

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



“The Beginning of the Gospel”

Study: Luke 1:1-4, John 1:1-5

Reading: I John 5:10-21

Memory: Psalm 51:8

Several years ago I started to write notes down about events that happened since I found people spreading stories about things I said and did that weren't exactly true. When I heard some of these stories, I began to wonder if what I remembered saying or what I remembered happening actually happened. By writing it down when it was still fresh on my mind, I found that it was much easier to look back on what had happened and remind myself of the actual events.

Today, we are going to see how the Gospels were written down to help the early believers, and those who came after them, to know the truth of what happened. Though the Gospels were written sometime after the life of Christ, great care was taken in recording the accuracy of the events that took place surrounding the life of Christ.

What Does the Bible Say?

We will be attempting, as much as possible, to take a chronological look at the Gospels as we attempt to put the events and teachings of Jesus in the order that they happened. There will be times along the way where we will not be sure what order things happened in because the writers would often write in themes, not chronologically. Looking at this chronologically and combining the Gospels together should help us understand the events and happenings of the life of Jesus. We will begin with a few introductions given by the authors as they describe the purpose of their books before they get into the actual recording of events.

Luke was a physician who was a co-worker with Paul and had spent time with some of the other apostles and those who had been with Jesus. He also wrote the Book of Acts as the second volume to this history about Jesus and the impact that his followers had on the world. Luke was probably the third Gospel written (after Mark and Matthew) and could have had access to some, if not all, of those books when he started to write. He was mainly writing the book for a man named Theophilus who was probably some type of Roman governmental leader by the way he is

addressed. Luke's desire was to take the eyewitness accounts he had heard and those who he had "interviewed" and the sources he had read, and combine them into a book that would be a historical proof of who Jesus was and what He did (Luke 4:1-4).

While we will come back to Luke, the next introduction we will look at is that of John. John was one of the apostles so he was writing his direct eyewitness account about what he had seen, heard and experienced as a disciple of Christ. John's emphasis for writing was not on what Jesus did, but who Jesus was. It is set up much differently than the other Gospels since almost half of it covers that last week of the life of Jesus, taking care to prove that Jesus was God. He starts this proof from the very beginning as He described Jesus as being the Word of God.

Jesus has existed from before time began and He was with God because He was God. He was there and helped when God created the universe. There was nothing that was made that did not come through His power and the direction as God. Jesus was the source of life at the beginning of time and is the source of eternal life still today, He came to earth to be the light of men who would give them hope through the darkness of their sin. John started out the themes that will be prevalent throughout the book as well as in the books of I, II & III John, The themes of life, light and darkness picture who Jesus was and the purpose for which Jesus came (John 1:1-5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that the story of Jesus is more than just a story? It is actual fact and is recorded by eyewitnesses and historians who carefully looked into the matter so they would know it was true. Luke was an educated man who wanted to make sure that what He believed was true and that it would be recorded for generations to come. John was with Jesus and wanted everyone to know the intimacy that he felt and experienced with the greatest One the world had ever known. These men, along with countless others, give proof that Jesus was more than just a man, but that He truly was the Son of God.

Since the messages recorded here are absolute truth, that means it is vital to pay great attention to what is being written for you. You should desire to make it a goal to know Christ and what He desires for your life. You should note the way He lived and seek to follow His example. You can be confident of what you have in Christ because of this truth that has been written about Him.

Luke 1:1-4

What did Luke say His purpose was (vs 1)?

Why is it important to realize that Luke wanted to make sure what he was writing was accurate?

What was Luke seeking to confirm (vs 2)?

What does Luke reveal about other accounts that were written about Jesus (vs 2)?

Why do you think we have four Gospel accounts in the Scripture?

How can this increase your trust in the accuracy of the Word of God?

What did Luke pay attention to (vs 3)?

What did he want to write (vs 3)?

Who did he want to write to (vs 3)?

****Most likely Theophilus was some type of Roman leader who had believed in the Gospel. As we continue to see, Luke was directed towards Gentile readers.*

Why did Luke say he wrote his book (vs 4)?

John 1:1-5

What is made clear about "the Word" (vs 1)?

Why is it important to realize that Jesus was in the beginning (vs 2)?

What did Jesus create (vs 3)?

What was in Him (vs 4)?

What does light have the ability to do (vs 5)?

Why do you think John used the term "Word" instead of Jesus?

“Jesus the King”

Study: Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 2:23-38

Reading: –

Memory: Psalm 51:8

What Does the Bible Say?

There are two different genealogies listed for Jesus, one in Matthew 1 and the other in Luke 3. Some commentators think that the one in Matthew lists the line of Jesus through Joseph and the one in Luke lists the line of Jesus through Mary, which could account for the differences between the genealogies listed in both chapters. It is also interesting to note that Matthew starts with Abraham and traces forward to Jesus while Luke starts with Jesus and traced Him backwards to Adam. The fact that Matthew was writing mainly to Jews and that Luke was writing to Gentiles makes itself evident in this passage. It also has to be remembered that when genealogies were listed, they did not list every single person in the line, but would at times skip some generations.

Some interesting things stick out in Matthew’s genealogy, one of which is that there are four women listed. Each of these women were unique cases and three of them had clearly committed adulterous relationships (Tamar and Rahab acted as prostitutes, Bethsheba being the third), and two of them (Ruth & Rahab) were not Israelites. This seems to reveal that what made Jesus holy was not His lineage, but the fact that He was placed in Mary as the seed of God.

At the end of Matthew’s genealogy, he mentions that there were three distinct periods that had 14 generations in each of them. It is not exactly clear to us today why this is mentioned, but it probably had some significance in the day that he was writing. It does divide Israel into three major periods of their history (Matthew 1:1-17).

Unlike Matthew who placed the lineage right at the beginning of the book, Luke placed it right before the public ministry of Jesus started. He stated that Jesus was about 30 years of age when He started to make it known that He was the Messiah. It is amazing to think that He spent His teens and twenties in Nazareth just working a routine job and taking care of His family. Most likely, His father had died during this time, and being the oldest, He would have had much of the responsibility of taking care of His family. Another reason that He would have waited until He

was 30 is that it was around that age that a priest would be able to enter public service. It was around that age that men would start to be respected (Luke 3:23-28).

There are many other interesting things that could be learned from a deep study of these genealogies, but for our devotional purposes, we will stick with the observations that have been made.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that Jesus came to save all men? Luke’s choice to trace the genealogy back to Adam reveals that Jesus was more than a Jew. He came to save more than just the Israelites. He came to save the whole world.

Do you realize that Jesus came to save sinners? The realization of the type of people who are listed in the line of Jesus makes it very clear why Jesus came and that He did not just come for the elite. He didn’t come from some special “holy” line that would cause the outcasts to think they were not worthy of His salvation, but He came from a long line of outcasts and wicked men and women. This also reveals the great humility in which He came into the world because He came into a line of sinners.

Though he was born into a family of sinners, He was born to be the righteous King. Another thing the genealogies do is trace his lineage back to David which reveal He was a descendant of Judah. This gave Him the right to be a king and one day He will establish His kingdom here on earth. Great care was taken by God to give every proof that Jesus was the only One who could fit all that the prophets’ predictions of the coming King and Ruler of the earth. The lineage of Jesus showed He was a Jew from the line of David, which would give Him the authority to eventually become King of the world.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that He sent Jesus to save the worst of sinners.*
- * *Ask God to help you understand the great sacrifice of Jesus.*
- * *Praise God because He is salvation.*

Thought for the day

Matthew 1:1-17

What three main names are mentioned in verse 1?

Why do you think Matthew places an emphasis on these three names?

Who does Matthew start Jesus' genealogy with (vs 2)?

Why do you think he starts with Abraham and not Adam?

Who are the four women mentioned in this genealogy? What was unique about each of these women?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

****From Abraham (2100 B.C.) to David (1050 B.C.) would have been about 950 years. From David to the Babylonian destruction (586 B.C.) would have been under 400 years and from the Babylonian invasion to Christ (4 B.C.) would have been a little under 600 years.*

Luke 3:23-38

How old was Jesus when He began His ministry (vs 23)?

Why do you think He waited until He was this age?

Why do you think Luke added "as was supposed" son of Joseph (vs 23)?

Where do the genealogies of Luke and Matthew start to differ (vs 31)?

****From Abraham to David are almost identical (with a few spelling variations), but from David, the Luke genealogy goes through Nathan the son of David while Matthew traces Jesus back through the line of Solomon.*

Why do you think it was important that Adam is mentioned (vs 38)?

"God's Perfect Timing"

Study: Luke 1:5-17

Reading: I Chronicles 24:7-18, Malachi 4:1-6

Memory: Psalm 51:8

What Does the Bible Say?

The birth of Jesus happened at a vital point in the history of the Israelites. The Roman government was in control of the region of Israel and for some time the reigning ruler over the whole area of Israel was Herod the Great. Through a complex political system and by defeating an invading Parthian army, Herod had gained the privilege to be ruler of the region many years before the birth of Jesus. Herod was a master builder and to please the Jews he began to construct a massive temple complex in Jerusalem which would have been the setting for many New Testament events.

One of these events was the appearance of an angel to Zechariah in the temple. Zechariah and Elizabeth were the uncle and aunt of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Zechariah was a priest, and in those days priests were divided into 24 divisions that would serve twice a year in the temple for a one week period (vs 5).

Zechariah and Elizabeth were described as being righteous and a couple who deeply loved God and were heavily devoted to Him. They were known for their godly character and great service to Him, but one of the great disappointments in life was that they were unable to have a child. Elizabeth was barren and past the age where most women would have children, so they had pretty much given up hope that they would be able to have a child (vs 6-7).

While serving one of his weeks, Zechariah was picked for a once in a lifetime responsibility. In the morning and evening a priest would go into the temple to burn incense unto God and no priest could do this more than once in their lifetime. The lot (probably some type of drawing of names or marked stones) fell on Zechariah, an honor that many priests would never experience. This was not just a coincidence, but was all part of the great plan and timing of God surrounding the birth of His Son (vs 8-9).

While the priest would enter in the temple itself, much of what was going on in the courtyard would stop and prayers would be offered unto

God. While the people were praying, Zechariah went in, but was taking much longer than usual. This was because an angel appeared to him while he was in the process of making his offering. This appearance sent great fear through Zechariah and the angel attempted to calm the fear by telling him that he was there to bring good news. This good news was that Zechariah and his wife were going to have a son, and they were to call their son John. The name John mean “Yahweh is gracious.” This birth would bring great joy to the barren couple and would produce gladness and singing (vs 10-14).

John was not just going to be an ordinary child, but was going to be greatly used of God. Because of this, he was to live differently than others around him. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit for the time he was in his mother’s womb until the time of his death. He was to stay away from wine and strong drink and was to be separated unto the Lord. He would be a prophet like Elijah that would turn the hearts of many towards God and he would be the one who was predicted to prepare the way for the Messiah to come (vs 15-17).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize God’s great and perfect timing? This whole incident that starts out the narrative of the New Testament did not just happen by chance, but was calculated by God so that the Old Testament prophecies surrounding the Messiah and the deliverance of mankind would come true. From this, you can realize that God’s timing is precise, but His timing is not just limited to this situation. This same God who timed the birth of His Son perfectly is the same God that says that He is working all things together for good in your life. That means that His timing for you is perfect as well. Sometimes, you can see this right away, but there are times where it will seem that God’s timing doesn’t make sense. Yet, if you choose to trust in Him and let Him have His perfect way, you will eventually see that His timing was not a mistake. His perfect timing may not be seen or understood in this life, but you can trust that He knows what He is doing.

Thought for the day

Who was king over Israel at the time (vs 5)?

What two main characters are mentioned in verse 5?

How are they described (vs 6)?

If someone were to describe your life, do you think they would describe it this way? Explain your answer.

What issue were they experiencing (vs 7)?

What do you think it meant that “his division was on duty” (vs 8)?

****There were so many priests at the time that they took turns serving in the temple.*

What was Zechariah chosen to do (vs 9)? Why was this a unique opportunity?

What were the people doing while Zechariah went into the temple (vs 10)?

What happened to Zechariah while in the temple (vs 11)?

How did Zechariah respond (vs 12)? What does this reveal about the presence of God and His angels?

How did the angel calm Zechariah (vs 13)?

What did the angel tell him about his prayer (vs 13)?

Why were they to call their son John (vs 13)?

What would this verse produce (vs 14)?

How was John going to be different (vs 15-16)?

Who did the angel say John was (vs 17)? Why is this significant?

“It Is Possible with God”

Study: Luke 1:18-25

Reading: Matthew 19:23-30, Exodus 14:1-31

Memory: Psalm 51:8



Model of Herod's Temple & Complex

What Does the Bible Say?

The message that the angel had given to Zechariah was amazing and quite unbelievable for him. He didn't think it was possible that he and his wife could have a child since his wife was past the child bearing stage and they had already tried for so many years. Even with an angel standing directly in front of him, he had a hard time believing since having a child was a hope they had given up on and it seemed completely impossible. The angel declared that he had been sent by God to deliver this message, basically saying that it was the power of God that would make the birth of John possible (vs 18-19).

As a sign that the angel was telling the truth and that they would have a baby, the angel told Zechariah that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born. The inability to speak was not just a sign, but also a slight form of punishment for his lack of faith, though truly it was much more of a sign that John was a very special child (vs 20).

All the people who had been praying outside were anxiously awaiting for Zechariah to appear, but he was taking much longer than a priest usually would. Because of the sacredness of the task, some must have thought that he was killed by God because he wasn't pure according to the law. There was a great relief when he appeared at the entrance of the

temple, and the people soon realized that something was different. They began to understand that he had seen a vision but were amazed at the fact that he could not speak. The only thing he could do was make signs to them to try to explain what happened. I guess what you could have called it was a priestly game of charades (vs 21-22).

He finished out his week of service and then headed home to his wife to share the good news with her. How she must have been surprised to have her husband come home and not be able to talk and how much more surprised she must have been when he told her the news. Shortly after this, Elizabeth found out that she was expecting, though she didn't tell anyone for the first five months. She was amazed and so thrilled because the Lord had taken away the negative stigma that came along with a woman who was unable to bear a child (vs 23-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have a difficult time believing God? Do you think it would be much easier to believe if an angel came and told you? Though you might think that, the example of godly Zechariah shows us that faith is tough to have regardless of where we get our information. Even when an angel told him about the birth of John it was hard for him to believe because the situation was impossible in human terms. This is a great challenge to us to have faith that God can do the impossible. So often we think things are possible only if they are humanly possible. Once they are no longer possible for us as humans to accomplish we think it is past hope, but is that true faith? Real faith, deep faith is to believe that God can do things that have no human explanation or reason. It is trusting Him to do what He says He will do even if every earthly circumstance points a different direction.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the ability to have faith.*
- * *Ask God to give you the faith to trust Him to do the impossible.*
- * *Praise God because He can do the impossible.*

Thought for the day

What had the angel just told Zechariah (vs 13-17)?

How did Zechariah respond (vs 18)?

Why do you think he responded this way?

Who did the angel declare he was (vs 19)? Why do you think he gave his name?

****The name Gabriel is mentioned in the Book of Daniel and would have been familiar to Zechariah. The name would have been associated with the great power of God.*

Why did Gabriel say he was sent (vs 19)?

What was going to be a sign that what Gabriel said was true (vs 20)?

Why do you think this particular sign was given?

What were the people outside the temple wondering (vs 21)?

What did the people realize (vs 22)?

How did he try to communicate with the people (vs 22)?

What happened after he went home (vs 23-24)?

What did Elizabeth keep hidden (vs 24)?

Why do you think she kept this hidden?

What did Elizabeth declare about her situation (vs 25)?

Why do you think she declared this?

Why do you think God chose to make Elizabeth barren up to this point in her life?

What does this reveal about the plan of God compared to your plans?

“The Announcement”

Study: Luke 1:26-38

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-40

Memory: Psalm 51:8

What Does the Bible Say?

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent an angel to the city of Nazareth which was located in the region of Galilee. When this was written, Israel was divided into three main parts. Galilee was in the north around the area of the Sea of Galilee. Samaria (not officially part of Israel) was in the middle of the region and Judea was in the south. People of Galilee were not as wealthy and educated as the people of Judea and the region was much more agriculturally based (farming and fishing) than the region of Judea. The city of Nazareth is not mentioned in the Old Testament and if it wasn’t for that being the home of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, it would probably not have been mentioned in the New Testament. It was a very insignificant city, which is very significant in the story of God humbling Himself to become a man. It is interesting to note that Isaiah prophesied (9:1-2) that the land of Zebulun and Naphtali would be made glorious as it witnessed the “great light” of the Messiah. Nazareth was located near the borders of these two tribes and it is where Jesus would have spent most of His early years (vs 26).

The angel Gabriel was sent to talk to a girl named Mary who was engaged to a man named Joseph. Joseph was a descendant of David and most likely their parents had arranged a marriage between the two of them. The exact ages of Joseph and Mary were not revealed, though they probably were in their mid to late teens (possibly a little earlier) since people in those days married much earlier than they do today. The betrothal period was like our engagements, but much more serious. It was a legally binding contract and a time for the couple to get to know each other before their official wedding ceremony. Sexual relations were not allowed during the betrothal period and were allowed only after the official wedding (vs 27).

Gabriel greeted Mary by telling her that she was well favored of the Lord. This does not mean that she was sinless or greater than any other woman, it was just that she was the one God had chosen to bring forth His Son. Most likely, she was a godly girl with a pure heart, though little

is said about the life of Mary. The response of Mary gives a little insight into the reality that she didn't think she was anything special. She was troubled at the greeting given by the angel and then once she realized it was an angel, she was overcome by fear (vs 28-29).

She was told not to be afraid because he was there to bring good news. She was going to be the woman who would bear the Son of God who was to be the Messiah. She was going to conceive in a miraculous way because there was no seed of a man involved. She was to call this child Jesus, which meant "Jehovah is salvation." He was going to be king and had a right to the throne since He came from the line of David. He was going to be a king that would establish a kingdom that would rule forever. It was made very clear that Jesus was to be the fulfillment of the promises the Israelites had been waiting for (vs 30-33).

This greatly puzzled Mary because she had never had sexual relations with a man which made it impossible for her to be pregnant. Gabriel responded by telling her that it was the Holy Spirit who would implant the seed of God in her and cause her to become pregnant. This was not humanly possible, but because God was involved, it became possible and everything about Jesus would be miraculous. As proof that miracles could happen, the angel told Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant though she had been barren. Mary humbly submitted to this plan which was significant because of all of the social stigma and the possible rejection from Joseph that she would face (vs 34-38).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that all things really are possible with God? It is easy to have faith in God to do the normal, but it is much tougher to trust Him to do the miraculous. Yet, God has the power to do anything. Your part is to follow the example of Mary and choose to submit to His plan for you. Sometimes His plan is not always easy, it certainly wasn't for Mary. Instead of being thrilled to be pregnant like many other women would be, Mary probably would have been extremely fearful. Not only would she have to explain it to Joseph and others, but she would have the great responsibility of raising the Son of God. With all of this going through her mind, she chose to willingly and humbly submit to God and His plan for her life. We need to follow this example and do the same. Sometimes, God's plan for us is very difficult and at times it seems impossible. Though it is hard, God has many great rewards and privileges waiting for you at the end of it when you choose to submit.

What do you think the "sixth month" is referring to in verse 26?

What is clear about Mary (vs 27)?

Why is it vital to understand that Jesus was born of a virgin?

What was Mary's status with Joseph (vs 27)?

How did Gabriel describe Mary (vs 28)?

Do you think this makes Mary better than other women? Explain.

How did Mary respond to the angel (vs 29)?

What does this reveal about the fact that Mary was just a normal human being?

What did the angel tell Mary not to do (vs 30)?

What has Mary found (vs 30)?

What was going to happen to Mary (vs 31)?

What were they to call the baby's name (vs 31)? Why do you think this name was given?

What was clear about whose son this baby would be (vs 32)?

What was this child going to do (vs 32-33)?

What was Mary confused about (vs 34)?

How was Mary going to conceive (vs 35)?

What proof did Gabriel give to Mary that this could happen (vs 36)?

What did Gabriel declare (vs 37)?

How did Mary respond (vs 38)? What can you learn from this?

“Making His Plan Clear”

Study: Luke 1:39-45

Reading: Judges 6:1-40

Memory: Psalm 51:8

What Does the Bible Say?

It is not clear at what time Mary told Joseph that she was pregnant, but from the language, and the fact that Mary was in a hurry to travel to see her cousin Elizabeth, seems to indicate that she did not inform Joseph until she arrived back from her three month visit to Judea. Most likely, she wouldn't say a word until she really knew it was true and to find out if it was true, she went immediately to Elizabeth's house to see if Elizabeth was pregnant just as the angel said (vs 39).

When Mary arrived at the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, it was no ordinary occasion. As soon as Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby inside of her (John the Baptist) “leaped” and Elizabeth was immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. It appears that this moment helped confirm in Mary's heart what the angel had told her. Elizabeth, through the filling of the Spirit, declared that Mary was blessed among women. She also stated that Mary was the “mother of her Lord” and wondered why it was that Mary had come. Elizabeth went on further to explain how she knew from the movement of her baby that Mary was pregnant with a special child. This was all part of their belief that the Messiah would come to fulfill the prophecies that were recorded in Scripture. It should be noted that until



From Logos Maps

the Day of Pentecost, followers of God were not continually filled with the Spirit as they are today. The Spirit came upon them to help them fulfill specific tasks and purposes, like here, as Elizabeth was able to supernaturally declare that Mary was the mother of the Messiah (vs 40-45).

In response to this, Mary declared the greatness of the Lord in what is often called “The Magnificat.” We will read about this declaration of Mary in great detail tomorrow.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you ever wonder what God's plan might be for your life? When God reveals something to you, do you trust it or question it? Even when angels spoke to men and women of the Bible, they were often unsure if what they had seen was a dream or reality. Mary wasn't fully sure either and that is why she traveled to Elizabeth's house where God lovingly confirmed to her that what the angel had declared was true. God will do the same for you today. No, in most cases He won't send an angel to declare a message to you, but He does use the Holy Spirit to work in your heart to prod you to step out in faith and obedience. This prodding is often followed by circumstances or people that God brings your way to affirm that what you are doing is right. Sometimes it is easy to judge others, especially Bible characters, for doubting, but God lovingly confirmed His truth. God will also confirm his truth to you when you go through times and periods of doubting. Rest assured that God knows your heart and knows you are a human and will sometimes doubt. He will help lead you and confirm His way for you. Your responsibility is to listen when He speaks and directs in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for being gracious to you when you doubt Him.*
- * *Ask God to help your eyes to be open to His confirmation.*
- * *Praise God because He works to show you His will for your life.*

Thought for the day

What did Mary do after Gabriel finished talking to her (vs 39)?

Why do you think she was in such a hurry to do this?

What do you think would have been going through the mind of Mary?

****Mary lived in Nazareth and would have traveled down to a town in Judah which would have taken a few days of walking. It is hard to imagine what would have been going through her mind at this time.*

What did Mary do when she reached the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth (vs 40)?

****There is a good chance that Mary's family would have visited Zechariah and Elizabeth occasionally. Perhaps they even would have stayed at their home when they traveled down each year to Jerusalem for the three annual festivals.*

What happened when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary (vs 41)?

What did Elizabeth exclaim (v 42)?

Why do you think God caused her to exclaim this?

How do you think this would have brought great comfort to Mary?

What did Elizabeth know about Mary before Mary said anything (vs 43)?

What does the statement of Elizabeth show about her humility?

What did Elizabeth say she felt when Mary greeted her (vs 44)?

Why do you think God caused this to happen?

What did Elizabeth bless Mary for (vs 45)?

Why do you think she blessed her for this?

What does this emphasize about the importance of believing God?

MEMORY VERSES

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.