

^{2,1} During those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus to register all of civilization. ² This was the first registration while Quirinius was governing in the province of Syria ³ and everyone began going to register, each to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, who, being with child, was promised-for-marriage to him. ⁶ While they were there, her days to give birth were fulfilled ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn child, wrapped him in cloths, and reclined him in a feeding-box, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

⁸ In that same land, shepherders were living outside and guarding their flocks during the watch of night. ⁹ A messenger of the Lord stood over them and the triumph of the Lord shone around them and they were struck with great fear. ¹⁰ The messenger said to them,

“Do not fear! Look! I declare a Gospel of great joy to you, which is for all the people! ¹¹ A rescuer, who is the Anointed Lord, was born for you today in David’s city! ¹² This is the sign for you—you will find an infant wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding-box.”

¹³ Suddenly, along with the messenger, there was a multitude of a heavenly army praising the Creator and saying,

¹⁴ “Triumph in the highest belongs to the Creator! Harmony is upon the earth among the humanity of good will!”

¹⁵ After the messengers departed into heaven, the shepherders began speaking to one another,

“Indeed, let us pass through to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us!”

¹⁶ Speedily they came and found Mary and Joseph, as well as the infant lying in a feeding-box. ¹⁷ After seeing this, they made known the thing which had been spoken to them concerning this servant-child. ¹⁸ All those who listened, marveled about what had been spoken to them by the shepherders. ¹⁹ Mary began keeping all these things, bringing them together in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherders returned to their fields, declaring the Creator’s triumph and praising the Creator for everything they had listened to and seen, just as it had been spoken to them.

²¹ When the eight days were fulfilled, Mary and Joseph circumcised him and named him Jesus, which the messenger had called him before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the days of their purification, according to the Torah of Moses, were fulfilled, they took Jesus up to Jerusalem to stand him before the Lord. ²³ It is written in the Torah of the Lord,

“Every male that is the first to open the womb will be called ‘a divine one belonging to the Lord.’”

²⁴ They also gave a sacrificial-victim, according to what is spoken in the Torah of the Lord,

“A pair of pigeons or two young doves.”

²⁵ A person named Simeon was in Jerusalem—he was living-justly, was attentively waiting for the restoration of Israel, and the Divine Breath was upon him. ²⁶ He had been informed by the Divine Breath that he was not going to see death before he saw the Anointed of the Lord. ²⁷ With the Breath, Simeon came into the temple-complex and, when the parents brought in the servant-child Jesus, to do for him the things according to the custom of the Torah, ²⁸ then Simeon embraced Jesus in his arms and honored the Creator, saying,

²⁹ “Master, you are now releasing your slave in harmony, according to your word. ³⁰ For my eyes see your rescue, ³¹ which you have prepared in the face of all the peoples, ³² a light for unveiling the nations and for the triumph of your people Israel.”

³³ Jesus’s father and mother began marveling at what was spoken concerning him. ³⁴ Simeon honored them and said to Mary, his mother,

“Look! This child is destined to be the downfall and the resurrection of many in Israel and to be a sign which is spoken against.³⁵ A blade will pass through your own life, so the considerations of many hearts will be unveiled.”

³⁶ The prophet Anna, the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, was there and she was advanced in days. After living with a man for seven years as a young woman,³⁷ she was then a widow till eighty-four years. She did not stand away from the temple-complex—she was giving allegiance night and day, by going without consuming and by begging.³⁸ Standing by at that very hour, she began to declare loyalty to the Creator and was speaking about Jesus to all who were waiting for Jerusalem to be released from slavery.³⁹ Then, when they completed everything according to the Torah of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their city, Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The servant-child Jesus was growing and becoming mighty. Being filled with wisdom, the generosity of the Creator was upon Jesus.⁴¹ Jesus’s parents journeyed to Jerusalem each year for the festival of the Passover.⁴² When he was twelve years old they went up, according to the custom of the festival.⁴³ After the days were completed and while they were returning, the servant Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.⁴⁴ Supposing him to be among the wayfarers, they went on the way for a day, but then they began searching for him among their relatives and those they knew.⁴⁵ Not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.⁴⁶ After three days, they found Jesus in the temple-complex, sitting in the middle of the teachers, listening to them and interrogating them.⁴⁷ Everyone who listened to Jesus began being beside themselves at his understanding and his answers.⁴⁸ Seeing him, they were amazed and his mother said to him,

“Child, why have you done this to us? Look! Your father and I were in distress seeking you!”

⁴⁹ Jesus said to them,

“Why were you seeking me? Did you not discern that it was necessary for me to be immersed in the things of my Father?”

⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them.⁵¹ Jesus went down with them, came into Nazareth, and was submitting himself to them. His mother carefully kept all these things in her heart.⁵² Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and generosity in the sight of the Creator and humanity.