

**THE BLESSED LIFE AND MERITORIOUS
DEATH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST FROM HIS
CONCEPTION TO HIS CROSS AND
FROM HIS CROSS TO HIS CROWN**

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The blessed life and meritorious death of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ from his conception to his cross and from his cross to his crown by Samuel Clarke

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THE
LIFE AND DEATH

OF OUR BLESSED

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, &c.



IN the sixth month after John, surnamed the Baptist, was conceived, the angel Gabriel (who had in time past foretold to Daniel, the coming of the Messiah, by a definite number of weeks) was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee, to the blessed virgin Mary, that was betrothed to Joseph, of the same tribe of Judah with herself, and of the stock of David, who, after salutations, declared unto her that she should bring forth the Son of God, and should call his name Jesus; and having more fully taught her of the admirable manner of their conception, to be performed by the power of the Holy Ghost overshadowing her, with great faith she said, *Be it to the handmaid of the Lord according to thy word*, Luke i. 26, 38.

Christ being thus conceived, the mother of our Lord went into the hill country, with haste into a city of Judah (to wit, Hebron, a city of the priests, situate in the mountains of Judea, Josh. xxi. 10, 11.) where, when she entered into the house of Zacharias

the priest, and had saluted her cousin Elizabeth, she perceiving the child to spring in her womb, was filled with the Holy Ghost, and declared that Mary was blessed which believed, and confirmed that those things should be performed that were told her of the Lord : to whom for an answer the blessed virgin (imitating that song of Hannah, 1 Sam. ii. 1.) rehearsed that divine hymn, *My soul doth magnify the Lord, &c.* After which Mary tarried with her about three months, Luke i. 39—56.

Not long after, Joseph finding his betrothed wife Mary, with child, was willing to put her away privily ; but being warned of God in a dream, and informed that she had conceived by the Holy Ghost, and should bring forth her son Jesus, who should *save his people from their sins*, he taketh his wife, Matt. i. 18, 24.

When the time of Mary's delivery drew near, there came forth a command from Augustus, that all the Roman world should be taxed, which taxing was first made, when Cyrenius was governor of Syria, Luke ii. 1. whereupon Joseph went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, into Judea into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, that he might be taxed, with Mary his wife, being great with child, Luke ii. 4, 5.

During their abode there, Jesus Christ the Son of God, in the fulness of time, was born of the most blessed virgin Mary, at Bethlehem, Matth. i. 25. and ii. 1, 5. Gal. iv. 4. in the four thousandth year of the world, saith the learned Primate of Ireland, Doctor Usher, whom Mary rolled in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn, Luke ii. 7.

Christ being thus born, his nativity was revealed
by

by an angel of the Lord, to shepherds that were keeping their flock by night in the neighbouring fields, which word, a multitude of the heavenly host receiving, prayed for *glory to God, peace to the earth, and good will to men.* When they were departed, the shepherds making haste to Bethlehem, found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger; and they published that which was told them concerning the child, and so returned, praising and glorifying God, Luke ii. 8, 20.

The eighth day after his nativity the child was circumcised, and his name was called Jesus, which was so appointed by the angel Gabriel, before he was conceived in the womb, Luke ii. 21.

Presently after, the wise men from the east, being guided by a new and extraordinary star, came to Herod to Jerusalem, and there, having learned that the birth place of Christ was Bethlehem of Judea, they went thither, and entering into the house which was pointed out to them by the star that stood over it, they found the little child, and Mary his mother, and falling down they worshipped him, and opening their treasures, they offered unto him, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way, Matth. ii. 1—12.

The fortieth day after her delivery, Mary went up to Jerusalem to the temple, both that she might present him to the Lord according to the law of the first-born; and also that she might offer for herself a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons, (she being so poor that she could not offer a lamb) according to the law, concerning women that had lain in, Luke ii. 22, 23, 24, 27. with Lev. xii. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8.

When his parents, Joseph and Mary, brought the child Jesus into the temple, to do for him according

to the custom of the law, there came in at the same time, Simeon of Jerusalem, to whom it was revealed by God, that he should not die before he had seen the anointed of the Lord, whom he took in his arms, and praised the Lord, adding prophecies, both concerning Christ and his mother. At the same instant also came Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, who also acknowledged the Lord openly, and spake of him to all that looked for redemption in Jerusalem, Luke iii. 25—38.

Thus when Joseph and Mary had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth, Luke ii. 39.

Some time after, the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream, warning him to fly into Egypt, thereby to provide for the life of the child, and to escape the malicious designs of Herod, who having by the wise men, heard that one was born king of the Jews, sought to destroy him: and accordingly Joseph when he awaked, took the young child and his mother by night, and went into Egypt, where he remained until the death of Herod, Matt. ii. 13—15.

But Herod thinking that the young child had been still at Bethlehem, (being further provoked by the wise men not returning to him) that he might destroy him amongst the rest, sent forth some of his soldiers, who killed all the children which were in Bethlehem, and in all the coast thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time of the star first seen in the east, concerning which he had enquired of the wise men, Matt. ii. 16.

After the death of Herod, who had sought the life of the young child Jesus, the angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph in a dream, whilst he was in Egypt, commanding him that he should return with the young child and his mother, into the land of
Israel,

Israel, for he that sought his life was dead: and accordingly when Joseph awaked, he performed what was by the angel enjoined him, Matth. ii. 19, 20, 21.

But when he was come back into the land of Israel, he heard that Archilaus reigned in Judea, in the room of his father Herod; he therefore feared to go thither; and being warned of God in a dream, he departed into the parts of Galilee, (which tetrarchy Herod had given by will to Antipas) and there dwelt in the city of Nazareth, from whence Jesus took the name of Nazarene, Matt. ii. 22, 23. and the primitive Christians of Nazarenes, Acts xxiv. 5.

When Jesus was twelve years old, at the feast of the passover, he was brought to Jerusalem by his parents, Joseph and Mary; and when the seven days of unleavened bread were ended, his parents returning home, Jesus staid behind them. But so soon as they missed him, they sought him three days, and at last found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions, so that all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers, Luke ii. 41—47.

Then went Jesus down with his parents to Nazareth, and was obedient to them, Luke ii. 51. and during his minority, followed his father's trade of a carpenter, eating his bread in the sweat of his brow, as appears by the speeches of his fellow citizens. *Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?* Mark vi. 3.

The thirtieth and the last jubilee, falling in the thirtieth year of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the beginning of his gospel, John, his forerunner, proclaimed in the wilderness, *Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight*, Mark i. 12. and opening the acceptable year of the Lord, or the time of his divine pleasure, in which our good God vouchsafed to manifest that great One to the world, Isa. lxi.

2. Luke ix. 19. For in the 13th year of the reign of Tiberias Cæsar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod Antipas tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea, and the region of Trachonitis, and Lyfanias tetrarch of Abilene, under the priesthoods of Annas and Caiaphas, came the word of the Lord unto John the son of Zacharias in the desert, Luke iii. 12. according unto whose command this Nazarite, both priest and prophet of the Lord, did baptize in the desert of Judah (in which there were many cities which are mentioned, Josh. xv. 16.) preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, Matt. iii. 1. Mark i. 4. Luke iii. 3. endeavouring, that Christ that came after him might be made known to Israel, John i. 7, 8, 13. which that he might more certainly know, this sign was given him of God, that upon who he should see the Holy Ghost descending and remaining, he should thereby know that it was he that should baptize others with the Holy Ghost, John i. 33. It is most probable (saith the learned Doctor Usher) that this his ministry began on that most convenient day, the 10th of the seventh month. (about the 19th day of our October) which was both penitential, being joined with a solemn fast, in which whosoever did not afflict his soul, should be cut off from his people, and also expiatory, in which the high priest went into the holy of holies to expiate the sins of the people with blood that was offered: and that same day in which, by the sound of trumpet, the jubilee was commanded to be proclaimed over all the land, Lev. xxv. 9.

So John Baptist, the preacher of repentance and remission of sins, to be attained by the blood of Christ that was to come, passing through every region round about Jordan, lifted up his voice like a trumpet, saying, *Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand: whereupon there went out to him Jerusalem, and all*
Judea,