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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

NOVEMBER 20, 2005

A Sermon for Christmas

The following sermon is a tapestry woven entirely of threads taken from Scripture and only from Scripture. Every word is from the Authorized Version, commonly called the King James Version. The only modifications are found in some changes in the choice and to the position of punctuation marks and with certain alterations in capitalization. The verses and phrases were selected and arranged by me, but no supplemental, transitional, or explanatory words have been inserted. This is a sermon that contains not one word of mine. This is, therefore, the closest to an 'inspired sermon' that I will ever preach.

Friends of this publication requested that I print this message and I am pleased to do so. Perhaps it will encourage another preacher to take the opportunity to improve the arrangement, prune out some unnecessary portion, or provide new passages to smooth transitions. Suggestions will be appreciated. I hope to continue 'weaving' the message until I report Home to the One Who actually wrote the words.

Of this fact alone, I am certain: for all intents and purposes this sermon is a Sculpture of Scripture and suitable for the birth of Christ.

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this and that

Editor and Staff
 Jerald L. Manley D. D.
 J. Alan Wolf Gary Roland

I realize that not all who read this publication have received the gift of salvation. The LORD Jesus Christ was born of a virgin in Bethlehem. He came as God manifest in the flesh; He died to secure the atonement for your soul. You cannot achieve or attain Heaven by your own efforts. Salvation is by grace through faith. Grace is unmerited favor. Faith is believing what God has said, because God said it and not because it may be proved by experiment or observation. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in

him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:16-18, 36"
 —Pastor Manley

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Phone: 850-944-5545 * Fax: 850-944-9822
 E-mail: JERALD.L.MANLEY@GTE.NET

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faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, "Who shall ascend into heaven?" (That is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, "Who shall descend into the deep?" (That is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart": that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, "Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

Even so, come, Lord JESUS.

—Pastor Manley

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wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it."

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you. For I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ JESUS came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief. But God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. But the righteousness which is of

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God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds. Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For, if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him? God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. For this is the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself. He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning

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with God. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a Man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name, Which is above every name; that at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in earth, and things under the earth: and that every tongue should confess that JESUS Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life.

And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

And this is His commandment that we should believe on the name of His Son JESUS Christ.

And this is the condemnation that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than

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and said unto the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek JESUS, Which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead: and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you."

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where JESUS had appointed them. And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same JESUS, Which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. But Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said unto them: "Ye men of Israel hear these words; JESUS of Nazareth a Man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, Which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by

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And after this Joseph of Aramathaea, being a disciple of JESUS, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of JESUS. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to JESUS by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight, then took they the body of JESUS, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they JESUS therefore because of the Jews preparation day: for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Now the next day that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, "Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Command therefore that the sepulchre be made, sure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead; so the last error shall be worse than the first." Pilate said unto them, "Ye have a watch. Go your way; make it as sure as ye can." So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and His raiment white as snow: And for fear of Him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered

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Light, because their deeds were evil.

Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: they are all under sin. As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of JESUS Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ JESUS: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in JESUS.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of

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works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew Him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause of death in Him, yet desired they Pilate that He should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulchre. But God raised Him from the dead: And He was seen many days of them which came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses unto the people.

And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up JESUS again; as it is also written in the Second Psalm, "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee." And as concerning that He raised Him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, "I will give you the sure mercies of David." Wherefore He saith also in another Psalm, "Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But He, whom

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And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS." This title then read many of the Jews for the place where JESUS was crucified was nigh to the city; and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, "Write not, The King of the Jews: but that He said, I am King of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." After this, JESUS knowing that all things mere now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, "I thirst." Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to His mouth. When JESUS therefore had received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished." And He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away, Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to JESUS, and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

For these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "A bone of Him shall not be broken." And again, another scripture saith, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

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Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took JESUS and led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest where the scribes and elders were assembled. And the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel together against JESUS to put Him to death: And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Pilate asked them, "What accusation bring ye against this Man?" And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King."

And Pilate asked Him saying, "Art Thou king of the Jews?" And He answered him and said, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth."

Pilate saith unto Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them, "I find in Him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should deliver unto you one at the Passover. Will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" Then cried they all again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas."

Pilate saith unto them, "What shall I do then with JESUS Which is called Christ?" They all say unto him, "Let Him be crucified." Then released he Barabbas unto them and when he had scourged JESUS he delivered Him to be crucified. And they took JESUS and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified Him, and two other with Him, on either side one, and JESUS in the midst.

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God raised again, saw no corruption. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him, all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.

And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by JESUS Christ: (He is Lord of all.) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed JESUS of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; Whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed Him openly; not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.

When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Now the birth of JESUS Christ was on this wise: when as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to

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make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But, while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." Then Joseph being raised from his sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with Child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be

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go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Thomas saith unto Him, "Lord we know not wither Thou goest: and how can we know the way?" JESUS saith unto him, "I am the Way; the Truth, and the Life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me." These words spake JESUS, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour is come: glorify Thy Son that Thy Son also may glorify Thee. That they might know Thee, the only true God, and JESUS Christ whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do."

Then cometh JESUS with them unto a place called Gethsemane and saith unto the disciples, "Sit ye here while I go and pray yonder." And He left them and went away. And prayed. Then cometh He to His disciples and saith unto them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest. Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

And Judas also, which betrayed Him knew the place: for JESUS oftentimes resorted thither with His disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. JESUS therefore knowing all things that should come upon Him went forth and said unto them, "Whom seek ye?" They answered Him, "JESUS of Nazareth." JESUS saith unto them, "I am He." As soon as He had said unto them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground.

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reasoned within themselves, He said unto them, "Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (He saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house." And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "We never saw it on this fashion."

Now when JESUS had heard that John was cast into prison, He departed into Galilee. From that time, JESUS began to preach, and to say, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." And His fame went throughout all Syria. And there followed Him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain; and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him. And He opened His mouth, and taught them saying, "Think not that I am come to destroy, but to fulfill. The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from earth, I will draw all men unto Me." This He said, signifying what death He should die. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so I would have told you. I

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a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

And when JESUS was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, "Where in He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'"

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Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child: and when you have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also." When they had heard the king, they departed: and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt.

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which

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the book, and He gave it again to the minister and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." And all bare Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.

And the fame of Him went out into every place of the country round about. And JESUS departed from thence and came nigh unto the Sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others. And cast them down at JESUS' feet; and He healed them; Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

He entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that He was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door; and He preached the word unto them. And they came unto Him, bringing one sick of palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto Him for the press, they uncovered the roof where He was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of palsy lay. When JESUS saw their faith, He said unto the sick of palsy, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, "Why doth this Man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?" And immediately when JESUS perceived in His spirit that they so

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"Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'" And he brought Him to Jerusalem, and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down from hence: For it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee. And in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.'" And JESUS answering said unto him, "It is said, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'" And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season.

The next day John seeth JESUS coming unto him, and saith, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me cometh a Man Which is preferred before me; for He was before me.' And I knew Him not; but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water."

And JESUS returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place wherein was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because the LORD hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor: He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering at sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And He closed

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was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young Child's life." And he arose, and took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

And the Child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the Child JESUS tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and His mother knew not of it. But they, supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. And when they saw Him, they were amazed: and His

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mother said unto Him, "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing." And He said unto them, "How is it that ye sought Me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"

And they understood not the saying which He spake unto them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And JESUS increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in His hand, and He will throughly purge His floor, and will gather the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will burn with fire unquenchable."

And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who art

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thou?" And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, "I am not the Christ." Then said they unto him, "Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?" He said, "I am the voice of One crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as said the prophet Esaias."

And JESUS Himself began to be about thirty years of age, being as was supposed the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli. And it came to pass in those days, that JESUS came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

And immediately the Spirit driveth Him into the wilderness. And JESUS being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto Him. And in those days, He did eat nothing; and when they were ended, He afterward hungered. And the devil said unto Him, "If Thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread." And JESUS answered him, saying, "It is written, 'That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" And the devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, "All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine." And JESUS answered and said unto him,

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