

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 4: 14-21

14. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit (or Ghost) into Galilee, for he had an hankering after their spiced buns and pastries and fried fish: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about, for many had heard of him and did yearn to hear him speak and perform sleight of hand and other tricks.
15. And he did speak in the taverns and inns and in the courtyards of boarding houses, and being well received there he then taught in their synagogues by the invitation of their leaders and council, and he was glorified of all, for the entertainments in the region were limited and this was a new thing.
16. And lo! Jesus came unto Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and He visiteth the familiar streets and saw the old workshop of His father where He had learnt to hew wood and chisel joints and examine various vices, and He smileth at the memory, but frowned He at the splinters recalled. But He went not into its garden for it was much changeth with pot plants and ornamental shrubs and three terracotta statues of short, hirsute men with fishing rods around a bird bath: and He did find a room wherein to stay with His old neighbour, Silas, who was both tall and aromatic and who welcometh Him. And because it was the Sabbath He went, as His custom was, into the synagogue to worship. And he did wear his Saturday best robe, woven without seam.
17. And He was recognised by some there and they did nudge each other and comment that He had grown, and how his voice had deepened, and He was welcomed by the elders and invited to read from the scriptures and comment thereon, and He stood up at the accustomed place, which was not yet an brass eagle.
18. And suddenly there was delivered unto Him the scroll of Abimelech the Tanner (1) but He did eschew it because of the drawings it contained and the weak grammar of its writing and he did ask for another. And He was handed the one of the scrolls of the prophet Esaias (2). And the congregation did groan inwardly, for there had been much Esaias that season. And when He had opened the scroll He found the place where it was written,
19. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, oh yes; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted with the oil of gladness, to preach deliverance and parole to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised and afflicted with rheumatism and arthritis and divers growths, to embrace those of strange odours, and – this is where it gets super-good,
20. To preach the acceptable year of Jubilee of the Lord. (3)
21. And He closed the scroll, and He gave it again to the minister who wrapped it in its covering of fine cloth and laid it in a cupboard fashioned from cedars of Lebanon where it belongeth, and He sat down in a place where someone else usually sat. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him for they wondered at His choice and did furrow their brows. And some did make disapproving and other noises, and did mutter that the old services were much better. And others did consult their diaries and scrolls of lectionary and murmur that the Year of Jubilee, Year G, was next year.
22. And He began to say unto them, Wist ye not this prophecy? And they did shake their heads and some did pull their beards but none dared admit that they had not wisted that day. And He looked at them and was amazed at their lack of wist and comprehension, and proclaimed, Verily, this day, now, in this place, here, is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And are there drinks and nibbles after this service in the Narthex?

Notes:

(1) This work is unknown.

(2) For Esaias read Isaiah. There would have been several scrolls available though the authorship of the latter half of the book (beginning at Chapter 40) is the subject of much scholarly dispute.

(3) The actual passage chosen reads: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn." Clearly Luke has amended the words to suit his Gospel.