

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 1: 26-38

26. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a street just off the main square - no, not that one - and near to the tannery,
27. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. There was also lineage involved somewhere; and the virgin's name was Mary.
28. And after a few false starts and appearances the angel found the right maiden and came in unto her, and said, Is thy name Mary? And she answered Maybe. And then Yes. And the angel breathed a sigh of relief and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
29. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and did drop the dish she was holding for she was cooking, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be, for such appearances were not common in those days and the figure was glowing a bit and had wings. Definitely not a local.
30. And the angel said unto her, Calm down! Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God, who can be a bit choosy, but thy comely face hath pleased him.
31. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. And Mary said, I prefer Robert, but the angel did sign that she should be silent and continued,
32. He shall be named Jesus, and he shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and songs shall be sung of him and oratorios written to his praise and there shall be choruses that just repeat his name over and over again:
33. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. A bit like those choruses..
34. Then said Mary unto the angel, That sounds grand, but there's just a couple of things. How shall this be, seeing I know not a man in the scriptural sense? And who shall pay for the midwife and cot and swaddling cloths?
35. And the angel answered and said unto her, That shall be sorted, and the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, (let the reader understand) and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee at a time thou wist not, probably at night in thy bed: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
36. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren, which giveth three months to arrange a party,
37. For with God nothing shall be impossible.
38. And Mary said, That's great news about Elisabeth, but people will talk since she and her husband are both past their prime and she hath no lodger. However, as for me, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. And Mary picked up her pot and did resume her cooking and wondered in her heart that seeing it was the sixth month, the birth would take place in March not December, and how to break the news to Joseph.