



MANY HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO
DRAW UP AN ACCOUNT OF
THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN
FULFILLED AMONG US,

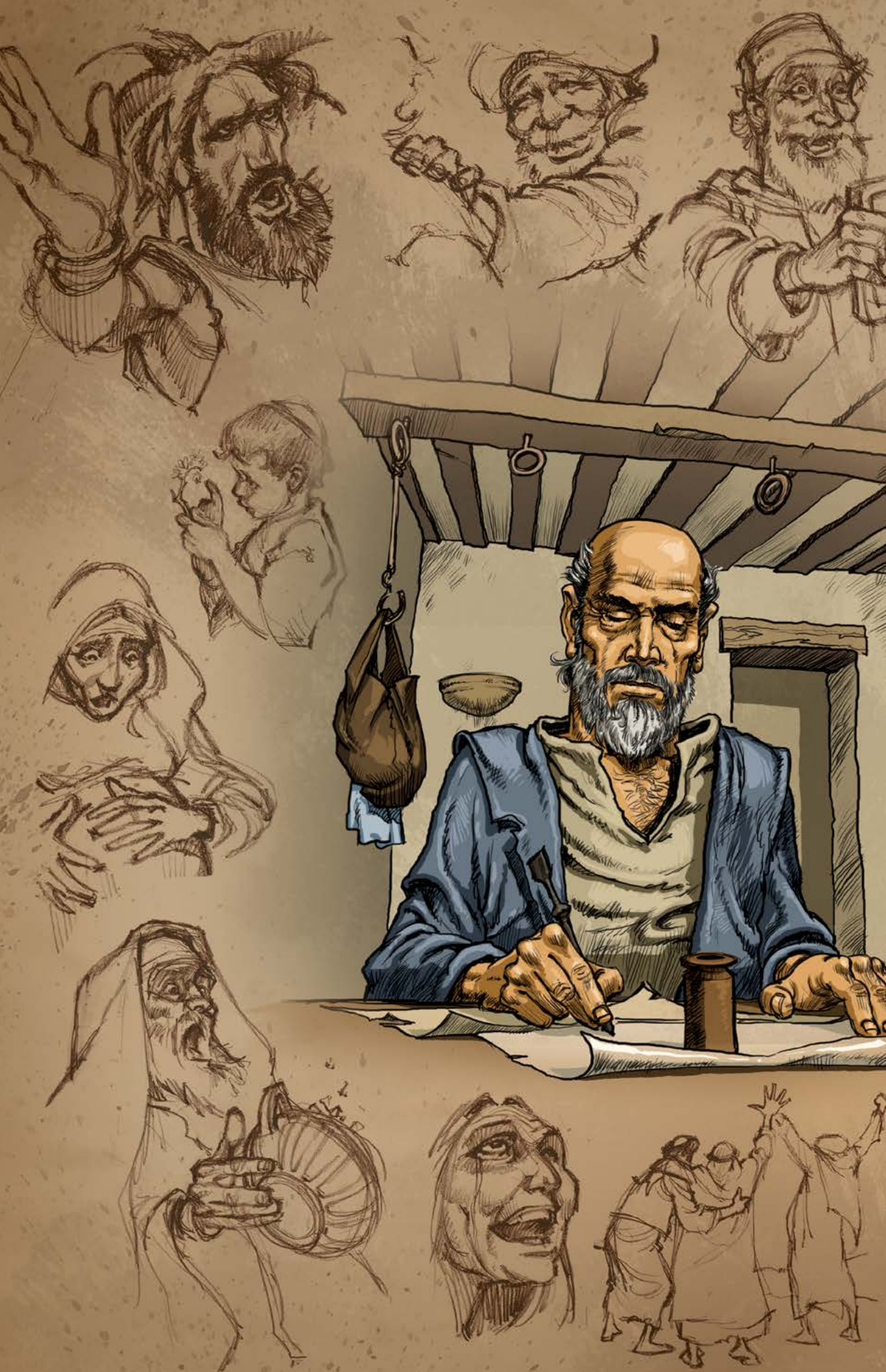
JUST AS THEY WERE HANDED
DOWN TO US BY THOSE
WHO FROM THE FIRST WERE
EYEWITNESSES AND SERVANTS
OF THE WORD.

WITH THIS
IN MIND,

SINCE I MYSELF HAVE
CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED
EVERYTHING FROM THE
BEGINNING,



I TOO DECIDED TO
WRITE AN ORDERLY
ACCOUNT FOR YOU...





SO THAT YOU MAY
KNOW THE CERTAINTY
OF THE THINGS YOU
HAVE BEEN TAUGHT!









PART I

A MESSAGE




IN THE TIME OF HEROD KING OF JUDEA THERE WAS A PRIEST NAMED ZECHARIAH,

WHO BELONGED TO THE PRIESTLY DIVISION OF ABIJAH;




HIS WIFE ELIZABETH WAS ALSO A DESCENDANT OF AARON.




BOTH OF THEM WERE RIGHTEOUS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, OBSERVING ALL THE LORD'S COMMANDS AND DECREES BLAMELESSLY...



BUT THEY WERE CHILDLESS.



BECAUSE ELIZABETH WAS NOT ABLE TO CONCEIVE, AND THEY WERE BOTH VERY OLD.



ONCE WHEN ZECHARIAH'S DIVISION WAS ON DUTY
AND HE WAS SERVING AS PRIEST BEFORE GOD,



HE WAS CHOSEN BY LOT,



ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF
THE PRIESTHOOD,



TO GO INTO THE TEMPLE
OF THE LORD



AND BURN
INCENSE...



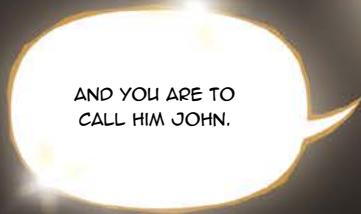
DO NOT BE AFRAID,
ZECHARIAH!





YOUR PRAYER HAS
BEEN HEARD!

YOUR WIFE
ELIZABETH WILL
BEAR YOU A SON,



AND YOU ARE TO
CALL HIM JOHN.



HE WILL BE A JOY AND DELIGHT TO YOU, AND MANY WILL REJOICE BECAUSE OF HIS BIRTH,

FOR HE WILL BE GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD.

HE IS NEVER TO TAKE WINE OR OTHER FERMENTED DRINK, AND HE WILL BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT EVEN BEFORE HE IS BORN.

HE WILL BRING BACK MANY OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO THE LORD THEIR GOD.

AND HE WILL GO ON BEFORE THE LORD, IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH,

TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE PARENTS TO THEIR CHILDREN AND THE DISOBEDIENT TO THE WISDOM OF THE RIGHTEOUS -

TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD.