

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## The Gospels

CORINNE HELINE

### THE VISITATION (*Continued*)

Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

And her neighbors and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

And it came to pass that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias after the name of his father.

And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.—*Luke 1:57-64.*

The mystic legends add that John was blessed with a beautiful childhood and that the Spirit of God constantly illumined his face and speech.

When Herod issued the decree that all male children under three should be slain, Elisabeth took her young son, Yohan (the name of life), into the desert, where no person lived. Angels accompanied them and protected them on their journey. The soldiers of Herod killed Zacharias before the sanctuary when he told them, in reply to their demand that the child be surrendered to them, that the infant had been taken into the desert for safekeeping.

The focusing point of the evil forces most active at this time was concentrated in the court of Herod. Herod had a double motive in slaying the innocents: first, he wanted to frustrate the work which the great spiritual Hierarchies were endeavoring to consummate upon the earth through Jesus; secondly, it was a means for procuring for his evil purposes the magical forces stored in the vital essence of the blood of the pure and innocent victims.

Both the White and the Black Brotherhoods have a method of transferring the essence of the blood into "something else." This truth is depicted in that strange hieroglyph of Abraham, the Jew, discovered by the alchemist Flamel. In this is shown the force that was generated through the massacre of the Innocents and was later employed in the nefarious practices of Herod and his court.

There was always an intimate soul tie between Mary, her cousin Elizabeth, and their sons Jesus and John. At the time of Herod's persecution of the children, Mary warned Elisabeth in spirit to hide with John in the desert and as the Holy Family passed near their hiding place, both joyously greeted them in spirit.

When Christ's herald, John the Fore-runner, was quite young, his mother passed from earth, whereupon the boy was taken in charge by a holy man of the desert to be prepared for his mission. Death offered no barrier to John's companionship with his Initiate parents, nor did time and space of the physical plane. Mary and Jesus were often with him and the two boys grew together in "stature and in wisdom."

This beautiful relationship of spirit only waxed stronger and more vibrant with the passing of the years. During the imprisonment of this brave pioneer-martyr for Christ, Mary and the blessed Lord often visited them. Warned of their approach by the great light suffusing his cell, he would fall to his knees in adoration and reverence. These two were with him as were hosts of Angels when the time of his martyrdom came and this high Spirit passed from darkness into light, a willing sacrifice in the name of his Lord.

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