

<sup>3,1</sup> During the fifteenth year of the governance of Emperor Tiberius—with Pontius Pilate governing the province of Iudaea, Herod Antipas the leader over the quarter of Galilee, his brother Philip the leader over the quarter of Iturea and the land of Trachonitis, Lysanias the leader over the quarter of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> when Annas and Caiaphas were the leaders of the temple-caretakers—the word of the Creator came upon John, the child of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> John went into all the surrounding land of the Jordan River, proclaiming a baptism of transformation resulting in freedom from rebellions. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“A voice is crying out in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord! Make his paths straight! <sup>5</sup> Every ravine will be filled in and every mountain and hill will be made low! The crooked will be made straight and the jagged into smooth ways! <sup>6</sup> All creatures will see the Creator’s rescue!’”

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, John began saying to the crowds, which came out to be baptized by him,

“You are born from venomous snakes! Who showed you to flee from the approaching consequences? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruits worthy of transformation! Do not begin to say to yourselves,

‘We have Abraham as father!’

For I say to you, the Creator is able to raise children for Abraham from these stones! <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is set to the root of the trees! Every tree that does not produce beautiful fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire!”

<sup>10</sup> The crowds began asking him,

“What then must we do?”

<sup>11</sup> Replying, John began saying to them,

“Whoever has two shirts, must share with the one who has none. Whoever has food, must do the same.”

<sup>12</sup> Tax-collectors also came to be baptized and said to him,

“Teacher, what must we do?”

<sup>13</sup> John said to them,

“It is better to do nothing, rather than what you have been ordered.”

<sup>14</sup> Those doing time in the military also began asking him,

“What then must we do?”

John said to them,

“You must do no violence. You must not oppress. And be satisfied with your rations.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were expecting and were all considering in their hearts whether John was the Anointed. <sup>16</sup> John answered to all, saying,

“I baptize you with water, but one stronger than me is coming! I am not adequate to release the strap of his sandal. He will baptize you with the Divine Breath and fire. <sup>17</sup> The shovel is in his hand to clean off his floor and to gather the grain into his barn, but the straw will be burned up with unstoppable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> While exhorting many others accordingly, John was declaring the Gospel to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod Antipas, the leader over a quarter of the land, who was exposed by John about Herodias, the woman of his brother, and about all the other evil he did, <sup>20</sup> added this to it all, he locked John up under guard.

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized and, while he was praying, heaven was opened. <sup>22</sup> The Divine Breath descended upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove and a voice came from heaven,

“You are my Child, whom I love. My good will is with you.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus was about thirty years old when he was beginning—being the child, as it was supposed, of Joseph, of Heli, <sup>24</sup> of Matthat, of Levi, of Melchi, of Jannai, of Joseph, <sup>25</sup> of Mattathias, of Amos, of Nahum, of Esli, of Naggai, <sup>26</sup> of Maath, of Mattathias, of Semein, of Josech, of Joda, <sup>27</sup> of Joanan, of Rhesa, of Zerubbabel, of

Shealtiel, of Neri, <sup>28</sup> of Melchi, of Addi, of Cosam, of Elmadam, of Er, <sup>29</sup> of Joshua, of Eliezer, of Jorim, of Matthat, of Levi, <sup>30</sup> of Simeon, of Judah, of Joseph, of Jonam, of Eliakim, <sup>31</sup> of Melea, of Menna, of Mattatha, of Nathan, of David, <sup>32</sup> of Jesse, of Obed, of Boaz, of Sala, of Nahshon, <sup>33</sup> of Amminadab, of Admin, of Arni, of Hezron, of Perez, of Judah, <sup>34</sup> of Jacob, of Isaac, of Abraham, of Terah, of Nahor, <sup>35</sup> of Serug, of Reu, of Peleg, of Eber, of Shelah, <sup>36</sup> of Cainan, of Arphaxad, of Shem, of Noah, of Lamech, <sup>37</sup> of Methuselah, of Enoch, of Jared, of Mahalaleel, of Cainan, <sup>38</sup> of Enos, of Seth, of Adam, of the Creator.