



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

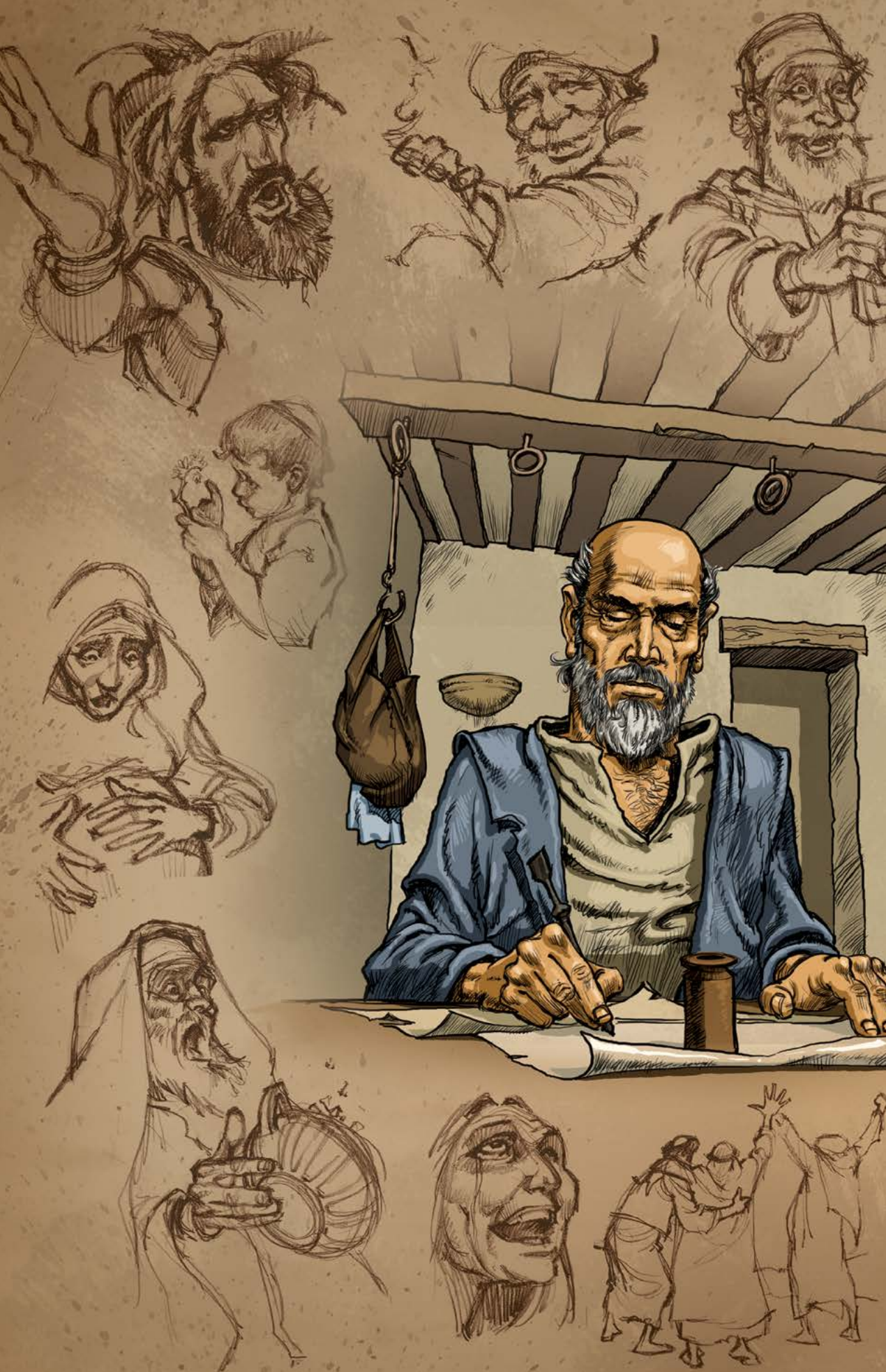
JUST AS THEY WERE HANDED
DOWN TO US BY THOSE
WHO FROM THE FIRST WERE
EYEWITNESSES AND SERVANTS
OF THE WORD.

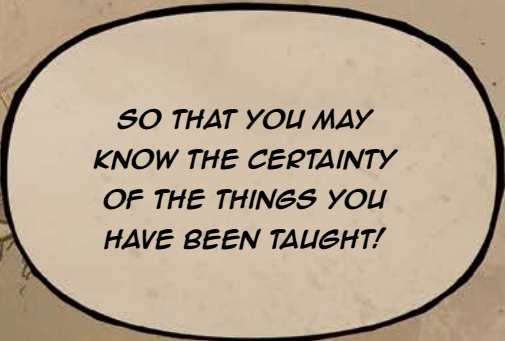
WITH THIS
IN MIND,

SINCE I MYSELF HAVE
CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED
EVERYTHING FROM THE
BEGINNING,



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










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,



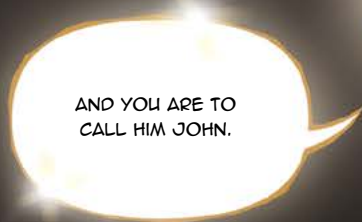
TO GO INTO THE TEMPLE
OF THE LORD




AND BURN
INCENSE...

DO NOT BE AFRAID,
ZECHARIAH!







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.