

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 3: 1-6

1. In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, Procula his wife, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, Phasael his first wife until the Herodias naughtiness, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea (soon to be single) and of the region of Trachonitis – which is not a breathing disorder - and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, and Jerubbazael the keeper of the royal wine vaults, and Jethro the sub-keeper who tasted a lot, and Hagar his dogsbody whose primary duty was rinsing out the empties after high days and holy days,
2. Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, and Neham the sacristan of the Temple who polished up the sacred vessels and trimmed the wicks of the candles, and Sheleb the chief of the Temple kitchens whose pastries were sweet and whose buns were plumptious, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness where he had sojourned for many days, fasting and drinking grog and eating only those things that flew in great swarms devouring the crops, locusts among them;
3. And he came into all the country about Jordan, striding oddly quite a bit, and shouting loudly in the streets and alleys at all hours of the day and night and disturbing the dogs and waking the children so that they cried and their mothers snatched them indoors if they saw John coming, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins and that garlic was an evil emission that lingered, and a little bit of what you fancy does you good – and we're not talking cream cakes;
4. As it is written somewhere in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying with exceeding loudness in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and in the Book of Gorgor [1] the strange one measuring half a cubit shall be increased,
5. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, every stream shall be forded, every rainbow followed, every dream found, so that the land shall be flat as unleavened bread and featureless; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth, and the twisted shall be untangled, and everything will be quite nice. If a little too flat.
6. And all flesh (let the reader understand the nuance here) shall see the salvation of God, no matter the thickness of their clothing.

Notes:

[1.] The Book of Gorgor is considered to be a "lost book." In 1887, in an excavated 10th century BC privy a short distance from Caesarea, two fragments were discovered in a wine jar, wrapped in heavily stained olive leaves. Roughly translated by Professor Medad McTavish of the Department of Middle Eastern Languages at Harrow School, they apparently contained the notes of one Gorgor the Tallest (הארוך ביותר) the Hebrew is uncertain) at the court of King Solomon – and refer to the vital statistics of fellow courtiers and captains of the guard. No copies of the book were made, and the papyrus was left on a horse-drawn omnibus between London and Brighton at Martinmas 1899 and never seen again. This Lucan reference in the Great Wenchoster Bible is thus obscure and some early manuscripts omit it.