

40 DAYS TO GET TO KNOW GOD'S SON!

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

- John 4 -

"If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

- John 7 -

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IN THE BEGINNING.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

- John chapter one -

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GOOD QUESTIONS

When you want to go deep you need to ask good questions. At the end of this book you will find a series of day-by-day questions for each of the 40 days of the Streamsbook experience.

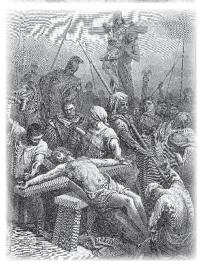
ENJOY!

Streamsbook

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This booklet is a compilation of accounts from the four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I have consulted several of the best translations from the original materials and adapted wording slightly for flow. The "Old Testament" was written in Hebrew (the language of the Jews), the "New Testament" was written in Greek, the worldwide language of Jesus' day.

Nowhere in the New or Old Testaments do they call themselves the New and Old Testaments. There really is only one "Testament." Everything in the so-called Old Testament prepares the world for the arrival of the Messiah or Savior. God's chosen people (the Jews) were not chosen because they were superior to any other nation, but because Abraham would be God's instrument to bless the rest of the nations for all time.

This one "Testament" reveals how God has provided escape from eternal death, granting access to eternal life through the shedding of the blood of His Son to pay the debt for our sin. Sin is our separation from God and our inability to make things right.

The Gospels (and the rest of the Scriptures) were provided so that we can get an accurate picture of God's mind concerning humanity and our individual souls. Those who look diligently will find what human wisdom alone simply cannot provide.

Dave Nadler Fourthstream.com

Dore' etchings (out of copyright):

Moses breaking the Ten Commandments in Exodus King **Solomon's** Wisdom in settling a dispute King **David's** victory over Goliath in 1 Samuel **Christ** nailed to the Cross in the Gospels

OLDER THAN TIME

DAY ONE

John 1:1-5

When is this beginning?

See Hebrews 1:1-4

While men like to

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in

portray life as gray, the Bible sees only light and darkness. Who is the Word?

Who is the Word? (see p 6. John 1:6-18)

Theophilus was the recipient of Luke's Gospel letter. Luke was a doctor and his goal was to give an accurate, precise account of the facts concerning what was being reported by eyewitnesses about Jesus.

Zacharias was a Jew.
The Jews were given the Word
of God so that the world
could find God.
The Jews were chosen by God
to display His power to the
rest of the world. This
selection was based upon
God's gracious choice and
not because Abraham was
better than any
other man.

Gabriel is one of three angels mentioned by name in the Bible along with Michael and Lucifer (Satan).
They are powerful archangels.
Do you believe in angels?

Zacharias was a priest. Most people recognize that Jewish worship of the Living God was sincere and that it has caused far-reaching effects into history. **GOD COMES NEAR**

Luke 1:5-66

Many have undertaken to put together an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word have handed them down to us. It seemed appropriate for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you might know the precise truth about the things you have been taught.

the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. And they had no child, because Elizabeth was unable to have babies, and they were both advanced in years.

Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your request has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will give you a son, and you will name him John. And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth.

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while still in his mother's womb. And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; with the purpose of making ready a people prepared for the Lord."

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time. And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering about his delay in the temple. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept

Coming to Jerusalem for his turn to perform priestly duties in the temple was a big deal to Zacharias' home town and family.

To have a priest come out of the temple unable to speak would have caused quite a stir.

Mary was probably very young, what we would consider a teenager.

Elizabeth would encourage Mary by her "old age" pregnancy, inasmuch as it was miraculous as well.

Mary had never slept with a man, yet she was pregnant. This would be difficult for a teenaged Jewish girl!

Jesus was the cousin of John who will be called John the Baptist. He is spoken of in Isaiah the prophet in chapter 40.

A bond-slave is one who makes a decision to be someone's servant by personal choice.

making signs to them, and remained unable to speak. And it came about when the days of his priestly service were ended, that he went back home.

And after these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant; and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

MARY. THE SERVANT OF GOD

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you."

But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of greeting this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary said, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called childless is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all generations will consider me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent away the rich empty-handed. He has given help to Israel His servant in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

And Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

Circumcision was the Jewish physical sign that set them apart as the people of God. It was done for physical and spiritual reasons, and was supposed to picture a calloused heart turned to God.

To call their son John was puzzling to everyone else. It evidenced their obedience and released Zacharias' tongue that had been stilled for many months. He was probably the talk of the town!

This child will turn out to be the "deliverer" of Israel and the rest of the world!

How is a man or woman "born of God?"

Jesus (the Son) is an exact representation of the eternal Living God.

The Ten Commandments (the basis of the "Law") were given to reveal the awesome character of God to the Jews and then to the world. The Law was never able to save any person from spiritual death.

See Hebrews 10:4.

Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her and they were rejoicing with her.

And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. But his mother answered and said, "No indeed, but he shall be called John."

And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name." And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. He asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished.

At once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Fear came on all those living around them, and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. All who heard about it kept them in mind, saying, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

THE LIGHT & THE LIFE

DAY TWO 2

John 1:6-18

There came a man sent from God whose name was John (the Baptist). He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. This was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God; to those who believed in His name, who were born, not of blood lines or by human parentage or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me."

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the heart of the Father, He has explained Him.

THE KING IS BORN

Luke 2:1-40

It came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone was proceeding to their home towns to register for the census. Joseph went up as well from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. He belonged to the house and family of David, and He went home in to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

It came about that while they were there, the days were

With all the Kings and nobles who could have been invited to the birthday party, God chooses shepherds!

While we speculate about alien life in the cosmos, the Bible clearly indicates that there is angelic life made up of good angels and evil angels (demons). They are as real as we are and able to exist in parallel dimensions.

The Name of Jesus has been given all authority and power. Jesus (reveals His human birth) Christ (reveals that He is the Messiah of the World) our Lord (reveals His personal relationship with those who follow Him).

God gave the Law to the Jews through Moses.
There was moral law (the Ten Commandments) and many other civil and ceremonial laws.
The Jews were to obey these laws for their protection as well as to make them distinct among the other nations.

completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them to stay at the inn.

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came quickly and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. And when they had seen it firsthand, they related the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as they had been told. When eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

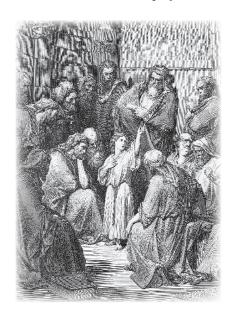
And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was set out in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

SIMEON

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devoted, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when His parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

Joseph and Mary were committed worshippers of the Living God as well as responsible parents. Passover was the chief Jewish celebration where they remembered how God had brought the Jews out of the land of Egypt under the leadership of Moses.



To think of such a young boy teaching and astonishing older, prominent men from the cradle of religious knowledge demonstrates that Christ was not an ordinary young man.

The priests of the Jews were to lead them in worship.
The Levites were descended from the tribe of Levi (one of the twelve tribes).
This is the "family" from whom the priests were chosen.

then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now Lord, Let Your bond-servant die in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all nations, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed - and a sword will pierce even your own soul - to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

ANNA

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

THE BOY KING

DAY THREE 3

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending all seven days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it, but thought he was in the caravan, and they traveled a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him.

And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be doing my Father's business?" And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

John the Baptist was the "Elijah" promised to return by the last "Old Testament" prophet Malachi 400 years earlier. He is distinct from the disciple named John who was one of the Twelve and who penned one of the Gospel accounts.

John immediately understood that Christ was the Lamb who would die for the sin of the world.

He was, after all, baptizing with water those who knew they were spiritually dead. When he baptized Jesus (something he did not want to do), he saw a dove descending upon Him, and a voice saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased."

Disciples are followers.
They follow the teaching and traditions of those they hold in high regard.
The Pharisees were the prominent religious party of Jesus' day. They found their identity in Abraham, the father of the Jews and their righteousness in keeping the Law of Moses.

Information about Christ spread among friends, family, and followers.
Three or four years later when He was crucified and raised from the dead, there was hardly a person in all of Israel who did not know who He was.

Jesus was from the country town of Nazareth. His birth and actions fulfilled prophecies that were spoken hundreds and even thousands of years before He was born.

THE LIGHT, THE LIFE, THE LAMB

John 1:19-51

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" And he confessed, did not deny it, but made it plain, "I am not the Christ."

They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him and said to him, "Why are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the fastener of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan river, where John was baptizing.

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is one of whom I spoke: 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be clearly revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water." John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' I have seen Him, and tell you for certain that this is the Son of God."

The next day John was standing with two of his own followers, and he looked at Jesus as He walked and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" His two followers heard him speak and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you want?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was late in the day.

One of the two who heard John speak and had followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found his own brother Simon first and said to him, "We have found the Messiah (Christ)." He brought him to Jesus, and Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day as He purposed to go into Galilee, He found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one whom Moses and the prophets wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Teacher, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you believe in Me? You will see greater things than this." And He said to him, "Truly, truly I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."