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<Text: Gospel of Nicodemus>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 118r>Bot bedell to barr~ sen y<sup>u</sup> hym broght  
yi-selue for to schilde fro schame  
Fott forthe hym yat y<sup>u</sup> wurschipp wroght  
And loke y<sup>u</sup> calle hym in be name  
Out of yat route Romaine  
Jhesu our~ lorde he ledes  
And calles hym a-gayne  
als man yat pilat dredes  
Of Emp~rours y<sup>t</sup> before had bene  
yis was eu~rmore ye law<sup>3</sup> in landes  
yat four~ men at siche a Jugement kene  
Suld at ye barr~ halde in yair~ handes  
Mens heuedes sett on stakes schene  
All of fyne golde blasand es brande  
And so ye Juwes did yen J wene  
Four~ men w<sup>t</sup> siche . iiij . heuedes gan stande  
Bot when he yat all sall welde  
Was broght in-to ye halle  
yos heuedes of gold gan helde  
To wurschippe *crist* w<sup>t</sup> alle  
yen sayde ye Juwes sturne & stoute  
yis is a skorne till our~ semyng  
yes boyes lat yair~ schaftes lowte  
To do till ihesu wurschippyng  
And pilat asked yaime alle a-bowte  
Whi ye schaftes made siche stoupyng  
yai saide we dou 3owe out of dowte  
yai lowtyd no3t at our~ wyttyng

We toke no hede *yere*-to  
 yat yes baners gan stoupe  
 What haue we for to do  
 vnto *ihesu* to lowte  
 We sawe yes baners stoupe wyterly  
 ye Juwes sware to pilate  
 Q<sup>d</sup> pilat yai say apertely  
 It was no3t so no gate  
 Bot take vs men more myghty  
 Stronge & stable of estate  
 To halde yes baners sikirly  
 yis stryfe yus sall we bate  
 <fol. 118v>And yen thurgh all Jury  
 Stronge men haue yai soght  
 To halde *yaime* myghtily  
 Four~ men *yere*-to yai broght  
 yen saide pilat vnto *yaime* yore  
 yat ye baners suld halde in hande  
 Jf yai lowte *ihesu* any-more  
 3he sall *yere*-fore lose life & lande  
 And yai yat stronge & myghty wore  
 Sayde To yi dome sir will we stande  
 Whas baner~ bowes for gods hore  
 Lat sle hym sone w<sup>t</sup> hyng-man hande  
 Lat haue hym out of ye halle  
 Sayde pilat for yis skille  
 And eftesonnes in hym calle  
 On what wyse so 3he wille  
 yis messenger~ to *ihesu* knelid  
 And clothes be-fore his fete he spradde  
 W<sup>t</sup> alle ye wurschippes yat he couth welde  
 And *ihesu* efte to pilat ladde  
 yes baners sone gan helde  
 And bowed to *ihesu* vnbedde  
 ye Juwes yat *yaime* be-helde  
 For yat sight were all dredde  
 When pilat sawe yis sight  
 howe yos baners gan bowe  
 For drede he ros vpryght

A-gayne our~ lorde ihesu  
 Sir pilat wife so mot J go  
 Sent to pilat yus to say  
 Deme ihesu nouthir~ to ne fro  
 Bot wurschip hym all yat y<sup>u</sup> may  
 J haue ben dreched w<sup>t</sup> dremes so  
 all yis nyght ye sothe to say  
 Jf y<sup>u</sup> hym deme to ded to go  
 Our~ wele J wot sall wast a-way  
 Pilat was all amayde  
 And saide to ye Juwes in hye  
 J am no3t wele a-payde  
 3he blame hym wrangwisly  
 <fol. 119r>My wife 3he wote scho is no Juwe  
 3he knawe scho is a sarasyne  
 Scho biddis yat J no bargayne brewe  
 To put ihesu to ded ne pyne  
 Sho says ihesu of treuth is trewe  
 Slepand scho sawe yis w<sup>t</sup> hyr~ yne  
 Jf we hym deme it sall vs rewe  
 For he of fayth is gud & fyne  
 yen sayde ye Juwes be-lyue  
 ye sothe y<sup>u</sup> may wele see  
 he has be-wyched yi wyfe  
 It may non outhir~ be  
 Pilat saide me thynk selcouthe  
 Jhesu whi y<sup>u</sup> standes so stille  
 To yis accusynge answer~ y<sup>u</sup> couthe  
 yat ye Juwes put ye vntille  
 Jhesu saide ilke man has mouthe  
 For to welde it at his wille  
 yair~ sawes to ye are knawen & kouthe  
 Whethir~ y<sup>t</sup> yai speke gud or ille  
 Jhesu lat be yi dynne  
 Saide alle ye Juwes on rawe  
 A horcoppe borne in synne  
 For sothe alle we ye knawe  
 We wot wele for yi sake was slayne  
 Alle ye childr~ in bedlem borne



To fle w<sup>t</sup> ye yi frendes wer~ fayne  
And ellis yi life had bene for-lorne  
When herode was ded is no3t to layne  
yat bitterly yi ded had sworne  
Jn-to yi contre y<sup>u</sup> come a-gayne  
Fro yen as y<sup>u</sup> was fled be-forne  
Pilat saide is yis he  
yat herode pursewed soo  
3ha yai saide *par*-dye  
and 3it he skappid hym fro  
When pilat wist yat he it was  
Hit deryd hym yen mykill ye more  
he chese a quest on hym to passe  
Of men yat trewe & sothfast wore  
<fol. 119v>yai saide to pilat & sayphas  
ye *certayne* sothe we will no3t spare  
Mary to Joseph weddid was  
For at yair~ weddyng for-sothe we ware  
Pilat saide to yai<sup>me</sup> yanne  
yat blamed hade hym beforne  
To wrange 3e put yis man  
Jn wedloyke was he borne  
Vp styrte a Juwe bitter & bolde  
And yus he saide to sir~ pilat  
ye tales yat we of hym haue tolde  
We will a-vowe erly & late  
By yis enquest no prisse J holde  
yos caytif-es sayne bot as yi wate  
yai are comlynges & fayne yai wolde  
Mayntene ihesu & his estate  
yis quest was trewe als stele  
And sayde takes outhir~ twelue  
We are Juwes wit hit wele  
Als trewe als 3owr~-selue  
Pilat a boke to barre has broght  
yos two enquestes for to twynne  
W<sup>t</sup> swerynge sall ye sothe be soght  
And badde ye trewe quest suld begynne  
And yai saide yan .<sup>[it]</sup> <exp>vs</exp> falles vs no3t

To swere . for swerynge is a synne  
 Lat yaimē swere yat wrange has wrought  
 For alle yai knewe wele ihesu kynne  
 Gif we be fonden guilty  
 In yes sawes yat we say  
 We obblische vs to dye  
 Be-for 3owe here yis day  
 yen spak annas & cayphas  
 And yus yai saide to sir~ pilate  
 We trowe wele mary weddid wase  
 Vnto Joseph yat so hym gate  
 Bot to anothir~ poynt we passe  
 Mawgr~ alle yat mayntens his state  
 <fol. 120r>We say a spirit in close he hase  
 yat tellis hym all thyngē erly & late  
 Pilat gart voyde yame alle  
 yat were w<sup>t</sup>-in yat house  
 And yat quest gart in calle  
 Sayde ihesu was borne *in* spouse  
 he saide J fonde 3owe trewe lange ore  
 And yere-fore telle me nowē 3our~ rede  
 Whi hate yes Juwes ihesu so sore  
 Be what skille walde yai haue hym dede  
 yai saide his wittes passes yair~ lore  
 For-yi to hym yai haue hatrede  
 And his myracles greues yaimē sore  
 And 3it yai stande yaimē ofte in stede  
 For-sothe saide pilat yan  
 Me thynke yis is envye  
 Walde yai yus deme a man  
 For his gude dedys to dye  
 Pilat hym hyede oute of ye halle  
 And sadly saide ye Juwes vntille  
 Lo here wytnes be-for 3owe alle  
 yat in hym can J fynde non ille  
 And yai answerde bothe gret & smalle  
 And saide sir pilat be yi wille  
 We gart hym no3t come to yi calle  
 Wyt it wele wyth-outyn skille

Pilat saide he monn dye  
 J se3 wele be 3our~ sawes  
 Takes hym to 3owe for-yi  
 And deme hym be 3our~ lawes  
 Yen saide yes Juwes sir wele 3he wate  
 yat god biddes vs we sle no man  
 To yaime agayne saide sir pilate  
 Biddes god yat J suld sle men yan  
 J wote full wele whi 3he hym hate  
 And howe 3our~ wrathe till hym began~  
 Be my wille sall he dye no-gate  
 For no crafte y<sup>t</sup> 3he alle cane  
 <fol. 120v>It is alle for hatrede  
 And yis were litill resone  
 To deme a man to ye ded  
 Bot yere were more encheson~  
 Pilat ladde ihesu ye Jewes fro  
 yat to hym had grete envye  
 And saide till hym betwyx yaime two  
 Jhesu y<sup>u</sup> art kynge of Jury  
 Jhesu saide whethir~ was it saide ye soo  
 Or of yin awen outorytye  
 Pilat said me were full wo  
 yi folke suld yus deme ye to dye  
 yi folke has taght ye to me  
 For to be dampned yis day  
 Kynge of Juwes if y<sup>u</sup> be  
 Answer to yis J ye say  
 Jhesu answerd mekly a-gayne  
 J wisse my kyngdome is no3t here  
 For if my kyngdome sothe to sayne  
 W<sup>t</sup>-in yis wankill worlde now were  
 Or J a-monge yes Juwes were slayne  
 My men yat ar~ me leef & dere  
 Wald stand & fyght w<sup>t</sup> mode & mayne  
 And brynge w<sup>t</sup> yaime full grete powere  
 Yen art y<sup>u</sup> kynge all gate  
 Pilat saide sikirly  
 Jhesu sayde to pilate

Yowe says yat kynge am J  
 J am come to yis contre  
 And for yis skill yen was J borne  
 witnes of sothefastnes to be  
 yat has bene saide full lange beforne  
 And for to make ye peple fre  
 yat suld haue bene w<sup>t</sup> synne for-lorne  
 All yat is sothfaste likes me  
 And pleses me both euene & morne  
 And pilat asked efte  
 Say what is sothe-fastnes  
 W<sup>t</sup> yat ihesu he lefte  
 Als man yat stonyed wasse  
 <fol. 121r>Pilat saide to ye Juwes y-fere  
 Lordynges if it be 3our~ wille  
 J haue enquerd of ihesu her~  
 And in hym can J fynde no ille  
 And yai answerde w<sup>t</sup> herdy chere  
 we blame hym no3t w<sup>t</sup>-outyn skille  
 Pilat saide w<sup>t</sup>-outyn were  
 3he will hym sle w<sup>t</sup> paynes grille  
 Bot J am oute of gilte ~~<exp>als clene as</exp>~~  
 Als clene as Innocent  
 His bloude sall no3t be spilte  
 No3t als be myn assent  
 Yen answerd ye Juwes alle  
 and made yai<sup>me</sup> wondr~ kene & wrothe  
 yai saide is bloude mot on vs falle  
 and on alle our~ chyldr~ bothe  
 And pilat saide perchaunche it schalle  
 And y<sup>t</sup> me walde 3it thynk full lothe  
 yere-fore haue hym out of ye halle  
 And do hym nouthir~ harme ne brothe  
 Ye Juwes saide wele 3he wate  
 we say bot skilfully  
 who *presentes* ye kynges estate  
 he is worthy to dye

## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 134r>His fourty dayes yat he fast  
 J hym temped sikirly  
 J *procurde* alle ye Juwes full fast  
 Yat yai suld dresse hym for to dye  
 When Pilat wolde yat he had past  
 J stirde ye Juwes full egrely  
 Till he was hanged at ye last  
 Vpon ye rode full rufully  
 And *yere*-fore J ye say  
 Ordayne for hym a stede  
 He comes till vs yis day  
 Be yis J holde hym dede  
 And whille ye fendys made all yis dray  
*Yere* spake a voyss bothe loude & clere  
 Y<sup>n</sup> *prince* J bidde w<sup>t</sup>outen nay  
 Vndo yes 3ates a-non right here  
 Ye kyng of blisse comes in yis day  
 And yen a-non spake lucifere  
 Sathanas sparr~ ye 3ates J ye *pray*  
 Lat hym no3t in be no manere  
 Ye *prince* of helle ye 3ates he sparde  
 And <exp>alle</exp> his felowes .<sup>[gan]</sup> calle  
 Bot yes 3ates be wele bared  
 For-euere we mon be thralle  
 Yan said Daud *yere* he lay  
 To yes sayntes gret & smalle  
 Jn erthe lyueand yen gan J say  
 Yat J saide yen nowe is be-falle  
 It is befallen yis day  
 Makys myrthe no3t one bot alle  
 For brasyn 3hates god brake for ay  
 And yrenen bandes brast w<sup>t</sup>+alle  
 Fro ways of wildrenes  
 His *seruantes* has he taken  
 J see nowe sothe it is  
 He has vs no3t for-saken  
 <fol. 134v>And after yis sayde ysay



Whiles J lyueand was in land  
 Ryght on yis wyse *prophecyde* J  
 Wha so it kan vndrestand  
 Dede men y<sup>t</sup> in yair~ *graues* lye  
 Rise yai sall & be lyueand  
 Alle shall make ioy & melody  
 Yat erthe thurgh ded yus has in hand  
 And 3hitte J sayde also  
 Ded wher~ is yi myght  
 Sen y<sup>u</sup> lyue takes vs fro  
 To lyue y<sup>u</sup> ledes vs ryght  
 Yan spake a voysse full hydously  
 Ryght as it were a thonor blast  
 Vndo 3our~ 3ates delyuerly  
 For *certes* no langr~ sall yai last  
 Ye kynge of blisse here comes in hye  
 And helle a voysse a-gayne gan cast  
 What is yat kynge alle gan yai crye  
 Her~ he sall be sette full fast  
 Dauid sayde w<sup>t</sup>-outen were  
 As J *prophecyde* ryght  
 A lorde of gret powere  
 Jn batell mykill of myght  
 He is yat kynge yat J of telle  
 And at yes 3hates nowe standes her~  
 He be-helde fro heuene till helle  
 Ye sorowe of his *seruantes* dere  
 Vndo yes 3ates yowe fende so felle  
 Go & vnbarre ye 3ates sere  
 Ye kynge of blisse comes full snelle  
 To lyuer~ vs thurgh his gret power~  
 W<sup>t</sup> ye myght of his godhede  
 Jhesu yaim helped so fast  
 Ye 3ates a-sondr~ 3ede  
 And alle ye barres to brast  
 <fol. 135r>He shewed yat he was mykill of myght  
 Ye fendes pousty~ *yere* he felled  
 All lightened yat be-fore laked light  
 Yat w<sup>t</sup> *merkenesse* be-fore had melled

When alle ye sayntes sawe yat sight  
 Yat in yat depe dongon~ duelled  
 Non durst speke on worde on hyght  
 Bot *priuely* yus ilk+one yai spelled  
 Lorde welcome till vs  
 Full lange vs has ye thought  
 Blessed be y<sup>u</sup> iesus  
 Full dere yowe has vs bought  
 And he vndide yair~ handes alle  
 Yat yai bonden by hade bene  
 He made yaim fre yat er~ wer~ thralle  
 And of yair~ kare yaim clensed clene  
 Ye fendes yat sawe hes workes alle  
 Yat neuere by-fore non~ siche had sene  
 Sayde we are venkesht gret & smalle  
 W<sup>t</sup> 3ond warlow<sup>3</sup> as we wene  
 Yen sayde ye fende yus nedys  
 What artowe shewes siche myght  
 Yat is so gret in dedes  
 And comes so small in sight  
 Yowe y<sup>t</sup> was man in what manere  
 Was godhede in ye hydde  
 Wastowe noght ded what dos y<sup>u</sup> her~  
 Neuere her~ siche maistry was kidde  
 We fendes were fayne alle y-fere  
 When yat ye Juwes to dethe ye did  
 Howe artowe put to siche powere  
 And siche tene has to vs be-tidde  
 Was neuere saule till vs sent  
 Yat y<sup>u</sup> ne hast fette a-way  
 Y<sup>u</sup> has vs shamely shent  
 And *priued* vs of our~ pray  
 <fol. 135v>And taken her~ sir~ sathanas  
 Yat er~ yis tyme was lorde & sire  
 And in thraldame thrist hym y<sup>u</sup> has  
 For to brenne in endelesse fire  
 Yan spake fendes y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>t</sup> hym was  
 Ful of Angir~ & full of ire  
 Sathan whi didest y<sup>u</sup> yus allas

Y<sup>u</sup> did right no3t at oure desire  
 We bad ye lat hym go  
 And no3t to lat hym in  
 Alle has he fette vs fro  
 Yis courte waxes full thynne  
 Yowe Duke of Dethe leder~ fro lyue  
 Out-castyng of alle Angelles  
 A-gaynes yat stronge whi woldestowe stryfe  
 Yat w<sup>t</sup> his myght vs alle yus felles  
 Y<sup>u</sup> saide he was yi *pray* full ryfe  
 It is no thyng as y<sup>u</sup> vs telles  
 For-euere to dole he wille vs dryue  
 And euere ilk+one y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>t</sup> ye dwelles  
 When y<sup>u</sup> ye Juwes gan stirre  
 Yat yai suld gar~ hym dye  
 Y<sup>u</sup> suldest enquire and spirr~  
 Jf he had bene worthy  
 And 3if in hym were fonden non ille  
 Y<sup>u</sup> suldest a gart yaim to blynne  
 Traytour whi hastowe brought vs tille  
 Hym y<sup>t</sup> neuere was fonden~ in synne  
 Alle hastowe lost nowe by yis skille  
 Ye saules y<sup>t</sup> were sumtyme her~-in  
 And nowe sall y<sup>u</sup> yair~ paines full-fille  
 Jn wo & neuere-more oute to wyne  
 Y<sup>t</sup> we wan thurgh ye tre  
 When Eue ye frute had eten  
 Euere ilk+a dele has he  
 Thurgh ye rode-tre fro vs geten  
 <fol. 136r>And yen said ihesu w<sup>t</sup> voyssse full clere  
 To alle ye sayntes more and lesse  
 Comes to me my children dere  
 Yat are made to my likenes  
 3he y<sup>t</sup> for synne are *prisoned* here  
 Alle 3he sall haue nowe forgyfnes  
 Alle ye sayntes yen drow3 hym nere  
 And thanked hym of his gudnes  
 On adam handes he layde  
 And he on knees gan falle

Pees be to ye he sayde  
 And to yin children alle  
 Adam sayde & for ioi gret  
 Lorde gif me *grace* to worsshippe ye  
 Fro my foes y<sup>u</sup> has me fette  
 Yat were a-boute me gret plente  
 J cryed when J in payne was sette  
 And nowe lorde y<sup>u</sup> hast herde me  
 My saule y<sup>u</sup> lede w<sup>t</sup>-outyn lette  
 Fro yis dongon~ for yi pite  
 Kepe me yat J ne falle  
 No more in-to yis place  
 Makes ioi 3he sayntes alle  
 And thanks god of his *grace*  
 Yen many a *patriake* & *prophete*  
 And also outhir~ sayntes alle  
 Felle don~ on knees be-for his fete  
 Alle y<sup>t</sup> *yere* were bothe gret & smalle  
 And lorde our~ bales to bete  
 Y<sup>u</sup> art comen~ nowe lyue we shalle  
 Yat y<sup>u</sup> in *prophecye* gan hete  
 We thanke ye lorde nowe is it falle  
 Dede w<sup>t</sup> ded is distroyed  
 Lorde louynge be to ye  
 Alle arne eysed yat wer~ noyed  
 Thraldome is maked fre  
 <fol. 136v>By ye ryght hand god gan Adam take  
 And blissed hym w<sup>t</sup>-outen more  
 He ladde hym fro yat lothely lake  
 And alle yat *euere yere* w<sup>t</sup> hym wore  
 And yan Dauyd full baldely spake  
 Als he fro helle-warde gan fare  
 A newe songe nowe sall we make  
 To *ihesu* as J *prophecyd* are  
 For he has ben~ wirkande  
 Maruayles vnto vs here  
 He has saued his right hande  
 To hym and his powere  
 Mekely has he shewed his myght

Her~ vnto alle lyueand men  
 He has shewed to euere wyght  
 Yat yai his ryghtwysenes suld ken~  
 Alle ye sayntes thanked hym right  
 Yat siche a *grace* walde to yaim lene  
 Blissed be he yat comes as he hight  
 Nowe here in ye name of god *amen*  
 Ilke *prophete* yan gon telle  
 In his awen *prophecye*  
 Howe he suld herye helle  
 And for mankynde to dye  
 And as yai were to blisse wendand  
 Fro ye foule fende yair~ faa  
 Alle ye sayntes 3ede syngand  
 A songe yat hyght Alleluya  
 Jhesu toke Adam by ye hand  
 And w<sup>t</sup> saynt Michel gart him gay  
 And alle ye sayntes went folowand  
 To paradise for sothe to say  
 Michell receyued sone  
 Alle yat were hym bekend  
 In blisse he has yaim done  
 Yat lastes with-ouden ende  
 <fol. 137r>Jn endeles blisse yat has no fere  
 When alle yes sayntes *yere* sette  
 Two gray-hored men of face full clere  
 W<sup>t</sup>-in paradise yai mette  
 Yes sayntes asked what yai were  
 Howe yat yai fra helle ware fette  
 Bothe body and saule what don 3e her~  
 Fonde 3e no thyng y<sup>t</sup> myght 3ow lette  
 And yai a-gayne answerd  
 We are Enoc and Ely  
 We come fro mydill Erthe  
 As witnes wytirly  
 Neuere dyed we 3it we ben~ a-lyue  
 W<sup>t</sup> ancrist 3itt shall we fyght  
 In i~*rusalem* *yere* mon we stryue  
 And *yere* to ded we sall be dyght



And thre days after a-gayne to lyue  
We sall be raysed by gods myght  
And stand as witnes when dome sall dryue  
Who yat has don~ wrange or ryght  
A pore man yan come yare  
Whiles yai were spekand best  
A crosse on his bake bare  
A theFe he was likest  
Leue frend what may y<sup>u</sup> be  
W<sup>t</sup> on voyse yai gan say  
And he yaim answerd J am he  
A theFe as 3e se may  
J dyed w<sup>t</sup> crist vpon a tre  
And yen of helpe J gan hym pray  
He saide sothely yat J suld be  
Jn paradise yis same Day  
Yis crosse he gan me bede  
And in yis way me sette  
And sayd haue y<sup>u</sup> no dred  
Yere sall no thyng ye lette