



Bartholoma & Ursula Bergert Riehle

An English Transcript  
of  
“A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE LORD JESUS  
AND HIS MOTHER AND  
HIS MOTHER’S PARENTS”

Written by Bartholoma Riehle in 1810

Edited by: Jack & Cynthia Riehle

© 2004

## Introduction to The Writings and Records Of Bartholomew Riehle

To the readers of this transcript it seems appropriate to explain how it came into existence and the purpose for which the effort was undertaken.

As a direct descendent of Bartholomew and Ursula Bergert Riehle, I am interested in contributing to the preservation of their memory and providing a genealogical starting point for this branch of the Riehle surname.

This transcript is an English language translation by Drexel W. Gibson, Director of Berlitz Translation services dated April 5, 1967 from the original hand written German manuscript by Bartholoma<sup>1</sup> Riehle. This then, is a second generation transcription, faithfully verified from the typewritten Berlitz translation text to the best of our ability. Acknowledgement is given to Nick Riehle and Cynthia S. Riehle for their assistance in verifying the accuracy of the transcription against the original copy.

Over the years the original German manuscript has been lost but we do have copies of the 1967 Berlitz translation, which ostensibly is considered a true and accurate copy of the original Bartholma Riehle manuscript.<sup>2</sup> The copy of that translation in my possession is a Xerox copy of a Xerox copy which of technical consequence, represents a degraded copy of rather poor quality. Continued Xerox copying for further distribution would of necessity require that it suffer further degradation of quality in the copy process. Eventually, if continued, the copy process will render the text unusable and unreadable.

Consequently, I have undertaken to transcribe the Xerox copy into a modern electronic format such that it can be copied and widely distributed to whoever wishes to have a personal copy of this important Riehle family genealogical text. Moreover, this type of format facilitates instant delivery worldwide over the Internet.

This endeavor also creates a more permanent and more durable record of the original text; one that will not be lost, or be subject to the ravages of time and mildew such as the original paper manuscript. Protection against unauthorized revision of this document is also an important consideration of text in electronic formats. We can, however, take some assurance in preservation of the accuracy of the document through the protection of the copyright laws and electronic write protection which is available through the application of current technology.

This document is important to Riehle genealogists and as such must be preserved for all generations who are interested in the Riehle surname. Every possible effort has been made to produce a true and accurate copy of the original transcript even to the point of preserving the original typographical errors, language usage, punctuation and spelling errors reflected in the Berlitz transcript. Footnotes have been added to clarify errors noted in the Berlitz transcript by this Editor.

No attempt whatsoever was made to change or modify language usage, phrasing, grammar or spelling. To the contrary, such errors have been faithfully preserved in this transcript and footnoted.

So as you read what is presented herein, be assured that while editorial footnotes, and page numbers have been added for clarity and organizational purposes, the basic text and additional genealogical notes

---

<sup>1</sup> [Alternate spelling of Bartholomew, Bartholoma, and Bartholomee.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [See Notary certification on cover page.](#)

## A Short biography of The Lord Jesus

---

by Bartholomew Riehle are exactly as he recorded them in his hand written book, or at least as they were translated by Drexel W. Gibson in 1967. You may find some of the language structure awkward and stilted by modern standards. Nevertheless, this is a professional work by a skilled translator. It should be read with interest and highly valued for it's genealogical content. While this manuscript is clearly not a Bible in any true sense of the terms of cannon law, it seems rather to be a collection of sermonic anecdotes apparently derived from Bartholomew's seminary education. It seems clear, however, that Bartholomew **used** his hand written manuscript as if it WERE a family bible and painstakingly recorded the important events of his life. This manuscript does not, however, gain it's value as a ecclesiastical or expository theological work, rather it's true value today comes from the first hand genealogical entries Bartholomew made it in over the years of his life.

This book is important to us, his descendants, because Grandfather Bartholomew dutifully and faithfully recorded the names, births, deaths, and baptisms of all of his children, including their Godparents, his marriages to Teresa Erb, her death and second marriage to Ursula Bergert and even such trivialities in his life such as a property deed for his land in Chillicothe Ohio and a 19<sup>th</sup> century frontier cure for infertility in cattle.

In any genealogical search we seek authoritative records of our ancestry to help us to piece together the line of ancestry and progeny so we can accurately satisfy the basic question: ***We all want to know: From whence we came?***

Bartholomew's book is so valuable because he is the root of the Ross County Ohio branch of the Riehle family after he immigrated to the U.S in 1831. He has gifted us with the best and most authoritative record possible of all of his first generation progeny.

I charge all of you to do the same. Create and leave the records of your life so those that come after you can find and analyze them as we do here in this wonderful document. If you are one of Bartholomew's progeny, or know someone who is, I would like to hear from you. Through this, I will be able to fill in all of the traces of Bartholomew's descendents and honor him though his memory.

Bartholomew's book is fine place to start our genealogical search for the rest of the Ross County Ohio Riehle line, because our Grandfather Bartholomew Riehle is from whence we all came.



*John Andrew Riehle*  
2272 Olde Sawmill, Blvd.  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
614.336. 8231  
jack@riehle.net



BERLITZ TRANSLATION SERVICE

222 Mamaronek Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605  
Tel: 914 WH 6-8389  
Office of the Director

I, Drexel W. Gibson, director of the Berlitz Translation service, hereby certify that the following is a true and complete translation of the German hand-written book into English, the best of my knowledge and belief.

Drexel W. Gibson  
DREXEL W. GIBSON

Sworn to before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 1967

***Aaron Leon Leviter***

Aaron Leon Leviter  
Notary Public, State of New York  
NO 60-2885300  
Qualified in Westchester County  
Term expires March 30, 1969<sup>3</sup>

---

I, John A. Riehle do hereby certify on this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2003 that this is a true and accurate copy of a Berlitz Translation of the original German manuscript written by Bartholma Riehle circa 1810.

---

John A. Riehle  
2272 Olde Sawmill Blvd.  
Dublin, Ohio 43016-9218  
614.336.8231  
[JARiehle@columbus.rr.com](mailto:JARiehle@columbus.rr.com)

Copyright © 2003, John A. Riehle. None of the contents of this document may be reproduced or republished or modified in any way except with permission of the author. I take amanuensis credit as a scribe involved in a textual critical review of the original work.

Word Doc file: *A short History of Jesus by Bartholomew Riehle 12-15-2003. Rev 0*

---

<sup>3</sup> Notary's expiration date was originally March 30, 1967, it was changed to 1969 by a hand written 9 on the original transcription. The original commission date was a formatted rubber stamp. The reason for the date change is unknown and unexplained.

A short biography of  
The Lord Jesus  
And his mother and  
His mother's parents

- 1840      March 5, was born and baptized.
- 1843      October 2, Maria Riehle in Hoinlinton  
Godfather Jacob Wunderle  
Godmother his wife Maria Josepha Kohrer
- 

F r a n z I s k a

Born Nov. 15, 1943<sup>4</sup>  
and baptized in Chillicathe<sup>5</sup> April 13, 1844  
Godfather Hironimus Braun and  
Godmother Franziska Willinger, the widow  
of the Late Ferdinand Riehle, died May 6,  
1843

- 1843      Nov. 15, was born Martin.  
Died Jan. 7, 1844.

---

<sup>4</sup> Date 1943 is a typographical error, it should read 1843

<sup>5</sup> Spelling error maintained

- 1831 Sept 29, Sophia was born under the sign of Moon children and baptized on Sept. 30. Godfather Ferdinand Riehle and Godmother Anna Maria Bahr, wife of the "Bronnewirt" Karl Stingler. Above child died on Nov 6, 1839
- 18.. Sept 29. Ferdinand was Born<sup>6</sup> and baptized in Chollicathe<sup>7</sup> Godmother is Mrs. Hedwig Lang and Godfather is my brother Ferdinand.
- 1836 April 10,<sup>8</sup> a boy was born under the sign of Aquarius and was baptized on September 3, 1837 in Chillicathe.<sup>9</sup> Godfather Friedolin Wunderlie and Godmother the wife of my brother Ferdinand. He was called Johannes.

---

<sup>6</sup> Capitalization error noted.

<sup>7</sup> Spelling error maintained.

<sup>8</sup> April 10, is under the sign of Aries

<sup>9</sup> Spelling error maintained.

- 1 -

There was a highly esteemed man under the Israelites, same was called Joachim and was born of Judas' race who was the 12 brothers of Jacob a son of the patriarch. The race of Abraham was promised by God the Father that he will let be born his son out of their race and that the same

- 2 -

would save the whole mankind from their sins by his sufferings and his dying which Joachim too believed as he feared God and served God which gentleness of character and good company or way of living. All he gathered through the whole year he cut in three parts,

- 3 -

One part he gave for the poor the other part for the divine service and with the third part he supported himself and his whole house and as he feared God so he became so wealthy that there was none like him under the people of Israel. When J. was 25 years old he got married and got a wife out of the race of David.

- 4 -

They lived together in married state for 20 years and had no fetus. Once he came to the temple and wanted to sacrifice to God. There someone came toward him, it was Rubin, he told him to get out of temple and said that was not worthy to be in the temple of God as he has not begot children with his wife for it was written in the

- 5 -

Old Testament that those should be excluded from the temple who have not begot children. Therefore J. went out of the temple crying, he went not home to his wife but he gathered his cattle and wandered away to a moor so they could not find him for eight months and he was crying very much and said: Oh Allworthy<sup>10</sup> God, be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

---

<sup>10</sup> Original spelling was maintained.



- 6 -

When Anna his wife heard that her husband was gone away she was highly grieved and cried very much and said, Oh Allworthy<sup>11</sup> God of Israel why did you take my husband off me with whom I have neither begot sons nor daughters and still I do not know whether he will be alive or dead. After this she went to fall down on her knees and prayed to God with weeping eyes.

- 7 -

There she saw a bird which had got his nest with his brood on a Laurel tree. Thereupon she prayed humbly to God and said: Oh, God AllWorthy<sup>12</sup> God, you who created all creatures and made them fertile, why have you excluded me from your grace; you gave me a husband but yet no children, that we could sacrifice. As she was asking in such a way

- 8 -

An angel appeared before her and said: Do not cry Anna, God heard your prayer you will become the pregnant and bear a daughter whereupon the whole world will be rejoicefully<sup>13</sup> delighted. As the Angel had said this he disappeared before her eyes and she became afraid. When she had seen this and had heard the message she went back to her room and lay down on her bed exhausted as if she were dead,

- 9 -

but she carried on to pray day and night to God. Thereupon she called one of the servants and said to her: have you not seen me in great fear why did you not come to console me? The maid answered and said: It is not my fault if God has taken husband off you and created you sterile. When Anna heard this of her Servant she cried very much and prayed to God.

- 10 -

At the same hour an Angel in the figure of a young man appeared to Joachim in the desert and said to him: Why do you not go home to your wife? Joachim answered and said: Twenty years we lived together in married state and she has not yet begot a child therefore I had to leave the temple ashamed. What shall I do at home, I want to stay here all the rest of my life. But I will not fail to give from my fortune to the poor and the widows and orphans and for the divine service.

---

<sup>11</sup> Original Spelling preserved.

<sup>12</sup> Original Spelling preserved.

<sup>13</sup> Original Spelling preserved.

- 11 -

After he had said this the man spoke to him: I am an angel who had consoled your wife when she was crying and praying to God. You are to know that you wife will get pregnant of a daughter of your seed and this daughter will be elevated over the whole world and there will be no one born like her.

- 12 -

The mother and daughter will be saints for the whole world because of the Savior Jesus Christ to whom the Holy Virgin Maria will give birth by the benediction of; the Holy Spirit. Your wife will be pregnant with Maria. Be not afraid but go to your house and to your wife and thank God for his blessing.

- 13 -

There Joachim asked the angel to stay with him for a time and said to him: Be graceful and stay beside me for an hour and tell your servant what pleases my God. The Angel answered and said: Do not call me your master we serve one God and my food and water is not of this world and do not ask me to stay with you but sacrifice to your God.

- 14-

There Joachim took and uncutted lamb and said to the angel: I did not dare to sacrifice because I am so grieved, but you ordered me to do so. The Angel answered him: I did not order it but God does it want so. And as he sacrificed the Angel went back to heaven and J. Fell down on his resting place for six days.

- 15 -

On the seventh day in the evening his journeymen came and were wondering about his being absent from such a long time and J. answered them that he had intended to kill himself and they could hardly get him up from the ground. When they had set him up he told them what had happened to him.

- 16 -

Thereupon they were very astonished and told him to return to his house as this is what the Angel had told him. But he asked himself what he should do at home. Thereupon he fell asleep full of sorrow and fear. There the angel appeared to him and said: Go home to your wife, because God made her fertile.

- 17 -

You should believe that this has never happened to any other prophet or saint. When he was awake again, he gathered his journeyman and told them his dream. Those advised him not to hesitate any more but to act after the Angels words.

- 18 -

There he got up quickly and went home to his wife. But when he was not far from his house, there the angel came to Anna when she was praying to God and said: Go towards your husband at the golden gate there you will receive him today. Thereupon she took her servants with her and went to the gate and they prayed to God.

- 19 -

When she had finished her prayer she saw her husband Joachim arriving with his cattle. She was very happy about that, walked toward him, greeted him friendly and said: Before I was a widow, now I am not anymore, before I was sterile but now I am fertile, - and furthermore there was a great happiness in her whole family and in the whole country.

- 20 -

As the nine months were gone Anna gave birth to a daughter and called her Maria. When she was seven years old, Joachim and Anna went to the temple and sacrificed to God and put between Maria between the other virgins and served God day and night god fearing and all those who were in the temple were very astonished.

- 21 -

When she was ten years old she got a good spirit and did well her Christian prayer and when she grew older she became more and more gifted by the grace and by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. She was god - fearing and was skillful and charming in everything. She was the prettiest of all of the virgins in the whole world.

- 22 -

Her face was as white as snow just fallen from the sky. She was gifted by the Holy Spirit. She lived after her own instructions; from the morning to the evening she spent the day with holy exercises. She was fed by an angel so that she could not be prevented from divine service and God'ssalvation.<sup>14</sup>

- 23 -

Of all of these virgins which were with Maria, there was none like her and there was none who feared God more than her. She was pure in her way of living and her words and she never swore nor spoke in malice. The virgins surrounding her, were also pure and proper in their words and deeds.

- 24 -

the food she got from the angel was her nourishment. The remaining food she gave to the poor. She was seen speaking with the angel and all those who had seen her and had been ill, became healthy immediately. There was also a priest, Abajathar, who wanted Maria to marry his son.

- 25 -

This would have been a great honor to the bishop and made him happy. When Maria heard about it she said, this must not be that the son of Abathar<sup>15</sup> will become my husband because I have sworn to my god from the very first time of my life to stay a virgin. When the virgin Maria became 13 years old, the Pharisees convened a council and said:

---

<sup>14</sup> Run on words maintained.

<sup>15</sup> Spelling error for Abajathar maintained.

- 26 -

No female person should enter the temple for prayers. There the bishop Abajathar went on the highest step and was exclaiming loudly before all the people; This temple was built at the time of King Solomon; after him there was his daughter and other nobles of his family followed their parents.

- 27 -

There was Maria followed by her family and as she wanted to serve God she was going to ask God for advice what she was to do to stay a virgin. And those who were in the temple were pleased to hear these words. They cast lots to know who should get her. The lot showed for Judas' race.

- 28 -

The bishop ordered all those under them who had not yet got a wife to come the next day with a staff in their hands. And when they came the next day they left their staffs at the bishop on the alter. He said to them to come the next day earlier and take their staffs.

- 29 -

But it was decided that when they retake their staffs, to whom a dove came and sat on he top of his staff and from there flew towards heaven to him Maria should belong. After everything was prepared they came the other day when the bishop had finished his prayers.

- 30 -

He took the staffs on which there were 300, but there came no dove to sit on. Abajathar put on his priest clothes, went to the alter, fell down on his knees and prayed to God to give him a sign. In the night an angel came to him and said: There will be a poor man which you will not even notice. As soon as he arrives the sign will appear as God ordered it.

- 31 -

And this was Joseph because he was poor and old and stood all in the back of the temple and was not allowed to come near the alter. There Abajathar called Joseph and said: Joseph come here and take your staff. There J. was frightened very much and did not want to step forward voluntarily. But when he came forward with his staff and the dove flew on the end of it

- 32 -

and then flew around the temple for a long time before it rose for heaven. There all people praised Joseph and said: You are praised in your age to keep Maria. There the priest said to him: Take her with you as she was chosen for you by God. There he answered and said: You really will give this young child in my hands.

- 33 -

There Abajathar answered and said: I will give you an advice as Cora, Lathan and Abiram disobeyed the order of God and therefore they have been swallowed by the earth alive. That may happen to you if you despise any longer the order of God. Joseph answered thereupon:

- 34 -

I will do it, leave the virgins with her. Abajathar answered: she shall keep the virgins which have been with her all the time to have company until the day of marriage arrives. There J. took<sup>16</sup> Maria and the 5 virgins with him. The first one was called Nolica, the second one Sephara, the third one Susana,

- 35 -

The Fourth one was called Abigail and the fifth one Noboa. There the priest took the virgins aside and told them to weave a purple curtain for the temple which was a holy act. They were to cast the lots for it and the lot showed to Maria. She prepared to make purple for the temple.

---

<sup>16</sup> Spelling error maintained.

- 36 -

The other virgins said to her: you and the most humble among us, we are wondering why you are worthy to make the purple. When they were speaking like this the angel appeared among them and said: You call her a virgin but you should call her a Queen.

- 37 -

Because she is the most skillful of you all, and they called her a queen. Once Maria was sitting at a fountain, there an angel came to her and said: Maria God is living in you and there will come a light from heaven to live in you. Three days after that, when she was making a purple cloth, there came a handsome young to her and when she looked at him she was much frightened.

- 38 -

The Angel said to her: Holy you are Maria, God will be with you, you will be praised among all women. Do not be afraid, you found grace before God, you will become pregnant and bear a son which will you will call Jesus. Maria answered: How can this be, as I do not even know of a man and have had anything to do with a man.

- 39 -

The Angel answered: The Holy Ghost will come over you and the strength of the Mighty will be with you and you will bear the God-son. Elisabeth your friend will bear a son too in her age as she is sterile. For God nothing is impossible. There Maria answered: See, I am the Lord's servant.

- 40 -

it will happen to me as you said. There Maria took one of the maids along with her to her friend Elizabeth to find out whether the angel was right. When E. saw the virgin Maria she went towards her and pout her arm around her and said: As I know it is a great pleasure to me the mother of my master comes to me.

- 41 -

and that God has chosen you and me his servant and has spoken to our father Abraham and to our race. Maria stayed with E. until the Holy Johannes was born. Then some hours later she left for Nazareth to see Joseph. And he took her in his arms and was kind to her.

- 42 -

it happened one day when Joseph came home from his work as a carpenter, that he heard that the virgin Maria was pregnant. There he was frightened and cried: Oh God, take my life off me I prefer to be dead than alive. There the virgins who stayed with Joseph and Maria said: We know that she has never been under the force of a man, she is a pure virgin.

- 43 -

She became pregnant by the Holy Spirit as the Angel said. But he did not believe it and wanted to go away. There the angel appeared in his dream and said: Do not be afraid J. and take your fiancée<sup>17</sup> the virgin Maria to you. The son to which she will give birth will be the son of God and his name will be Jesus;

- 44 -

as he comes to save the people of the whole world from their sins and he will become the King of heaven and earth. When Joseph heard that he became very glad and forgot his sorrows and went humbly to the virgin Maria and asked her to forgive him for insulting her.

- 45 -

Thereupon she answered full of joy that she does so and thereupon they spent their time with delight and pleasure. When the nine months had passed the time came that she was to give birth to Jesus, at the same time there was an order that everybody had to go to his native town and pay one silver piece for a census.

---

<sup>17</sup> Spelling error preserved.



- 46 -

As Joseph was born in Bethlehem he travelled<sup>18</sup> there and took the virgin Maria along with him and put her on a donkey. As they were on the journey she said: It seem to me that I have folk of two kinds in my womb. One is a jew<sup>19</sup> he is crying hard.

- 47 -

The other is a gentile he is laughing and enjoys himself very much<sup>20</sup> Joseph asked her if she knew what it meant. The virgin Maria answered: All I get out of it is that I will bear soon. When they reached Bethlehem it was night and all doors were locked. There the angel came and led the donkey to an old house where no one was living.

- 48 -

Here the son of God wanted to be born. Joseph bound the ass at the crib beside an ox. The virgin Maria felt that the hour was near when she would give birth to Jesus the son of God and prepared herself humbly.

- 49 -

When Joseph head that her hour to bear was near he went out into the night to get two women who knew to help the virgin Maria. He found two of them. In the time that Joseph was gone away the virgin Maria had undressed herself except her shirt, and unbound her clothes and loosened her hair.

- 50 -

She laid down on her back and fell down on her knees and prayed to God. There a bright light appeared to her: Thereupon she folded her hands, looked toward heaven and showed her back to the crib. But her face she turned to the east,

---

<sup>18</sup> Spelling error maintained.

<sup>19</sup> Lower case Jew preserved.

<sup>20</sup> Period omission maintained.

- 51 -

and she was full of the Holy Spirit and she bore the child Jesus with great honor and delight without any pains. When the virgin Maria saw the child she said: Welcome my master and God and my dear son. Thereupon the child started crying and Maria took the child in her arms

- 52 -

and spoke to him with sweet and soft words and put him to her breasts. Then she took a linen cloth and put the child in it, then she took a band and bound it around his arms and hips as was the custom. Still she took another shawl and put it around his head and put him into a crib as there was no other room in the shelter.

- 53 -

The ox and the ass came and bowed their heads because they recognized their creator. Joseph stepped forward in great humility and joy and when he saw the child he fell on his knees and prayed to him. The two women followed Joseph and prayed also to the child and they saw that the virgin Maria needed no help as the other women do.

- 54 -

They were astonished that she had got milk in her breasts to feed the child. One of those two women grasped at the breasts of Maria. At the same moment her hand dried up. Thereupon she cried very much and asked the virgin Maria for her grace.

- 55 -

and she asked the child too to forgive her for that mistake. And her hand got well again. This woman was called Solma and the name of the other one was Nacheta. Thereupon they went into the town, called together all of the people and said: We have seen a great miracle. A virgin has given birth to a child but she looks as if she had never borne; only that she got milk in her breasts.

- 56 -

and is the wisest of all virgins. There were also shepherds in that same region as there is never such a strong winter as in our country. An angel came to those shepherds in the same night when the son of God was born.

- 57 -

by a pure virgin at Bethlehem and said: We announce you a great delight the son of God has accepted the manhood and been born at Bethlehem by the virgin Maria and they heard many angels singing and praising God for his son

- 58 -

who had humiliated himself for us poor and lost men here on earth and for redeeming us of the power of the devil. The Holy Trinity be praised and thanked. Thereupon the shepherds went towards Bethlehem to pray to the child. But they found it laying in a crib as the angel had told them.

- 59 -

Thereupon Joseph went into the town and looked for another house for the virgin Maria. In the same night the emperor Augustus looked out of his window and up to the sky and noticed something strange in the stars, there was one very bright and shining over the whole country.

- 60 -

he was frightened and wondering about that. Soon he sent a message to the wise men in his country that they should come and tell him the meaning of this bright star. But there was none of them who could tell him so.

- 61 -

Thereupon a woman came. Her name was Sibila she said: This star means that Christ has been born of a pure virgin and the same is the son of God and our Lord. He will be king in Jerusalem and the whole world will pray to him.

- 62 -

When the Emperor Augustus heard such, he became very humble in his heart because he had just ordered in his whole country to pray to his picture as to a God. He ordered instantly to take off his picture they had made in his honor.

- 63 -

In Rome they had also started to construct a temple and it took them two years to do so because there was no war in the country. And when they had finished the temple they sacrificed to their idol and said: This temple will last eternal until a virgin will bear a child.

- 64 -

But they thought this impossible and wrote over the gate of the temple: This is the Eternal Temple. But in the same night when Christ was the Lord was born, the sky was clear and bright as at noon and in the same night the temple collapsed

- 65 -

and all idols in Egypt and in Rome fell down and even it was winter it was as nice and warm and green as it would be in high - summer. The trees in the forests became green and their fruits ripened over the night.

- 66 -

In the sky many people have seen three suns. When the child was eight years<sup>21</sup> old Joseph asked his friends to come and let the child be circumcised as Moses had ordered it. He gave him the name of Jesus as the angel had announced it.

- 67 -

As Christ the Lord was born, all people saw a star they never saw before. It was shining over the whole world and was much bigger than all other stars. There the wise men announced to them that this star meant that Jesus was born of a pure virgin as the prophets had predicted.

---

<sup>21</sup> [Bartholomew most likely meant 8 days as is the Jewish custom for circumcision instead of 8 years as cited here.](#)

- 68 -

There the three kings got on their way and took with them gold, incense and myrrh and many other precious things and they also took along some beasts to carry their burdens because had a long journey before them.

- 69 -

they followed the star and they came near Jerusalem, there was thick fog so they could not see the star anywhere. The three kings were received in Jerusalem with great honor and splendour.<sup>22</sup>

- 70 -

They reached the palace of Herod and sent a message to the king asking him where the king of the Jews their Lord had been born and where they could find him. When the king Herod and the Jews heard this they became outraged and almost mad. Thereupon Herod called for the sages and asked them where the Christ was born.

- 71 -

Those answered him that is written: The son of God will be born in Bethlehem. Thereupon Herod sent messengers to the three kings and asked them where they had seen the star and when they had got knowledge of it. He asked them to go there

- 72 -

and when they found the child they should come back to tell him about so that he could get there too and pray to him, sacrifice and honor him. They followed their way again and when they had left the town they discovered the star and were glad and the star led them to Bethlehem.

- 73 -

It stood over the house in which the child Jesus was. When they came near the town where the shepherds joined them and told what they had seen and heard in the night Christ was born. The shepherds said to them: We saw that you have come to see the child.

---

<sup>22</sup> Original Spelling preserved.

- 74 -

it is the loveliest child of the whole world we will show you whereit<sup>23</sup> is. When the three kings arrived in the town they rode to the place where the child was. When they reached the house, the star was standing high and still over it and the three kings went in

- 75 -

to the child with great humility. The virgin Maria showed the child to them and they sacrificed to him. Maria took the sacrifice from their hands, thanked and praised God and they wished a Good Night, they also praised God and took leave from the child,

- 76 -

because they wanted to go back to their country. They went to their tents and had dinner together. When, on the next day, they wanted to pass at Herod an angel appeared to them in the night asking them to take another road to go back, so they had to travel two years to regain their country.

- 77 -

When Herod heard that the holy kings were already on their way home without passing at his palace he got very angry and sent his men after them to beat them to death. But God who is always watching over his people prevented their being caught

- 78 -

by Herod and led them into their country without any injury. Thereupon Herod sent his men to Bethlehem and to all other towns in his country to kill all little boys. But Herod got order to come to Rome to the Emperor, so he had no time to carry out his evil plans.

- 79 -

Very soon he had to join the Emperor because of many complaints from the Jews against his injustice. He was obliged to stay in Rome for one year because his own sons had pledged against him.

---

<sup>23</sup> [Typographical error in contraction of the two words.](#)

- 79a -

When the child was 30 days old, Maria told Joseph to go to the temple with the child as Moses had ordered it. There Joseph and the mother took the child and traveled<sup>24</sup> to Jerusalem, went into the temple and sacrificed three doves on the alter as it was the custom.

- 80 -

At the same time an old man called Simon prayed to live until Jesus Christ was born. And he took the child in his arms before the alter and confessed that this was the son of God. For whom he waited so such a long time and said:

- 81 -

God, now let your servant go to in freedom, as my eyes have seen the Savior which you have sent us to bring a light to the gentiles and to your people of Israel. To Maria he said: A sharp sword will go through your heart for the guilt of the child you have here in the temple and

- 82 -

he will save all men by his death. After they had left the temple and they took the child and together with friends they travelled<sup>25</sup> from Jerusalem to Nazareth and there they stayed until Herod returned. But when Herod came back he again sent his men to Bethlehem

- 83 -

and other towns to beat to death all little boys two years of age and less. Thereupon an angel appeared to Joseph in his dream and said to him: Take the mother and the child and go to Egypt and stay there.

- 84 -

Herodes<sup>26</sup> sent out for this child to get it murdered. Thereupon Joseph took 10 asses and an ox and he sat Maria on an ass, on the others they put their clothes and food and they traveled away. When they were on their way after a days trip they passed a large moor.

---

<sup>24</sup> Spelling error preserved.

<sup>25</sup> Spelling error preserved.

<sup>26</sup> Original spelling preserved.

- 85 -

Night approached but they could not reach a village to stay there overnight. But they saw a large tree far away and Joseph said: We will go and stay there overnight, but they could not find any water.

- 86 -

When they arrived at the tree he became very desperate that they had no water. He took care that the asses and the ox got enough food. The virgin Maria sat down with the child on her lap. She put her fingers into the earth and there a source sprang up. They praised God and were glad that they got water

- 87 -

for themselves and for the child. The next day they filled their bottles and jugs with water to carry it with them. When they continued their way Maria was aware of a high tree with many ripe fruits on it. They looked at the tree and tried to get the fruits.

- 88 -

But Joseph could not reach them. Maria stood under the tree with the child in her arms and as the child was godlike and human it understood what they wanted. Thereupon the three bowed to Maria and she could reach as many fruits as she wanted. When they had

- 89 -

eaten enough and had filled their bags the tree got up again and spread up its branches. Joseph and Maria praised God for everything they had received and the child Jesus was as pleased as his parents. Those were happy that the asses and ox were well provided and bowed their heads before the child Jesus.

- 90 -

as their Lord and Creator<sup>27</sup>. Thereupon they went on. Joseph did not know the way but God was graceful to them and all the animals in the forests honored the child, the plants, the flowers and the grass on the way were bowing before the child Jesus.

---

<sup>27</sup> Spelling error maintained.



- 91 -

They reached the high mountains with a big hole in it. Out of the hole came a dragon with flames swelling out of his jaws. When it came towards Maria and Joseph they were much frightened. Jesus was sitting on his mothers lap and when the dragon saw the child Jesus sitting there it laid all down on the way

- 92 -

and got very humbly before the child. So they recognized that all creatures were them subject. They praised God and went to Egypt. There were big forests and the wild lions came to honor the child and the birds came and sat down

- 93 -

and praised the child singing and surrounding him with great pleasure and did great honor to the virgin Maria and Joseph. Thereupon they reached a big forest with murderers in it who robbed and murdered the people.

- 94 -

When those robbers saw the virgin Maria and Joseph they surrounded them and said: Joseph has stolen the nice virgin and is to be killed for it and they would take the virgin and the pretty child. But among them was an old murderer who had his house in the forest and who should

- 95 -

get the prey of this day. He was very glad and took them to his house. But Joseph and Maria were very grieved. This old murderer had a wife which he loved more than his life. When the wife saw his<sup>28</sup> husband arriving with Maria and the child she got very fond of Maria and her child.

- 96 -

She received them with great kindness, led them in the house and made them eat and drink and gave them everything they needed. She prepared a bath for the child and asked the virgin Maria to put the child Jesus into the neat white bed she made for him.

---

<sup>28</sup> His for her (error) maintained as in the translation.

- 97 -

The wife of the robber had a child too which was sick and black over the whole body. She took her child and put it into the same water the child Jesus had been washed before and the child got pure and well again and there was also another robber with the same black body and after he had washed himself in the water

- 98 -

he became well again. There the old robber took the water and guarded it so that everybody regardless of age who had fallen sick had only to touch his body with the water to get well again. And there were many who presented gifts to him for this,

- 99 -

so he became a very rich man and did not any more depend on robbery. When they had a rest of three days they wanted to go on their way to Egypt with the child Jesus, but the robber and his wife asked them to stay, but they did not want to

- 100 -

and so they went away. The robber and his wife provided them with food and wine and asked them to come<sup>29</sup> back and to stay in their house if they would return. The woman prayed to God for them and the murderer accompanied them in the order to show them the right way and then bid them farewell.<sup>30</sup>

- 101 -

Joseph went with the mother Maria and the child Jesus to Egypt. But they lost their way again as they did not know where to continue. Joseph was much troubled and said to Maria: What do you think of that way? There has not been anyone for a long time. If you want it we shall go back.

- 102 -

to take another way where we will meet people to show us the right direction and where we can get something to eat because it is too much trouble for us to take a wild way like this. Just tell me what you want to do. The virgin Maria was silent and did not say a word but was sitting down on the earth crying hard.

---

<sup>29</sup> Improper word usage preserved.

<sup>30</sup> Spelling error preserved.

- 103 -

When Joseph saw her crying he became very sad. He asked her not to be so much troubled and said that he would do everything she and her child wanted to and that she should tell him which way she thought the right one so that he could follow it. The virgin Maria answered:

- 104 -

I am not crying because of the words you said to me, but I cry because of the great trouble and grief I cause you and the danger you have to risk in foreign countries because of me and my child. If I am to speak the truth I am to say that you took as much care of the child and me as if I were your wife.

- 105 -

There Joseph asked Maria not to cry and said to her: I thank God who will keep us further on. When they were speaking together in that way the child laid in his mothers lap and slept. After a while the tears of the virgin Maria fell down on the cheeks of the child Jesus.

- 106 -

The child awoke, got up his little hand and dried up his mothers tears, whereabout<sup>31</sup> she was very happy. Thereupon Joseph asked Maria how she was feeling and where she wanted to go. She answered: Dear Joseph, we will take another way and leave that one. When they were speaking thus, and angel came down from heaven, who consoled them and said:

- 107 -

Joseph go to Egypt. I will accompany you and show the way you should go. It will still take you ten days to come to Egypt. When they traveled on it began raining very hard. But the child put up hand against the rain and it stopped raining, so they did not get wet.

- 108 -

And they continued their journey and when they had almost reached Egypt they found a big tree which was all white and many people came to this tree thinking it to be God. They sacrificed various creatures and the guardians of the temple took those sacrifices for their own use. When the virgin Maria arrived at the tree with her child Jesus

---

<sup>31</sup> Original spelling preserved.

- 109 -

a great sign was given. The tree bowed his branches before them and showed by this that the child was the Lord and creator. When they sat down the devils in the tree shouted: Son of God what you doing in this country. You are insulting us, we have to turn away from that tree,

-110 -

because our master arrived. The virgin Maria with the child Jesus and Joseph traveled to Egypt to a town called Spenosis. They arrived there late in the night and they did not know where to go. But there was a house for prayers or a church with idols in it. They went through the gate of it and spent the night there.

- 111 -

At midnight they heard loud lamenting voice in the town: Our Lord is amidst us to the great displeasure of our devils. Who has sent for him? he was born by a pure virgin. We must flee and leave our houses

- 112 -

because they already have been destroyed. Misery over you Joseph, why have your brought the child to us. The devils made terrible noise and the people became more and more afraid, gathered in the streets and waited frightened that their town will perish and they said:

- 113 -

We will go to the temple and pray to our idols. When they entered the temple they discovered that all of their idols were fallen down; Jupiter, Saturn, Minerva, and all of others in Egypt. Some had lost their arms, others their feet, a few their heads and hands. There the people said:

- 114 -

All our Gods which had promised us help whenever we need it have fallen down. We are afraid of the same fate the mighty king Pharaoh<sup>32</sup> had when he followed the Jews to the Red Sea. As we see our Gods<sup>33</sup> destroyed on the ground we suppose that there will come a great plague over our country.

---

<sup>32</sup> Spelling of "Pharao" is maintained instead of Pharaoh.

<sup>33</sup> gods other than the God are capitalized.

- 115 -

Some of them said: there has come another God and broke our peace and fights against our Gods. We do not know how it happened. The Duke Lapotratius who was the governor of the town heard his people crying and lamenting and he asked them what was to be done.

- 116 -

The told him all they had heard and seen. There he was much frightened and hurried to the temple. When he saw his Gods destroyed he fell down on the floor and cried; a message has been given to us by this. Where from will this God be who is so mighty as to destroy our Gods. If I knew who this God will be

- 117 -

I would honor him and we would find refuge with him and believe in him. I can see that he must be an Almighty<sup>34</sup> God. The Duke Lapotratius went out of the temple and asked if there was someone who knew who the Almighty God was. There he saw Maria sitting on a stone with her son on her lap and Joseph standing next to her.

- 118 -

The Duke was very happy to see the strangers and God came into his heart and led him to them and he asked them of which country they came from and where they wanted to go with the young child. Joseph said: We come from Judah. There the Duke understood that the sign had been given because of the child.

- 119 -

Thereupon the Duke went into the temple and asked the eldest to join him and said to them: If you want to know what has happened here come and see a very nice child and its mother who is a very pretty woman. This is the child of which the prophet Nahum has written in his book.

- 120 -

That a star would appear out of the Jewish race and shine over the whole world. Now I recognize this sign and that this is the child the prophet Jeremiah has written that it will be banished by the Jews and come to us. And by the prophet Isaiah it is

---

<sup>34</sup> Almighty spelling maintained as in transcription.

written: God will become a man and will be born on earth by a pure virgin

- 121 -

and will come into our country and kingdom as a child and destroy our Gods. I will tell the truth. One year ago three kings which were strangers and unknown were traveling through our country. They went to Bethlehem to find the child Jesus which was mighty in heaven and on earth.

- 122 -

they had many wonderful things with them to sacrifice to the child. They also saw a big star which was shining bright and clear. They followed the star until they reached the country where the child was born. We also saw the star very clear and all of those signs were given because of the child.

- 123 -

Thus my thoughts tell me I am right. The mother of the child is a pure virgin and when they arrived yesterday, our Gods fell down. The Duke said to Joseph: Tell me what is the matter with the child and the virgin. Joseph asked the virgin Maria if he should tell the truth.

- 124 -

The virgin said he should tell the truth. Thereupon Joseph answered the Duke and said: Sir this is a pure virgin. An angel came down from heaven and announced to her that she would be touched by the Holy Spirit and give birth to the son of God to whom she should give the name of Jesus.

- 125 -

The Duke answered: Now you hear that I told you the truth. He has come to us in our country as the prophet has written. Joseph said: Sir, listen to me, she carried the fruit which she had conceived without any sin and man. She gave birth to this child without any pain.

- 126 -

and there were many angels around her. There was great joy and honor and praise in the air. Over the houses a star was shining so bright and clear he could be seen in all countries and everybody knew that Christ Our Lord was born. When Joseph had said this before all people, they went over to the virgin Maria,

- 127 -

fell on their knees, prayed to the child and received it with great joy. They greeted Joseph too and thanked him for the given news. And they asked them for their need and gave them a house where they lived for seven years. Joseph worked again as a carpenter and the virgin Maria started to weave a purple curtain.

- 128 -

and she also worked with silk and other precious clothes.<sup>35</sup> The women came very often into the house to visit the virgin Maria and to look at the child. They offered their services to the virgin Maria, honored her with many gifts. The virgin Maria earned enough to live on it.

- 129 -

She was so modest that she was highly respected by all people who even thought her a Queen. They prayed to her child and said: It is a great honor for us that you came to Egypt. The virgin Maria made a coat for the child Jesus and put green silk on it as it was the use to wear it on weddings.

- 130 -

And this coat looked very nice on the child and fitted so well that no one else could have done it better and it lasted forever. When the child was old enough and the time came that it should start walking,

- 131 -

it did not need any help to learn it but started walking by itself and never fell. When the child started to speak it spoke correct and clear. The virgin Maria asked her son to play with other children and she wanted it because of the other people.

- 132 -

And the child Jesus did as his mother told him because he always obeyed his mother. When the child Jesus met the other children those were very delighted to play with him because they had never had so much fun before.

- 133 -

He also was so modest that he had the best influence on the others. The children made him their king and they took the coat of the child, spread it under a tree and put the child Jesus

---

<sup>35</sup> Spelling of original text preserved.

on it. They also offered him their services and thought him a God.

- 134 -

One day when the child Jesus was with the others, one of them fell from a stone and his foot was broken in pieces. There the child Jesus got very grieved and troubled and went to the child, took his hand and said: Come with me to the other children to play with them, Get up and you will be well.

- 135 -

There the child got up and was well again. And the people who has seen such, said: This is the son of God, the Lord of all Lords. After Joseph and Maria had lived there for seven years, an angel came down from heaven and said:

- 136 -

Joseph, son of David, I will tell you that Herod, who wanted to kill the child, is dead. Take the child and his mother and go back to your country. There Joseph prepared everything to travel back. But when the people in the town heard about it,

- 137 -

they became very sad that they should get separated and said: Those seven years you have been here everything went right and we never had a big storm; this was so good for our wine, our corn and our agriculture.

- 138 -

As long as you have stayed with us we had nice weather and good years. Joseph gave them as advice and said: Do not pray any more to your idols but to the one and unique God who created the world and gave you your life.

- 139 -

Then he bade farewell and prayed for them to God. The good women in the town also went to the virgin Maria to bid farewell to her and the child Jesus. They were much grieved and gave them food for the journey and prayed to God to protect them. And so Joseph went back to Jerusalem with Maria and the Child Jesus.

- 140 -

But on their way they got into much trouble because they had to pass many large moors and forests. They also reached a wide river and Joseph said: We have to cross it. I will carry



the child so it will be safe. And when the mother lifted her skirt to go through the water the child took his mothers hand and said:

- 141 -

Dear mother, please follow me. And the child went before them and they followed him without even getting wet feet. When they reached Galilee, they went to Nazareth where Anna the Mother of Maria lived. She was still living there but Maria's father Joachim had died.

- 142 -

Her mother had married again and her husband was called Arophas, who was a brother of Joseph. Anna was very glad that they were back at home and she was embracing them and thanking God. There was some ground in the town that belonged to Joseph. There he built a house and stayed with the virgin Maria and the child Jesus.

- 143 -

And Maria and the child Jesus spent their time sacrificing to God until Jesus got his disciples with him. When the child grew up he always lived in chastity and modesty. He ate and drank and was always good company to everybody

- 144 -

could<sup>36</sup> see that he was a human being too. When Jesus met the other children they became all very happy and liked to stay with him. They made him their king and were dancing before him. They followed him everywhere.

- 145 -

And there was a rich man in Nazareth who was also called Joseph and he became a good friend of Joseph and Maria and helped them very often. One day the child Jesus came home and saw his mother crying. Then he asked her why she would be crying.

- 146 -

Joseph answered: Dear Lord, we mourn our friend who died because he had done so much for us and had really loved us. Jesus said: Do you want him alive again? Joseph answered: He died but recently, if you could make him alive again all our sadness will change into joy.

---

<sup>36</sup> Original grammar preserved.

- 147 -

There Jesus answered: Go to the place where the dead man is lying and speak these words in his ears: I ask you by the name of the one who got power over life and death who gave our life and soul and who is mighty over heaven and earth, in his name I ask you to get up and come with me.

- 148 -

Thereupon Joseph went to the dead man and did as the child Jesus had told him and the dead man awoke and got up and felt well again. But Jesus asked them to tell nobody what they had seen. When some day the children wanted to go out of the town with Jesus they came to a place where they had dug loam.

- 149 -

And Jesus sat down and took some loam n his hands and made little birds out of it as they flying all over the field. The other children were much delighted about it and they wanted to make those birds by themselves

- 150 -

Meanwhile an old Jew was walking over the field and when he saw that the children were playing and joking he got very angry and said: You are not respecting the Sabbath, you are the devils children. You are provoking God. And he also said to the child Jesus:

- 151 -

You are the guilty and the others are following you. You will all be lost. Jesus answered: God will know if we or you respect the Sabbath best, you are not to judge me. The old Jew got angry and wanted to take vengeance on the child. He was going to walk over the birds the child had made.

- 152 -

There Jesus clasped his hands as if to frighten the birds. There they got alive and flew high to the sky as all birds do and the old Jew could not do them any harm. A schoolmaster of the town said to Joseph: Send the child Jesus to school so he will learn how to write and to read.

- 153 -

I have heard that he is very charming and skillful, therefore we must teach him our religion that he knows to honor God.

There Joseph said: I will see what his mother thinks about it. The virgin Maria asked Jesus to go to school. And the schoolmaster gave him a book and ordered him to study.

- 154 -

But Jesus knew about everything even better than the schoolmaster. He showed him the A as the first letter asking him if he knew it already. There Jesus said to the schoolmaster: Would you please tell me the meaning of this letter. The schoolmaster got very angry. Thereupon said to him:

- 155 -

this letter has a very good meaning, it is for God in heaven who is for ever and it also means myself. The Schoolmaster answered: Who are you? Are you from God or are you from the devil, that you scoff at me. I think you are an angel or even Jesus Christ, the son of God.

- 156 -

You are a better teacher than I, so I can not teach you, as you know much more than I do. There Jesus went back home to his mother who had already heard what had happened between her child and the schoolmaster. And she laughed about it secretly.

- 157 -

But after that she got in great trouble and pain because she became much hated by the Jews because of her son who was so clever and praised God so much. When the priest Zacharias and Elisabeth heard that Maria had been returned from Egypt they became very glad about and Elisabeth went to Nazareth to see Maria and she took her son St. John with her,

- 158-

so he could see the Lord with his own eyes, of whom his mother had told him long before his birth. When Elisabeth saw Maria she said; God bless you and your son and when Maria saw Elizabeth she went toward her, embraced her and said:

- 159 -

Welcome sister of my mother! Let us thank God that we are together again. And so the children, Jesus and St. John embraced each other. Elizabeth stayed three days with Maria and went back on the fourth day. She asked Maria to come with her and

- 160 -

to stay three or four months in her house and John also asked to take the child with them so they would be together. And they traveled altogether to Elizabeth's home and stayed there for a while.

- 161 -

When they, the virgin and Joseph, were going back to their town St. John went into the desert and excluded himself from the people's company. Joseph again worked as a carpenter and one day he ordered his journeyman to cut wood a certain length. But the journeyman forgot the measure and cut it too short.

- 162 -

There he was afraid of his master, but he stayed with the wood and when Jesus came he asked him what was wrong with him that he was so afraid. The journeyman answered: Dear Jesus I was to cut this wood after that measure and I cut it too short. Jesus answered: I will help you to fix it to the right length.

- 163 -

The journeyman laughed and Jesus said: Take the wood with both hands on one side and Jesus took the other side and they were pulling both in order to the right length. The journeyman was thanking Jesus when Maria came to them. When she saw Jesus pulling at the wood she said: What you doing my dear son? Jesus answered:

- 164 -

this wood was too sort. There the virgin laughed very much and was delighted that he had proven his divine might. One day the child Jesus went to the fields with other children to play there. The came to a stone and the other children were playing games around it, while Jesus was watching them.

- 165 -

There one of the children fell down, hurt its head and was dead instantly. There the other children rushed into town the town awfully frightened and told there that one of them had fallen to death. The parents of this child were very frightened when they when they heard what has happened to their child and they became very angry with Jesus and said:

- 166 -

We are in great grief and the son of the virgin Maria caused our grief. Our child is lying on the field dead. When Maria and Joseph heard them complaining about their son they excised him and said to Jesus: My Dear son what are you supposed to do? Jesus answered: My dear mother, I will show them that I am innocent.

- 167 -

Take the child's parents and me to the place where it lays and the child will tell you by himself how it happened that he had fallen to death. Joseph and Maria took the child's parents along with them to the dead child and there Jesus asked the child to tell the truth before everybody and said: Tell us where you fell and if I have beaten you.

- 168 -

the child said: Dear Jesus, son of Maria, you did not do me any harm, it is not your fault that I fell down. I am sorry that they call you guilty of my death, I ask you for your blessing. Jesus said: because they accused me of your death I will give you back your life and health.

- 169 -

Get up and be well. As Jesus had said so the child got up and praised God with his tongue and mouth heartily. Not far from Nazareth there was a fountain and Jesus walked there and sat down near the fountain. Soon a child came from the town with a great jug in his hand.

- 170 -

When it came to the fountain to draw water the jug fell down and broke in pieces. The child got very afraid of his mother and started crying. There Jesus went to the child and said: do not cry I will help you. Go and get me the pieces. The child did as he said and laid them in the ground before Jesus

- 171 -

and Jesus remade the jug and you could not see that it had been broken before. Once Joseph wanted to sow his soil with rye and when he went there with his journeyman, Jesus followed them. When they had arrived at the field and were going to get the seed out of the bags,

- 172 -

Jesus went to them and he took three handfuls of the seed in his lap and scattered it on the soil. And it started growing, got very strong and provided much rye. Everybody was wondering about<sup>37</sup> it. Near Nazareth there was a lake, called the Galilee Sea. The children went to play there and took Jesus with them.

- 173 -

When they reached the lake they perceived fishes in the lake and they said: we will construct little dams so the water can leave the lake and the fishes will come out with it. And Jesus was the first to finish his dam and soon the water came out of the lake and the fishes too.

- 174 -

The same day was the Sabbath for the Jews and an old Jew came along and got enraged that the children did such working on a Sabbath and he accused Jesus that the children had broken the law of Moses and that God would be very angry about it. But Jesus answered: as long as the children live they can neither be sinners nor<sup>38</sup> be annoyed by myself, but they will become rich and happy.

- 175 -

But I advise you to fear God and to respect the Sabbath as Moses had ordered it. The old Jew got very angry about that and wanted<sup>39</sup> to take vengeance on Jesus. And he tried to destroy the dams with his feet so that the water and the fishes could escape.

- 176 -

There the Jew fell down on the ground and was dead. The news was soon known in Nazareth and the people accused Jesus of the Jew's death and said; the son of Joseph rises much evil about us. If he stays here any longer our children are in great danger because of the heresy he had learned in Egypt.

- 177 -

When Joseph and Maria heard these words they became afraid of the Jews and Joseph said to Maria: What do you propose to

---

<sup>37</sup> Spelling error preserved.

<sup>38</sup> Typographical error preserved.

<sup>39</sup> Spelling error maintained.

us to do? The Jews will take vengeance on our son. Maria said: we will go and look for him and the other children. And when they arrived at the place the Jew lay dead Maria said to her son:

- 178 -

Dear son, what did this man do to you who is lying before you dead ? Jesus answered: This man who is lying before us dead, has done me great harm. Maria said, my dear son. You are not right in this case,

- 179 -

and I ask you to get him his life back. There Jesus answered: my dear mother I will do whatever you ask me. And they went both to the dead Jew, followed by many people. When they reached the dead man, Jesus touched him with his feet and said:

- 180 -

get up you are alive and I tell you to treat the children with more understanding. When Jesus had said this, the Jew got up and said: this child has come down from heaven. There was also a big forest near Nazareth with many wild animals and lions.

- 181 -

Jesus went into this forest and the lions came toward him and honored him as if they were human beings. they<sup>40</sup> fell down on the earth and bowed their heads before him and when he got up to go away they followed him and played with him.

- 182 -

when the people saw this they said: This is not a toy for a child. Jesus is different from our children. Some of them said: How can it be that he knows to do such things and that he is able to do miracles,

- 183 -

as curing illnesses and bringing dead people to life again with one word or touch; he surely is the son of God. Many of them also said: How can this be, we know very well his father Joseph, he is a gifted carpenter and had never anything to do with sorcery.

---

<sup>40</sup> Original capitalization preserved.

- 184 -

When Jesus was going to leave, the lions fell on their knees and Jesus said to them: Go away everyone to the place in the desert where he belongs to. And the lions did as Jesus told them. Then Jesus went back to Nazareth and the people who were gathered at the gate said to him:

- 185 -

Tell us why you can stay among the wild animals. You are still young and small and therefore you could easily get killed. Jesus answered them: The wild animals are much more understanding than you are, they honour<sup>41</sup> me. There the Jews asked: Who are you then that you can speak like this of yourself.

- 186 -

Your father is Joseph, so you should like to live as he does. But Jesus left them and went home to his mother. When he came to the house his mother asked him: Where have you been, dear son and what did the people say to you? Jesus answered: they are despising me in everything I have done they see evil.

- 187 -

Those godless Jews are so blind and angry at me and I think they wanted to kill me but they will not succeed, because I am sent from my father, who decided that I was born in this world and to become flesh and blood like any man.

- 188 -

And I have been born by the force of the Holy Spirit out of the virgin Maria to save the whole mankind. It will not be of any use to them to call me a liar, because they do not have the power to even hurt one hair on my head until the time has come

- 189 -

when I will let them throw stones at me, let them deride me and crucify me. And I will suffer for the sins of the whole world. The virgin Maria said: My dear son, they are complaining about you all over the town.

---

<sup>41</sup> Spelling error maintained.



- 190 -

When Jesus was 12 years old, Joseph and Maria took him with them to a marriage in Jerusalem. In the temple they sacrificed to God following the order of Moses. When the marriage was over Joseph and Maria traveled home again, but Jesus stayed in the temple of Jerusalem.

- 191 -

The virgin Maria thought he had gone with Joseph because she went with her two sisters. But Joseph thought he would be with his mother. When they met on their way they realized that Jesus was not with them and they went to ask for him at the friend's house.

- 192 -

When they could not find him there they became very grieved and went back to Jerusalem. When they entered the temple they saw him sitting amidst learned men and teachers reading and discussing with them the book of prophets.

- 193 -

they were all wondering that such a little boy could already be so wise and they said: This child got much favour<sup>42</sup> from God. When the virgin Maria saw her dearest son she said: How could you get us in so much trouble? Joseph and I looked for your desperately for three days. Jesus answered:

- 194 -

I came from heaven to execute the will of my father. Then he left Jerusalem and followed his mother on his way back. On the way Joseph asked Jesus several questions and said: Dear Jesus where have you been? Jesus answered: I have been in the temple with the wise men of the Jews

- 195 -

and I listened to their prayers and reading. And Joseph went on asking: Did they also have something written in their books about the son of god who would become<sup>43</sup> a human being? Jesus answered: It is written at Jesaja that the son of God will come to this world as a human being and that he will bring wisdom to people.

---

<sup>42</sup> Chiefly a European variant of Favor.

<sup>43</sup> Wrong word preserved.

- 196 -

Joseph went on asking him: Do they know then who he is? Jesus answered: They are not able to understand the message and that is why there is still a lot I have to discuss with them. Joseph asked him: Did you read the book and find out where the son of God is to be found? Jesus answered:

- 197 -

Jesus Christ , the son of God, you brought him up, taught him how to eat and to drink and took him with you into foreign countries. There is no need of my telling you more of him because you know him very well. Thereupon Joseph answered: In your speaking I recognize that you are the son of God. The virgin Maria asked him:

- 198 -

My dear son where have you been in the night and who gave you to eat? Jesus answered: Your friend Elisabeth gave me everything I needed. About that<sup>44</sup> they arrived at Nazareth and Jesus obeyed his mother Maria and Joseph became a skilled craftsman.

- 199 -

Now I will tell you about the friends of Jesus as there is written a lot about this life until he became 30 years old. Then he started to preach about Christianity and he spoke of St. John and the message of the evangelist who had written that he would stay in the desert until he gets 20 years old.

- 200 -

Jesus and Johannes had been friends since their childhood, but they avoided people in order to serve and honour<sup>45</sup> God in humility. And Jesus taught the christian<sup>46</sup> message of the Old Testament to St. John and told him about the prophets and the five books of Moses.

- 201 -

he also spoke to him of the will of God. But then<sup>47</sup> Jesus left St. John who stayed in the desert and went to Nazareth to see his mother. Every year at Easter he went to Jerusalem as

---

<sup>44</sup> Original grammar preserved.

<sup>45</sup> Original spelling preserved.

<sup>46</sup> Original capitalization preserved.

<sup>47</sup> Typographical error maintained.

Moses had ordered it. And so the two prophets were living together in the desert

- 202 -

and respected each other very much and St. John saw miraculous things done by Jesus. There were also many angels which came to serve him with great humility and dignity and he was a very handsome young man and his hair was brown and looked marvelous and always pretty and neat.

- 203 -

Once his mother was sitting with him in the house and she thought about her life and her son and was asking him several questions and said: I would like to ask you something which I hope you will not mind. Jesus answered Dear Mother, please ask me anything you want to know. There Maria said:

- 204 -

I hope you will not get angry with me. I know that you can do everything you like, so why did you want to be my son? Jesus answered: Dear Mother, you must not wonder about that because this was decided by heaven and for ever and I always belonged to my father and will belong to him until the end of the world. Maria went on asking.

- 205 -

Where have you been at the time when heaven and earth were created? Jesus answered: At the creation for God we were all three the same mighty and great when he created us. Maria asked: Who are the three? Jesus answered: One God is the Father, one God is the Son, one God is the Holy Spirit and those three together are the one God who is mighty over heaven and earth.

- 206 -

Maria asked: When you are three, why was I chosen to be come your mother? Jesus answered again: I wanted to be born by you, so that the devil can not get any power over me. The virgin Maria said: You know that I have never been with a man and that I am a pure virgin. There Jesus answered:

- 207 -

Because of that the devil will not be victorious over me,  
though he is always trying to get power over me.

In the name of the  
Holy Trinity  
Amen

Written by Bartholoma Riehle in 1810

- 208 -

Johannes Riehle, born Dec. 21, 1817 under the sign of the Gemini; died. Godfather Ferdinand Riehle, Godmother Maria Anna Bahr.

1819 Joseph Riehle born Jan 4, under the sign of the Capricorn; died April 20, 1827.

1821 Eustrofina, born Jan. 13, under the sign of the Taurus

1822 George, born April 18, under the sign of the Pisces.

- 209 -

1823

Anselmus, born April 4, under the sign of Capricorn.<sup>48</sup>  
Godfather Franz Karl Stingler and  
Godmother: Ferdinand's wife.

1824

Helena, born March 30, under the sign of Aries  
Godfather and Godmother as above.

1825

Josefa, born March 25, under the sign of the Gemini  
Godfather and Godmother as above.

---

<sup>48</sup> April is under the sign of Aires.

- 210 -

The mother of these children died on March 30, 1825.

My wife

Theresa Erb of  
Bartholomee Riehle

---

On July 20, 1825, the undersigned married  
Ursula Burgert  
From Lospach  
Bartholomee Riehle

- 211 -

Children of the second marriage

Bartholomee, born March 31, 1826 under the sign of Aries  
Godfather and Godmother as above  
Died Dec. 16, 1826

Walburga, born and baptized June 12, 1827  
Godfather and Godmother as above  
Died June 19, 1927

June 3, 1828, Peter Riehle was born under the sign of Aquarius  
and baptized.<sup>49</sup>  
Godfather and Godmother as above  
Died March 6, 1834.

---

<sup>49</sup> June 3<sup>rd</sup> is under the sign of Gemini.



- 212 -

On Sept. 24 1829 Zazilia Riehle was born under the sign of leo.<sup>50</sup>

Godfather Ferdinand Riehle and  
Godmother Anna Maria Bahr, wife of the "Bronnewert"  
(Innkeeper of the Fountain Inn ) Karl Stingler.

In the allmighty<sup>51</sup> Jesus I tell you 'dammed dog of hell' to  
leave Him at once and not to do any harm to him further  
more.

---

<sup>50</sup> Sept 24 is under the sign of Libra.

<sup>51</sup> Original Spelling maintained.

- 213 -

Bartholoma Riehle  
From March 9, 31 f 26x (this part is crossed out)

---

Receipt is signed Dec 19, 1923  
The same was settled on Aug. 17, 1824

1825 March 28, same as above

1846 Heinrich was born on June 5, under the sign of Libra<sup>52</sup>  
and baptized on Nov 14, same year.  
Godfather: Hironimus Braun  
Godmother: Franziska Willinger.

---

<sup>52</sup> June 5 is under the sign of Gemini.

- 214 -

Cure

For sterile cattle

After they have been covered and do not stay bearing you should collect dung of the field rabbits, so called rabid beans, mix it with moist bread, about 12 slices, and give it to the cattle immediately after they had been covered, and they will stay bearing.

1838 Jan. 24, a girl was born under the sign of Capricorn.<sup>53</sup>  
The name of the child was Maria.  
Died Nov 14, 1839<sup>54</sup>

1848 Sept. 18, Andreas was born under the sign of  
Gemini.<sup>55</sup>

---

<sup>53</sup> January 24 is under the sign of Aquarius.

<sup>54</sup> This date was changed with pen from 1831 to 1939.

<sup>55</sup> September 18 is under the sign Virgo.