

CALLED TO FAITH

An Illustrative Journey



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In the New Testament



XV. Son of God, Son of Man

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

* *Mathew 2:1-2*

The 3 wise men from the east had stopped in Jerusalem to enquire about the birth of Jesus. Herod, surprised to learn this news, asked them where he was to be born.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

* *Mathew 2:4-5*

Herod tells the 3 wise men to go find out where the child stays and to return with the news so he could worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where

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the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

✱ *Mathew 2:9-11*

God warned the 3 wise men in a dream not to return to Herod, so they returned to their country a different route.

And the angel of the lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to quickly depart for Egypt and reside there until Herod was dead. And he, Mary and Jesus did reside there until Hared's death. Then God appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to return to Israel. And they did depart and fulfilled the prophecy;

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

✱ *Hosea 11:1*

Joseph learned that Archelaus, son of Herod was ruler in Judea, and being warned by God in a dream, he went to Galilee instead, to Nazareth, and resided there.

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And it is said of Jesus' early years;

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

* *Luke 2:40*

When Jesus was 12, he was with his parents Mary and Joseph in Jerusalem at the feast of the passover. And Jesus stayed behind after they had returned home, unbeknownst to them, thinking he was with kin. After 3 days they found him in Jerusalem in the temple hearing and asking questions.

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

* *Luke 2:46-47*

When Mary expresses concern and questions Jesus about it, they did not understand his response.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have

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sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

✱ *Luke 2:48-52*

Jesus was around thirty years old when he began his ministry. After his baptism and return from Jordan, he was spirit led into the wilderness where he spent 40 days fasting and facing temptations by the devil, which he resisted. After, he returned to Galilee and taught in synagogues, and in Nazareth, he went on the Sabbath to the synagogue and read, which was usual practice for him.

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

✱ *Luke 4:17-19*

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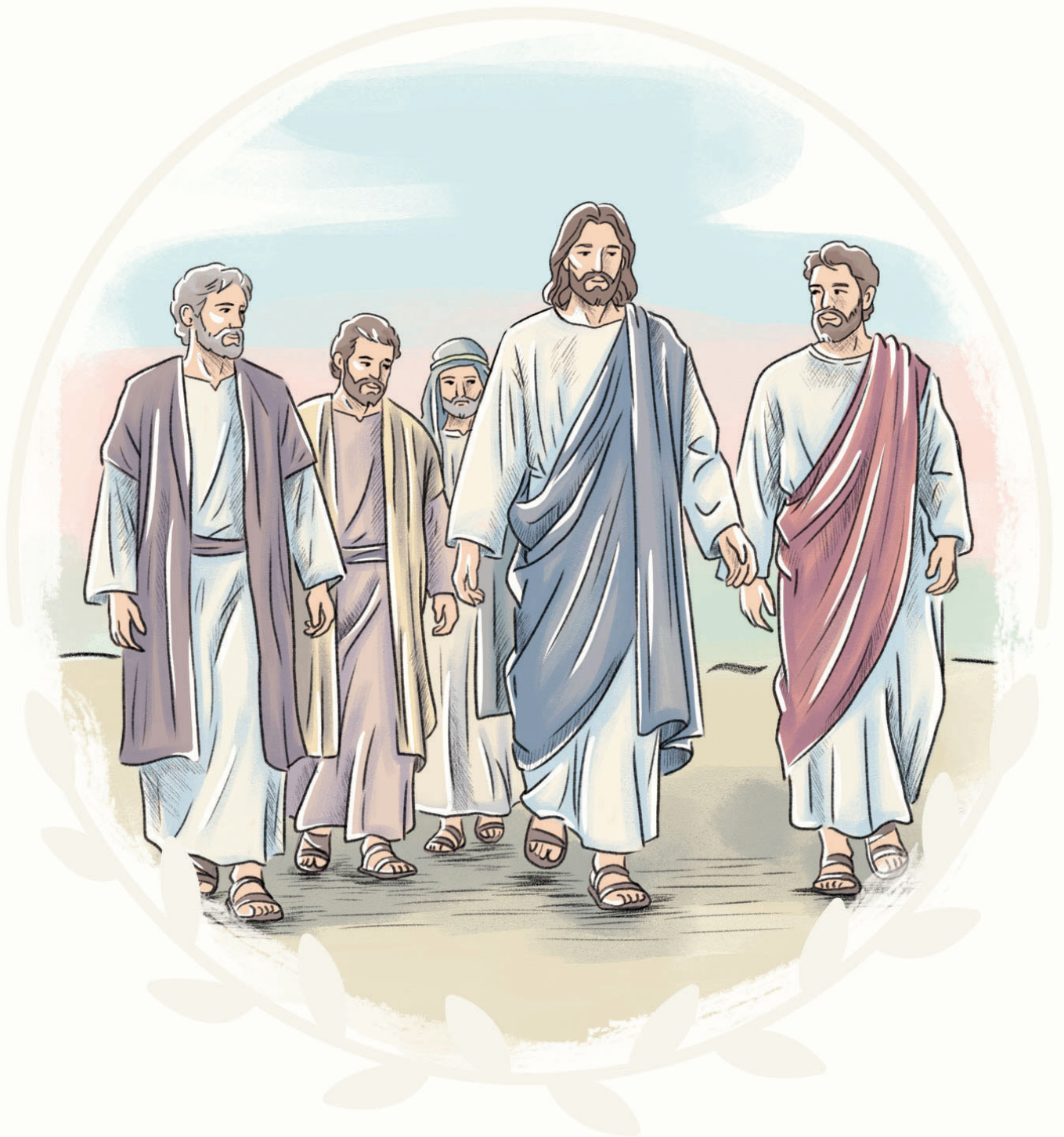
And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

** Luke 4:21-27*

Jesus references Isaiah's writings and calls out God's favor is not limited to the people of Israel, that his grace and mercy are available to all who believe, in this case Gentiles. This enrages them, and he is driven out of town where he goes to Capernaum.

And after driving out an evil spirit from a man in the synagogue there and healing Simon's mother from a fever, word grew and he healed and drove out evil spirits from many more as they called on him for healing. They asked him to stay with them.

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And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

** Luke 4:44*

Jesus chose 12 disciples to teach his message to, which he referred to specifically as his Apostles, who learned from and followed him, and taught others about his message. For a period of around three years, he and they taught and ministered throughout Galilee, Jerusalem and Judea, beyond the Jordan East in Perea and Decapolis and West in Samaria.

Jesus drew the ire of the Jewish scribes and Pharisees, prominent religious leaders of the times. As he continued to heal many, and they saw his following develop, the miracles he performed and the message he preached, this threatened their authority and the interpretations of their laws and they developed plans to entrap him.

They tried to get him to say something they could use against him, and accused him of blasphemy (they rejected his claim of the authority given him from God and that he is the Son of God), and they accused Jesus of doing the work of the devil when he exorcised unclean spirits. Because of their fear of his rising power and following and their jealousy and misunderstanding of his mission, they sought his end and so began events that led to his death.

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Many played roles in Jesus' arrest, trial, sentencing and crucifixion. Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the current and former high priests Caiaphas and Annas (his father in law, who retained considerable influence), who sought to have Jesus condemned for fear of his growing influence and following, and the Roman Prefect of Judea Pontius Pilot, who caved to pressures and was swayed by the priests and others against Jesus.

God's plan from the beginning was for salvation, since the fall of man and sin upon him had entered the world thousands of years prior in the Garden of Eden. And salvation only by the blood of Christ for his chosen, for those who believe in and follow him.

The events leading to Jesus' condemnation and death, and those involved, were thus part of God's plan.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

* Mathew 27:3-4

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had

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not been born.

** Mathew 26:24*

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

** John 17:12*

And Luke writes; Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

** Acts 2:23*

On the third day after Jesus' death he was resurrected, his tomb empty. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary upon visiting the tomb, were told by the angel that Jesus had risen, to see for themselves, to go tell his disciples, and that Jesus had gone before them to Galilee where they would see him.

Jesus spent 40 days in his resurrected state being witnessed by many, and by over 500 on one occasion. Paul writes;

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And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

✱ 1 Corinthians 15:4-8

On the 40th day post-resurrection Jesus led the disciples to Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, and opened his arms and while blessing them, he was taken up into heaven. His ascension marks the completion of his earthly ministry and his complete defeat of the enemy, of death. It signifies Jesus' power, authority and of the Holy Spirit sent to empower and indwell within his followers. Jesus said to his disciples;

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold,

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I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

* *Luke 24:44-51*

While Jesus' disciples stood and watched his ascension, an angel of the Lord spoke to them; *And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

* *Acts 1:11*

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

* *Luke 24:52-53*

Jesus' Disciples remained in Jerusalem as he'd instructed them prior to his ascension, to await the Holy Spirit sent to them from God, and approximately 10 days later came the day of Pentecost when they

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were imbued from on high.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

✱ Acts 2:1-4

Jesus walked the earth for some 33 years, living a sinless life. The missionary plan of his Gospel message is for his teachings to be spread to every people and nation. He preaches living a life for God different than a life lived of this world. Paul writes;

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

✱ Romans 12:2

We await Jesus' return with eager hearts and souls, our treasures lie in him, that he will establish his Kingdom, the New Jerusalem here on Earth.

About the Author

My journey of faith began again close to a decade ago now, from an origin too long before for me to remember who God is. A seed had been planted early, but never grew and bore fruit.

Fast forward to the writing of this book.

I hadn't planned to write it. I'd been experiencing a nudging though, an urge to spread God's word, and the Gospel message of Jesus, what we in faith are called to do. I want to let others know of this gift of him, in whom I've grown and developed so much through years of study, worship and praise.

About the Illustrator

While working on this book, I had a special gift - the opportunity to embody spiritual texts in images. This project became not only a creative task for me, but also a source of support during a difficult period in my life. While drawing the illustrations, I found peace, inspiration, and new strength.

I believe that these pages will preserve a part of the bright hope that I felt while working on them.