

ΠΡΩΤΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ
THE PROTEVANGELIUM OF JAMES

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The Birth of Mary the Holy Mother of God, and Very Glorious Mother of Jesus Christ.¹

A'

1. Ἐν ταῖς ἱστορίαις τῶν δώδεκα φυλῶν τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ ἦν Ἰωακεὶμ πλούσιος σφόδρα, καὶ προσέφερε κυρίῳ τὰ δῶρα αὐτοῦ διπλᾶ λέγων ἐν ἑαυτῷ: Ἔσται τὸ τῆς περισσείας μου ἅπαντι τῷ λαῷ καὶ τὸ τῆς ἀφέσεως κυρίῳ τῷ θεῷ εἰς ἱλασμὸν ἐμοί.

2. ἐνῆγγισεν δὲ ἡ ἡμέρα κυρίου ἡ μεγάλη καὶ προσέφερον οἱ υἱοὶ Ἰσραὴλ τὰ δῶρα αὐτῶν, καὶ ἔστη κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ καὶ Ρουβὴλ λέγων: οὐκ ἔξεστίν σοι πρῶτῳ προσενεγκεῖν τὰ δῶρά σου, καθότι σπέρμα οὐκ ἐποίησας ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ.

3. καὶ ἐλυπήθη Ἰωακεὶμ καὶ ἀπείει εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐλθὼν εἰς τὴν δωδεκάφυλον τοῦ λαοῦ λέγει: ὄψομαι, εἰ ἐγὼ μόνος οὐκ ἐποίησα σπέρμα ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ. ἠρεύνησε δὲ καὶ εὗρε πάντας τοὺς δικαίους, ὅτι σπέρμα ἀνέστησαν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ ἐμνήσθη τοῦ πατριάρχου Ἀβραάμ, ὅτι ἐν ταῖς ἐσχάταις αὐτοῦ ἡμέραις ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ ὁ θεὸς υἱὸν Ἰσαάκ.

4. καὶ ἐλυπεῖτο Ἰωακεὶμ σφόδρα καὶ οὐκ ἐφάνη τῇ γυναικὶ αὐτοῦ, ἀλλὰ ἔδωκεν ἑαυτὸν εἰς τὴν ἔρημον, καὶ ἔπηξε τὴν σκηνὴν αὐτοῦ ἐκεῖ καὶ ἐνήστευσεν ἡμέρας τεσσαράκοντα καὶ νύκτας τεσσαράκοντα λέγων ἐν ἑαυτῷ: οὐ καταβήσομαι οὔτε ἐπὶ βρωτὸν οὔτε ἐπὶ ποτόν, ἕως ἐπισκέψηται με κύριος ὁ θεός μου, καὶ ἔσται μοι ἡ εὐχὴ

I

1. In the records of the twelve tribes of Israel was Joachim, a man rich exceedingly; and he brought his offerings double,² saying: There shall be of my superabundance to all the people, and there shall be the offering for my forgiveness³ to the Lord for a propitiation⁴ for me.

2. For the great day of the Lord was at hand, and the sons of Israel were bringing their offerings. And there stood over against him Rubim, saying: It is not meet for thee first to bring thine offerings, because thou hast not made seed in Israel.⁵

3. And he searched, and found that all the righteous had raised up seed in Israel. And he called to mind the patriarch Abraham, that in the last day⁶ God gave him a son Isaac.

4. And Joachim was exceedingly grieved, and did not come into the presence of his wife; but he retired to the desert,⁷ and there pitched his tent, and fasted forty days and forty nights,⁸ saying in himself: I will not go down either for food or for drink until the Lord my God shall look upon me, and prayer shall be my food and drink.

¹This title is taken by Tischendorf from a manuscript of the eleventh century (Paris). At least seventeen other forms exist. The book is variously named by ancient writers. In the decree of Gelasius (A.D. 495) he condemns it as *Evangelium nomine Jacobi minoris apocryphum*. The text of Tischendorf, here translated, is somewhat less diffuse than that of Fabricius, and is based on manuscript evidence. The variations are verbal and formal rather than material.—R.

²Susanna i. 4.

³The readings vary, and the sense is doubtful. Thilo thinks that the sense is: What I offer over and above what the law requires is for the benefit of the whole people; but the offering I make for my own forgiveness (according to the law's requirements) shall be to the Lord, that He may be rendered merciful to me.

⁴The Church of Rome appoints March 20 as the Feast of St. Joachim. His liberality is commemorated in prayers, and the lessons to be read are Wisd. xxxi. and Matt. i.

⁵1 Sam. i. 6, 7; Hos. ix. 14.

⁶Another reading is: In his last days.

⁷Another reading is: Into the hill-country.

⁸Moses: Ex. xxiv. 18, xxxiv. 28; Deut. ix. 9. Elijah: 1 Kings xix. 8. Christ: Matt. iv. 2.

βρόματα καὶ πόματα.

Β'

1. Ἡ δὲ γυνὴ δὲ αὐτοῦ Ἄννα δύο θρήνους ἐθρήνει καὶ δύο κοπετοὺς ἐκόπτετο λέγουσα: κόπομαι τὴν χηρίαν μου καὶ κόπομαι τὴν ἀτεκνίαν μου.

2. ἤγγισε δὲ ἡ ἡμέρα κυρίου ἡ μεγάλη καὶ εἶπεν Ἰουδῆθ ἡ παιδίσκη αὐτῆς πρὸς αὐτήν: ἕως πότε ταπεινοῖς τὴν ψυχὴν σου; ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἤγγισεν ἡ ἡμέρα κυρίου ἡ μεγάλη καὶ οὐκ ἔξεστί σοι πενθεῖν. ἀλλὰ λάβε τοῦτο τὸ κεφαλοδέσμιον⁹ head-band, which the woman that made it gave to me; for it is not proper that I should wear it, because I am a maid-servant, and it has a royal appearance.¹¹

3. καὶ εἶπεν Ἄννα: ἀπόστηθι ἀπ' ἐμοῦ: καὶ ταῦτα οὐκ ἐποίησα, καὶ κύριος ὁ θεὸς ἐταπεινώσέν με σφόδρα. μήπως πανοῦργος ἔδωκέν σοι τοῦτο καὶ ἤλθες κοινωνῆσαί με τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ σου; εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῇ Ἰουδῆθ ἡ παιδίσκη αὐτῆς: τί ἀράσωμαί σοι, καθότι οὐκ ἤκουσας τῆς φωνῆς μου; ἀπέκλεισεν¹² hath shut thy womb, so as not to give thee fruit in Israel? κύριος ὁ θεὸς τὴν μήτραν σου τοῦ μὴ δοῦναί σοι καρπὸν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ.

4. καὶ ἐλυπήθη Ἄννα σφόδρα καὶ περιεΐλετο τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῆς τὰ πενθικὰ καὶ ἐσμήξατο τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτῆς καὶ ἐνεδύσατο τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῆς τὰ νυμφικὰ καὶ περὶ ὥραν ἐννάτην κατέβη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον αὐτῆς (τοῦ περιπατῆσαι). καὶ εἶδεν δάφνην καὶ ἐκάθισεν ὑποκάτω αὐτῆς καὶ ἐλιτάνευσε τῷ δεσπότη λέγουσα: ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων μου, εὐλόγησόν με καὶ ἐπάκουσον τῆς δεήσεός μου, καθὼς ἐπήκουσας καὶ εὐλόγησας τὴν μητέρα Σάραν καὶ ἔδωκας αὐτῇ υἱὸν τὸν Ἰσαάκ.

Γ'

1. Καὶ ἀτενίσασα Ἄννα εἰς οὐρανὸν εἶδεν καλιὰν στρουθίων ἐν τῇ δάφνῃ καὶ εὐθέως ἐποίησε θρήνον ἐν ἑαυτῇ λέγουσα: οἶμοι, τίς με ἐγέννησεν, ποία δὲ μήτρα ἐξέφυσέν με, ὅτι κατάρᾳ ἐγεννήθην ἐνώπιον τῶν υἱῶν Ἰσραὴλ

II

1. And his wife Anna⁹ mourned in two mournings, and lamented in two lamentations, saying: I shall bewail my widowhood; I shall bewail my childlessness.

2. And the great day of the Lord was at hand; and Judith¹⁰ her maid-servant said: How long dost thou humiliate thy soul? Behold, the great day of the Lord is at hand, and it is unlawful for thee to mourn. But take this head-band, which the woman that made it gave to me; for it is not proper that I should wear it, because I am a maid-servant, and it has a royal appearance.¹¹

3. And Anna said: Depart from me; for I have not done such things, and the Lord has brought me very low. I fear that some wicked person has given it to thee, and thou hast come to make me a sharer in thy sin. And Judith said: Why should I curse thee, seeing that¹² the Lord hath shut thy womb, so as not to give thee fruit in Israel?

4. And Anna was grieved exceedingly, and put off her garments of mourning, and cleaned her head, and put on her wedding garments, and about the ninth hour went down to the garden to walk. And she saw a laurel, and sat under it, and prayed to the Lord, saying: O God of our fathers, bless me and hear my prayer, as Thou didst bless the womb of Sarah, and didst give her a son Isaac.¹³

III

1. And gazing towards the heaven, she saw a sparrow's nest in the laurel,¹⁴ and made a lamentation in herself, saying: Alas! who begot me? and what womb produced me? because I have become a curse in the presence of the sons of Israel, and I have been reproached,

⁹The 26th day of July is the Feast of St. Anna in the Church of Rome.

¹⁰Other forms of the name are Juth, Juthin.

¹¹Some MSS. have: For I am thy maid-servant, and thou hast a regal appearance.

¹²Several MSS. insert: Thou hast not listened to my voice; for.

¹³Comp. 1 Sam. i. 9-18.

¹⁴Tobit ii. 10.

καὶ ὠνειδίσθην καὶ ἐξεμυκτηρίσθην ἐκβληθεῖσα ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου τοῦ θεοῦ μου;

2. οἴμοι, τίني ὁμοιώθην ἐγώ; οὐχ ὁμοιώθην ἐγὼ τοῖς πετεινοῖς τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ὅτι καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ γόνιμά εἰσιν ἐνώπιόν σου, κύριε. οἴμοι, τίني ὁμοιώθην ἐγώ; οὐχ ὁμοιώθην ἐγὼ τοῖς ἀλόγοις ζώοις, καὶ τὰ ἄλογα ζῶα γόνιμά εἰσιν ἐνώπιόν σου, κύριε.

3. οἴμοι, τίني ὁμοιώθην ἐγώ; οὐχ ὁμοιώθην ἐγὼ τοῖς ὕδασι τούτοις, ὅτι καὶ τὰ ὕδατα γόνιμά εἰσιν ἐνώπιόν σου, κύριε. οἴμοι, τίني ὁμοιώθην ἐγώ; οὐχ ὁμοιώθην ἐγὼ τῇ γῇ, ὅτι καὶ ἡ γῆ προφέρει τοὺς καρπούς αὐτῆς κατὰ καιρὸν καὶ σε εὐλογεῖ, κύριε.

Δ'

1. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη λέγων: Ἄννα, Ἄννα, εἰσήκουσε κύριος ὁ θεὸς τῆς δεήσεώς σου, καὶ λήψῃ καὶ λαληθήσεται τὸ σπέρμα σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ. εἶπεν δὲ Ἄννα: ἤ κύριος ὁ θεός μου: ἐὰν γεννήσω εἴτε ἄρρεν εἴτε θῆλυ, προσάξω αὐτὸ δῶρον κυρίῳ τῷ θεῷ μου καὶ ἔσται λειτουργοῦν αὐτῷ πάσας ἡμέρας τῆς ζωῆς αὐτοῦ.

2. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἦλθσαν ἄγγελοι δύοι λέγοντες αὐτῇ: ἰδοὺ Ἰωακείμ ὁ ἀνὴρ σου ἔρχεται μετὰ τῶν ποιμνίων αὐτοῦ. ἄγγελος γὰρ κυρίου κατέβη πρὸς αὐτὸν λέγων: Ἰωακείμ, Ἰωακείμ, εἰσήκουσε κύριος ὁ θεὸς τῆς δεήσεώς σου. κατὰβηθι ἐντεῦθεν. ἰδοὺ Ἄννα ἡ γυνὴ σου ἐν γαστρὶ λήπεται (ἐῴληφεν).

3. καὶ εὐθέως κατέβη Ἰωακείμ καὶ ἐκάλεσεν τοὺς ποιμένας αὐτοῦ λέγων: φέρετέ μοι ὧδε δώδεκα ἀμνάδας ἀσπίλους καὶ ἀμόμους εἰς θυσίαν κυρίῳ τῷ θεῷ μου, καὶ φέρετέ μοι δώδεκα μόσχους ἀσπίλους καὶ ἔσσονται τοῖς ἱερεῦσι καὶ τῇ γερουσίᾳ, καὶ φέρετέ μοι ἑκατὸν χιμάρους καὶ ἔσσονται αἱ ἑκατὸν χίμαροι παντὶ τῷ λαῷ.

4. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἦκει Ἰωακείμ μετὰ τῶν ποιμνίων αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἔστιν Ἄννα πρὸς τῇ πύλῃ τοῦ οἴκου αὐτῆς καὶ εἶδεν τὸν Ἰωακείμ ἐρχόμενον μετὰ τῶν ποιμνίων αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἔδραμεν Ἄννα καὶ ἐκρεμάσθη ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ λέγουσα: νῦν οἶδα, ὅτι κύριος ὁ θεὸς εὐλόγησέ με σφόδρα:

and they have driven me in derision out of the temple of the Lord.

2. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the fowls of the heaven, because even the fowls of the heaven are productive before Thee, O Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the beasts of the earth, because even the beasts of the earth are productive before Thee, O Lord.

3. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like these waters, because even these waters are productive before Thee, O Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like this earth, because even the earth bringeth forth its fruits in season, and blesseth Thee, O Lord.¹⁵

IV

1. And, behold, an angel of the Lord stood by, saying: Anna, Anna, the Lord hath heard thy prayer, and thou shalt conceive, and shall bring forth; and thy seed shall be spoken of in all the world. And Anna said: As the Lord my God liveth, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God; and it shall minister to Him in holy things all the days of its life.¹⁶

2. And, behold, two angels came, saying to her: Behold, Joachim thy husband is coming with his flocks.¹⁷ For an angel of the Lord went down to him, saying: Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God hath heard thy prayer. Go down hence; for, behold, thy wife Anna shall conceive.

3. And Joachim went down and called his shepherds, saying: Bring me hither ten she-lambs without spot or blemish, and they shall be for the Lord my God; and bring me twelve tender calves, and they shall be for the priests and the elders; and a hundred goats for all the people.

4. And, behold, Joachim came with his flocks; and Anna stood by the gate, and saw Joachim coming, and she ran and hung upon his neck, saying: Now I know that the Lord God hath blessed me exceedingly; for, behold the widow no longer a widow, and I the childless shall conceive. And Joachim rested the first day in his

¹⁵Many of the MSS. here add: Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the waves of the sea, because even the waves of the sea, in calm and storm, and the fishes in them, bless Thee, O Lord.

¹⁶1 Sam. i. 11.

¹⁷One of the MSS.: With his shepherds, and sheep, and goats, and oxen.

ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἡ χήρα οὐκέτι χήρα καὶ ἡ ἄτεκνος
ἰδοὺ ἐν γαστρὶ λήψομαι εἴληφα . καὶ ἀνεπαύσατο
Ἰωακείμ τὴν πρώτην ἡμέραν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ.

E'

1. Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον προσέφερε τὰ δῶρα αὐτοῦ
λέγων ἐν ἑαυτῷ: ἐὰν κύριος ὁ θεὸς ἰλασθῇ μοι,
τὸ πέταλον τοῦ ἱερέως φανερών μοι ποιήσει.
καὶ προσέφερεν τὰ δῶρα αὐτοῦ Ἰωακείμ καὶ
προσεῖχε τῷ πετάλῳ τοῦ ἱερέως, ὥς ἐπέβη
ἐπὶ τὸ θυσιαστήριον κυρίου, καὶ ἁμαρτία οὐχ
εὐρέθη ἐν αὐτῷ. καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωακείμ: νῦν οἶδα,
ὅτι κύριος ὁ θεὸς ἰλάσθη μοι καὶ ἀφείλεν μου
πάντα τὰ ἁμαρτήματα. καὶ κατέβη ἐκ ναοῦ
κυρίου δεδικαιωμένος καὶ ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον
αὐτοῦ χαίρων καὶ δοξάζων τὸν θεόν.

2. ἐπληρώθησαν δὲ οἱ μῆνες αὐτῆς. ἐν δὲ
τῷ ἐνάτῳ μηνὶ ἐγέννησεν Ἄννα καὶ εἶπεν τῇ
μαίᾳ: τί ἐγέννησα; ἡ δὲ εἶπεν: θῆλυ. καὶ εἶπεν
Ἄννα: ἐμεγάλυνεν ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὴν ἡμέραν
ταύτην καὶ ἀνέκλινεν αὐτήν. πληρωθεισὼν
δὲ τῶν ἡμερῶν ἀπεσμήξατο Ἄννα καὶ ἔδωκεν
μασθὸν τῇ παιδί. ἐκάλεσεν δὲ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς
Μαριάμ.

F'

1. Ἡμέρα δὲ καὶ ἡμέρα ἐκραταιοῦτο ἡ παῖς.
γενομένης δὲ αὐτῆς ἑξαμήνου ἔστησεν αὐτὴν
ἡ μήτηρ αὐτῆς χαμαὶ τοῦ πειράσαι, εἰ ἴσταται:
καὶ περιπατήσασα ἑπτὰ βήματα ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν
κόλπον τῆς μητρὸς αὐτῆς, καὶ ἀνῆρπασεν αὐτήν
ἡ μήτηρ αὐτῆς λέγουσα: ζῇ κύριος ὁ θεός μου:
οὐ μὴ περιπατήσης ἐν τῇ γῇ ταύτῃ, ἕως οὗ
ἀπάξω σε ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου. καὶ ἐποίησεν
ἀγίασμα ἐν τῷ κοιτῶνι αὐτῆς καὶ πᾶν κοινὸν
ἢ ἀκάθαρτον οὐκ εἶα διέρχεσθαι δι' αὐτῆς.
καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὰς θυγατέρας τῶν Ἑβραίων τὰς
ἀμιάντους, καὶ διεπλάνων αὐτήν.

2. ἐγένετο δὲ πρῶτος ἐνιαυτὸς τῇ παιδί, καὶ
ἐποίησεν Ἰωακείμ δοχὴν μεγάλην καὶ ἐκάλεσεν
τοὺς ἱερεῖς καὶ τοὺς γραμματεῖς καὶ τὴν γερούσιαν
καὶ πάντα τὸν λαὸν Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ προσήνεγκεν

house.

V

1. And on the following day he brought his offerings,
saying in himself: If the Lord God has been rendered gra-
cious to me, the plate¹⁸ on the priest's forehead will make
it manifest to me. And Joachim brought his offerings,
and observed attentively the priest's plate when he went
up to the altar of the Lord, and he saw no sin in himself.
And Joachim said: Now I know that the Lord has been
gracious unto me, and has remitted all my sins. And he
went down from the temple of the Lord justified, and
departed to his own house.

2. And her months were fulfilled, and in the ninth¹⁹
month Anna brought forth. And she said to the mid-
wife: What have I brought forth? and she said: A girl.
And said Anna: My soul has been magnified this day.
And she laid her down. And the days having been ful-
filled, Anna was purified, and gave the breast to the child,²⁰
and called her name Mary.

VI

1. And the child grew strong day by day; and when
she was six²¹ months old, her mother set her on the ground
to try whether she could stand, and she walked seven steps
and came into her bosom; and she snatched her up, say-
ing: As the Lord my God liveth, thou shalt not walk on
this earth until I bring thee into the temple of the Lord.
And she made a sanctuary in her bed-chamber, and al-
lowed nothing common or unclean to pass through her.
And she called the undefiled daughters of the Hebrews,
and they led her astray.²²

2. And when she was a year old, Joachim made a great
feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the el-
ders, and all the people of Israel. And Joachim brought
the child to the priests; and they blessed her, saying: O

¹⁸Ex. xxviii. 36–38. For traditions about the *petalon*, see Euseb., *H. E.*, ii. 23, iii. 31, v. 24; Epiph., *Hær.*, 78.

¹⁹Various readings are: Sixth, seventh, eighth.

²⁰One of the MSS. inserts: On the eighth day.

²¹One of the MSS. has nine.

²²This is the reading of most MSS.; but it is difficult to see any sense in it. One MS. reads: They attended on her. Fabricius proposed: They bathed her.

Ἰωακεὶμ τὴν παιῖδα τοῖς ἱερεῦσι καὶ εὐλόγησαν αὐτὴν οἱ ἱερεῖς λέγοντες: ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν, εὐλόγησον τὴν παιῖδα ταύτην καὶ δὸς αὐτῇ ὄνομα ὀνομαστὸν αἰώνιον ἐν πάσαις ταῖς γενεαῖς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ λαός: γένοιτο, γένοιτο, ἀμήν. καὶ προσήνεγκεν Ἰωακεὶμ τὴν παιῖδα τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσι, καὶ εὐλόγησαν αὐτὴν λέγοντες: ὁ θεὸς τῶν ὑψωμάτων, ἐπίβλεπον ἐπὶ τὴν παιῖδα ταύτην καὶ εὐλόγησον αὐτὴν ἐσχάτην εὐλογίαν, ἥτις διαδοχὴν οὐχ ἔξει.

3. καὶ ἀπήγαγον αὐτὴν ἐν τῷ ἁγιάσματι τοῦ κοιτῶνος αὐτῆς: καὶ λαβοῦσα Ἄννα ἔδωκε μασθὸν τῇ παιδί καὶ ἤσεν ἄσμα κυρίῳ τῷ θεῷ λέγουσα: ἄσω ὠδὴν κυρίῳ τῷ θεῷ μου, ὅτι ἐπεσκέπατό με καὶ ἀφείλεν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ τὸν ὀνειδισμόν τῶν ἐχθρῶν μου καὶ ἔδωκέ μοι καρπὸν δικαιοσύνης μονοούσιον αὐτῷ καὶ πολυπλούσιον. τίς ἀναγγελεῖ τοῖς υἱοῖς Ῥουβὶμ, ὅτι Ἄννα θηλάζει; καὶ ἀνέπαιυσεν αὐτὴν ἡ μήτηρ αὐτῆς ἐν τῷ ἁγιάσματι τοῦ κοιτῶνος αὐτῆς καὶ ἐξηλθε καὶ διηκόνει αὐτοῖς. τελεσθέντος δὲ τοῦ δείπνου κατέβησαν εὐφραίνόμενοι καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν θεὸν Ἰσραὴλ.

God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations. And all the people said: So be it, so be it, amen. And he brought her to the chief priests; and they blessed her, saying: O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be for ever.

3. And her mother snatched her up, and took her into the sanctuary of her bed-chamber, and gave her the breast. And Anna made a song to the Lord God, saying: I will sing a song to the Lord my God, for He hath looked upon me, and hath taken away the reproach of mine enemies; and the Lord hath given the fruit of His righteousness, singular in its kind, and richly endowed before Him. Who will tell the sons of Rubim that Anna gives suck? Hear, hear, ye twelve tribes of Israel, that Anna gives suck. And she laid her to rest in the bed-chamber of her sanctuary, and went out and ministered unto them. And when the supper was ended, they went down rejoicing, and glorifying the God of Israel.²³

Z'

1. Τῇ δὲ παιδί προσετίθεντο οἱ μῆνες αὐτῆς. ἐγένετο δὲ διετὴς ἡ παῖς, καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωακεὶμ: ἀπάξωμεν αὐτὴν ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου καὶ ἀποδώμεν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, ἣν ἐπηγγειλάμεθα, μήπως ἀποστείληται κύριος ὁ θεὸς πρὸς ἡμᾶς καὶ γένηται ἀπρόσδεκτον τὸ δῶρον ἡμῶν. καὶ εἶπεν Ἄννα: ἀναμείνωμεν τὸ τρίτον ἔτος, ὅπως μὴ ζητήσῃ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα. καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωακεὶμ: ἀμήν, γένοιτο.

2. ἐγένετο δὲ τριετὴς ἡ παῖς, καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωακεὶμ: καλέσωμεν τὰς θυγατέρας τῶν Ἑβραίων τὰς ἀμιάντους, καὶ λαβέτωσαν ἀνὰ λαμπάδα, καὶ ἔστωσαν καίμεναι, ἵνα μὴ ἐπιστραφῇ ἡ παῖς εἰς τὰ ὀπίσω καὶ αἰχμαλωτισθῇ ἡ καρδία αὐτῆς ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου. καὶ ἐποίησαν οὕτως, ἕως οὗ ἀνέβησαν ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου. καὶ ἐδέξατο αὐτὴν ὁ ἱερεὺς καὶ καταφιλήσας εὐλόγησε καὶ εἶπεν: ἐμεγάλυνε κύριος ὁ θεὸς τὸ ὄνομά σου ἐν πάσαις ταῖς γενεαῖς τῆς γῆς: (ἐπὶ σοὶ) ἐπ' ἐσχάτου τῶν ἡμερῶν φανερώσει κύριος ὁ θεὸς τὸ λύτρον τῶν υἱῶν Ἰσραὴλ.

VII

1. And her months were added to the child. And the child was two years old, and Joachim said: Let us take her up to the temple of the Lord, that we may pay the vow that we have vowed, lest perchance the Lord send to us,²⁴ and our offering be not received. And Anna said: Let us wait for the third year, in order that the child may not seek for father or mother. And Joachim said: So let us wait.

2. And the child was three years old, and Joachim said: Invite the daughters of the Hebrews that are undefiled, and let them take each a lamp, and let them stand with the lamps burning, that the child may not turn back, and her heart be captivated from the temple of the Lord. And they did so until they went up into the temple of the Lord. And the priest received her, and kissed her, and blessed her, saying: The Lord has magnified thy name in all generations. In thee, on the last of the days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the sons of Israel.

²³Two of the MSS. add: And they gave her the name of Mary, because her name shall not fade forever. This derivation of the name—from the root *mar*, fade—is one of a dozen or so.

²⁴This is taken to mean: Send someone to us to warn us that we have been too long in paying our vow. One MS. reads, lest the Lord depart from us; another, lest the Lord move away from us.

3. καὶ ἐκάθισεν αὐτὴν ἐπὶ τρίτου βαθμοῦ τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου, καὶ ἔβαλε κύριος ὁ θεὸς χάριν ἐπ' αὐτήν, καὶ κατεχόρευσε τοῖς ποσὶν αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἠγάπησεν αὐτὴν πᾶς οἶκος Ἰσραὴλ.

Η'

1. κατέβησαν δὲ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτῆς θαυμάζοντες καὶ ἐπαινοῦντες τὸν θεόν, ὅτι οὐκ ἐπεστράφη ἡ παῖς εἰς τὰ ὀπίσω. ἦν δὲ Μαριὰμ ὡσεὶ περιστερὰ νεμομένη ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου καὶ ἐλάμβανε τροφὴν ἐκ χειρὸς ἀγγέλου.

2. γενομένης δὲ αὐτῆς δωδεκαετοῦς συμβούλιον ἐγένετο τῶν ἱερέων λεγόντων: ἰδοὺ Μαριὰμ γέγονε δωδεκαέτης ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου: τί οὖν ποιήσωμεν αὐτήν, μήπως (ἐπέλθῃ αὐτῇ τὰ γυναικῶν καὶ) μιάνη τὸ ἅγιασμα κυρίου. καὶ εἶπον τῷ ἀρχιερεῖ: σὺ ἕστηκας ἐπὶ τὸ θυσιαστήριον θεοῦ: εἰσελθε καὶ πρόσευξαι περὶ αὐτῆς, καὶ ὃ ἂν φανερώσῃ σοι κύριος ὁ θεός, τοῦτο ποιήσωμεν.

3. καὶ εἰσῆλθεν ὁ ἱερεὺς λαβὼν τὸν δωδεκακόδωνα (ἱεροπρεπὲς ἱμάτιον) εἰς τὰ ἅγια τῶν ἁγίων καὶ νύξατο περὶ αὐτῆς. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη αὐτῷ λέγων: Ζαχαρία, Ζαχαρία, ἔξελθε καὶ ἐκκλησιάσων τοὺς χηρεύοντας τοῦ λαοῦ, καὶ ἐνεγκάτωσαν ἅνα ῥάβδον, καὶ εἰς ὃν ἐὰν δείξῃ κύριος ὁ θεὸς σημεῖον, τούτου ἔσται γυνή. καὶ ἐξῆλθον οἱ κήρυκες καθ' ὅλης τῆς περιχώρου τῆς Ἰουδαίας, καὶ ἤχησεν ἡ σάλπιγξ κυρίου, καὶ ἔδραμον πάντες.

Θ'

1. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ῥίψας τὸ σκέπαρνον ἔδραμε καὶ αὐτὸς εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν, καὶ συναχθέντες ὁμοῦ ἀπῆλθαν πρὸς τὸν ἱερέα. ἔλαβε δὲ πάντων τὰς ῥάβδους ὁ ἱερεὺς καὶ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ ἱερόν καὶ νύξατο. τελέσας δὲ τὴν εὐχὴν ἐξῆλθε καὶ ἐπέδωκεν ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ῥάβδον, καὶ σημεῖον οὐκ ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. τὴν δὲ ἐσχάτην ῥάβδον ἔλαβεν ὁ Ἰωσήφ, καὶ ἰδοὺ περιστερὰ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τῆς ῥάβδου καὶ ἐπετάσθη ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν Ἰωσήφ. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἱερεὺς: σὺ κεκλήρωσαι τὴν παρθένον κυρίου παραλαβεῖν. παρᾶλαβε αὐτὴν εἰς τήρησιν σεαυτῷ.

2. ἀντείπε δὲ Ἰωσήφ λέγων: υἱοὺς ἔχω καὶ

3. And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her.

VIII

1. And her parents went down marvelling, and praising the Lord God, because the child had not turned back. And Mary was in the temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there, and she received food from the hand of an angel.

2. And when she was twelve²⁵ years old there was held a council of the priests, saying: Behold, Mary has reached the age of twelve years in the temple of the Lord. What then shall we do with her, lest perchance she defile the sanctuary of the Lord? And they said to the high priest: Thou standest by the altar of the Lord; go in, and pray concerning her; and whatever the Lord shall manifest unto thee, that also will we do.

3. And the high priest went in, taking the robe²⁶ with the twelve bells into the holy of holies; and he prayed concerning her. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by him, saying unto him: Zacharias, Zacharias, go out and assemble the widowers of the people, and let them bring each his rod; and to whomsoever the Lord shall show a sign, his wife shall she be. And the heralds went out through all the circuit of Judæa, and the trumpet of the Lord sounded, and all ran.

IX

1. And Joseph, throwing away his axe, went out to meet them; and when they had assembled, they went away to the high priest, taking with them their rods. And he, taking the rods of all of them, entered into the temple, and prayed; and having ended his prayer, he took the rods and came out, and gave them to them: but there was no sign in them, and Joseph took his rod last; and, behold, a dove came out of the rod, and flew upon Joseph's head. And the priest said to Joseph, Thou hast been chosen by lot to take into thy keeping the virgin of the Lord.

2. But Joseph refused, saying: I have children, and I

²⁵Or, fourteen. Postel's Latin version has *ten*.

²⁶Ex. xxviii. 28; Sirach xlv. 9; Justin, *Tryph.*, xlii.

πρεσβύτης εἰμί, αὕτη δὲ νεωτέρα. μήπως κατάγελως γένωμαι τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ; εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ ἱερεὺς: Ἰωσήφ, φοβήθητι κύριον τὸν θεὸν καὶ ὅσα ἐποίησε Δαθὰμ καὶ Κορὲ καὶ Ἀβηρών, πῶς ἐδιχάσθη ἡ γῆ καὶ κατεποντίσθησαν ἅπαντες διὰ τὴν ἀντιλογίαν αὐτῶν. καὶ νῦν φοβήθητι, Ἰωσήφ, μήπως ἔσται ταῦτα ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου.

3. καὶ φοβηθεὶς Ἰωσήφ παρέλαβεν αὐτὴν εἰς τήρησιν. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ: Μαρία, ἰδοὺ παρέλάβόν σε ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου τοῦ θεοῦ μου καὶ νῦν καταλιμπάνω σε ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ μου, ἀπέρχομαι γὰρ οἰκοδομῆσαι τὰς οἰκοδομάς μου, καὶ ἐν τάχει ἦξω πρὸς σέ. κύριος ὁ θεὸς διαφυλάξει σε.

I'

1. Ἐγένετο δὲ συμβούλιον τῶν ἱερέων λεγόντων: ποιήσωμεν καταπέτασμα τῷ ναῷ κυρίου. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς: καλέσατέ μοι ὧδε ἑπτὰ παρθένους ἀμιάντους ἐκ φυλῆς Δαυὶδ. καὶ ἀπῆλθον οἱ ὑπηρέται καὶ εὗρησαν ἑπτὰ (εὗρον ἔξ). καὶ ἐμνήσθη ὁ ἱερεὺς, ὅτι Μαρία ἐκ φυλῆς Δαυὶδ ἐστὶ καὶ ἀμιάντος ἐστίν. καὶ ἀπῆλθον οἱ ὑπηρέται καὶ ἤγαγον αὐτήν. καὶ εἰσήγαγεν αὐτὰς ὁ ἱερεὺς ἐν τῷ ναῷ κυρίου καὶ εἶπεν: λάχετέ μοι ὧδε, τίς νήσει τὸ χρυσίον καὶ τὸ ἀμίαντον καὶ τὸ βύσσινον καὶ τὸ σηρικοῦν καὶ τὸ ὑάκινθον καὶ τὸ κόκκινον καὶ τὴν ἀληθινὴν πορφύραν. καὶ ἔλαχεν τὴν Μαριάμ τὸ κόκκινον καὶ ἡ ἀληθινὴ πορφύρα. καὶ λαβοῦσα ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. τῷ δὲ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ Ζαχαρίας ἐσίγησεν. Μαριάμ δὲ λαβοῦσα τὸ κόκκινον ἔκλωσεν.

IA'

1. Καὶ λαβοῦσα κάλπιν ἐξῆλθεν γεμίσαι ὕδωρ, καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ λέγουσα: χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ κύριος μετὰ σοῦ, εὐλογημένη σὺ ἐν γυναιξί. καὶ περιεβλέπετο δεξιὰ καὶ ἀριστερά, πόθεν αὕτη ἡ φωνὴ ὑπάρχει, καὶ ἔντρομος γενομένη ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. καὶ ἀναπαύσασα

am an old man, and she is a young girl. I am afraid lest I become a laughing-stock to the sons of Israel. And the priest said to Joseph: Fear the Lord thy God, and remember what the Lord did to Dathan, and Abiram, and Korah;²⁷ how the earth opened, and they were swallowed up on account of their contradiction. And now fear, O Joseph, lest the same things happen in thy house.

3. And Joseph was afraid, and took her into his keeping. And Joseph said to Mary: Behold, I have received thee from the temple of the Lord; and now I leave thee in my house, and go away to build my buildings, and I shall come to thee. The Lord will protect thee.

X

1. And there was a council of the priests, saying: Let us make a veil for the temple of the Lord. And the priest said: Call to me the undefiled virgins of the family of David. And the officers went away, and sought, and found seven virgins. And the priest remembered the child Mary, that she was of the family of David, and undefiled before God. And the officers went away and brought her. And they brought them into the temple of the Lord. And the priest said: Choose for me by lot who shall spin the gold, and the white,²⁸ and the fine linen, and the silk, and the blue,²⁹ and the scarlet, and the true purple.³⁰ And the true purple and the scarlet fell to the lot of Mary, and she took them, and went away to her house. And at that time Zacharias was dumb, and Samuel was in his place until the time that Zacharias spake. And Mary took the scarlet, and span it.

XI

1. And she took the pitcher, and went out to fill it with water. And, behold, a voice saying: Hail, thou who hast received grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women!³¹ And she looked round, on the right hand and on the left, to see whence this voice came. And she went away, trembling, to her house, and put down

²⁷Num. xvi. 31-33.

²⁸Lit., undefiled. It is difficult to say what colour is meant, or if it is a colour at all. The word is once used to mean the sea, but with no reference to colour. It is also the name of a stone of a greenish hue.

²⁹Lit., hyacinth.

³⁰Ex. xxv. 4.

³¹Luke i. 28.

τὴν κάλπην ἔλαβε πάλιν τὴν πορφύραν καὶ ἐκάθισεν ἐπὶ τὸν θρόνον καὶ εἴλκεν αὐτήν.

2. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη λέγων αὐτῇ: μὴ φοβοῦ, Μαριάμ, εὗρες γὰρ χάριν ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ συλλήψῃ ἐκ λόγου αὐτοῦ. ἀκούσασα δὲ Μαριάμ διεκρίθη ἐν ἑαυτῇ λέγουσα: ἐγὼ συλλήψομαι, ὥς πᾶσα γυνὴ γεννᾷ;

3. καὶ λέγει πρὸς αὐτὴν ὁ ἄγγελος: οὐχ οὕτως, Μαριάμ: δύναμις γὰρ θεοῦ ἐπισκιάσει σοι, διὸ καὶ τὸ γεννόμενον (ἐκ σοῦ) ἅγιον κληθήσεται υἱὸς ὑψίστου, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν: αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. καὶ εἶπεν Μαριάμ: ἰδοὺ ἡ δούλη κυρίου: γένοιτό μοι κατὰ τὸ ῥῆμά σου.

IB'

1. Καὶ ἐποίησεν τὴν πορφύραν καὶ τὸ κόκκινον καὶ ἀπῆνεγκεν αὐτὰ τῷ ἱερεῖ, καὶ εὐλόγησεν αὐτὴν ὁ ἱερεὺς καὶ εἶπεν: Μαριάμ, ἐμεγάλυνε κύριος ὁ θεὸς τὸ ὄνομά σου ἐν πάσαις ταῖς γενεαῖς τῆς γῆς καὶ ἔσῃ εὐλογημένη ὑπὸ κυρίου.

2. χαρὰν δὲ λαβοῦσα Μαριάμ ἀπῆλθε πρὸς τὴν συγγενίδα αὐτῆς Ἑλισάβετ καὶ ἔκρουσε πρὸς τῇ θύρᾳ. καὶ ἀκούσασα Ἑλισάβετ ἔρριψε τὸ ἐν χερσίν, καὶ δραμοῦσα ἤνοιξεν αὐτῇ καὶ εὐλόγησεν αὐτὴν καὶ εἶπεν: πόθεν μοι τοῦτο, ἵνα ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ κυρίου μου ἔλθῃ πρὸς ἐμέ; ἰδοὺ γὰρ τὸ ἐν ἐμοὶ βρέφος ἐσκίρτησε καὶ εὐλόγησέν σε. Μαριάμ δὲ ἐπελάθετο τῶν μυστηρίων, ὧν εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτὴν Γαβριὴλ, καὶ ἀτενίσασα εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν εἶπεν: τίς εἰμι ἐγώ, ὅτι πᾶσαι αἱ γυναῖκες μακαριοῦσί με;

3. ἐποίησε δὲ τρεῖς μῆνας πρὸς τὴν Ἑλισάβετ καὶ ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς. ἡμέρᾳ δὲ ἅφ' ἡμέρας ἡ γαστήρ αὐτῆς ὀγκοῦτο, καὶ ἔκρυβεν ἑαυτὴν ἀπὸ τῶν υἱῶν Ἰσραὴλ. ἦν δὲ ἐτῶν πεντεκαίδεκα, ὅτε τὰ μυστήρια ταῦτα ἐγένοντο.

II'

1. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἕκτος μὴν καὶ ἦλθεν Ἰωσήφ

the pitcher; and taking the purple, she sat down on her seat, and drew it out.

2. And, behold, an angel of the Lord stood before her, saying: Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found grace before the Lord of all, and thou shalt conceive, according to His word. And she hearing, reasoned with herself, saying: Shall I conceive by the Lord, the living God? and shall I bring forth as every woman brings forth?

3. And the angel of the Lord said: Not so, Mary; for the power of the Lord shall overshadow thee: wherefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of the Most High. And thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. And Mary said: Behold, the servant of the Lord before His face: let it be unto me according to thy word.

XII

1. And she made the purple and the scarlet, and took them to the priest. And the priest blessed her, and said: Mary, the Lord God hath magnified thy name, and thou shalt be blessed in all the generations of the earth.

2. And Mary, with great joy, went away to Elizabeth her kinswoman,³² and knocked at the door. And when Elizabeth heard her, she threw away the scarlet,³³ and ran to the door, and opened it; and seeing Mary, she blessed her, and said: Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? for, behold, that which is in me leaped and blessed thee.³⁴ But Mary had forgotten the mysteries of which the archangel Gabriel had spoken, and gazed up into heaven, and said: Who am I, O Lord, that all the generations of the earth should bless me?³⁵

3. And she remained three months with Elizabeth; and day by day she grew bigger. And Mary being afraid, went away to her own house, and hid herself from the sons of Israel. And she was sixteen³⁶ years old when these mysteries happened.

XIII

1. And she was in her sixth month; and, behold, Joseph

³²Luke i. 39, 40.

³³Other readings are: the wool—what she had in her hand.

³⁴Luke i. 34, 44.

³⁵Luke i. 48.

³⁶Six MSS. have *sixteen*; one, *fourteen*; two, *fifteen*; and one, *seventeen*.

ἀπὸ τῶν οἰκοδομῶν αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰσῆλθεν ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ καὶ εὗρε τὴν Μαριὰμ ὀγκωμένην. καὶ ἔτυψε τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔρριπεν ἑαυτὸν χαμαὶ καὶ ἔκλαυσε λέγων· ποίῳ προσόψω ἀτενίσω πρὸς κύριον τὸν θεόν μου; τί δὴ εἶπω περὶ τῆς κόρης ταύτης, ὅτι παρθένον αὐτὴν παρέλαβον ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου καὶ οὐκ ἐφύλαξα αὐτήν; τίς ὁ θηρεύσας με; τίς τὸ πονηρὸν τοῦτο ἐποίησεν ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ μου καὶ ἐμίανεν τὴν παρθένον; μήτι εἰς ἐμὲ ἀνεκεφαλαιόθη ἡ ἱστορία Ἀδὰμ; ὥσπερ γὰρ Ἀδὰμ ἦν ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς δοξολογίας αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν ὁ ὄφις καὶ εὗρεν τὴν Εὕαν μόνην καὶ ἐξηπάτησεν αὐτήν, οὕτως καὶ μοί συνέβη.

2. καὶ ἀνέστη Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ σάκκου καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὴν Μαριὰμ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μεμελημένη τῷ θεῷ, τί τοῦτο ἐποίησας; τί ἐταπεινώσας τὴν ψυχὴν σου; ἐπελάθου κυρίου τοῦ θεοῦ σου, ἡ ἀνατραφεῖσα εἰς τὰ ἅγια τῶν ἁγίων καὶ λαβοῦσα τροφὴν ἐκ χειρὸς ἀγγέλου καὶ χορεύσασα ἐν αὐτοῖς;

3. ἡ δὲ ἔκλαυσε πικρῶς λέγουσα· ἤ κύριος ὁ θεός, καθότι καθαρά εἰμι ἐγὼ καὶ ἄνδρα οὐ γινώσκω. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῇ Ἰωσήφ· πόθεν οὖν ἐστὶ τοῦτο ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ σου; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ· ἤ κύριος ὁ θεός μου, καθότι οὐ γινώσκω, πόθεν ἐστὶ τοῦτο τὸ ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ μου.

ΙΔ'

1. Καὶ ἐφοβήθη Ἰωσήφ σφόδρα καὶ ἠρέμυσεν ἐξ αὐτῆς καὶ διελογίζετο, τί αὐτὴν ποιήσει, εἶπε δὲ ἐν ἑαυτῷ· ἐὰν αὐτῆς κρύψω τὸ ἁμάρτημα, εὐρεθήσομαι μαχόμενος τῷ νόμῳ κυρίου· καὶ ἐὰν αὐτὴν φανερὰν ποιήσω τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ, φοβοῦμαι, μήπως ἀγγελικόν ἐστὶ τὸ ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ εὐρεθήσομαι παραδιδούς αἷμα ἄθωον εἰς κρίμα θανάτου. τί οὖν αὐτὴν ποιήσω; λάθρᾳ αὐτὴν ἀπολύσω ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. καὶ ταῦτα αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμουμένου κατέλαβεν αὐτὸν ἡ νύξ.

2. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου φαίνεται αὐτῷ κατ' ὄναρ λέγων· Ἰωσήφ (υἱὸς Δαυίδ), μὴ φοβηθῇς τὴν παιδα ταύτην. τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ πνεύματος ἐστὶν ἅγιον, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ

came back from his building, and, entering into his house, he discovered that she was big with child. And he smote³⁷ his face,³⁸ and threw himself on the ground upon the sackcloth, and wept bitterly, saying: With what face shall I look upon the Lord my God? and what prayer shall I make about this maiden? because I received her a virgin out of the temple of the Lord, and I have not watched over her. Who is it that has hunted me³⁹ down? Who has done this evil thing in my house, and defiled the virgin? Has not the history of Adam been repeated in me? For just as Adam was in the hour of his singing praise,⁴⁰ and the serpent came, and found Eve alone, and completely deceived her, so it has happened to me also.

2. And Joseph stood up from the sackcloth, and called Mary, and said to her: O thou who hast been cared for by God, why hast thou done this and forgotten the Lord thy God? Why hast thou brought low thy soul, thou that wast brought up in the holy of holies, and that didst receive food from the hand of an angel?

3. And she wept bitterly, saying: I am innocent, and have known no man. And Joseph said to her: Whence then is that which is in thy womb? And she said: As the Lord my God liveth, I do not know whence it is to me.

XIV

1. And Joseph was greatly afraid, and retired from her, and considered what he should do in regard to her.⁴¹ And Joseph said: If I conceal her sin, I find myself fighting against the law of the Lord; and if I expose her to the sons of Israel, I am afraid lest that which is in her be from an angel,⁴² and I shall be found giving up innocent blood to the doom of death. What then shall I do with her? I will put her away from me secretly. And night came upon him;

2. and, behold, an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream, saying: Be not afraid for this maiden, for that which is in her is of the Holy Spirit; and she will bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He

³⁷The Latin translation has *hung down*.

³⁸Ezek. xxi. 12; Jer. xxxi. 19.

³⁹Two MSS.: *her*.

⁴⁰Another reading is: As Adam was in Paradise, and in the hour of the singing of praise (doxology) to God was with the angels, the serpent, etc.

⁴¹Matt. i. 19.

⁴²Lit., *angelic*; one MS. has *holy*; the Latin translation, following a slightly different reading, *that it would not be fair to her*.

ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. καὶ ἀνέστη Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου καὶ ἐδόξασε τὸν θεὸν Ἰσραὴλ τὸν δόντα αὐτῷ τὴν χάριν ταύτην, καὶ ἐφύλασσε τὴν παῖδα.

IE'

1. Ἦλθεν δὲ Ἄννας ὁ γραμματεὺς πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· διὰ τί οὐκ ἐφάνης ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ (συνόδῳ) ἡμῶν; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ἰωσήφ· ὅτι κεκημικῶς ἤμην ἐκ τῆς ὁδοῦ καὶ ἀνεπαυσάμην ἡμέραν μίαν . καὶ ἐστράφη Ἄννας καὶ εἶδεν τὴν παρθένον ὄγκωμένην.

2. καὶ ἀπελθὼν δρομαίως πρὸς τὸν (ἀρχ-)ἱερέα εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἰωσήφ, ὃν σὺ μαρτυρεῖς, ἠνόμησε σφόδρα. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς· τί τοῦτο; καὶ εἶπεν Ἄννας· τὴν παρθένον, ἣν παρέλαβεν ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου, ἐμίανεν αὐτήν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἱερεὺς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἰωσήφ; Ἰωσήφ τοῦτο ἐποίησεν; καὶ εἶπεν Ἄννας· ἀπόστειλον ὑπηρέτας καὶ εὐρέσεις τὴν παρθένον ὄγκωμένην. καὶ ἀπῆλθον οἱ ὑπηρέται καὶ εὗρον αὐτήν, καθὼς εἶπεν, καὶ ἀπήγαγον ἅμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ εἰς τὸ κριτήριον.

3. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς· Μαριάμ, τί τοῦτο ἐποίησας καὶ ἐταπείνωσας τὴν ψυχὴν σου καὶ ἐπελάθου κυρίου τοῦ θεοῦ σου, ἡ ἀνατραφεῖσα εἰς τὰ ἅγια τῶν ἁγίων καὶ λαβοῦσα τροφὴν ἐκ χειρὸς ἀγγέλων, σὺ ἡ ἀκούσασα τὸν ὕμνον αὐτῶν καὶ χορεύσασα ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν; τί τοῦτο ἐποίησας; ἡ δὲ ἔκλαυσε πικρῶς λέγουσα· ζῇ κύριος ὁ θεός, ὅτι καθαρά εἰμι ἐγὼ ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἄνδρα οὐ γινώσκω.

4. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς· Ἰωσήφ, τί τοῦτο ἐποίησας; καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωσήφ· ζῇ κύριος ὁ θεός μου, ὅτι καθαρὸς εἰμι ἐξ αὐτῆς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς· μὴ ψευδομαρτύρει, ἀλλὰ λέγε τὸ ἀληθές· ἔκλεψας τοὺς γάμους καὶ οὐκ ἐφανερώσας τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ οὐκ ἔκλινας τὴν κεφαλὴν σου ὑπὸ τὴν κραταιὰν χεῖρα, ὅπως εὐλογηθῇ τὸ σπέρμα σου. καὶ Ἰωσήφ ἐσίγησεν.

IF'

1. Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς· ἀπόδος τὴν παρθένον,

will save His people from their sins.⁴³ And Joseph arose from sleep, and glorified the God of Israel, who had given him this grace; and he kept her.

XV

1. And Annas the scribe came to him, and said: Why hast thou not appeared in our assembly? And Joseph said to him: Because I was weary from my journey, and rested the first day. And he turned, and saw that Mary was with child.

2. And he ran away to the priest,⁴⁴ and said to him: Joseph, whom thou didst vouch for, has committed a grievous crime. And the priest said: How so? And he said: He has defiled the virgin whom he received out of the temple of the Lord, and has married her by stealth, and has not revealed it to the sons of Israel. And the priest answering, said: Has Joseph done this? Then said Annas the scribe: Send officers, and thou wilt find the virgin with child. And the officers went away, and found it as he had said; and they brought her along with Joseph to the tribunal.

3. And the priest said: Mary, why hast thou done this? and why hast thou brought thy soul low, and forgotten the Lord thy God? Thou that wast reared in the holy of holies, and that didst receive food from the hand of an angel, and didst hear the hymns, and didst dance before Him, why hast thou done this? And she wept bitterly, saying: As the Lord my God liveth, I am pure before Him, and know not a man.

4. And the priest said to Joseph: Why hast thou done this? And Joseph said: As the Lord liveth, I am pure concerning her. Then said the priest: Bear not false witness, but speak the truth. Thou hast married her by stealth, and hast not revealed it to the sons of Israel, and hast not bowed thy head under the strong hand, that thy seed might be blessed. And Joseph was silent.

XVI

1. And the priest said: Give up the virgin whom thou

⁴³Matt. i. 20.

⁴⁴Three MSS. have *high priest*.

ἦν παρέλαβες ἐκ ναοῦ κυρίου. καὶ περιδακρυς γενόμενος ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἔστιν. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς: ποτιῶ ὑμᾶς τὸ ὕδωρ τῆς ἐλέγχεως κυρίου καὶ φανερώσει τὰ ἀμαρτήματα ὑμῶν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς ὑμῶν.

2. καὶ λαβὼν ὁ ἱερεὺς ἐπότισε τὸν Ἰωσήφ καὶ ἔπεμψεν αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν ὄρεινὴν: καὶ ἦλθεν ὁλόκληρος. ἐπότισεν δὲ καὶ τὴν παρθένον καὶ ἔπεμψεν καὶ αὐτὴν εἰς τὴν ὄρεινὴν: καὶ ἦλθεν ὁλόκληρος, καὶ ἐθαύμασε πᾶς ὁ λαός, ὅτι ἀμαρτία οὐχ εὐρέθη ἐν αὐτοῖς.

3. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἱερεὺς: εἰ κύριος ὁ θεὸς οὐκ ἐφανερώσεν τὴν ἀμαρτίαν ὑμῶν, οὐδὲ ἐγὼ κρίνω ὑμᾶς καὶ ἀπέλυσεν αὐτούς. καὶ παρέλαβεν Ἰωσήφ τὴν Μαριάμ καὶ ἀπῆλθε εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ χαίρων καὶ δοξάζων τὸν θεὸν τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ.

IZ'

1. Κέλευσις δὲ ἐγένετο ἀπὸ (τοῦ Ἀόστου) Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως ἀπογράψασθαι, ὅσοι εἰσὶν ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας. (ἠναγκάζετο δὲ Ἰωσήφ ἀπελθεῖν ἐκ Ναζαρετ εἰς τὴν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ εἶπεν) καὶ εἶπεν Ἰωσήφ: ἐγὼ ἀπογράφομαι τοὺς υἱοὺς μου. ταύτην δὲ τὴν παιδα τί ποιήσω; πῶς αὐτὴν ἀπογράφομαι; γυναῖκα ἐμὴν; ἐπαισχύνομαι, ἀλλὰ θυγατέρα; οἶδαν οἱ υἱοὶ Ἰσραὴλ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν θυγάτηρ μου. αὐτὴ ἡ ἡμέρα Κυρίου ποιήσει, ὥς βούλεται.

2. καὶ ἔστρωσεν τὸν ὄνον, καὶ ἐκάθισεν αὐτὴν καὶ ἦλκεν ὁ υἱὸς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἠκολούθησεν Σαμουὴλ (αὐτός). καὶ ἤγγισαν ἐπὶ μίλιον τρίτον, καὶ ἐστράφη Ἰωσήφ καὶ εἶδεν αὐτὴν στυγνὴν καὶ ἔλεγεν: ἴσως τὸ ἐν αὐτῇ χειμάζει αὐτήν. καὶ πάλιν ἐστράφη Ἰωσήφ καὶ εἶδεν αὐτὴν γελοῦσαν καὶ εἶπεν: Μαριάμμη, τί ἐστίν σοι τοῦτο, ὅτι τὸ πρόσωπόν σου βλέπω ποτὲ μὲν γελοῦντα ποτὲ δὲ στυγνάζον; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ: Ἰωσήφ, ὅτι δύο λαοὺς βλέπω ἐν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς μου, ἓνα κλαίοντα καὶ κοπτόμενον καὶ ἓνα χαίροντα καὶ ἀγαλλιδόντα.

3. καὶ ἦλθωσεν ἀνὰ μέσον τῆς ὁδοῦ, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Μαριάμμη: κατὰγάγέ με ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄνου, ὅτι (τ)ὸ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐπείγει με προελθεῖν. καὶ κατήγαγεν αὐτὴν ἐκεῖ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ: ποῦ σε ἀπάξω καὶ σκεπάσω σου τὴν ἀσχημοσύνην,

didst receive out of the temple of the Lord. And Joseph burst into tears. And the priest said: I will give you to drink of the water of the ordeal of the Lord,⁴⁵ and He shall make manifest your sins in your eyes.

2. And the priest took the water, and gave Joseph to drink and sent him away to the hill-country; and he returned unhurt. And he gave to Mary also to drink, and sent her away to the hill-country; and she returned unhurt. And all the people wondered that sin did not appear in them.

3. And the priest said: If the Lord God has not made manifest your sins, neither do I judge you. And he sent them away. And Joseph took Mary, and went away to his own house, rejoicing and glorifying the God of Israel.

XVII

1. And there was an order from the Emperor Augustus, that all in Bethlehem of Judæa should be enrolled.⁴⁶ And Joseph said: I shall enrol my sons, but what shall I do with this maiden? How shall I enrol her? As my wife? I am ashamed. As my daughter then? But all the sons of Israel know that she is not my daughter. The day of the Lord shall itself bring it to pass⁴⁷ as the Lord will.

2. And he saddled the ass, and set her upon it; and his son led it, and Joseph followed.⁴⁸ And when they had come within three miles, Joseph turned and saw her sorrowful; and he said to himself: Likely that which is in her distresses her. And again Joseph turned and saw her laughing. And he said to her: Mary, how is it that I see in thy face at one time laughter, at another sorrow? And Mary said to Joseph: Because I see two peoples with my eyes; the one weeping and lamenting, and the other rejoicing and exulting.

3. And they came into the middle of the road, and Mary said to him: Take me down from off the ass, for that which is in me presses to come forth. And he took her down from off the ass, and said to her: Whither shall I lead thee, and cover thy disgrace? for the place is desert.

⁴⁵Num. v. 11, ff.

⁴⁶Luke ii. 1.

⁴⁷Or: On this day of the Lord I will do, etc.

⁴⁸Another reading is: And his son Samuel led it, and James and Simon followed.

ὅτι ὁ τόπος ἔρημός ἐστιν;

ΙΗ'

1. Καὶ εὗρεν ἐκεῖ σπήλαιον καὶ εἰσήγαγεν αὐτὴν καὶ παρέστησεν αὐτῇ τοὺς υἱοὺς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ζητῆσαι μαῖαν (Εβραίαν) ἐν χώρᾳ Βηθλεέμ.

2. ἐγὼ δὲ Ἰωσήφ περιεπάτουν καὶ οὐ περιεπάτουν. καὶ ἀνέβλεψα εἰς τὸν πόλον τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ εἶδον αὐτὸν ἐστῶτα, καὶ εἰς τὸν ἀέρα καὶ εἶδον αὐτὸν ἔκθαμβον, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἡρεμοῦντα. καὶ ἐπέβλεψα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ εἶδον σκάφην κειμένην καὶ ἐργάτας ἀνακειμένους, καὶ ἦσαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐτῶν ἐν τῇ σκάφῃ. καὶ οἱ μασόμενοι οὐκ ἐμασῶντο, καὶ οἱ αἴροντες οὐκ ἀνέφερον, καὶ οἱ προσφέροντες τῷ στόματι αὐτῶν οὐ προσέφερον. ἀλλὰ πάντων ἦν τὰ πρόσωπα ἄνω βλέποντα.

3. καὶ εἶδον ἐλαυνόμενα πρόβατα, καὶ τὰ πρόβατα ἐστήκει· καὶ ἐπῆρεν ὁ ποιμὴν τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ τοῦ πατάξαι αὐτά, καὶ ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ ἔστη ἄνω. καὶ ἀνέβλεψα ἐπὶ τὸν χεῖμαρρον τοῦ ποταμοῦ καὶ εἶδον ἐρίφους καὶ τὰ στόματα αὐτῶν ἐπικείμενα τῷ ὕδατι καὶ μὴ πίνοντα. καὶ πάντα ὑπὸ θῆξιν (θῆζει, θίζει, θρίζιν, ἐκπληξιν) τῷ δρόμῳ ἀπηλαύνοντο.

ΙΘ'

1. Καὶ εἶδον γυναῖκα καταβαίνουσαν ἀπὸ τῆς ὄρεινῆς καὶ εἶπέν μοι: ἄνθρωπε, ποῦ πορεύῃ; καὶ εἶπον αὐτῇ: μαῖαν ζητῶ. καὶ ἀποκριθεῖσά μοι εἶπεν: ἐξ Ἰσραὴλ; καὶ εἶπον αὐτῇ: ναί, κυρία. καὶ εἶπέν μοι: τίς ἐστὶν ἡ γεννήσασα ἐν τῇ σπηλαίῳ; καὶ εἶπον ἐγώ: ἡ μεμνηστευμένη μοι. καὶ εἶπέν μοι: οὐκ ἔστι σου γυνή; καὶ εἶπον αὐτῇ: Μαριάμ ἐστὶν καὶ ἐκκληρωσάμην αὐτὴν εἰς γυναῖκα, ἥτις ἀνετράφη εἰς τὰ ἅγια τῶν ἁγίων· καὶ οὐκ ἔστι μου γυνή, ἀλλὰ σύλληψιν ἔχει ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου. καὶ εἶπεν: εἰπέ μοι τὸ ἀληθές. καὶ εἶπον αὐτῇ: ἔλθε καὶ ἴδε. καὶ ἀπῆλθεν μετ' αὐτοῦ.

2. καὶ ἔστη ἐν τῷ τόπῳ τοῦ σπηλαίου, καὶ ἦν νεφέλην ἐπισκιάζουσα ἐπὶ τὸ σπήλαιον:

XVIII

1. And he found a cave⁴⁹ there, and led her into it; and leaving his two sons beside her, he went out to seek a midwife in the district of Bethlehem.

2. And I Joseph was walking, and was not walking; and I looked up into the sky, and saw the sky astonished; and I looked up to the pole of the heavens, and saw it standing, and the birds of the air keeping still. And I looked down upon the earth, and saw a trough lying, and work-people reclining: and their hands were in the trough. And those that were eating did not eat, and those that were rising did not carry it up, and those that were conveying anything to their mouths did not convey it; but the faces of all were looking upwards.

3. And I saw the sheep walking, and the sheep stood still; and the shepherd raised his hand to strike them, and his hand remained up. And I looked upon the current of the river, and I saw the mouths of the kids resting on the water and not drinking, and all things in a moment were driven from their course.

XIX

1. And I saw a woman coming down from the hill-country, and she said to me: O man, whither art thou going? And I said: I am seeking an Hebrew midwife. And she answered and said unto me: Art thou of Israel? And I said to her: Yes. And she said: And who is it that is bringing forth in the cave? And I said: A woman betrothed to me. And she said to me: Is she not thy wife? And I said to her: It is Mary that was reared in the temple of the Lord, and I obtained her by lot as my wife. And yet she is not my wife, but has conceived of the Holy Spirit. And the midwife said to him: Is this true? And Joseph said to her: Come and see. And the midwife went away with him.

2. And they stood in the place of the cave, and behold a luminous cloud overshadowed the cave. And the

⁴⁹Bethlehem...used to be overshadowed by a grove of Thammuz, i.e., Adonis; and in the cave where Christ formerly wailed as an infant, they used to mourn for the beloved of Venus (*Jerome to Paulinus*). In his letter to Sabinius the cave is repeatedly mentioned: "That cave in which the Son of God was born;" "that venerable cave," etc., "within the door of what was once the Lord's manger, now the altar." "Then you run to the place of the shepherds." There appears also to have been above the altar the figure of an angel, or angels. See also Justin, *Tryph.*, 78.

καὶ εἶπεν ἡ μαῖα: ἐμεγαλύνθη ἡ ψυχὴ μου τῇ σήμερον ἡμέρᾳ, ὅτι εἶδον καινὸν θέαμα καὶ παράδοξον: ὅτι σωτηρίον τῷ Ἰσραὴλ ἐγενήθη. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἡ νεφέλη ὑπεστέλλετο ἐκ τοῦ σπηλαίου, καὶ ἐφάνη φῶς μέγα ἐν τῷ σπηλαίῳ, ὥστε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ἡμῶν μὴ φέρειν. καὶ πρὸς ὀλίγον τὸ φῶς ἐκεῖνο ὑπεστέλλετο, ἕως ἐφάνη τὸ βρέφος (καὶ ἦλθεν) καὶ ἔλαβεν μασθὸν ἐκ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας. (καὶ ἀνεβόησεν ἡ μαῖα: ὡς μεγάλη ἡ σήμερον ἡμέρᾳ, ὅτι εἶδον τὸ καινὸν θέαμα τοῦτο.)

3. καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ σπηλαίου ἡ μαῖα καὶ ἀπήντησεν Σαλώμην, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ: Σαλώμη, Σαλώμη, καινόν σοι ἔχω διηγήσασθαι θέαμα: παρθένος ἐγέννησεν, ὃ οὐ χωρεῖ φύσις ἀνθρωπίνη. καὶ εἶπεν Σαλώμη: ζῇ κύριος ὁ θεός, ἐὰν μὴ κατανοήσω (ἐὰν μὴ βάλω τὴν χειρὰ μου εἰς αὐτήν), οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω, ὅτι παρθένος ἐγέννησεν.

K'

1. Καὶ εἰσῆλθεν Σαλώμη καὶ εἶπεν: Μαρία, σημάτισον σεαυτήν: οὐ γὰρ μικρὸς ἄγὼν περικείται περὶ σοῦ. καὶ κατενόησεν αὐτήν. καὶ ἠλάλαξεν Σαλώμη καὶ ἐκραύγασε λέγουσα: οὐαὶ τῇ ἀνομίᾳ μου καὶ οὐαὶ τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ μου, ὅτι ἐξεπείρασά θεὸν ζῶντα: καὶ ἰδοὺ ἡ χεὶρ μου ἐν πυρὶ φλέγεται (ἀποπίπτει).

2. καὶ ἐκλινεν τὰ γόνατα αὐτῆς Σαλώμη πρὸς τὸν δεσπότην λέγουσα: ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων μου, μνήσθητί μου, ὅτι σπέρμα εἰμι Ἀβραὰμ καὶ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ: μὴ παραδειγματίσης με τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ, ἀλλὰ ἀπόδος μοι ἐμὴν ὀλοκληρίαν.

3. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἔστη πρὸς Σαλώμην λέγων: Σαλώμη, Σαλώμη, ἐπήκουσε κύριος ὁ θεὸς τῆς δεήσεός σου: ἔγγισον πρὸς τὸ παιδίον καὶ βάστασον αὐτό, καὶ ἔσται σοι σωτηρία μεγάλη.

4. καὶ προσῆλθεν Σαλώμη καὶ ἐβάστασεν αὐτό, καὶ εἶπεν: ὄντως βασιλεὺς μέγας ἐγεννήθη τῷ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ εὐθέως ἰάθη Σαλώμη καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τοῦ σπηλαίου δεδिकाωμένη, καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ λέγουσα αὐτῇ: Σαλώμη, Σαλώμη, μὴ ἀναγγείλῃς, ὅσα εἶδες παράδοξα (ἕως ἔλθῃ εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ).

KA'

1. Καὶ ἰδοὺ Ἰωσήφ ἠτοιμάσθη ἐξελθεῖν εἰς

midwife said: My soul has been magnified this day, because mine eyes have seen strange things—because salvation has been brought forth to Israel. And immediately the cloud disappeared out of the cave, and a great light shone in the cave, so that the eyes could not bear it. And in a little that light gradually decreased, until the infant appeared, and went and took the breast from His mother Mary. And the midwife cried out, and said: This is a great day to me, because I have seen this strange sight.

3. And the midwife went forth out of the cave, and Salome met her. And she said to her: Salome, Salome, I have a strange sight to relate to thee: a virgin has brought forth—a thing which her nature admits not of. Then said Salome: As the Lord my God liveth, unless I thrust in my finger, and search the parts, I will not believe that a virgin has brought forth.

XX

1. And the midwife went in, and said to Mary: Show thyself; for no small controversy has arisen about thee. And Salome put in her finger, and cried out, and said: Woe is me for mine iniquity and mine unbelief, because I have tempted the living God; and, behold, my hand is dropping off as if burned with fire.

2. And she bent her knees before the Lord, saying: O God of my fathers, remember that I am the seed of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob; do not make a show of me to the sons of Israel, but restore me to the poor; for Thou knowest, O Lord, that in Thy name I have performed my services, and that I have received my reward at Thy hand.

3. And, behold, an angel of the Lord stood by her, saying to her: Salome, Salome, the Lord hath heard thee. Put thy hand to the infant, and carry it, and thou wilt have safety and joy.

4. And Salome went and carried it, saying: I will worship Him, because a great King has been born to Israel. And, behold, Salome was immediately cured, and she went forth out of the cave justified. And behold a voice saying: Salome, Salome, tell not the strange things thou hast seen, until the child has come into Jerusalem.

XXI

1. And, behold, Joseph was ready to go into Judæa.

τὴν Ἰουδαίαν, καὶ θόρυβος ἐγένετο ἐν Βηθλεέμ. ἦλθαν γὰρ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν (ἐκ Περσίδος) λέγοντες· ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτόν.

2. καὶ ἀκούσας Ἡρώδης ἐταράχθη καὶ ἔπεμψεν ὑπηρέτας πρὸς τοὺς μάγους, καὶ ἀπέστειλεν πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ ἀνέκρινεν αὐτοὺς λέγων· ποῦ ὁ χριστὸς γεννᾶται; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· ἐν Βηθλεέμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτως γὰρ γέγραπται. καὶ ἀπέλυσεν αὐτοὺς καὶ ἀνέκρινε τοὺς μάγους λέγων αὐτοῖς· τί εἶδετε σημεῖον ἐπὶ τὸν γεννηθέντα βασιλέα; καὶ εἶπον οἱ μάγοι· εἶδομεν ἀστέρα παμμεγέθη λάμπραντα ἐν τοῖς ἄστροις τούτοις καὶ ἀμβλύνοντα αὐτοὺς τοῦ (μὴ) φαίνειν καὶ ἔγνωμεν, ὅτι βασιλεὺς ἐγεννήθη τῷ Ἰσραὴλ· καὶ διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτόν. καὶ εἶπεν Ἡρώδης· πορευθέντες ἀκριβῶς ἐκζητήσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· καὶ ἐπὶ εὐρηται, ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως κἀγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτόν.

3. καὶ ἐξῆλθον οἱ μάγοι, καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ, ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, προῆγεν αὐτῶν, ἕως οὗ ἐλθὼν ἔστη εἰς τὸ σπήλαιον ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς τοῦ παιδίου. καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸ οἱ μάγοι μετὰ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας προσεκύνησαν αὐτὸ καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσένεγκαν αὐτῶν δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν. καὶ χρηματισθέντες ὑπὸ ἀγίου ἀγγέλου (μὴ εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Ἰουδαίαν πρὸς Ἡρώδην) δι' ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἐπορεύθησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.

And there was a great commotion in Bethlehem of Judæa, for Magi came, saying: Where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.

2. And when Herod heard, he was much disturbed, and sent officers to the Magi. And he sent for the priests, and examined them, saying: How is it written about the Christ? where is He to be born? And they said: In Bethlehem of Judæa, for so it is written.⁵⁰ And he sent them away. And he examined the Magi, saying to them: What sign have you seen in reference to the king that has been born? And the Magi said: We have seen a star of great size shining among these stars, and obscuring their light, so that the stars did not appear; and we thus knew that a king has been born to Israel, and we have come to worship him. And Herod said: Go and seek him; and if you find him, let me know, in order that I also may go and worship him.

3. And the Magi went out. And, behold, the star which they had seen in the east went before them until they came to the cave, and it stood over the top of the cave. And the Magi saw the infant with His mother Mary; and they brought forth from their bag gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by the angel not to go into Judæa, they went into their own country by another road.⁵¹

KB'

1. Γνοὺς δὲ ὁ Ἡρώδης, ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ὀργισθεὶς ἔπεμψεν τοὺς φονευτὰς κελεύσας αὐτοῖς ἀνελεῖν τὰ βρέφη ἀπὸ διετούς καὶ κατωτέρω.

2. ἀκούσασα δὲ Μαριάμ, ὅτι τὰ βρέφη ἀναιροῦνται, φοβηθεῖσα ἔλαβεν τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Ἰωσήφ καὶ ἀπεδήμυσεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καθὼς ἐχρηματίσθη αὐτοῖς.

3. ἡ δὲ Ἐλισάβετ λαβοῦσα τὸν Ἰωάννην ἀνέβη εἰς τὴν ὄρεινὴν καὶ περιεβλέπετο, ποῦ αὐτὸν ἀποκρύψει· καὶ οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τόπος ἀποκρυβῆς. τότε στενάξασα λέγει· ὄρος, ὄρος, δέξαι μὲν τεκνόν. οὐ γὰρ ἠδύνατο πορεύεσθαι. καὶ παραχαρῆμα ἐδιχάσθη τὸ ὄρος καὶ ἐδέξατο

XXII

1. And when Herod knew that he had been mocked by the Magi, in a rage he sent murderers, saying to them: Slay the children⁵² from two years old and under.

2. And Mary, having heard that the children were being killed, was afraid, and took the infant and swaddled Him, and put Him into an ox-stall.

3. And Elizabeth, having heard that they were searching for John, took him and went up into the hill-country, and kept looking where to conceal him. And there was no place of concealment. And Elizabeth, groaning with a loud voice, says: O mountain of God, receive mother and child. And immediately the mountain was cleft, and

⁵⁰Two MSS. here add: And thou Bethlehem, etc., from Mic. v. 2.

⁵¹Matt. ii. 1–12. One of the MSS. here adds Matt. ii. 13–15, with two or three slight variations.

⁵²Four MSS. have *all the male children*, as in Matt. ii. 16.

αὐτήν. καὶ ἦν τὸ ὄρος ἐκεῖνο διαφαῖνον αὐτοῖς
καὶ ἄγγελος κυρίου ὁδηγῶν αὐτούς.

ΚΓ'

1. Ὁ δὲ Ἡρώδης ἐζήτει τὸν Ἰωάννην καὶ ἀπέστειλεν ὑπηρέτας εἰς τὸ θυσιαστήριον κυρίου πρὸς Σαχαρίαν λέγων· ποῦ ἀπέκρυψας τὸν υἱόν σου; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐγὼ λειτουργῶς ὑπάρχω κυρίου τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ παρεδρεύω τῷ ναῷ αὐτοῦ καὶ οὐ γινώσκω, ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ υἱός μου.

2. οἱ δὲ ὑπηρέται πορευθέντες ἀνήγγειλαν τῷ Ἡρώδῃ. καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ Ἡρώδης ἀπέστειλεν ἐκ δευτέρου πρὸς Σαχαρίαν λέγων· εἰπέ μοι τὸ ἀληθές, ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ υἱός σου· οἶδας γάρ, ὅτι τὸ αἷμά σου ὑπὸ τὴν χεῖρά μου ἐστὶν. οἱ δὲ ὑπηρέται ἀπῆλθον καὶ ἀνήγγειλαν τῷ Σαχαρίᾳ ταῦτα.

3. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Σαχαρίας· εἵπατε τῷ Ἡρώδῃ· εἰ καὶ τὸ αἷμά μου ἐκχέεις, τὸ πνεῦμά μου ὁ δεσπότης λήπεται, πλὴν ὅτι ἀθῶον αἷμα ἐκχύνεις παρὰ τὰ πρόθυρα τοῦ ναοῦ κυρίου. οὐ γὰρ γινώσκω, ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ υἱός μου. καὶ περὶ τὸ διάφανμα ἐφρονεύθη Σαχαρίας. καὶ οὐκ ᾔδεισαν οἱ υἱοὶ Ἰσραὴλ, πῶς ἐφρονεύθη.

ΚΔ'

1. Ἀλλὰ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ ἀσπασμοῦ ἀπῆλθον οἱ ἱερεῖς, καὶ οὐκ ἀπῆντησεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Σαχαρίας κατὰ τὸ εἰωθός, καὶ ἔστησαν οἱ ἱερεῖς προσδοκῶντες τὸν Σαχαρίαν τοῦ ἀσπᾶσθαι αὐτὸν ἐν εὐχαῖς καὶ δοξάζειν τὸν θεόν.

2. χρονίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐφοβήθησαν ἅπαντες. ἀποτολμήσας δὲ εἷς ἐξ αὐτῶν εἰσῆλθεν καὶ εἶδεν παρὰ τὸ θυσιαστήριον κυρίου αἷμα πεπηγός. καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ λέγουσα· Σαχαρίας πεφόνευται καὶ οὐκ ἐξαλειφθήσεται τὸ αἷμα αὐτοῦ, ἕως οὗ ἔλθῃ ὁ ἐκδικος αὐτοῦ. ὁ δὲ ἀκούσας τὸν λόγον τοῦτον ἐφοβήθη καὶ ἐλθὼν ἀνήγγειλε τοῖς ἱερεῦσιν, ἃ εἶδεν καὶ ἤκουσεν.

3. καὶ τολμήσαντες εἰσῆλθον καὶ εἶδον τὸ γεγονός. καὶ τὰ δὲ φατνώματα τοῦ ναοῦ ὁλόλυσαν,

received her. And a light shone about them, for an angel of the Lord was with them, watching over them.

XXIII

1. And Herod searched for John, and sent officers to Zacharias, saying: Where hast thou hid thy son? And he, answering, said to them: I am the servant of God in holy things, and I sit constantly in the temple of the Lord: I do not know where my son is.

2. And the officers went away, and reported all these things to Herod. And Herod was enraged, and said: His son is destined to be king over Israel. And he sent to him again, saying: Tell the truth; where is thy son? for thou knowest that thy life is in my hand.

3. And Zacharias said: I am God's martyr, if thou sheddest my blood; for the Lord will receive my spirit, because thou sheddest innocent blood at the vestibule of the temple of the Lord. And Zacharias was murdered about daybreak. And the sons of Israel did not know that he had been murdered.⁵³

XXIV

1. But at the hour of the salutation the priests went away, and Zacharias did not come forth to meet them with a blessing, according to his custom.⁵⁴ And the priests stood waiting for Zacharias to salute him at the prayer,⁵⁵ and to glorify the Most High.

2. And he still delaying, they were all afraid. But one of them ventured to go in, and he saw clotted blood beside the altar; and he heard a voice saying: Zacharias has been murdered, and his blood shall not be wiped up until his avenger come. And hearing this saying, he was afraid, and went out and told it to the priests.

3. And they ventured in, and saw what had happened; and the fretwork of the temple made a wailing noise, and

⁵³ Another reading is: And Herod, enraged at this, ordered him to be slain in the midst of the altar before the dawn, that the slaying of him might not be prevented by the people. [This incident was probably suggested by the reference to "Zacharias the son of Barachias" in Matt. xxiii. 35, Luke xi. 51; but comp. 2 Chron. xxiv. 20-22.—R.]

⁵⁴ Lit., the blessing of Zacharias did not come forth, etc.

⁵⁵ Or, with prayer.

καὶ αὐτοὶ διεσχίσαντο τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῶν ἀπὸ ἄνωθεν ἕως κάτω. τὸ δὲ σῶμα αὐτοῦ οὐχ εὔρον, ἀλλ' εὔρον τὸ αἷμα αὐτοῦ ὥσει λίθον γεγεννημένον. ἐξεληθόντες δὲ ἀνήγγειλαν τῷ λαῷ ὅτι Σαχαρίας πεφόνευται. καὶ ἤκουσαν πᾶσαι αἱ φυλαὶ τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ ἐπένθησαν αὐτὸν τρεῖς ἡμέρας καὶ τρεῖς νύκτας.

4. μετὰ δὲ τὰς ἡμέρας ἐκεῖνας ἐβουλεύσαντο οἱ ἱερεῖς, τίνα ἀναστήσωσιν εἰς τὸν τόπον Σαχαρίου, καὶ ἔβαλον κλήρους· καὶ ἔπεσεν ὁ κλῆρος ἐπὶ Συμεῶνα. αὐτὸς γὰρ ἦν χρηματισθεὶς ὑπὸ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος τοῦ μὴ ἰδεῖν θάνατον, ἕως ἂν ἴδῃ τὸν χριστὸν κυρίου (ἐν σαρκί).

they rent their clothes⁵⁶ from the top even to the bottom. And they found not his body, but they found his blood turned into stone. And they were afraid, and went out and reported to the people that Zacharias had been murdered. And all the tribes of the people heard, and mourned, and lamented for him three days and three nights.

4. And after the three days, the priests consulted as to whom they should put in his place; and the lot fell upon Simeon. For it was he who had been warned by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death until he should see the Christ in the flesh.⁵⁷

ΚΕ'

1. Ἐγὼ δὲ Ἰάκωβος ὁ γράψας τὴν ἱστορίαν ταύτην, ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις θορύβου γενομένου, ὅτε ἐτελεύτησεν Ἡρώδης, συνέστελλεν ἑαυτὸν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἕως παύσῃται ὁ θόρυβος· δοξάσω δὲ τὸν δεσπότην τὸν δόντα μοι τὴν σοφίαν τοῦ γράψαι τὴν ἱστορίαν ταύτην.

2. καὶ ἔσται ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων τῶν φοβουμένων τὸν κύριον, ἀμήν.

XXV

1. And I James that wrote this history in Jerusalem, a commotion having arisen when Herod died, withdrew myself to the wilderness until the commotion in Jerusalem ceased, glorifying the Lord God, who had given me the gift and the wisdom to write this history.⁵⁸

2. And grace shall be with them that fear our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory to ages of ages. Amen.⁵⁹

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ΓΕΝΕΣΙΣ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ, ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ ΙΑΚΩΒ.

Εἰρήνην τῷ γράψαντι καὶ τῷ ἀναγινώσκοντι.

⁵⁶ Another reading is: And was rent from the top, etc.

⁵⁷ Luke ii. 26. One of the MSS. here adds Matt. ii. 19–23, with two or three verbal changes.

⁵⁸ [Assuming that this is among the most ancient of the Apocryphal Gospels, it is noteworthy that the writer abstains from elaborating his statements on points fully narrated in the Canonical Gospels. The *supplementary* character of the earliest of these writings is obvious. But what a contrast between the impressive silence of the New Testament narratives, and the garrulity, not to say indelicacy, of these detailed descriptions of the Nativity!—R.]

⁵⁹ The MSS. vary much in the doxology, e.g. Ἐγὼ δὲ Ἰάκωβος ἔγραψα τὴν ἱστορίαν ταύτην ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ, καὶ ἐδόξασα τὸν δεσπότην θεὸν τὸν ἀποκαλύψαντα ἡμῖν τὰ μυστήρια ταῦτα, ὅτι αὐτῷ πρέπει δόξα, κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων, ἀμήν.