll be no end to his Kingdom.’  
  
34But Mary asked the messenger:  
  
 ‘How can this be possible, since I haven’t been with a man?’  
  
35And the messenger replied:  
  
 ‘God’s Holy Breath will come over you and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you, so that what will be born will be called Holy… God’s Son.  
  
 36‘Look! Your relative EliZabeth is also pregnant with a son, even in her old age! And this is the 6th month for this so-called sterile woman, 37because nothing is impossible when God says it’ll happen.’  
  
38Then Mary said:  
  
 ‘Look! I’m Jehovah’s slave girl! May this thing that you told me about, happen to me!’  
  
And at that, the messenger left her.  
  
  
  
39So after that, Mary got up and quickly traveled to a Judean city located in the hill country, where she 40entered the home of ZechariAh to speak to EliZabeth.  
  
41And just as EliZabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in her womb jumped, and EliZabeth was filled with Holy Breath, 42for she shouted aloud:  
  
 ‘You’re a blest woman, and the fruit of your womb is blest! 43So, how is it that the mother of my Lord has come to me? 44Look! When I heard the sound of your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy! 45The woman who has faith will be blest, and everything that Jehovah said to her will come true.’  
  
46Then Mary said:  
  
 ‘I give glory to Jehovah with my whole soul,  
 47And over my God and my Savior,  
 My body will cry out in joy,  
 48For He’s looked down on His lowly slave girl.  
  
 ‘{Look!} By all peoples, I’ll be called blest,  
 49For the Almighty One did great things for me…  
 The One whose Name is Most Holy.  
  
 50‘For generations, He has shown mercy  
 To those who show that they fear Him.  
 51But, with His strong arm, He will scatter  
 Those who think in their hearts that they’re better.  
  
 52‘He removes kings from their thrones,  
 And He puts the humble in charge.  
 53He fills the hungry with good things,  
 And He sends the rich off as starved.  
  
 54‘He sent help to IsraEl, His child,  
 And He remembered His mercy  
 55As He promised to AbraHam, our father,  
 And to his offspring, throughout the ages.’  
  
56So, Mary stayed there with EliZabeth for about three months before she returned home.  
  
  
  
57Well, it soon came time for EliZabeth to deliver her baby, and she had a son. 58So when her neighbors and relatives heard how Jehovah had shown such magnificent mercy towards her, they were all overjoyed. 59But when they went to circumcise the boy on the 8th day, they expected that he would be named after his father, ZechariAh.  
  
60However, his mother said:  
  
 ‘Absolutely not! He will be called John.’  
  
61But [the neighbors] said:  
  
 ‘That isn’t the name of any of your relatives!’  
  
62So they nodded to the father, to ask what he wanted to call it. 63And after asking for a tablet, he wrote:  
  
 ‘His name is John.’  
  
And this really caused them to wonder.  
  
64Well at that, [ZechariAh] was suddenly able to speak… His tongue came loose, and he started talking and praising God 65(which frightened all the neighbors). And thereafter, these things were talked about throughout the hills of Judea.  
  
66Also, everyone who heard about it made a note of it in their hearts, for they were all wondering what this little boy would [grow up to] be, since the hand of Jehovah was upon him.  
  
67Then ZechariAh ([the boy’s] father) became filled with Holy Breath and he spoke this prophecy:  
  
 68‘Praise Jehovah, IsraEl’s God,  
 For He looked down and set free His people.  
  
 69‘He raised the horn of salvation for us  
 In the house of his servant David,  
 70Just as He promised through the mouths of the holy  
 Back in the age of the Prophets,  
 71To save us from our enemy’s hands,  
 And from the hands of all those who hate us,  
 72To fulfill [His] mercy to our fathers  
 By remembering His Holy Sacred Agreement,  
 73And His oath to AbraHam, our father,  
 74That we don’t have to fear our enemy’s hands;  
 For because we’re His servants, He’ll save us,  
 75And we’ll loyally stand here before Him  
 As righteous, throughout [the rest of] our days.  
  
 76‘But, as for you, little boy;  
 You’ll be called a Prophet of the Most High,  
 And you’ll travel ahead of Jehovah,  
 To prepare the road that’s before him.  
  
 77‘You’ll tell his people how [they can] be saved  
 By seeking forgiveness of their sins,  
 78Through the tender mercies of God,  
 Who looks down on us from above  
 As though it were a new day,  
 79Which is shining on those in the darkness,  
 And on those who are sitting in the shadow of death.  
 For he’ll straighten [the paths for] our feet,  
 And guide us in the ways that are leading to peace.’  
  
80Well, after that the little boy grew and he kept getting stronger in the Breath [of God]. Then he went and lived in the desert until the day that he presented himself to IsraEl.