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- Ἐν ἔτει δὲ πεντεκαίδεκάτῳ τῆς ἡγεμονίας Τιβερίου Καίσαρος, ἡγεμονεύοντος Ποντίου Πιλάτου τῆς Ἰουδαίας, καὶ τετρααρχούντος τῆς Γαλιλαίας Ἡρώδου, Φιλίππου δὲ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ αὐτοῦ τετρααρχούντος τῆς Ἰουραίας καὶ Τραχωνίτιδος χώρας, καὶ Λυσανίου τῆς Ἀβιληνῆς τετρααρχούντος,
- ^{NASB} Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
- ^{KJV} Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,
- ^{ESV} In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
- ^{NRS} In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,
- ^{NET} In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
- ^{NIV} In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar-- when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene--
- ^{NJB} In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the territories of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
- ^{CEB} In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius-- when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene,
- ^{NLT} It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene.
- ^{CEV} For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was the ruler of Galilee. Herod's brother, Philip, was the ruler in the countries of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was the ruler of Abilene.
- ^{MSG} In the fifteenth year of the rule of Caesar Tiberius-- it was while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, ruler of Galilee; his brother Philip, ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias, ruler of Abilene;
- ^{MGVH} Now in the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was ruling over Judea, and the tetrarch of Galilee was Herod *Antipas*, while his brother Philip was tetrarch *of the regions* of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
- Καίσαρος = Caesar was originally a family name but later was used as a title for the Roman emperor.
 - The fifteenth year of Tiberius' reign would be about 29CE.
 - The Herod mentioned here is Herod the Great's son, Herod Antipas.

ἐπὶ ἀρχιερέως Ἄννα καὶ Καϊάφα, ἐγένετο ῥῆμα θεοῦ ἐπὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν Ζαχαρίου υἱὸν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ.

^{NASB} in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

^{KJV} Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

^{DRA} Under the high priests Annas and Caiaphas; the word of the Lord was made unto John, the son of Zachary, in the desert.

^{ESV} during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

^{NRS} during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

^{NET} during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

^{NIV} during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

^{NJB} and while the high-priesthood was held by Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah, in the desert.

^{CEB} during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas-- God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

^{NLT} Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.

^{CEV} Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests. At that time God spoke to Zechariah's son John, who was living in the desert.

^{MSG} during the Chief-Priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas-- John, Zachariah's son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God.

^{MGVH} during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, a message from God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.

- Annas had retired as high priest, but he retained the title and apparently was still influential. (John 18.19-24) Caiaphas was his son-in-law. (John 18.13)

Καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς πᾶσαν [τὴν] περίωρον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν,

^{NASB} And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;

^{KJV} And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

^{DRA} And he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance for the remission of sins;

^{ESV} And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

^{NRS} He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

^{NET} He went into all the region around the Jordan River, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

^{NIV} He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

^{NJB} He went through the whole Jordan area proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

^{CEB} John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

^{NLT} Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

^{CEV} So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, "Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven."

^{MSG} He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins,

^{MGVH} And he went about the whole region around the Jordan *River*, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

- The whole region around the Jordan River could be anywhere from the northern end of the Dead Sea near Jericho (and the traditional site of Jesus' baptism) to the southern end of the Sea of Galilee about 65 miles to the north (and the Yardenit baptismal site). It has also been suggested that John's activity could be along the Jordan River north of the Sea of Galilee, since the water there before entering the Sea was considered "clean" in comparison to the water flowing out at Yardenit.
- Note the use of "penance" in the DRA. (This was one of Luther's issues with translation.)

ὡς γέγραπται ἐν βίβλῳ λόγων Ἰσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ· ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ·
^{NASB} as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

^{KJV} As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

^{DRA} As it was written in the book of the sayings of Isaias the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

^{ESV} As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

^{NRS} as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

^{NET} As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

^{NIV} As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

^{NJB} as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight!

^{CEB} This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.

^{NLT} Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!

^{CEV} Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, "In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.

^{MSG} as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet: Thunder in the desert! "Prepare God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!

^{MGVH} just as it stands written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "A voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!'

- Luke quotes Isaiah 40.3-5 here. Both Matthew and Luke include Mark's citation of Isaiah 40.3 (and it is included in part in John 1.23), but only Luke includes 40.4-5.
- φωνὴ βοῶντος > With the lack of articles, this could be either a substantive participle (The / A voice of one shouting...) or a circumstantial participle (A voice shouting...).
- The LXX reads:
 Φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ Ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν.
 A voice of one shouting in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make **our God's** path straight!"
 > Note the change from "our God's path" to "his path," referring back to "Lord" which is understood to be referring to Jesus. (The LXX is accurately rendering the Hebrew.) The gospel authors avoid explicitly saying God = Lord = Jesus, but a scripturally aware reader might discern the implication.

πᾶσα φάραγξ πληρωθήσεται καὶ πᾶν ὄρος καὶ βουνὸς ταπεινωθήσεται, καὶ ἔσται τὰ σκολιὰ εἰς εὐθεΐαν καὶ αἱ τραχεῖαι εἰς ὁδοὺς λείας·

^{NASB} EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;

^{KJV} Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways *shall be made smooth*;

^{DRA} Every valley shall be filled; and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight; and the rough ways plain;

^{ESV} Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,

^{NRS} Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

^{NET} Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low, and the crooked will be made straight, and the rough ways will be made smooth,

^{NIV} Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

^{NJB} Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be levelled, winding ways be straightened and rough roads made smooth,

^{CEB} Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth.

^{NLT} The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.

^{CEV} Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads.

^{MSG} Every ditch will be filled in, Every bump smoothed out, The detours straightened out, All the ruts paved over.

^{MGVH} Every valley will be filled up and every mountain and hill will be leveled down, and the crooked places will be straightened out and the rough ways smoothed over.

- The quote is from Isaiah 40.4. Luke's wording is not an exact citation of the LXX as we have it in the final phrase.
Hebrew: ... and the rough places become a plain.
LXX: ... and the rough place becomes plains.
Luke: ... and the rough places into smooth ways.
- My translation takes a bit of liberty with the last phrase, but there is some euphony in the Greek (πληρωθήσεται ... ταπεινωθήσεται) and paralleling phrasing (τὰ σκολιὰ εἰς εὐθεΐαν // αἱ τραχεῖαι εἰς ὁδοὺς λείας) that I am trying to capture with "filled up... leveled down... straightened out... smoothed over."

6

καὶ ὄψεται **πᾶσα σὰρξ** τὸ σωτήριον τοῦ θεοῦ.

^{NASB} AND **ALL FLESH** WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD."

^{KJV} And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

^{DRA} And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

^{ESV} and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

^{NRS} and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

^{NET} and **all humanity** will see the salvation of God."

^{NIV} And **all people** will see God's salvation."

^{NJB} and all humanity will see the salvation of God.

^{CEB} All humanity will see God's salvation."

^{NLT} And then all people will see the salvation sent from God."

^{CEV} Then **everyone** will see the saving power of God."

^{MSG} Everyone will be there to see The parade of God's salvation."

^{MGVH} And **every mortal** will see the salvation of God."

- The citation from Isaiah 40 continues, but the first part of verse 5 is omitted. “And the glory of the Lord shall appear” is present in both the Hebrew and LXX.
- Literally, **πᾶσα σὰρξ** = all flesh.

Luke 3.1-6 mgvh

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar,
when Pontius Pilate was ruling over Judea,
and the tetrarch of Galilee was Herod *Antipas*,
while his brother Philip was tetrarch *of the regions* of Iturea and Trachonitis,
and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,
a message from God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.

³ And he went about the whole region around the Jordan *River*,
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
⁴ just as it stands written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,
“A voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!’
⁵ Every valley will be filled up
and every mountain and hill will be leveled down,
and the crooked places will be straightened out
and the rough ways smoothed over.
⁶ And every mortal will see the salvation of God.”