

## A QUICK GLANCE AT LUKE'S GOSPEL AS A WHOLE

If one believes what Luke says in the prologue, his book is composed «in an orderly way» (1,3). His gospel is actually arranged in four sections, of which it may be said as a first approximation that they recount the four great stages of the life of Jesus, starting before his birth and ending with his death:

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- A. *Christ's coming*      *prepared by the messengers*    *of the Lord*
  - B. Jesus constitutes    *the community of his disciples*    *in Galilee*
  - C. Jesus leads          *the community of his disciples*    *to Jerusalem*
  - D. *Christ's Passover*    *announced by the Scriptures*    *of Israel*
-

# THE PROLOGUE

## of the Gospel of Luke

(Luke 1,1-4)

<p>+ <sup>1</sup> Since          - <b>to compose</b>          : of those that have been accomplished among</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MANY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>they delivered to</i></p>	<p>have undertaken  <b>a narration</b>  <i>IS</i> (as)</p>	<p>ACTS,</p>
<p>= <sup>2</sup> just as          those who <i>from the beginning</i> were eye-witnesses and servants of the</p>		<p><i>IS</i></p>	<p><b>WORD,</b></p>
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<p>+ <sup>3</sup> it seemed-good          : who have followed <i>from the origin</i>          - <b>in an orderly manner</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALSO TO ME</b></p>	<p>ALL (things)  <b>to write</b> to <i>YOU, MOST EXCELLENT</i></p>	<p><i>accurately</i>  <b>THEOPHILUS,</b></p>
<p>= <sup>4</sup> so that you may know          concerning those of which <i>you have received</i> (as)</p>		<p><b>WORDS</b></p>	<p><i>the solidity.</i></p>

### The prologue to Ben Sira

<p>+ <sup>1</sup> Many and great (things) to us          have been <i>GIVEN</i> through <b>THE LAW, THE PROPHETS</b> <sup>2</sup> and <b>THE OTHERS</b> that followed them,  <sup>3</sup> due to these Israel should be praised for (its)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENCE</b> and for (its) <b>WISDOM,</b></p>	<p>that followed them,  <b>SCIENCE</b> and for (its) <b>WISDOM,</b></p>	
<p>:: <sup>4</sup> and it is because of not only by <b>READING</b> that one has to become instructed          = <sup>5</sup> but also for those outside <b>friends-of-learning</b> that they might become useful          :: <sup>6</sup> by speaking and by <b>WRITING,</b></p>			
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<p>+ <sup>7</sup> my grandfather Jesus having long <i>GIVEN HIMSELF</i> to  <sup>8</sup> the <b>READING</b> of <b>THE LAW,</b> <sup>9</sup> <b>THE PROPHETS</b> <sup>10</sup> and <b>THE OTHER</b> books of the fathers  <sup>11</sup> and having acquired a considerable capacity,</p>			
<p>= <sup>12</sup> was led himself also to <b>WRITE</b> something pertaining to <b>SCIENCE</b> and to <b>WISDOM,</b>          :: <sup>13</sup> so that those <b>friends-of-learning</b> by assimilating this also          :: <sup>14</sup> might make greater progress in a life conforming to <b>THE LAW.</b></p>			

The prologue of the First Letter of John (1John 1,1-3)

: <sup>1</sup>	<i>THAT WHICH</i>	WAS	from the beginning,
-----			
+	<i>THAT WHICH</i>	<i>WE HAVE HEARD,</i>	
+	<i>THAT WHICH</i>	<i>WE HAVE SEEN</i>	with <i>our own eyes,</i>
+	<i>THAT WHICH</i>	we have contemplated	
-	and (that)	<i>our hands</i>	have touched,
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:	about the	Word of	<b>THE LIFE;</b>

—	• <sup>2</sup> and	<b>THE LIFE</b>	has been manifested,
	:	<i>WE HAVE SEEN</i>	and testify
	:	PROCLAIM	to <i>you</i>
	:	<b>THE LIFE</b>	eternal,
	•	which WAS	with the <i>FATHER,</i>
	•	and it has been manifested	<i>to us;</i> —

: <sup>3</sup>	<i>THAT WHICH</i>	<i>WE HAVE SEEN</i>	<b>AND WE HAVE HEARD,</b>
::	<i>WE PROCLAIM</i>	to <i>you</i> also,	
-	so that	<i>you</i> also	may have <i>with us</i> the communion;
	:	and the communion <i>of us</i> [is]	with the <i>FATHER</i>
	:	and with the Son	Jesus Christ;
:: <sup>4</sup>	and <i>THESE</i>	<b>WE ARE WRITING</b>	<i>to you,</i>
-	so that	the joy	<i>of us</i> may be full.

# PART ONE

## The coming of Christ prepared by the messengers of the Lord

### Section A (Luke 1,5–4,13)

The first section contains eight sequences, organized in four sub-sections:

First sub-section:	THE TWO ANNUNCIATIONS	
Sequence A1:	<i>The announcement of the birth of John</i>	1,5-25
Sequence A2:	<b>The announcement of the birth of Jesus</b>	1,26-56
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Second sub-section:	THE TWO BIRTHS	
Sequence A3:	<i>The birth of John</i>	1,57-80
Sequence A4:	<b>The birth of Jesus</b>	2,1-20
Third sub-section:	THE TWO CONSECRATIONS OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE	
Sequence A5:	<b>Jesus is consecrated to the Lord</b>	2,21-40
Sequence A6:	<b>Jesus consecrates himself to his Father</b>	2,41-52
Fourth sub-section:	THE TWO PREPARATIONS OF THE COMING OF JESUS	
Sequence A7:	<i>John prepares the coming of the Christ</i>	3,1-20
Sequence A8:	<b>Jesus prepares himself for his coming</b>	3,21–4,13

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The announcement of the birth of John  
Sequence A1: Luke 1,5-25

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Introduction:	<i>“They had no child”</i>	5-7
	<i>The angel of the Lord appears to Zechariah</i>	8-12
	The announcement of the angel: <i>“Your wife will bear you a son”</i>	13-14
	<b>DOUBLE PROPHECY ABOUT JOHN</b>	15-17
	The incredulity of Zechariah: <i>“My wife is advanced in years”</i>	18
	<i>The angel of the Lord chastises Zechariah</i>	19-22
Conclusion:	<i>“Elizabeth conceived”</i>	23-25

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1. INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION (1,5-7; 23-25)

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+ <sup>5</sup> <b>IT HAPPENED</b> ,	that in the <i>DAYS</i>	of Herod,	the king	of Judea,
. (there was) a priest,	<i>his name</i>	Zechariah,	<i>of the class</i>	<i>of Abijah</i> ,
. and his wife	<i>of the daughters</i>	<i>of Aaron</i> ,	<i>and her name</i>	Elizabeth.
<hr/>				
:: <sup>6</sup> Now they were	righteous	<b>both of them</b> ,		
. before		God	walking on,	
. in all the laws	and precepts	of <b>THE LORD</b>	blameless.	
<hr/>				
- <sup>7</sup> But there was not	for them	any child,		
. because Elizabeth	<b>was</b>	<b>barren</b>		
. and <b>both of them</b>	were	advanced	in their <i>DAYS</i> .	

[...]

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+ <sup>23</sup> And <b>IT HAPPENED</b> ,				
. that when were fulfilled	the <i>DAYS</i>		of his service,	
. (that) he went away			to his house.	
<hr/>				
- <sup>24</sup> Now after these <i>DAYS</i> ,				
. <b>his wife</b>	<b>Elizabeth</b>	<b>conceived</b>		
. and she hid	herself	for five months,	saying:	
<hr/>				
:: <sup>25</sup> «Thus	has done for me	the <b>LORD</b> ,		
. in the <i>DAYS</i>	in which he concerned	himself		
. to take away	my shame	among men.»		

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## 2. THE PRIEST AND THE PEOPLE (1,8-12; 19-22)

### COMPOSITION

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: <sup>8</sup> It happened that while *he was on duty* in the turn of his class  
*BEFORE GOD*,

: <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of *the priestly office*, he was chosen by lot to **burn incense**,  
having entered *IN THE SANCTUARY* of the Lord.

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<sup>10</sup> And all the multitude of the **PEOPLE** was praying outside at the hour of **incense**.

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: <sup>11</sup> Appeared to him an angel *of the Lord*,  
standing *AT THE RIGHT OF THE ALTAR* of **incense**

: <sup>12</sup> and Zechariah was troubled having seen him,  
and fear fell upon him.

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[...]

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<sup>19</sup> And answering, the angel said to him:

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+ “I am Gabriel who stands *BEFORE GOD*;  
. and I was sent *TO SPEAK* to you  
. and to announce to you **these**.

<sup>20</sup> But behold you will be *SILENT* and *NOT ABLE* *TO SPEAK*  
: until the days in which *will come to pass* **these**,  
. because you did not believe to my *WORDS*,  
: which *will be accomplished* at their proper time.”

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<sup>21</sup> The **PEOPLE** were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delaying *IN THE SANCTUARY*.

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+ <sup>22</sup> When he came out,  
. he *WAS NOT ABLE* *TO SPEAK* to them,  
and they recognized that he had seen a vision *IN THE SANCTUARY*.

+ But he was making signs to them,  
. and remained *DEAF AND MUTE*.

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### 3. THE INCREDULITY OF ZECHARIAH (1,13-14.18)

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<sup>13</sup> *Now said to him the angel:*

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+ «Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your supplication has been heard:  
– **your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,**  
:: and you shall call the name of him John.

+ <sup>14</sup> There will be joy for you and gladness and many at the birth of him will rejoice.

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[...]

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<sup>18</sup> *Zechariah said to the angel:*

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+ «According to what shall I know this,  
:: for I myself am an old man  
– and **my wife is advanced in her days?**»

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### 4. THE PROPHECY (1,15-17)

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+ <sup>15</sup> For he will be great **BEFORE THE LORD.**  
. “Wine and strong drink he shall not drink”,  
. but of the Holy *SPIRIT* he will be full  
– even from the womb of his mother;  
: <sup>16</sup> and *many of the sons of Israel* **will he turn** **TO THE LORD THEIR GOD.**

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+ <sup>17</sup> And he will walk on **BEFORE HIM**  
. in the *SPIRIT* and power of Elijah,  
. “to **turn** the hearts of the fathers to the sons”  
. and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous,  
: to make ready **FOR THE LORD** a people well prepared.

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## 5. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN (1,5-25)

### COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

<sup>5</sup> *It happened*, that in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a priest by name of Zechariah, of the class of Abijah, and his wife was a daughter of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous, walking on **BEFORE GOD**, blameless in all the commandments and observances of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child because Elizabeth **WAS BARREN and both of them were advanced in their days**.

<sup>8</sup> *It happened*, that while Zechariah was on duty **BEFORE GOD** in the turn of his class, <sup>9</sup> that according to the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to burn incense, after having entered **IN THE SANCTUARY** of the Lord.

\* <sup>10</sup> All of the multitude of **THE PEOPLE** was praying outside at the hour of incense.

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.

<sup>12</sup> Zechariah was troubled while seeing him and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> *But the angel said to him:* «Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your supplication has been heard: **YOUR WIFE ELIZABETH WILL BEAR YOU A SON**, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice for his birth.

<sup>15</sup> He will be great **BEFORE THE LORD**; he shall not drink wine neither strong drink but he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from the womb of his mother <sup>6</sup> and he will turn **MANY OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL** to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> And he, himself, will walk **BEFORE HIM** in the spirit and the power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the sons and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready **A PEOPLE WELL PREPARED** for the Lord.»

<sup>18</sup> *Zechariah said to the angel:* «How shall I know this?  
**For I myself am an old man and my wife is advanced in her days.**»

<sup>19</sup> Answering, the angel said to him: «I am Gabriel who stands **BEFORE GOD**; I was sent to speak to you and to announce you these good news. <sup>20</sup> But behold, you will be silent and you will not be able to speak until the days in which these will come to pass, because you did not believe to my words, which will be accomplished at their time.»

\* <sup>21</sup> And **THE PEOPLE** were waiting for Zechariah and they were amazed that he was delaying **IN THE SANCTUARY**.

<sup>22</sup> When he came out, he was not able to speak to them and they recognized that he had seen a vision **IN THE SANCTUARY**; he was making signs to them and he remained deaf and mute.

<sup>23</sup> *It happened*, that when the days of his service were fulfilled, he went away to his house.

<sup>24</sup> After these days, **HIS WIFE ELIZABETH CONCEIVED** and she hid herself for five months, saying: <sup>25</sup> «Thus the Lord has done for me, in the days in which he was so kind as to take away my shame among men.»

2

The announcement of the birth of Jesus

Sequence A2: Luke 1,26-56

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<i>Introduction</i>	26-27
THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY	28-38
THE VISITATION	39-45
THE CANTICLE OF MARY	46-55
<i>Conclusion</i>	56

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1. INTRODUCTION (1,26-27)

+ <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month,	was sent	the angel	<b>GABRIEL</b>
	– from		<b>GOD</b>
	– into a city		OF GALILEE,
	– <b>by name of</b>		NAZARETH,
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	– <sup>27</sup> to a <i>virgin</i>	espoused	TO A MAN
	– <b>by name of</b>		JOSEPH,
	– from the house of		<b>DAVID</b> ,
+ and	the name	of the <i>virgin</i> (was)	<b>MARY</b> .

## 2. THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY (1,28-38)

<sup>28</sup> ENTERING UNTO HER, [the angel] said:  
 . «Rejoice, full of grace, the *Lord* is with you.»  
<sup>29</sup> At this *WORD*, she was troubled  
 . and she was asking what kind of this greeting might be.

<sup>30</sup> *The angel said to her:*  
 \* «Do not be afraid, Mary,  
 \* for you have found favor WITH GOD.  
 . <sup>31</sup> And behold, YOU WILL CONCEIVE in (your) womb,  
 . and you will bear a son  
 . and you shall call his name Jesus.  
 -----  
 = <sup>32</sup> He will be *GREAT* and will be called SON OF THE MOST HIGH.  
 -----  
 - The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father;  
 - <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob for the ages  
 - and of his reign there will be no end.»

<sup>34</sup> *Mary said to the angel:*

«HOW SHALL THIS BE,  
 SINCE I DO NOT KNOW A MAN?»

<sup>35</sup> *Answering, the angel said to her:*  
 - «The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
 - and the power of the Most High will cover you with his shadow.  
 -----  
 = Therefore he to be born *HOLY* will be called SON OF GOD.  
 -----  
 . <sup>36</sup> And behold, Elizabeth your relative, has also CONCEIVED a son in her old age,  
 . and this is the sixth month for her (who was) called barren,  
 \* <sup>37</sup> because nothing will be impossible WITH GOD.»

<sup>38</sup> *Now Mary said:*  
 . Behold, the maid-servant of the *Lord*,  
 . let it happen to me according to your *WORD*.»  
 And the angel DEPARTED FROM HER.

### 3. THE VISITATION (1,39-45)

.<sup>39</sup> *Having stood up Mary* *in those days,*  
. *went in haste* *towards the hill country into a city of Judah.*

.<sup>40</sup> *She entered into the house of* *Zechariah*  
. *and greeted* *Elizabeth.*

=<sup>41</sup> And **IT HAPPENED**, that **WHEN** Elizabeth heard **THE GREETING** of Mary,  
= **THE BABY** **LEAPED** **IN HER WOMB.**

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. *And Elizabeth* *was filled* *with the Holy Spirit*  
. <sup>42</sup> *and she exclaimed* *an outcry* *and said.*

: **«BLESSED** **are you** **among women**  
: **and BLESSED** **is the fruit** **of your womb!**

<sup>43</sup> And whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord may come to me?

=<sup>44</sup> For behold, **WHEN IT HAPPENED** the voice of **YOUR GREETING** into my ears,  
= **THE BABY** **LEAPED** in a great joy **IN MY WOMB.**

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:<sup>45</sup> **HAPPY** **is she who has believed**  
: **that there would be a fulfilment to what was spoken to her by the Lord.»**

4. THE CANTICLE OF MARY (1,46-55)

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said:

· «My soul	proclaims the <b>greatness</b> (of) <b>THE LORD</b>	
· <sup>47</sup> and my spirit	exults	in <b>GOD</b> , my savior,
– <sup>48</sup> <i>because</i> he has regarded	<b>THE HUMILIATION</b>	of <b>HIS MAID-SERVANT</b> .
-----		
· For behold,	<i>from now on</i>	
· will call me happy	<i>all ages,</i>	
– <sup>49</sup> <i>because</i> <b>THE MIGHTY</b>	<b>HAS DONE</b> for me <b>great</b> (things).	

And holy (is)	his Name
<sup>50</sup> and <b>HIS MERCY</b> (is)	<i>from age to age</i>
to those who fear	him.

+ <sup>51</sup> <b>HE HAS DONE</b>	<b>might</b>	with his arm,
– he has dispersed	<i>the arrogant</i>	in mind of their heart.
– <sup>52</sup> He has put down	<b>THE MIGHTIES</b>	from thrones,
+ and he has lifted up	<b>THE HUMBLER</b> .	
+ <sup>53</sup> <i>The hungry</i>	he has filled	with good things,
– and <i>the rich</i>	he has sent away	empty.
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:: <sup>54</sup> He has helped	Israel,	<b>HIS SERVANT</b> ,
:: remembering	<b>HIS MERCY</b> ,	
= <sup>55</sup> as	he has said	to our fathers,
= to Abraham	and his descendants	<i>into the age.</i> »

The canticle of Hannah (1Sam 2,1-10)

<sup>1</sup> Then Hannah prayed and said:

: Has exulted	my heart	in <b>THE LORD</b> ,
: <b>is lifted up</b>	<b>my horn</b> <sup>1</sup>	in <b>THE LORD</b> ;
- my mouth has been large	over my enemies	
- for I have rejoiced	in your salvation.	

- <sup>2</sup>	There is no one Holy	as <b>THE LORD</b> ;
- <b>Indeed</b>	there is no one	except you
- and	there is no Rock	as our God.
. <sup>3</sup>	Do not multiply,	
. (do not) speak	haughty discourses,	
. (do not) let out	arrogance	from your mouth.
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- <b>Indeed</b>	God of knowledge	(is) <b>THE LORD</b>
- and by	him actions	are estimated.

+ <sup>4</sup>	The bows of the <b>MIGHTIES</b>	are broken,	the <b>STUMBLING</b>	gird on	strength.
+ <sup>5</sup>	The <b>SATIATED</b>	for bread	the <b>HUNGRY</b>	are fat	with spoil.
+ The <b>BARREN</b>	bears	seven times,	the <b>ABOUNDING</b>	with sons	languishes.
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<sup>6</sup> <b>THE LORD</b>	puts to death	and gives life,	he brings down to Sheol	and raises-up.	
<sup>7</sup> <b>THE LORD</b>	dispossesses	and enriches,	he humbles	and exalts.	
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+ <sup>8</sup>	He raises from the dust	the <b>POOR</b>	and from the dunghill	he lifts up the <b>NEEDY</b>	
+ to seat them	with the <b>NOBLES</b>	and a throne	of glory	he makes <b>INHERIT</b> .	

- <b>Indeed</b> to <b>THE LORD</b>	<i>the pillars</i>	<i>of the earth:</i>
- and he has set	upon them	the world.
-----		
- <sup>9</sup>	The feet	of his faithful
- and the wicked		in the darkness
		he guards
		are silenced.
. <b>Indeed</b> , not by power	does man	be mighty;
. <sup>10</sup> <b>THE LORD</b> ,	shall be shattered	his adversaries.
. Against them	in the heaven	he will thunder;
. <b>THE LORD</b>	will judge	<i>the ends of the earth.</i>

He gives	strength	to his King,
<b>he lifts up</b>	<b>the horn</b>	of his Messiah.

5. CONCLUSION (1,56)

: Now	Mary	<b>REMAINED</b>	<i>with her</i>	about three months,
: and	she	<b>RETURNED</b>	<i>to her house.</i>	

<sup>1</sup> The horn, like that of the bull, is a symbol of power.

## 6. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS (1,26-56)

<sup>26</sup> In *the sixth month*, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee by name of Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin, espoused to a man by name of Joseph, from the house of David, and the name of the virgin was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> Coming in unto her, the angel said: «Rejoice, **FULL OF GRACE**, the Lord is with you.» <sup>29</sup> To this word, she was troubled and she was asking what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her: «Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Behold, you will conceive in your womb and you will bear a son and you shall name him **Jesus**.

<sup>32</sup> He will be **GREAT** and **WILL BE CALLED SON OF THE MOST HIGH**. The Lord God will give him the *throne* of David his father <sup>33</sup> and he will reign *for ever* over **the house of Jacob** and his reign *will have no end*.»

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel: «How shall this be, since I do not know a man?»

<sup>35</sup> Answering, the angel said to her: «The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the **POWER** of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore he who is to be born **HOLY WILL BE CALLED SON OF GOD**.

<sup>36</sup> And behold, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age and this is *the sixth month* for her who was called **BARREN**. <sup>37</sup> Because nothing will be impossible for God.»

<sup>38</sup> Mary said: «Behold, the **MAID-SERVANT** of the Lord, let it happen to me according to *your word*.» And the angel left from her.

<sup>39</sup> *In those days* Mary set out to travel in haste towards the hill country into a city of Judah.

<sup>40</sup> She entered in the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And it happened, that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed in a loud voice and said: «Blessed are you among women and **BLESSED** is the fruit of your womb!

<sup>43</sup> And how is it happened to me that the mother of my **LORD** may come to me?

<sup>44</sup> For behold: at the moment the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped in a great joy in my womb. <sup>45</sup> Happy is **SHE WHO HAS BELIEVED** that there would be a fulfilment to *what was spoken to her* by the Lord.»

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said: «My soul **MAGNIFIES** the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit exults in God my **Savior**, <sup>48</sup> because he has regarded **THE HUMILIATION** of **HIS MAID-SERVANT**. From now on **all generations** will call me **HAPPY**, <sup>49</sup> because **THE MIGHTY** has done for me **GREAT THINGS**.

**HOLY** is **HIS NAME**

<sup>50</sup> and his mercy is **from generations to generations** to those who fear him.

<sup>51</sup> He has done might with his arm, he has dispersed the arrogant in mind of their heart. <sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from *thrones* and he has **LIFTED UP** the **HUMBLES**. <sup>53</sup> The hungry he has filled with good things and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped **Israel**, **HIS SERVANT**, remembering his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as *he has said* to our fathers, in favor of **ABRAHAM** and his descendants *for ever*.»

<sup>56</sup> Mary remained with her about *three months* and then returned to her house.



3

The birth of John  
Sequence A3: Luke 1,57-80

The birth of the child	57-58
THE CIRCUMCISION OF JOHN AND OF ZECHARIAH	59-64
QUESTION ABOUT THE CHILD	65-66
THE BLESSING OF GOD AND OF JOHN	67-79
The growth of the child	80

## 1. THE BIRTH OF JOHN (1,57-58)

+ <sup>57</sup> For <i>Elizabeth</i>	was fulfilled	the time	
– in which she (had)	to bear		
.. <b>and</b> she gave birth	a son.		
+ <sup>58</sup> And heard	the neighbors	and the relatives	<i>of her</i>
– that the Lord	had magnified	his mercy	<i>with her</i>
.. <b>and</b> they were rejoicing-with			<i>her.</i>

## 2. THE CIRCUMCISION OF JOHN AND ZECHARIAH (1,59-64)

\* <sup>59</sup> And it happened, that      on the eighth      day      they came  
:: to circumcise      the child.

+ They <b>WERE CALLING HIM</b>
+ by <b>name</b> of his father Zechariah.
– <sup>60</sup> Answering, his mother <i>said:</i>
= « <b>No, but he SHALL BE CALLED JOHN!</b> »
:: <sup>61</sup> They said to her:
:: «There is nobody among your relatives
:: who <b>IS CALLED</b> by this <b>name!</b> »
-----
+ <sup>62</sup> They were making signs to his father
+ how he would want him <b>TO BE CALLED.</b>
– <sup>63</sup> Having asked for a tablet, <i>he wrote:</i>
= « <b>JOHN is his name!</b> »
:: And all were amazed.

\* <sup>64</sup> His mouth      was opened      immediately      and his tongue  
:: and he was speaking      blessing      God.

### 3. QUESTION ABOUT THE CHILD (1,65-66)

+ <sup>65</sup> And fear	came	upon <b>all</b>	the neighbors	of them.
-----				
And in <b>the entire</b> hill country of Judea were discussed <b>all</b> these things <sup>66</sup> and <b>all</b> who heard put (them) in their heart saying:			«WHAT, THEN, WILL THIS CHILD BE?»	
-----				
+ For indeed	the hand	of the Lord	was	with him.

### 4. THE BLESSING OF GOD AND JOHN (1,67-79)

#### A. The first part (68-75)

– THE FIRST SUB-PART (68a) is a bimember in four terms:

Blessed be    the Lord,  
God            of Israel,

– THE SECOND SUB-PART (68b-75)

#### a) *The first piece* (68b-71)

---

+ because he	has visited	and done	redemption	for the people of	<b>HIM</b>
+ <sup>69</sup> <b>and</b> he	has raised up	a horn	of <b>SALVATION</b>	for	us
	. in the house	of David,		servant	of <b>HIM,</b>
	<sup>70</sup> as he has spoken				
	. by the mouth	of his holy	from ancient times	prophets	of <b>HIM,</b>
+ <sup>71</sup> <b>SALVATION</b>	from	enemies		of	us,
+ <b>and</b>	from the hand	of all	who hate		us.

---

#### b) *The second piece* (72-73a)

+ <sup>72</sup> *to do*            **mercy**            with            **THE FATHERS**    OF    US  
and *to remember*    the holy            **covenant**            of    him  
+ <sup>73</sup> **an oath**            he swore            to Abraham    **THE FATHER**    OF    US

c) *The third piece* (73b-75)

---

+ to GRANT us, <sup>74</sup> **without fear,**  
. rescued *from* the hand of enemies  
+ <sup>75</sup> (to) SERVE him **in piety and justice,**  
. *before* him all the days of us.

---

d) *The whole of the second sub-part* (68b-75)

---

+ because he has visited and **done redemption** **for the people** of him  
+ <sup>69</sup> and he has raised up a horn of salvation for **US**  
in the house of *DAVID*, his servant,  
<sup>70</sup> as he has spoken  
by the mouth of his *holy* prophets from ancient times,  
: <sup>71</sup> **salvation** from our ENEMIES,  
: and **FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US,**  
-----  
<sup>72</sup> to **do mercy** **with the fathers** of **US**  
and to remember his *holy* covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> an oath he swore to *ABRAHAM*, the father of **US,**  
-----  
: to grant us, <sup>74</sup> without fear,  
: **rescued** **FROM THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES,**  
+ <sup>75</sup> to serve him in sanctity and justice  
+ before him (for) all the days of **US**.

---

B. The second part (76-79)

– THE FIRST SUB-PART (76ab)

: <sup>76</sup> And you also, **child,**  
: **prophet of the Most High** you will be called!

– THE SECOND SUB-PART (76c-79) contains three pieces.

a) *The first piece (76c-77)* is formed by two bimember segments.

---

.	For	You will walk on	before	the	<b>LORD</b>
.	to	<b>PREPARE</b>	the ways	of	<b>HIM,</b>
+ <sup>77</sup>	to	<b>GIVE</b> knowledge	of salvation	to	<b>people of him</b>
+		in the forgiveness	of sins	of	<b>them</b>

---

b) *The second piece (78)*

through *the bowels* of **MERCY** *of God* of **us**  
in *which* **WILL VISIT us** *he who rises* from on high.

c) *The last piece (79)*

to **SHINE ON** those who *sit* in the darkness and the shadow **of death**  
to **GUIDE** the *feet* of us into the way **of peace**

d) *These three pieces form a sub-part of concentric construction:*

---

+ <sup>76c</sup> For **YOU WILL WALK ON** before the Lord

+ to prepare his *ways*,

: <sup>77</sup> to **GIVE KNOWLEDGE** of salvation to his people

: in the forgiveness of their **sins**,

-----  
<sup>78</sup> because of the bowels of mercy of our God  
in which will visit us he who rises from on high,  
-----

: <sup>79</sup> to **SHINE ON** those who sit in the darkness and the shadow of **death**

+ to **GUIDE** our path in the *way* of peace.”

---

### C. The whole song

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<sup>67</sup> Zechariah his father was filled with THE HOLY SPIRIT  
and he **PROPHESIED** saying:

= <sup>68</sup> «Blessed be the Lord,            God of **ISRAEL**,

+ for he has **visited** and made **redemption** *FOR HIS PEOPLE*  
+ <sup>69</sup> and he has raised up a horn of **SALVATION** *for us*  
          in the house of David his servant,  
          <sup>70</sup> as he has spoken  
          by the mouth of his holy **PROPHETS** from of old,  
. <sup>71</sup> **SALVATION** from our **ENEMIES**  
. and from the hand of all who hate us

-----  
- <sup>72</sup> to do **MERCY** *with our fathers*  
          and to remember his holy covenant,  
- <sup>73</sup> an oath he swore to Abraham our father

-----  
. to grant us, <sup>74</sup> without fear,  
. **rescued** from the hand of our **ENEMIES**,  
+ <sup>75</sup> to serve him in sanctity and justice  
+ **BEFORE** him (for) all our days.

= <sup>76</sup> And you also, **CHILD**,            you will be called **PROPHET** of the Most High,

+ for you will walk on **BEFORE** the Lord  
+ to prepare his ways,  
. <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of **SALVATION** *FOR HIS PEOPLE*  
          in the forgiveness of their **SINS**,

-----  
          <sup>78</sup> because of the heart of **MERCY** of our God  
          in which he **will visit** us one who rises from on high

-----  
. <sup>79</sup> to shine on those who are seated in the darkness and the shadow of **DEATH**  
+ to guide our path in the way of peace.»

### 5. THE GROWTH OF THE CHILD (1,80)

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+ <sup>80</sup> The child            **grew up**  
+ and **became-strong**    in spirit

          : and he was            *in the deserts*  
          : until the days        *of his manifestation*        to Israel.

---

## 6. THE BIRTH OF JOHN (1,57-80)

### COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

<sup>57</sup> For Elizabeth, the time in which she had to bear **WAS FULFILLED** and she gave birth to a **SON**. <sup>58</sup> Her **neighbors** and relatives **heard** that the **LORD** had made great his **MERCY** with **her** and they were rejoicing with her.

<sup>59</sup> *And it happened*, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise **THE CHILD**. They were calling him by name of his father Zechariah.  
<sup>60</sup> Answering, his mother said: **«NO, BUT HE SHALL BE CALLED JOHN!»**  
<sup>61</sup> They said to her: «There is none among your relatives who is called by this name!» <sup>62</sup> Then they were making signs to his father how he would want him to be called. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a tablet and wrote: **«JOHN IS HIS NAME.»**  
They were **all** amazed.  
<sup>64</sup> *Suddenly was opened his mouth and his tongue*  
*and he WAS SPEAKING BY BLESSING GOD.*

<sup>65</sup> *And it happened* that fear came upon **all** their **neighbors**.  
And in **the entire** hill country of Judea were being discussed **all** these words.  
<sup>66</sup> And **all** those who **heard** them put them in their hearts saying:  
**«WHAT, THEN, WILL THIS CHILD BE?»**  
For indeed the hand of the **LORD** was with him.

<sup>67</sup> *Zechariah his father WAS FILLED with THE HOLY SPIRIT*  
*and he PROPHESED saying:* <sup>68</sup> **«BLESSED BE the LORD, GOD of Israel,**  
for he has visited and made redemption for his people. <sup>69</sup> And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant, <sup>70</sup> as he has said by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us  
<sup>72</sup> to do **MERCY** with our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> an oath he had sworn to Abraham our father  
to grant us, <sup>74</sup> without fear, rescued from the hand of our enemies, <sup>75</sup> to serve in sanctity and justice before him for all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> **AND YOU ALSO, CHILD, YOU WILL BE CALLED PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH:**  
For you will walk on before the **LORD** to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation for his people in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> because of the heart of **MERCY** of our God  
in which he who rises from on high will visit us  
<sup>79</sup> to shine on those who are seated in the darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our path in the way of peace.»

<sup>80</sup> **THE CHILD** grew up and became strong in **SPIRIT** and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to **Israel**.

4

The birth of Jesus  
Sequence A4: Luke 2,1-20

*THE BIRTH OF THE SON OF DAVID IN BETHLEHEM*

1-7

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANGELS TO THE SHEPHERDS

8-14

*THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS TO THE INFANT OF BETHLEHEM*

15-20



1. THE BIRTH OF THE SON OF DAVID IN BETHLEHEM (2,1-7)

. <sup>1</sup> IT HAPPENED	in those	<i>DAYS</i>
. that came out	a decree	from <i>CAESAR AUGUSTUS</i>
. to <b>take a census of</b>	<i>all</i>	<i>the world.</i>
	: <sup>2</sup> This was <b>THE FIRST</b>	<b>census</b>
	: under the governor	of Syria
		<b>happened</b>
		<i>QUIRINIUS.</i>
. <sup>3</sup> And	<i>all</i>	were going
. everyone		into his own
		to <b>be registered,</b>
		<i>city.</i>

+ <sup>4</sup> Went up also	<i>Joseph</i>	from Galilee,	from <i>the city</i> of <i>Nazareth,</i>
	· towards Judea,		to <i>the city</i> of <i>DAVID</i>
		which	is called Bethlehem
	· because he was	of the house	and of the lineage of <i>DAVID,</i>
+ <sup>5</sup> to <b>be registered</b>	with <i>Mary</i>	his spouse,	being <i>pregnant.</i>

. <sup>6</sup> IT HAPPENED,	while they	were	<i>there</i>
. that were fulfilled	<i>THE DAYS</i>	of	<i>her giving birth.</i>
	: <sup>7</sup> And <i>she gave birth</i>	<i>HER SON</i>	<b>THE FIRST-born.</b>
. And <i>she wrapped up</i>	him	in cloths	
. and put	him	to sleep	<i>in a manger,</i>
. because there was no	for them	place	<i>in the inn.</i>

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANGELS TO THE SHEPHERDS (2,8-14)

+ <sup>8</sup> Some shepherds	were	in that	region
+ lodging	in the fields	and guarding	by night
+ over the flock	of them.		
. <sup>9</sup> An <b>ANGEL</b>	of the <b>LORD</b>	stood	before <b>THEM</b>
. and the <b>GLORY</b>	of the <b>LORD</b>	shone	around <b>THEM</b> .

And they feared  
of a great fear  
<sup>10</sup> and **THE ANGEL**  
said to them:  
«Do not be afraid!

+ For behold,	I announce	<i>for you</i>	
: a great	joy,		
: which	will be	<b>FOR ALL THE PEOPLE:</b>	
	<sup>11</sup> because was born	<i>for you</i>	today
	a <b>SAVIOR</b>	who is <b>CHRIST LORD</b>	of David.
	in the city		
+ <sup>12</sup> And this	<i>for you</i>	a sign:	
: you will find	an infant	wrapped up in cloths	
: and	laid	in a manger.»	

+ <sup>13</sup> And suddenly	there was	with <b>THE ANGEL</b>
+ a multitude	of the host	of heaven
+ praising	<b>GOD</b>	and saying:
. <sup>14</sup> « <b>GLORY</b>	in the highest	to <b>GOD</b>
. and on the earth	peace	<b>FOR MEN</b> of (his) good will!»

### 3. THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS TO THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM (2,15-20)

+ <sup>15</sup> And it happened, that just as the angels went away	from <i>them</i> into heaven,	
+ <b>THE SHEPHERDS</b>	<b>were saying</b>	among <i>them</i> :
· « <i>Let us go</i> then	to Bethlehem	
- and <b>LET US SEE</b>	this FACT	that has happened
- that <b>THE LORD</b>	HAS MADE KNOWN	<i>to us.</i> »
-----		
: <sup>16</sup> And <i>they went</i>	in haste	
: and found	<b>Mary</b>	and <b>Joseph</b>
: and <b>THE NEW-BORN</b>	laid	in the manger.

= <sup>17</sup> <b>HAVING SEEN,</b>	THEY MADE KNOWN	
. about the FACT	<b>that had been said</b>	<b>to them</b>
about this	INFANT.	
= <sup>18</sup> And all those who	<b>HEARD</b>	were amazed
. about what	<b>had been said</b> by	the shepherds <b>to them.</b>

: <sup>19</sup> And <b>Mary</b>	was keeping	<i>all</i> these FACTS
:	meditating	in her heart.
-----		
+ <sup>20</sup> And returned	<b>THE SHEPHERDS,</b>	
· glorifying	and praising	<b>GOD</b>
- for <i>all</i> that they	<b>HAD HEARD</b>	<b>AND SEEN,</b>
- just as it	<b>had been said</b>	<i>to them.</i>

#### 4. THE BIRTH OF JESUS (2,1-20)

<sup>1</sup> **IT HAPPENED**, that in those days came out a decree from Caesar Augustus to COUNT *all the universe*. <sup>2</sup> This first COUNT took place when the governor of Syria was Quirinius. <sup>3</sup> And *all* were going to be COUNTED, everyone into his own city.

<sup>4</sup> **JOSEPH** also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth towards Judea, to the city of **DAVID** which is called **Bethlehem**, because he was of the house and of the descendants of **DAVID**,  
<sup>5</sup> to BE COUNTED with **MARY**, his spouse who was pregnant.

<sup>6</sup> It happened, that while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her *bearing*.

<sup>7</sup> And she *bore* her son first-born infant;

*she wrapped him up in cloths and put him to sleep in a MANGER* because there was no place *FOR THEM* in the guest-room.

<sup>8</sup> *SOME SHEPHERDS* were in the same region lodging out-in-the fields and passing the night to guard over their flock. <sup>9</sup> An **ANGEL** of the **LORD** stood before them and the *glory* of the **LORD** shone around them.

They were struck with a great fear <sup>10</sup> but **THE ANGEL** said to them: «Do not be afraid! For behold, I announce *TO YOU* a great joy which will be for *all the people*:

<sup>11</sup> *has been born FOR YOU* today  
a savior who is Christ **LORD**  
*in the city of DAVID*.

<sup>12</sup> And this will be *FOR YOU* a sign:

you will find *a new-born wrapped up in cloths and laid in a MANGER.*»

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with **THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST** praising **GOD** and SAYING: <sup>14</sup> *Glory* in the highest to **GOD** and on the earth peace for *men* whom he loves!»

<sup>15</sup> And **IT HAPPENED**, that just as **THE ANGELS** went away from them into heaven, *THE SHEPHERDS* WERE RECOUNTING to one another: «Come, let us go to **Bethlehem**, and see these words that have happened as the **LORD** has *MADE KNOWN TO US.*»

<sup>16</sup> They went in haste and found **MARY** and **JOSEPH** and *the new-born laid in a MANGER.*

<sup>17</sup> Having seen, they *MADE KNOWN* about the word that *HAD BEEN RECOUNTED TO THEM* concerning the infant.

<sup>18</sup> And *all* those who heard were amazed at what *HAD BEEN RECOUNTED TO THEM* by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> As for **MARY**, she was keeping *all* these words, meditating in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> And *THE SHEPHERDS* returned, *glorifying* and *praising GOD* for *all* that they had heard and seen just as it *HAD BEEN RECOUNTED TO THEM.*

5

Jesus is consecrated to the Lord

Sequence A5: Luke 2,21-40

Circumcision and presentation of Jesus at the Temple 21-24

*The prophet Simeon receives the consolation of Israel* 25-28a

The double blessing of the prophet 28b-35

*The prophetess Anna receives the redemption of Jerusalem* 36-38

Return and growth of Jesus at Nazareth 39-40

## 1. CIRCUMCISION AND PRESENTATION OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE (2,21-24)

+ <sup>21</sup> WHEN WERE FULFILLED	THE EIGHT DAYS	of his <b>circumcision</b>
. he	<b>WAS CALLED</b>	by name <b>JESUS</b>
. (as) it had	<b>BEEN CALLED</b>	by the angel
+ before he was conceived		<b>in the womb.</b>

+ <sup>22</sup> WHEN WERE FULFILLED	THE DAYS	of their <b>purification,</b>
: <b>ACCORDING TO</b>		<b>THE LAW OF MOSES,</b>
= they brought him up		to Jerusalem,
+ (to) be <b>presented</b>		to the Lord,
: <sup>23</sup> <b>AS</b>	<i>it is written</i>	in <b>THE LAW OF THE LORD:</b>
	-----	
= «Every male	opening	<b>the womb</b>
= <b>HOLY</b>	for the Lord	<b>HE SHALL BE CALLED»</b>
	-----	
+ <sup>24</sup> and (to) give		an offering sacrifice,
: <b>ACCORDING TO</b> <i>what is said</i>	in	<b>THE LAW OF THE LORD,</b>
= «a pair of turtledoves	or	two young pigeons.»

## 2. THE PROPHET SIMEON RECEIVES THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL (2,25-28a)

+ <sup>25</sup> Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem		by name of Simeon,
- and this man was just and pious,		
. <b>WAITING FOR</b>		<b>THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL.</b>
: And <b>THE HOLY SPIRIT</b> was upon him.		
	-----	
<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him	by <b>THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	
that he would not see	the death	
before he had seen	<b>THE CHRIST</b>	<b>OF THE LORD.</b>
	-----	
: <sup>27</sup> And he came in the <b>SPIRIT</b> to the Temple.		
+ And when the parents brought in	<i>the child</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
- to do according to what is said in the Law about him,		
. <sup>28</sup> <b>HE RECEIVED</b>	<b>HIM</b>	in his arms.

### 3. THE DOUBLE BLESSING OF THE PROPHET (2,28b-35)

28b	<i>And HE BLESSED God</i>	<i>AND HE SAID:</i>
-----		
+ 29	«Now, Master,	let go your servant
+ in peace		according to your word;
	· 30 because my eyes	have seen <b>YOUR SALVATION,</b>
	· 31 which you	have prepared before the face of <i>all the peoples,</i>
+ 32	a light <i>FOR REVELATION</i>	<i>to the nations</i>
+ and	glory of	<i>your people Israel.»</i>

33	His father and his mother were amazed at <b>WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT HIM.</b>
----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

34	<i>And Simeon BLESSED THEM</i>	<i>AND HE SAID to Mary, his mother:</i>
-----		
+ «Behold: this (one) is set	<i>FOR</i> the fall	
+ and the rise	<i>of many in Israel,</i>	
	· to be	<b>A SIGN</b> (that is) <b>CONTRADICTED</b>
	· 35 – and you	your soul, will be passed through by a sword –
+ so that	may be <i>REVEALED</i>	
+ the reasoning	of <i>many hearts.»</i>	

4. THE PROPHETESS ANNA RECEIVES THE REDEMPTION OF JERUSALEM (2,36-38)

+ <sup>36</sup> There was also	Anna	the prophetess,
: the daughter	of Phanuel,	
: of the tribe	of Asher,	
· — she	(was) advanced	<i>in many days,</i>
· having lived	with a husband	<i>seven years from her virginity,</i>
· <sup>37</sup> and she	(was) a widow	<i>until she was eighty-four —</i>
+ she	never left	the Temple,
: by fasting	and praying	serving
: night	and day.	
-----		
- <sup>38</sup> And at that hour	coming forward,	
	: she was giving thanks to <b>GOD</b>	
	: and was speaking about <b>HIM</b>	
- to all who were waiting for		<b>THE REDEMPTION OF JERUSALEM.</b>

5. RETURN AND GROWTH OF JESUS AT NAZARETH (2,39-40)

+ <sup>39</sup> When had been accomplished	all (that it is) according to	<b>THE LAW OF THE LORD</b>
· they returned	to	Galilee,
· to their city	of	Nazareth,
[as it had been said by the Prophet: «NAZARENE HE WILL BE CALLED»].		
· <sup>40</sup> The child grew up	and became strong	
· being filled	with wisdom	
+ and <b>THE GRACE OF GOD</b>	was upon him.	



## 6. JESUS IS CONSECRATED TO THE LORD (2,21-40)

### COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

<sup>21</sup> WHEN the eight days WERE FULFILLED for his circumcision, he was CALLED by name JESUS, as (it had been) called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> AND WHEN the days WERE FULFILLED for their purification according to the Law of Moses, THEY BROUGHT HIM UP TO JERUSALEM to be presented to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> as it is written in the Law of the Lord: «Every male that opens the womb will be CALLED HOLY FOR THE LORD,» <sup>24</sup> and to give an offering sacrifice, according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, «a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.»

<sup>25</sup> Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem by name of SIMEON and this man was just and pious, AWAITING THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL. And the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed by the Holy Spirit that he would not see the death before he had seen THE CHRIST OF THE LORD. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit to the TEMPLE. And when the parents brought the child Jesus in to do according to what is said in the Law about him, <sup>28</sup> he received him in his arms.

And he blessed God and he said: <sup>29</sup> «Now, Master, let your servant go in peace according to your word <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen YOUR SALVATION <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the nations and glory of your people Israel.»

<sup>33</sup> His father and his mother were amazed at WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT HIM.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed him and he said to Mary his mother: «Behold, this one is set for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, to be A CONTRADICTED SIGN <sup>35</sup> — and you, a sword will pierce through your soul — so that may be revealed the reasoning of many hearts.»

<sup>36</sup> There was also ANNA the prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very advanced in days; having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, <sup>37</sup> she had remained a widow until she was eighty-four years old. She never left the TEMPLE, serving night and day with fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Came forward at that time, she was giving thanks to God and SHE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT HIM to all who were AWAITING THE RANSOM OF JERUSALEM.

<sup>39</sup> AND WHEN all that is according to the Law of the Lord HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THEY RETURNED TO GALILEE, TO THEIR CITY OF NAZARETH [as it had been said by the prophet: «He will be CALLED NAZARENE»]. <sup>40</sup> The child grew up and became strong, being filled with the wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

## 6

## Jesus consecrates himself to his Father

## Sequence A6: Luke 2,41-52

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Jesus goes up	to Jerusalem	for the Passover	41-43b
<i>The parents of Jesus do not know that he has remained at Jerusalem</i>			43c
They look for him	among their relatives		
but they find him	in the Temple		44-46
ALL ARE AMAZED OF THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE BOY			47-48a
Mary rebukes him	for his conduct to his parents		
but he answered	that he should have to be with his Father		48b-49
<i>The parents of Jesus do not understand his word</i>			50
Jesus returns	to Nazareth	in which he grows up	51-52

---

COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

+ <sup>41</sup> His parents were going . every <i>year</i> <b>TO JERUSALEM</b>	for the feast of Passover.
+ <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve <i>years</i> old, . his parents <small>WENT UP</small> with him	according to the custom of the feast.
+ <sup>43</sup> Having accomplished the days, . while they were returning,	the boy Jesus stayed behind <b>IN JERUSALEM</b> .

: And his parents *did not know (it)*.

- <sup>44</sup> Now thinking . that he was	<b>IN THE CARAVAN,</b>
- they went <i>a day's</i> journey, . and they <i>were</i> looking for him	<b>AMONG THEIR RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES.</b>
-----	
<sup>45</sup> <i>NOT FINDING HIM,</i> they returned	<b>TO JERUSALEM</b> <i>LOOKING FOR HIM.</i>
-----	
- <sup>46</sup> And it happened	that after <i>three days</i>
- <i>THEY FOUND HIM</i>	<b>IN THE TEMPLE,</b>
- sitting	<b>IN THE MIDST OF THE TEACHERS,</b>
. listening to them	
. and questioning them.	

<sup>47</sup> And all <i>were amazed</i>	<i>in hearing him</i>
<b>AT THE INTELLIGENCE OF HIS ANSWERS.</b>	
<sup>48</sup> <i>Having seen him</i>	<i>they were astonished.</i>

- And his mother	said to him:
: «My child, <i>why</i>	have you done to us like this?
. Behold, <b>YOUR FATHER AND I</b>	being anxious
. <i>WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.</i> »	
-----	
- <sup>49</sup> And he	said to them:
:	« <i>Why</i> <i>WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?</i>
. Did you not know	
. that I must be	<b>WITH MY FATHER?»</b>

: <sup>50</sup> But they *did not understand* the word that he *said* to them.

+ <sup>51</sup> And he <small>WENT DOWN</small> with them . and came <b>TO NAZARETH</b>	and he was subject to them.
And his mother was keeping all these <i>words</i> in her heart.	
+ <sup>52</sup> And Jesus was increasing . in wisdom, stature and grace	before <b>GOD</b> and <b>MEN</b> .

7

John prepares the coming of Christ

Sequence A7: Luke 3,1-20

<i>God sends John to preach</i>	1-3
John announces to the crowds the coming of God's judgment	4-9
JOHN CALLS ON EVERYONE TO PRACTICE JUSTICE	10-14
John announces to all the coming of Christ's Judgment	15-17
<i>Herod prevents John from evangelizing</i>	18-20

1. GOD SENDS JOHN TO PREACH (3,1-3)

+ <sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year	<i>OF THE EMPIRE</i>	of	<b>TIBERIUS CAESAR,</b>
-----			
- <i>governor</i>	<b>PONTIUS PILATE</b>		of Judea,
. and <i>tetrarch</i>	<i>of Galilee</i>		<b>HEROD,</b>
. <b>PHILIP</b> his brother,	<i>tetrarch</i>		<i>of Iturea and Trachonitis,</i>
. and <b>LYSANIAS</b>	<i>of Abilene</i>		<i>tetrarch,</i>
-----			
+ <sup>2</sup> at the time	<i>OF THE HIGH PRIEST</i>		<b>ANNAS and CAIAPHAS,</b>

= came	the word	of God	
: upon John	the son	of Zechariah	<i>in the desert</i>
: <sup>3</sup> and he came	<i>into the entire</i>	<i>region</i>	<i>of the Jordan,</i>
= proclaiming	a baptism	of repentance	for the forgiveness of sins.

2. JOHN ANNOUNCES TO THE CROWDS THE COMING OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (4-9)

<sup>4</sup> As it is *WRITTEN* in the book of the *WORDS* of Isaiah the prophet,

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+ « <b>A voice</b>	of one crying out	in the desert:
- Prepare : make	the <i>way</i> <i>straight</i>	of the Lord, the paths of him!

---

. <sup>5</sup> Every . and every	ravine mountain and hill	shall be filled shall be lowered.
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------

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: And shall be - and the rough	the crooked into <i>ways</i>	<i>straight</i> smooth
+ <sup>6</sup> and <i>shall see</i>	<b>ALL FLESH</b>	the salvation of God!»,

<sup>7</sup> he *SAID* then to the crowds who were coming out to be baptized by him:

---

+ «Brood = to flee from	of vipers, <i>the wrath</i>	who taught you that is coming?
- <sup>8</sup> <b>MAKE</b> therefore : worthy		<b>FRUITS</b> of the repentance.

---

. Do not begin to <i>say</i> - "As <b>FATHER</b>	to yourselves: we have	<b>Abraham!</b> "
. For I <i>say</i> to you: - God - raise up	can <b>CHILDREN</b>	from these stones to <b>Abraham</b> .

---

= <sup>9</sup> But already + at the root	<i>the axe</i> of the trees	is placed:
- <b>EVERY TREE</b> therefore : will be cut down	that does not <b>MAKE</b> and into fire	good <b>FRUIT</b> will be thrown.»

Isa 40,1-11

+ <sup>1</sup> Comfort,	comfort	MY PEOPLE,	says YOUR GOD;
+ <sup>2</sup> SPEAK	to the heart	of JERUSALEM	and CRY to her
. that is ended		her service,	
. that is expiated		her iniquity,	
. that she has received		<i>from the hand</i>	of THE LORD
. double		for all	her sins.

+ <sup>3</sup> A VOICE	CRYING:		
: «In the desert	prepare	the way	of THE LORD,
: make straight	in the steppe	a highway	for OUR GOD;
-----			
. <sup>4</sup> every ravine		shall be lifted up	
. every mountain	and hill	shall be lowered,	
. and shall be	the sheer cliff	a plain	
. and	the escarpment	a plateau.	
-----			
: <sup>5</sup> And will be revealed	the glory	of the Lord,	
: and will see it	<i>all flesh</i>	together,	
* for the mouth	of THE LORD	HAS SPOKEN.»	

+ <sup>6</sup> A VOICE says:	«CRY!»	And he said:	«What shall I CRY?»
. «Every flesh	is grass		
. and its every beauty	like the flower	of the field.	
-----			
- <sup>7</sup> Dries up the grass,	fades	the flower,	
: when the breath	of THE LORD	blows on them;	
Indeed the grass	is THE PEOPLE!		
- <sup>8</sup> Dries up the grass,	fades	the flower,	
* but THE WORD	of OUR GOD	stands forever.»	

+ <sup>9</sup> On a high mountain	go up,	joyous messenger for ZION,
+ lift up with strength	YOUR VOICE,	joyous messenger for JERUSALEM,
+ lift it up, do not be afraid,		say to the cities of JUDAH:
-----		
. Behold YOUR GOD!		<sup>10</sup> behold ADONAI THE LORD;
. with power	he comes	<i>and his arm</i> rules for him.
. Behold his reward	with him	and his recompense before him.
-----		
- <sup>11</sup> As a shepherd	he pastures his flock,	<i>by his arm</i> he gathers them;
- the small lambs	he carries in his bosom,	and the mother sheep he leads.

3. JOHN CALLS ON EVERYONE TO PRACTICE JUSTICE (3,10-14)

COMPOSITION

. <sup>10</sup> And interrogating him were the CROWDS, saying:  
+ «**WHAT SHALL WE DO** then?»  
-----  
: <sup>11</sup> And answering he said to them:  
– «Whoever has two tunics, **let him share** with the one who has none  
– and whoever has food, **let him do** likewise.»

. <sup>12</sup> Came also the PUBLICANS to be baptized  
. and they said to him:  
+ «Master, **WHAT SHALL WE DO?**»  
-----  
: <sup>13</sup> And he said to them:  
– «**Exact nothing** more than what is fixed for you.»

. <sup>14</sup> And interrogating him were also some SOLDIERS saying:  
+ «And we also **WHAT SHALL WE DO?**»  
-----  
: And he said to them:  
– «Do not extort by violence nor defraud *any one*  
– and **be content** with your wages.»



4. JOHN ANNOUNCES THE COMING OF CHRIST'S JUDGMENT (3,15-17)

+ <sup>15</sup> The people	were waiting	
+ and <i>ALL</i>	were asking	in their hearts,
-----		
:	about	<b>John,</b>
::	whether he might be	<b>THE CHRIST,</b>

+ <sup>16</sup> John	answered saying	to <i>ALL</i> :
:	« <b>I am</b> <i>with water</i>	<i>baptizing you,</i>
-	but one is coming	more powerful than me,
-	of whom I have no right	to untie the latchet of his sandals.
-----		
::	<b>HE</b> <i>will baptize you</i>	<i>WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE,</i>
- <sup>17</sup>	who (has) a winnowing fan	in his hand
	. to cleanse out	his threshing floor
-	and to gather	<i>the wheat</i> into his granary;
	. but <i>the chaff,</i>	he will burn with unquenchable <i>FIRE.</i> »

5. HEROD PREVENTS JOHN FROM EVANGELIZING (3,18-20)

= <sup>18</sup> So with many of (words) and others	<b>EXHORTING,</b>
= <b>he was announcing the good news</b>	<b>to the people.</b>
-----	
+ <sup>19</sup> But <b>Herod the tetrarch,</b>	<b>BEING REBUKED</b> by him
-	<i>because</i> of Herodias, the wife of his brother,
-	and <i>because</i> of all the evils that Herod had committed,
+ <sup>20</sup> added also this to all (the others):	<b><i>he shut John up in prison.</i></b>

## 6. JOHN PREPARES FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST (3,1-20)

### COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the empire of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, **HEROD TETRARCH** of Galilee, and Philip, his **BROTHER**, tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> under the high-priests Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came upon John the son of Zechariah in the desert, <sup>3</sup> and he came through all the region of the Jordan, **PROCLAIMING** a **baptism** of repentance for **THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**.

<sup>4</sup> *As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:*

«Voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, **make** straight his paths! <sup>5</sup> Every ravine shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be lowered. The crooked way shall become straight and the rough shall become smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh will see **THE SALVATION OF GOD!**»,

<sup>7</sup> *he said then to the crowd who were coming out to be baptized by him:*

«Brood of vipers, who taught you to flee from the wrath that **IS COMING?** <sup>8</sup> **Make** therefore fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves: “We have Abraham as father!”, for I say to you, God can raise up from these stones children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even **THE AXE** is already placed at the root of the trees: every tree therefore that does not **make** good fruit will be cut down and will be thrown **into FIRE.**»

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds were interrogating him: «What therefore do we have to **do?**»

<sup>11</sup> Answering, he said to them: «Whoever has two tunics, let him share with the one who has none and whoever has food, let him do likewise.»

<sup>12</sup> Some tax collectors came also to be baptized,

and they said to him: «Master, what do we have to **do?**»

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them: «Exact nothing more than what is fixed for you.»

<sup>14</sup> And some soldiers also were interrogating: «And we, what do we have to **do?**»

He answered them: «Do not extort by violence nor defraud anyone and be content with your wages.»

<sup>15</sup> *The people were waiting and all were asking in their hearts*

whether John might be **THE CHRIST**,

<sup>16</sup> *John answered to them:*

I **baptize** you with water; but one who is more powerful than me **IS COMING**, of whom I am not able to loose the latchet of his sandals: he **will baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> He has in hand **THE WINNOWING FAN** to cleanse up his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff, he will burn **into the unquenchable FIRE.**»

<sup>18</sup> With many other exhortations **HE WAS PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS** to the people.

<sup>19</sup> But **HEROD** the **TETRARCH**, rebuked by him because of Herodias the wife of his **BROTHER** and because of all the evils that Herod had **done**, <sup>20</sup> added also this to all the rest: he shut up John in prison.

8

Jesus prepares for his coming

Sequence A8: Luke 3,21–4,13

Jesus is revealed as Son by God at the Jordan 3,21-22

JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH AND SON OF GOD 23-38

Jesus is tempted as Son by the devil in the desert 4,1-13

1. JESUS IS REVEALED AS SON BY GOD AT THE JORDAN (3,21-22)

+ <sup>21</sup> It came to pass that, when all the people were *baptized*  
+ and while Jesus having been *baptized* and was praying,

-----

– was opened the *HEAVEN*  
= <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended  
= in bodily form like a dove upon him

– and a voice from *HEAVEN* came out:  
= **You** are my Son, the beloved;  
= with **you** I am well pleased.»

2. JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH AND SON OF GOD (3,23-38)

<sup>23</sup> **JESUS**, beginning (his ministry), was about thirty years old;  
 he was, as it was supposed, son

<sup>24</sup> of Joseph,  
 of Heli,  
 of Matthat,  
 of Levi,  
 of Melchi,  
 of Jannai,

<sup>25</sup> of Joseph,  
 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**,

<sup>28</sup> of Shealthiel,  
 of Neri,  
 of Melchi,  
 of Addi,  
 of Cosam,  
 of Elmadam,  
 of Er,

<sup>29</sup> of Jesus,  
 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,

<sup>32</sup> of **DAVID**,  
 of Jessé,  
 of Obed,  
 of Boaz,  
 of Sala,  
 of Nahshon,  
<sup>33</sup> of Amminadab,

of Aram  
 of Hezron,  
 of Perez,  
 of Judah,  
<sup>34</sup> of Jacob,  
 of Isaac,  
 of **ABRAHAM**,

<sup>35</sup> of Terah,  
 of Nahor,  
 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 Mahaleel,  
 of Cainan,  
<sup>38</sup> of Enos,  
 of Seth,  
 of Adam,  
 of **GOD**.

### 3. JESUS TEMPTED AS SON BY THE DEVIL IN THE DESERT (4,1-13)

<sup>1</sup> Now **JESUS** filled with the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan  
and he was led by the Spirit into the desert, <sup>2</sup> **TEMPTED** for forty days by **THE DEVIL**.

*He ate nothing during those days and, when they were finished, he was hungry.*

<sup>3</sup> Now the devil said to him:

. «**IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD,** say to this *stone* to become bread!»

<sup>4</sup> And **JESUS** answered him:

+ «It is **WRITTEN**:

“It is not by bread **alone,** man shall live”.»

<sup>5</sup> *Leading him up to a height, he showed him all the kingdoms of the world at an instant.*

<sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him:

. «I will give you all this power, with their glory,  
. for it is to me that it has been given and I give it to whom I wish.

. <sup>7</sup> You then, if you would worship before me, all shall be yours.»

<sup>8</sup> And answering, **JESUS** said to him:

+ «It is **WRITTEN**:

“Before **the Lord your God** you shall worship  
and him **alone** you shall serve”.»

<sup>9</sup> *He led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the Temple.*

And he said to him:

. «**IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD,** throw yourself down from here.

<sup>10</sup> For it is **WRITTEN**:

“He will command for you his angels to guard you”

<sup>11</sup> and: “On their hands they will support you  
so that you may not dash your foot against a *stone*”.»

<sup>12</sup> And answering, **JESUS** said to him:

+ «It is **SAID**:

“You shall not tempt **the Lord your God**”.»

<sup>13</sup> Having finished every **TEMPTATION,** **THE DEVIL** departed from him until a (fixed) time.

#### 4. JESUS PREPARES HIMSELF FOR HIS COMING (3,21–4,13)

##### COMPOSITION OF THE SEQUENCE

<sup>21</sup> It happened, that when all the people were baptized and while Jesus, having been baptized, was praying, the heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and *THE HOLY SPIRIT* descended upon him in bodily form like a dove and from heaven came out a voice:

«**YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON**, with you I am well pleased.»

<sup>23</sup> Jesus, beginning his ministry, was about thirty years old; he was, as it was supposed, **SON** 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 Shealthiel, of Neri, <sup>28</sup> of Melchi, of Addi, of Cosam, of Elmadam, of Er, <sup>29</sup> of Jesus, 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 Aminadab, of Aram, 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 Mahaleel, of Cainan, <sup>38</sup> of Enos, of Seth, of Adam, **OF GOD**.

4:<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus, filled with *THE HOLY SPIRIT*, returned from the Jordan and was led by *THE SPIRIT* into the desert, <sup>2</sup> tempted for forty days by the devil.

He ate nothing during those days and, when they were finished, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now the devil said to him:

«**SINCE YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD**, say to this stone to become bread!» <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him: «It is written: “It is not by bread alone that man shall live”.»

<sup>5</sup> Leading him up to a height, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world at an instant. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him: «I will give you this power, all entirely, with their glory, for it is to me that it has been given and I give it to whom I wish. <sup>7</sup> You then, if you would worship before me, all will be yours.» <sup>8</sup> Answering, Jesus said to him: «It is written: “It is before the Lord your God that you shall worship and it is him alone that you shall serve”.»

<sup>9</sup> He led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the Temple and the devil said to him:

«**SINCE YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD**, throw yourself down from here.

<sup>10</sup> For it is written: “He will command for you his angels to guard you” <sup>11</sup> and: “On their hands they will support you so that you may not dash your foot against a stone”.» <sup>12</sup> Answering, Jesus said to him: «It is said: “You shall not tempt the Lord your God”.»

<sup>13</sup> Having finished every temptation, the devil departed from him until a fixed time.

The coming of Christ  
prepared by the messengers of God

Section A: Luke 1,5– 4,3

First sub-section:	THE TWO ANNUNCIATIONS	
Sequence A1:	<i>The announcement of the birth of John</i>	1,5-25
Sequence A2:	<b>The announcement of the birth of Jesus</b>	1,26-56
-----		
Second sub-section:	THE TWO BIRTHS	
Sequence A3:	<i>The birth of John</i>	1,57-80
Sequence A4:	<b>The birth of Jesus</b>	2,1-20
Third sub-section:	THE TWO CONSECRATIONS OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE	
Sequence A5:	<b>Jesus is consecrated to the Lord</b>	2,21-40
Sequence A6:	<b>Jesus consecrates himself to his Father</b>	2,41-52
Fourth sub-section:	THE TWO PREPARATIONS OF THE COMING OF JESUS	
Sequence A7:	<i>John prepares the coming of the Christ</i>	3,1-20
Sequence A8:	<b>Jesus prepares himself for his coming</b>	3,21–4,13

The two annunciations (sequences A1 and A2)

Sequence A1 (1,5-25)

<sup>5</sup> It happened that, in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zechariah**, of the class of Abijah, and his wife was a daughter of Aaron and her name was **Elizabeth**.<sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous, walking on before God, blameless in all the commandments and observances of the Lord.<sup>7</sup> But they had no child *for Elizabeth was barren and both of them were advanced in their days.*

<sup>8</sup> It happened that, while Zechariah was on duty before God in the turn of his class,<sup>9</sup> that, according to the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to burn incense, after having entered in the sanctuary of the Lord.<sup>10</sup> All the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.<sup>11</sup> An **angel** of the Lord **APPEARED** to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.<sup>12</sup> **SEEING IT** Zechariah **WAS TROUBLED** and fear fell upon him.<sup>13</sup> But **the angel** said to him: **«DO NOT BE AFRAID**, Zechariah, **FOR** your supplication has been heard: your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call him by name of John.<sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice because of his birth.

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<sup>15</sup> **HE WILL BE GREAT** before the **LORD**; he shall not drink wine neither fermented drink but he will be **filled with the Holy Spirit** from the womb of his mother<sup>16</sup> and he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the **LORD** our God.

<sup>17</sup> And he, himself, will walk before him in the spirit and the power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the sons and of the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare to the **LORD** a people well prepared.»

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<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to **the angel**: **«HOW** shall I know this, **SINCE I am an old man and my wife is advanced in her days?»**<sup>19</sup> Answering, **the angel** said to him: **«I am Gabriel** who stands before God; I was sent to speak to you and to announce these good news.<sup>20</sup> But behold, you will be silent and you will not able to speak until the days in which these come to pass, because **YOU DID NOT BELIEVE** to my **WORDS**, which **WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED** at their proper time.»<sup>21</sup> And the people were awaiting Zechariah and they were amazed that he was delaying in the sanctuary.<sup>22</sup> When he came out, he was not able to speak to them and they recognized that he had seen a **VISION** in the sanctuary; and he was making signs to them and **he remained deaf and mute.**

<sup>23</sup> It happened that when the days of his service were fulfilled, **HE WENT AWAY TO HIS HOUSE.**<sup>24</sup> After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and she hid herself for five **months**, saying:<sup>25</sup> **«Thus the Lord has done for me, in the days in which he was so kind as to take away my shame among men.»**

Sequence A2 (1,26-56)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth **month**, the angel **Gabriel** was sent from God into a city of Galilee named Nazareth,<sup>27</sup> to a **virgin**, espoused to a man named **Joseph**, from the house of David, and the name of the virgin was **Mary**.<sup>28</sup> Coming in unto her, **the angel** said: **«Rejoice, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.»**<sup>29</sup> **TO THIS WORD**, she **WAS TROUBLED** and she was asking what kind of greeting this might be.<sup>30</sup> **The angel** said to her: **«DO NOT BE AFRAID**, Mary, **FOR** you have found favor with God.<sup>31</sup> Behold, you will conceive in your womb and you will bear a son and you shall call him by name Jesus.<sup>32</sup> **HE WILL BE GREAT** and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father<sup>33</sup> and he will reign for ever over the house of Jacob and his reign will have no end.»<sup>34</sup> Mary said to **the angel**: **«HOW** shall this be, **SINCE I do not know a man?»**<sup>35</sup> Answering, **the angel** said to her: **«The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with his shadow. Therefore he who is to be born holy will be called Son of God.**<sup>36</sup> And behold, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.<sup>37</sup> Because nothing will be impossible for God.»<sup>38</sup> Mary said: Behold, the maid-servant of the Lord, let it happen to me according to your word.» And **the angel** left her.

<sup>39</sup> Mary set off in those days and went in haste towards the hill country into a city of Judah.<sup>40</sup> She entered in the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.<sup>41</sup> And it happened, that when Elizabeth **HEARD** Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was **filled with the Holy Spirit**<sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed in a loud voice and said: **«Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!**

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<sup>43</sup> And how is it happened to me That the mother of my **LORD** may come to me?

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<sup>44</sup> For behold: at the moment the voice of your greeting came to my **EARS**, the baby leaped in a great joy in my womb.<sup>45</sup> Happy is she who **HAS BELIEVED in THE ACCOMPLISHMENT** of what **HAS BEEN SAID** by the Lord.»

<sup>46</sup> **Then Mary said**: **«My soul magnifies the Lord**<sup>47</sup> and my spirit exults in God my Savior,<sup>48</sup> because he has regarded the humiliation of his maid-servant. From now on all generations will call me happy,<sup>49</sup> because the Mighty has done for me great things. **Holy** is his name<sup>50</sup> and his mercy is from generations to generations to those who fear him.<sup>51</sup> He has done might with his arm, he has dispersed the arrogant in mind of their heart.<sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from their thrones and he has lifted up the humbles.<sup>53</sup> The hungry he has filled with goods and the rich he has sent away empty.<sup>54</sup> He has helped Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,<sup>55</sup> as he has said to our fathers, in favor of Abraham and his descendants for ever.»<sup>56</sup> Mary remained with her about three **months**, then **SHE RETURNED TO HER HOUSE.**



## The two births (sequences A3 and A4)

### Sequence A3 (1,57-80)

<sup>57</sup> For Elizabeth **the time in which she had to bear was fulfilled and she gave birth to a son.**

<sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had made great his mercy with her and they were rejoicing with her. <sup>59</sup> And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child and they were calling him by name of his father Zechariah. <sup>60</sup> Answering, his mother said: «No, but he shall be called John!» <sup>61</sup> They said: «There is none among your relatives who is called by this name!» <sup>62</sup> They were making sign to his father how he would want him to be called. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a tablet and wrote: «John is his name.» **THEY WERE ALL AMAZED.** <sup>64</sup> Suddenly his mouth was opened and his tongue and he **WAS SPEAKING BY BLESSING GOD.** <sup>65</sup> And it happened, that fear came upon all the neighbors and, in the entire hill country of Judea, all these **WORDS WERE BEING SPOKEN.** <sup>66</sup> And **ALL THOSE WHO HEARD THEM PUT THEM IN THEIR HEARTS** saying:

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«What, then, will be this child?  
For **the hand of the Lord** is with him.»  
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<sup>67</sup> Zechariah his father was filled with the Holy Spirit and **he prophesied saying:** <sup>68</sup> «**BLESSED BE THE LORD, GOD OF ISRAEL,** for he has visited and made redemption for his people. <sup>69</sup> And he has raised up a horn of **SALVATION** for us **in the house of David** his servant, <sup>70</sup> as he has said by the mouth of his prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> **SALVATION** from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us <sup>72</sup> to do mercy with our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> an oath he had sworn to Abraham our father to grant us, <sup>74</sup> without fear, rescued from the hand of our enemies, <sup>75</sup> to serve in sanctity and justice before him for all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you also, child, you will be called prophet of the Most High: For you will walk on **before the Lord** to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of **SALVATION** for his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> through the heart of the mercy of our God in which he who rises from on high will visit us <sup>79</sup> to shine on those who are seated in the darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our path in the way of **peace.**» <sup>80</sup> The child increased and became strong in Spirit and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

### Sequence A4 (2,1-20)

2:<sup>1</sup> It happened, that in those days came out a decree of Caesar Augustus to count all of the universe. <sup>2</sup> This first count took place when the governor of Syria was Quirinius. <sup>3</sup> And they were going all to be counted everyone into his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee from the city of Nazareth towards Judea, to the city of **David** which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and of the descendants of **David,** <sup>5</sup> to be counted with Mary his spouse who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> It happened, that while they were there **the days of her bearing were fulfilled <sup>7</sup> and she bore her son** first-born child; she wrapped him up in cloths and put him to sleep in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> Some shepherds were in the same region staying out in the fields and passing the night to guard over their flock. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were struck with a great fear <sup>10</sup> but the angel said to them: «Do not be afraid! For behold, I announce you a great joy which will be for all the people:

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<sup>11</sup> a child has been born for you today  
**a SAVIOR** who is Christ **Lord**  
**in the city of David.**  
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<sup>12</sup> And this will be for you a sign: you will find a new-born baby wrapped up in cloths and laid in a manger.» <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **PRaising GOD AND SAYING:** <sup>14</sup> «**GLORY TO GOD** in the highest and on the earth **peace** for men whom he loves!»

<sup>15</sup> And it happened, that just as the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds **WERE RECOUNTING** to one another: «Let us go to Bethlehem, and see these **WORDS** happened as the Lord has made known to us.» <sup>16</sup> They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the new-born baby laid in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Having seen, they made known about the **WORD** that **HAD BEEN RECOUNTED** to them concerning the child. <sup>18</sup> And **ALL THOSE WHO HEARD WERE AMAZED** at what **HAD BEEN RECOUNTED** to them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> As for Mary, she was **KEEPING** all these **WORDS,** meditating **IN HER HEART.** <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, **GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD** for all that they had heard and seen just as it **HAD BEEN RECOUNTED** to them.

## The two consecrations of Jesus in the Temple (A5 and A6)

### Sequence A5 (2,21-40)

<sup>21</sup> **When the eight days were fulfilled** for his circumcision, he was called by name Jesus, as (it had been) called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> **And when the days were fulfilled** for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to **Jerusalem** to be presented to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> as it is written in the Law of the Lord: 'Every male that opens the womb will be called holy for the Lord,' <sup>24</sup> and to give an offering sacrifice, according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons'.

<sup>25</sup> Behold, there was a man in **Jerusalem** by name of Simeon and this man was just and pious, awaiting the consolation of Israel. And the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed by the Holy Spirit that he would not see the death before he had seen Christ of the Lord. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit to the **TEMPLE**. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do according to what is said in the Law about him, <sup>28</sup> he received him in his arms.

And he blessed God and said: <sup>29</sup> «Now, Master, let go your servant in peace according to your word <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the nations and glory of your people Israel.»

<sup>33</sup> His father and his mother  
**WERE AMAZED**  
at **WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT HIM**.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and he said to Mary *his mother*: «Behold, this one is set for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, to be a contradicted sign <sup>35</sup> — and you, your soul will be pierced through by the sword — so that the reasoning of many hearts may be revealed.»

<sup>36</sup> There was also Anna the prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very advanced in days; having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, <sup>37</sup> she remained a widow until she was eighty-four years old. She never left the **TEMPLE**, serving night and day by fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming forward at that time, she was giving thanks to God and she was speaking about him to all who were waiting for the ransom of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> **And when** all that is according to the Law of the Lord **had been accomplished**, *they returned* to Galilee, to their city of **Nazareth** [as it had been said by the prophet: «He will be called Nazarene.»].

<sup>40</sup> The child **GREW UP** and became strong, filled with the **WISDOM**, and the **GRACE** of **GOD** was upon him.

### Sequence A6 (2,41-52)

<sup>41</sup> His parents were going every year to **Jerusalem** for the feast of Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, his parents went up with him according to the custom of the feast of the unleavened bread.

<sup>43</sup> **Having accomplished the days**, while they *were returning*, the child Jesus stayed behind in **Jerusalem**. And his parents did not know (it).

<sup>44</sup> Thinking that he was in the caravan, they went a day's journey, and they were looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup> Not finding him, they returned to **Jerusalem** looking for him.

<sup>46</sup> And it happened, that after three days they found him in the **TEMPLE**, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and questioning them.

<sup>47</sup> And all **WERE AMAZED** in hearing him at the intelligence of **HIS ANSWERS**.  
<sup>48</sup> Having seen him they **WERE ASTONISHED**.

And *his mother* said to him: «My child, why have you done to us like this? Behold, your father and I, being anxious, were looking for you.» <sup>49</sup> He said to them: «Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be with my Father?»

<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the word that he had said to them.

<sup>51</sup> And *he went down* with them and came to **Nazareth** and he was obedient to them. And his mother was keeping all these words in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus **WAS INCREASING** in **WISDOM**, stature and **GRACE** before **GOD** and men.

## The two preparations (sequences A7 and A8)

## Sequence A7 (3,1-20)

3:<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the empire of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, and Philip, his brother, tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> under the high-priests Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came upon John the son of Zechariah in the *desert*, <sup>3</sup> and he came through all the region of the *Jordan*, proclaiming a **baptism** of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>4</sup> As *IT IS WRITTEN* in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: «Voice of one crying out in the *desert*: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths! <sup>5</sup> Every ravine shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be lowered. The crooked way shall become straight and the rough shall become smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh will see the salvation of God!»; <sup>7</sup> he said then to the crowd who were coming out to be **baptized** by him: «Brood of vipers, who taught you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Make therefore fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves: “We have as **father Abraham!**”, for I say to you, God can raise up from these stones **children** for *Abraham*. <sup>9</sup> Even the axe is already placed at the root of the trees: every tree therefore that does not make good fruit will be cut down and will be thrown into fire.»

– <sup>10</sup> The crowds were interrogating him: «What do we have to do then?» <sup>11</sup> Answering, he said to them: «Whoever has two tunics let him **GIVE** one to whom has none and whoever has something **TO EAT** let him do likewise.»

– <sup>12</sup> Some tax collectors came also to be **baptized**, and they said to him: «Master, what do we have to do?» <sup>13</sup> He said to them: «Exact nothing more than what is fixed for you.»

– <sup>14</sup> Some soldiers also were interrogating him: «And we, what do we have to do?» He answered them: «Do not extort by violence nor defraud anyone and be content with your wages.»

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be **THE CHRIST**, <sup>16</sup> John answered them: «I **baptize** you with water; but one who is more powerful than me is coming, of whom I am not able to loose the latchet of his sandals: he will **baptize** you with **THE HOLY SPIRIT** and fire. <sup>17</sup> He has in hand the winnowing fan to cleanse up his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff, he will burn into the unquenchable fire.»

<sup>18</sup> With many other exhortations he was proclaiming the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But the tetrarch Herod who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias the wife of his brother and because of all the evils that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added also this to all the rest: he shut up John in prison.

## Sequence A8 (3,21–4,13)

<sup>21</sup> It happened that when all the people were **baptized**, and while Jesus, having been **baptized**, was praying, the heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and **THE HOLY SPIRIT** descended upon him in bodily form like a dove and from heaven came out a voice: «You are **MY SON** the beloved, with you I am well pleased.»

<sup>23</sup> Jesus, beginning his ministry, was about thirty years old; he was, as it was supposed, **SON** 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 Shealthiel, of Neri, <sup>28</sup> of Melchi, of Addi, of Cosam, of Elmadam, of Er, <sup>29</sup> of Jesus, 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 Aminadab, of Aram, 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 Mahaleel, of Cainan, <sup>38</sup> of Enos, of Seth, of Adam, **OF GOD**.

<sup>4:</sup><sup>1</sup> Now Jesus, filled with **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, returned from the *Jordan* and was led by **THE SPIRIT** into the *desert*, <sup>2</sup> tempted for forty days by the devil. He **ATE** nothing during those days and, when they were accomplished, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Then the devil said to him: «Because you are **THE SON OF GOD**, say to this stone to become bread!» <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him: «*IT IS WRITTEN*: “It is not by bread alone that man shall live”.»

– <sup>5</sup> Leading him up to a height, the devil showed him the kingdoms of the world at an instant. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him: «I **WILL GIVE** you this power, all entirely, with their glory, for it is to me that it **HAS BEEN GIVEN** and I **GIVE** it to whom I wish. <sup>7</sup> To you therefore, if you worship before me, all will be yours.» <sup>8</sup> Answering, Jesus said to him: «*IT IS WRITTEN*: “It is before the Lord your God that you shall worship and it is him alone that you shall serve”.»

– <sup>9</sup> The devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him: «Because you are **THE SON OF GOD**, throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For *IT IS WRITTEN*: “He will command for you his angels to guard you” <sup>11</sup> and “On their hands they will support you so that you may not dash your foot against a stone”.» <sup>12</sup> Answering, Jesus said to him: «*IT IS SAID*: “You shall not tempt the Lord your God”.»

<sup>13</sup> Having finished every temptation, the devil departed from him until a fixed time.