

Saved by the Flame of Love

Alpha and Omega

By
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Booklet I

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FROM BEGINNING TO PENTECOST

PART I

Introduction

The Great Miracle

At different times in history, humanity takes a path of selfdestruction. It may be a small group, a large group or even the entire world, but at those times of self-destruction God comes to the rescue. The solution to such problems may not be easily understood. For instance, when God decides to wipe out an evil and perverse generation, we may look at this as total destruction rather than mercy. The reality is that God is always concerned with the salvation of souls. Once we understand this, it is easier to trust God, rather than judge Him. The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is known as the greatest gift to us since the Word became flesh. The Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann has several statements that articulate this message, signifying its importance. I love this expression: "There has never been a time of grace like this since the Word became flesh." It is understood among Flame of Love devotees that this flame will spread over the entire earth. The 10 | The Flame of Love Flame of Love is the great miracle that will blind Satan and save souls. We must never forget that we are fighting a war—a mysterious one at that, because God desires the salvation of every human soldier, on both sides of the battlefield. The Blessed Mother told Elizabeth: "Enter into battle, we will be the conquerors. My Flame of Love will blind Satan to the same extent that all of you spread it around the world. Just as the whole world knows my name, so I want the Flame of Love of my heart performing miracles in the depths of the hearts to also be known. There will be no need to investigate this miracle. All will feel its

authenticity within their hearts. Whoever has felt it once will communicate it to others because my grace will be active in them. There is no need for authentication. I will authenticate it myself in every soul so that all recognize the effusion of grace of my Flame of Love.” (Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann, page 99.) The urgency of this message makes clear that there is no time to waste. The fire of hatred in the world hurls high enough to cause Satan to believe he has victory. The Flame of Love will extinguish this fire of hatred, but we are expected to participate in this work of redemption. We have been given a great responsibility: the salvation of souls worldwide. Is there an ark large enough for everyone to fit into? Yes, the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Jesus and the Blessed Virgin made reference to people and events in Sacred Scripture, and even referred to more current events. The Spiritual Diary appears as a most awesome and masterfully written work of art, yet the message itself is simple and clear. For those of us who have received the gift of the Flame of Love, but love to ponder the meaning and essence of great and wonderful mysteries, we have in our hands one of Introduction: The Great Miracle | 11 the greatest biblical commentaries ever written. The gift of the Flame of Love is meant for everyone living in these times, and everyone who welcomes it will be enlightened. The soft light of the Flame of Love will enlighten the minds and give warmth to the hearts of all who receive it. During February of 2019, I published a title called, “Unity and the Flame of Love.” It is a small book, whose contents stretch over a large span of salvation history—very large actually, from the beginning to present. This book is similar, because it is about the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Water for the Destruction of Flesh

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He told Elizabeth Kindelmann, “The Flame of Love of my mother’s heart is Noah’s Ark.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the flood prefigured baptism and Noah’s ark prefigured the church. In Baptism, we enter the ark by becoming members of the Body of Christ. “You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who

raised Him from the dead.” (Col 2:12) Thus Baptism is the first sacrament we receive making us citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Fire for the Salvation of Souls

The Blessed Virgin said to Elizabeth, *“You have to seek a refuge for my Flame of Love, which is Jesus Christ Himself.”* Pentecost was a baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire, when the church was born out of the upper room, and the disciples were sent out as witnesses. In the sacrament of Confirmation, we are sent out to replenish the earth. Tongues of fire over the heads of the disciples portrayed the image of head and body going out together to set the earth on fire. The Flame of Love is like the first Pentecost—the difference being the fire is in the hearts of the disciples. The mission is the same: to set the earth on fire. The Divine Love will extinguish the fire of hatred.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Both the flood waters and the fire were meant to extend over the entire earth. The flood for the destruction of all flesh, and the fire for the salvation of souls. Although many will refuse to enter the ark, God desires that all are saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Here are six historical accounts in the Bible that reveal a group being wiped out and another group being saved. Listed in chronological order, they are:

1. Water—Noah and the flood, which covered the entire earth.
2. Fire—Lot escaped the fire and brimstone that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. Water—The Israelites passing through the Red Sea.
4. Fire—The fire which covered Mount Sinai.
5. Water—The Israelites crossing the Jordan River.
6. Fire—Tongues of fire in the upper room.

Chapter I

The Flood

Noah's Ark — Eight Individuals Replenished the Earth

The story of Noah and the ark is one of the more popular biblical stories. It seems that most people are familiar with the idea of a great deluge that covered the whole earth. Not only do Jews and Christians have an account of a great flood, but other nations and peoples also have their version of a similar flood recorded in their historical archives.

The cause of the flood given to us in Sacred Scripture is that humanity had seemingly reached a point of no return. The degree of lawlessness and evil in the world was at an all-time high, and the Lord deemed it necessary to save humanity from total destruction by purging the earth and starting over. He said, *“Man is but flesh and every desire of his heart is but evil.”* But Noah found favor with the Lord. He said to Noah, *“I have decided to put an end to all mortals on earth; the earth is full of lawlessness because of them. So I will destroy them and all life on earth.”*

(Genesis 6:13)

“Make for yourself an ark of gopherwood, put various compartments and cover it inside and out with pitch.” And the Lord gave Noah all the instructions for building the ark: dimensions, provisions for daylight and every necessary detail. *“I, on my part, am about to bring the flood waters on the earth, to destroy everywhere all creatures in which there is the breath of life; everything on earth shall perish. But with you I will establish my covenant; you and your sons, your wife and your sons' wives shall go into the ark.”* (Genesis 6:17-18) Noah followed the instructions of the Lord to also bring along creatures from every species on earth, and provisions for his family and all the creatures, in order to preserve them from extinction.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month: it was on that day that All the fountains of the great abyss burst forth, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

For forty days and forty nights heavy rain poured down on the earth. (Genesis 7:11-12)

Reference to the flood has been repeated in Sacred Scripture and in church history. The six and forty is a constant reminder of the destruction of the temple. From the time of the Crucifixion, the destruction of the temple has always been a reference to the sufferings of the members of Jesus' body, the church.

Listen to the words of Elizabeth Kindelmann: "*Doubts, similar to the ones I have just mentioned and exposed, arose in many diverse ways, stirred in my soul and struck me for years. They kept occurring even in my sixty-four years of life [in 1977].*

"The story of one of my most serious doubts and crises, with respect to consequences, I reveal it with what follows:

"On one occasion, when these strong doubts came upon me, I once again sought peace of soul. To gain this peace, I decided to retract the words and the messages of the Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin before all those to whom I had given them. I acted on this decision. I went to twelve Hungarian priests and said to each one: 'Do not believe what I have told you because it all comes from me. They are lies I invented.' While crying and sobbing, I asked them for their absolution. They reacted in different ways and gave their opinion. I told them, without hiding anything, that my terrible torments were forcing me to retract." (Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann, page 289.)

The world, enslaved to the devil, because of the fear of death, has been redeemed by Jesus. But Jesus allowed the devil to torment Elizabeth Kindelmann. He tormented her to the point that she was willing to reject the messages of the Lord and the Blessed Virgin. She suffered this for our benefit. Her experience allows us to be enlightened by the Flame of Love of the need to be humble and merciful, as Jesus and Mary are. Elizabeth Kindelmann was allowed to suffer the same fate as our first mother, Eve. The same type of torments plagued Martin Luther. Eve no longer believed what was revealed to her through Adam, and Martin Luther no longer believed in the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

All of this is about the way to eternal life. Satan's torments can cause a person to lose faith and reject the way that was pointed out

to them, along with legitimate teaching authority. The devil torments people by placing doubt in their mind, to make them give up the truth—because the truth is the way to eternal life. If one gives up the truth to end the suffering and restore peace of soul, that sheep will stray from the flock. Jesus was taunted and tormented that way during his Passion. Yet, he remained faithful to the truth, because he cannot deny Himself.

He remained a lamb without blemish. Jesus is the Righteous One, and we are saved because of his righteousness.

There is no mention about how righteous the family members of Noah were, only of Noah's righteousness. The fact that the Lord repented that he even created man is evident of how evil had entered the hearts of all. There were eight individuals in the ark, and this family would go out from the ark and replenish the earth. God provided a way to save Noah and his family. The salvation of souls is important to God. When the Lord said that He would send a flood to destroy all flesh, he did not mention souls or their destiny. Since only Noah was righteous, it would appear that his family received mercy because of Noah's righteousness. Among the justified there is the Righteous One, and those who accept Divine Mercy. The remaining are left to face Divine Justice.

Chapter II

Fire and Brimstone

Lot's Home — Four Individuals Preserved Their Lineage

The second story of destruction and salvation is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Salvation came to Lot and his family, but the people of Sodom and Gomorrah perished when their cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone. Lot was Abram's nephew and had been with him most likely since the death of Lot's father, Haran. They left their native land, Ur of the Chaldeans, to go to the land of Canaan, but settled in Haran. Terah was the father of Abram and the grandfather of Lot. When Terah died, Abram continued to live in his father's house, until he was called by God.

The Lord called Abram to go forth from the land of his kinsfolk and from his father's house to another land, the land of Canaan. This is the covenant that the Lord made with Abram: *"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*I will bless those who bless you and
curse those who curse you.*

*All the communities of the earth shall
find blessing in you."*

(Genesis 12:2-3)

Abram, his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot set out for the land of Canaan. They moved through the land of Canaan in stages, and when the Lord appeared to him, Abram would build an altar to the Lord. When famine struck the land of Canaan, Abram took his family to Egypt. By the time Abram left Egypt, he was very rich in livestock, silver and gold.

Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support them if they stayed together; their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. There were quarrels between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and those of Lot's.

So Abram said to Lot: "Let there be no strife between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are kinsmen. Is not

the whole land at your disposal? Please separate from me. If you prefer the left, I will go to the right; if you prefer the right, I will go to the left.” Lot looked about and saw how well watered the whole Jordan Plain was as far as Zoar, like the Lord’s own garden, or like Egypt. Lot therefore chose for himself the whole Jordan Plain and set out eastward. (Genesis 13:5-12)

This is the reason they separated. *“Their possessions were so great that they could not live together.”* Notice what Abram asked Lot: *“Is not the whole land at your disposal?”* Abram knew that the blessings came from the Lord. Although the blessings came through Abram, he offered Lot the opportunity to choose whatever he preferred. Of course, Lot chose what reminded him of the Lord’s own garden or Egypt; paradise or the place of refuge during famine. Abram and his household prospered when the land was well watered. They prospered also while living in Egypt, but their prosperity was not due to well-watered land or the Egyptians, who gave Abram flocks and herds, male and female slaves, male and female asses and camels. They prospered because of the Lord and the covenant he made with Abram.

Sometimes when our possessions become so great, what was a blessing becomes a curse. I used the word “curse,” to indicate being banished. We banish ourselves from the source of the blessings. This happens when the gift becomes more important than the giver. *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said: “I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly.”*

When Abram prostrated himself, God continued to speak to him. “My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations. No longer shall you be called Abram: your name shall be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a host of nations. I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you.

“This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.”

God further said to Abraham: “As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai; her name shall be Sarah. I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. Him also will I bless; he shall give rise to nations, and rulers of peoples shall issue from him.” (Genesis

17:1-6, 10, 15-16)

The Lord had blessed Abraham with so many possessions that the blessings overflowed to Lot. But here the Lord made it clear that there is another part of the covenant that is more valuable than all the material possessions. The greatest part of the blessings are the souls that would make up the Kingdom of God. This is an eternal kingdom, and the reward for Abraham's faithfulness is eternal.

When the Lord appeared to Abraham the next time, he appeared as three men. One of them revealed to Abraham and Sarah that he would return about the same time next year, and Sarah would have a son.

Then the Lord said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out." (Genesis 18:20-21)

Immediately Abraham began to intercede for the people of Sodom. And the conversation ended with the Lord promising that if He found ten righteous people in the city, he would not destroy it. Two of the men went down to see if the evil in Sodom was as bad as was reported. Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom.

When Lot saw them, he got up to greet them; and bowing down with his face to the ground, he said, "Please gentlemen, come aside into your servant's house for the night, and bathe your feet; you can get up early to continue your journey." (Genesis 19:1-2)

He persuaded them to stay at his home instead of the city square. During the night, the men of Sodom came and demanded that Lot's guests come out so that the men of Sodom could have intimacies with them. After threatening a forced entry, his guests pulled Lot into the house and closed the door; at the same time, they struck the men at the entrance of the house, with such a blinding light that they were utterly unable to reach the doorway. Here is a clear example of how the Lord blinds Satan, and that the Flame of Love is for the preservation of the family. Satan wants to destroy the family in our time as in all times past. Satan was blinded by the light in Lot's home, and that light is the Lord. The wicked perished in the flood waters, and the wicked perished in the fire and brimstone. Lot and his family escaped in time. They

escaped because Lot had invited the Lord into his home. As one praying fervently, he pleaded and insisted that the Lord stay at his house.

Lot and his wife and two daughters left the cities and ran to safety. Scripture reveals that Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, while Lot and his daughters became the ancestors of the Moabite and the Ammonite peoples. Even though Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone, Moab and Ammon represent how sin remains in the world until the end of time, but God does not abandon the human race. No matter how perverse and evil humanity becomes, God seems to always look for ways to save us.

Chapter III

The Red sea

Moses and the Israelites Crossed the Red Sea

The third story of destruction and salvation is the story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. After Israel was set free from slavery in Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued the Israelites. The Egyptians endured ten plagues in a battle against the Lord, God of the universe. The last plague was the death of the firstborn of Egypt, man and beast. Pharaoh admitted defeat, and he realized that neither he nor the gods of Egypt could not win a war against the Almighty God and Creator. Perhaps this story reveals that fallen angels cannot repent. Their hatred for God will perpetuate into eternity. Although Pharaoh is a human being, his story reflects how human behavior mirrors who we serve. Anyone who sets himself up as an enemy of God has joined the rebellion of the fallen angels. Even when Pharaoh accepted the fact that he had lost the war, he still preferred to see the Israelites destroyed. Sure, there were political and economic repercussions, but spiritually the fallen angels will not benefit from more people being damned along with themselves. There is nothing to gain but a larger kingdom of losers, but as the old adage goes, “misery loves company.”

Rather than see the Israelites march away to serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Pharaoh preferred to slaughter them. Jesus said that the devil comes to scatter, slaughter and devour. Those who serve the devil and carry out his will desire the same things their master desires.

As the Israelites made their way through the Red Sea, the angel of the Lord guided their way to safety by giving them light. Simultaneously the angel blinded the Egyptian army by putting them in total darkness. God saved his people by blinding their enemies. The Israelites were in an invisible ark coming through the Red Sea. The waters came back together after the Israelites had

made it safely to shore. The Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea because they were blinded and could not find their way out. The flood waters destroyed all flesh as in the flood of Noah's time. Water and fire, symbols of baptism in these three stories, represent two things: destruction and salvation. The waters and fire destroyed, but God saves. God saved Noah and his family, Lot and his family and Moses and his family, the Israelites.

Chapter IV

Mount Sinai

Moses and the Levites Redeemed the Firstborn

The next three stories are about fire and water. However, the fire and water do not represent destruction, but instead represent the awesome power of the One who saves.

Moses told the Israelites that God would appear to them in three days. He would appear on Mount Sinai, the same mountain that the burning bush appeared before Moses. The Lord had said to Moses: *“Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to Lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”*

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?” He answered, “I will be with you; and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain.” (Exodus 3:10-12.) The time had arrived for this promise to be fulfilled. Moses instructed the people to prepare themselves to meet God in three days. He said, Sanctify yourselves, wash your clothes and do not have intercourse with any woman. They were to prepare themselves to be a dwelling place for the Lord. God would dwell in their midst. They were to sanctify themselves and wash their clothes as a means of cleansing the temple. God would also change the way they worship.

When Adam and Eve were cast out of Paradise, it was to cleanse the temple. Since they were not willing to repent, they had to be expelled from the place of worship. God changed the way they worshiped by not permitting them to eat from the Tree of Life. Instructions about how to worship are not mentioned in Scripture, although something must have been sacrificed to cover their loins. The emphasis was on the way of sustaining their lives and preserving the human race through sexual reproduction. Adam and Eve went from having a means of worship, to having it stripped from

them. In reality, they were the ones who rejected the Lord God and the way pointed out to them. The Lord cleansed the temple by casting them out of Paradise and changed the way that they worship by preventing them access to the Tree of Life.

The Lord was changing the way the Israelites worshiped, and this would set them apart from all other peoples of the world. All the descendants of Adam and Eve have their own ways of worship, but here on Mount Sinai, God gave to the Israelites a religious liturgy. God dictated to them exactly how they were to worship. So what was taken away from Adam and Eve is being restored to Moses and Israel.

Israel saw the mighty deeds done in Egypt to help them understand that there is only one God. When God revealed Himself as fire covering the entire mountain, He also revealed his identity by speaking to them. *“I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You*

shall not have other gods besides me.” (Exodus 20:2-3.) *When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the Lord, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the Lord has told us.”* (Exodus 24:3.)

Israel was now accountable for her actions. God revealed Himself to them and they were instructed to worship God alone. Any other worship was considered false and to false gods. By the time Moses came down from the mountain with the plans for the tabernacle and instructions on how to offer sacrifice, the Israelites had made a golden calf and were worshiping it. The Lord told Moses to step aside so that He could wipe out these people, then He would begin a new people with Moses. Moses immediately began to intercede for the people as did Abraham for the people of Sodom. God listened to Moses and decided not to exterminate them.

Moses however, put them to a test. He ground the calf into dust, placed it in the water and made the people drink it. Then he said, *“Whoever is for the Lord, let him come to me!” All the Levites rallied to him, and he told them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Put your sword on your hip, every one of you! Now go up and down the camp, from gate to gate, and slay your own kinsmen, your friends and neighbors!” The Levites carried out the command of Moses, and that day there fell about three thousand of the people.*

(Exodus 32:26-28.) The test that Moses gave them appears to be “The Ordeal for a Suspected Adulteress”

(Numbers 5:11-31.)

The Lord said that the Levites would redeem the firstborns. This is the first time we hear the word “redeem” in these episodes. The people were not put to death by the fire, as at Sodom and Gomorrah. The fire on the mountain was the presence of God, and they were instructed not to touch the mountain and to keep a safe distance. If anyone touched the mountain, that person must be put to death by their fellow Israelites. The elements of water and fire destroyed lives and property in the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah and the Red Sea. It was not so with the fire on Mount Sinai.

Concerning the firstborn that were put to death by the Levites, their story seems to reflect the story of Cain and Abel, but with a different outcome. Cain murdered his brother Abel because God accepted Abel and his sacrifice, but God did not accept Cain or his sacrifice. This angered Cain, because Cain was the firstborn. After Cain killed Abel, God cast Cain out from His presence. *Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to bear. Since you have now banished me from the soil, and I must avoid your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, anyone may kill me at sight.” “Not so!” The Lord said to him. “If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged sevenfold.” So the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest anyone should kill him at sight.* (Genesis

4:13-15.)

I relate this to the firstborns who were guilty in pressing Aaron to make the calf. If Aaron was afraid, they would kill him, as Cain did Abel, then the firstborns bear some responsibility for Aaron not entering the Promised Land. I am not sure if the Israelites understood the concept of being martyred at that time in history. Aaron would have done what it took to save his life. Why is this important? Because Aaron had been appointed high priest. The young bulls sacrificed were acceptable to God. Aaron’s symbolic death was avenged by the avenger of blood, his family. There was a mark put on the three thousand firstborn that drank the water with the gold dust. They were cursed, and anyone could recognize the effect of the curse. The outcome was the opposite of Cain, who received a mark which prevented anyone from killing him, whereas these firstborn received a mark so that they could be put to death.

Yet they were redeemed by the Levites. They were the ones who would lead the priestly people in the worship.

The next group that did not make it to the Promised Land became restless wanderers all the days of their lives. They wandered aimlessly in the desert for forty years, until all of them had died. This is another story that mirrors the punishment that Cain received, but their offense was quite the opposite of Cain's offense. This group was God's military; everyone that was twenty years of age or older at the time of the census. The reason they were destined to die in the desert is because they were unwilling to fight for the Lord and themselves.

The Lord said to Moses, "Send men to reconnoiter the land of Canaan, which I am giving the Israelites. You shall send one man from each ancestral tribe, all of them princes." So Moses dispatched them from the desert of Paran, as the Lord had ordered. (Numbers 13:1-3.) Upon their return, ten of the scouts gave a report that the people there were giants, who lived in fortified cities, and the Israelites were like grasshoppers to these giants. These men spread fear among the people and caused them to revolt. So they said among themselves, "Let us appoint a leader and go back to Egypt." The Lord threatened to wipe them out and begin a new people with Moses, but Moses interceded for them and God decided not to put them to death. Among the twelve scouts, only Joshua and Caleb were convinced that they should trust God and take possession of the land. Since these people were God's military, but were of no use to the kingdom, they were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. They were not willing to take possession of the land. Different from Cain in that they would not shed blood; they were more of the ideology of, "live and let die." The Lord allowed them to live, and let them die off in the desert over a period of forty years — a year for each day of the reconnaissance. They were restless wanderers, as was Cain. The firstborn of God's military was redeemed by those who were younger than twenty years at the time of the census. These were the ones who crossed over the Jordan into the Promised Land, destined to take possession of the land and become the kingdom of God.

Chapter V

The Jordan River

Joshua and the Israelites Crossed the Jordan River

When Israel came to the Jordan River, they were given instructions about how they were to cross the river. *“When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord, your God, which the Levitical priests will carry, you must also break camp and follow it, that you may know the way to take, for you have not gone over this road before. But let there be a space of two thousand cubits between you and the ark. Do not come nearer to it.”* Joshua also said to the people, *“Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will perform wonders among you.”* (Joshua 3:3-5.)

The people struck their tents to cross the Jordan, with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant ahead of them. No sooner had these priestly bearers of the ark waded into the waters at the edge of the Jordan, which overflows its banks during the entire season of the harvest, than the waters flowing from upstream halted backing up in a solid mass for a very great distance indeed, from Adam, a city in the direction of Zarethan; while those flowing downstream toward the Salt Sea of the Arabah disappeared entirely. (Joshua 3:15-16.)

The priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord remained motionless on dry ground in the bed of the Jordan until the whole nation had completed the passage.

The contents inside of the ark of the covenant foreshadowed

God incarnate in Jesus Christ. The Commandments written by God on the stone tablets, the jar of manna and the staff of Aaron the high priest all represent Jesus. The water had to part before the ark, because the ark represents the sacred space where God made his dwelling. God who is pure spirit became flesh and dwelled in His own creation. The mystery of the Incarnation is foreshadowed in the ark of the covenant. The elements of nature that had claimed the life of human beings are no threat to humans when they follow God into the elements, be it fire or water.

Once the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan, they were ready to begin to take possession of the land. It was time to drive out the wicked nations that lived in the land of Canaan and claim this land as the Kingdom of God. After crossing the Jordan, the Israelite nation was circumcised for the second time, because none of them born in the desert during the journey were circumcised. They celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On that same day after the Passover on which they ate the produce of the land, the manna ceased.

Even Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. He was allowed to look on the land from the top of Mount Nebo, but he did not enter with the Israelites that crossed the Jordan.

Joshua succeeded Moses as judge and leader of the people. That day when the Jordan River parted, the Lord began to exalt Joshua before the people, and they began to believe in Joshua as they had Moses.

Joshua had been a successful military commander; we may assume he was highly respected, but now he had become leader of the people of God. The first mission came soon, when they were instructed to destroy the city of Jericho. With direct and specific instructions from the Lord about how to take the city, the Israelites were successful.

Everything in salvation history was leading to God making His dwelling among His people. The tabernacle was called the Dwelling. The Holy of Holies in the temple was considered the dwelling place for God among His people. There was finally a permanent dwelling place for God where all peoples and nations could come to learn about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Israel was meant to be a city on a hill, and a light to the nations. Their mission was to lead all peoples back to God, the Creator of the universe. There is one thing standing in the way of success: sin. A simple three-letter word is the cause of all failure to reunite the family of humanity with its Creator.

In Egypt, Israel watched God fight their battles for them. There was nothing for Israel to do but watch and be amazed at the awesome power and might of God, as He defeated the gods of Egypt. Things began to change when Israel had to join in the fight for their salvation. Everything had to be done precisely the way that God instructed them. First, their worship was dictated by God. Whom

they worshiped, determined how and where they worshiped. Their first encounter with strict observance of a liturgical rite was the first Passover. Everything had to be done according to the instructions that God laid out. Their lives depended on it, and they were saved from death.

As Israel moved through the desert, we begin to see how rebellious humanity is, and it became clearer as to why they ended up as slaves in Egypt in the first place. It appears that God is using the story of Israel to reveal the story of all of humanity. Whatever God does to save us works perfect—but when we have to participate in the work of our salvation, things begin to fall apart, and even fail. The Israelites suffered through this during their forty-year journey to the land of Canaan. In their first expedition after crossing the Jordan, Israel was successful. They destroyed the city of Jericho as the Lord had instructed them to. Imagine if a military battle today had instructions to march around a city seven times, and after each time blow their trumpets! “After the seventh time everyone blow their trumpets, and the others shout!” In our world, the troops would wonder if their commander was trying to get them killed. But this worked for Israel; the wall of this fortified city collapsed and Israel accomplished what God sent them to accomplish.

It is evident that if the Israelites did what God commanded them, they would have been successful in all their battles and would have taken possession of the land. God is always faithful, but Israel was faithful sometimes. Other times they sinned and gave power to their enemies, especially when they began to worship the gods of their enemies. The whole period when the Israelites were ruled by judges reveals their success when they were obedient to God and failure when they were disobedient. God was their King and it was impossible for them to lose a battle if they followed the instructions of their King. When they obeyed the commands of the Lord, they lived in freedom. When they rebelled against the Lord, their enemies would come and take them captives. Israel suffered oppression many times at the hands of the Philistines. Each time when they repented their sins, and cried out to God for freedom, He sent a judge to defeat their enemies and set them free. Israel became tired of being judged by God for their sins and decided they wanted a king. All the other nations had kings and they wanted to be judged by a king also.

Samuel was displeased when they asked for a king to judge them. He prayed to the Lord, however, who said in answer: "Grant the people's every request. It is not you they reject; they are rejecting me as their king." (1 Samuel 8:6-7.)

The period of being judged by kings was plagued by the same disease: sin. And because of the sins of Solomon, the kingdom was split; north and south, with Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Israel worshiped the gods of their enemies and were finally destroyed as a nation in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians. Judah followed Israel's example and was destroyed as a nation by the Babylonians when taken into exile. Judah even disobeyed God by trying to fight against the Babylonians. The Lord had said, they must go and serve the king of Babylon and they would be allowed to return in seventy years. But the false prophets told them to rebel against the king of Babylon and promised them victory. As with all false prophesy, it was a lie and the Babylonians destroyed the temple. They were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple after seventy years, but Judah no longer existed as a nation. After the Babylonian exile, they were known only as the Jews.

From that time on the Jews were struggling to live peacefully among warring nations whose main objective was to rule the world. The known world was conquered by Alexander the Great.

The Greeks went as far as forcing the Jews to worship the Greek gods. The next great conquerors were the Romans, and this period leads us to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Jews and all of humanity needed a savior. God Himself came down from heaven to save His people as He did when He saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

By the time of Jesus' birth, the Jews were awaiting their savior. This savior would be called Messiah. He would be someone like King David, even from the lineage of David. The Jews had been without a king for centuries and they were ready to be restored as a nation. King Herod took the same approach as the Pharaoh of Egypt by killing all the baby boys in Jerusalem. Herod knew that the newborn King of the Jews was the rightful claimant of the throne of David. This King would save his people from slavery to the Romans and all other so-called rulers of the world. There was one thing standing in the way of freedom: sin. Sin is the reason why all of humanity suffers bondage, and the Jews were no different. They were

different in the sense that God revealed Himself to them. They were God's chosen people, but God expected them to avoid sin as much as everyone else, and even more so. To whom more is given, more is required. Whether it appears fair to humans or not, the Jews were held at a higher standard than the Gentiles. You may say the Gentiles were dependent upon the Jews for salvation. Jesus made this clear to the Samaritan woman at the well. He said, "You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews."

One thing is evidently clear: by the time Jesus began his public ministry, Israel had not taken full possession of the land of Canaan. It was called the Promised Land because God promised that this land would become theirs. Yet, they would only possess the land if they obeyed the commands of the Lord.

When Jesus began his public ministry, one of the first things noticeable is that many people themselves had become possessed. Jesus began to free those who were possessed. Everyone Jesus freed from demonic possession seemed appreciative. Everyone Jesus healed from illnesses seemed appreciative. He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf and healed the lame and those crippled. Everyone appeared happy and satisfied until Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven." Now we have a problem; because they see him as judge. They haven't had a judge since Samuel, and the Lord made it clear to Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected, it is me they have rejected." The people of God decided that they did not want a judge. It was their way of rejecting God as judge over them. Well, it appears they were not ready to be judged. God Himself came down from heaven to save them as the judges did. This was acceptable in a military sense and also to heal their bodies, but to rule over their souls? Absolutely not. Jesus would have to conquer their enemies alone, as the Lord did in Egypt when He defeated Pharaoh with the plagues. God did all of the work for the salvation of His people, while the people observed from the sideline. Jesus is responsible for the redemption of humanity. He did all the work up until He took his last breath on the cross. He freed Israel from slavery to the Law, but now they must begin the journey to take possession of the Promised Land. I am speaking of the New Israel, the Church.

After the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ, the disciples were led to assume responsibility for the salvation of souls. This can only be accomplished if God is dwelling in their midst. Everything depends on this reality which Jesus began on the evening of the Resurrection and fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

Chapter VI

The Upper Room

Peter and the Israelites Sent from the Upper Room

God began to make His dwelling with humanity; but in a different way than in the past. He dwelled in the meeting tent, called the tabernacle. After the temple was built, God dwelt in the Holy of Holies, but now God had made His dwelling again in movable tabernacles. At Pentecost, God began to dwell in the soul of His disciples, making each disciple a movable tabernacle.

Let's recount this glorious and most important event. The disciples were all in one place praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit, as per the instruction of Jesus, when suddenly they heard the sound of rushing wind, and tongues of fire descended from above, beginning to split and rest on the head of each of them, until they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The disciples, who were all Galileans, began speaking to the crowd and everyone heard them speaking in his own language, no matter what language they spoke. Pentecost—the defeat of Babel and the confusion of languages—is the beginning of uniting all nations under one God. There is only one language in the Church, because there is only one Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit. And as Jesus said, “Everyone who belongs to the truth, hears his voice.”

The twelve disciples were sent from the upper room as apostles. This is the moment they were waiting for. Jesus told them to wait until they received power from on high; the Holy Spirit whom He would send in a few days.

The Church received the promised Holy Spirit, and from that moment on they began to set the earth on fire. This is the moment that Jesus longed for; the birth of the Church. Tongues of fire meant that the teaching and preaching would set the earth on fire. As the Church took possession of the land on the seven continents, the lies of false gods were burned up by the consuming fire of God. Most of the world heard the Good News preached to them. Mass

conversions took place and replaced the pagan worship which had been established by the fallen angels. There is only one thing that could impede the New Israel from taking possession of the whole earth. If you guessed sin, you are correct. There would never be a complete fallout as the descendants of Adam and Eve, or even being destroyed as Israel and Judah were. We know this because of Jesus' promise to Peter. He said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His Church. This means that the Holy Spirit would not leave them orphans, and they would always be able set the earth on fire with their teaching and preaching. But sin prevents listeners from hearing Jesus' voice as was heard on the day of Pentecost. This causes divisions and even major schisms, regardless of who is credited with the blame.

Jesus is still responsible for the redemption of humanity, because He is the Redeemer. However, beginning with the day of Pentecost, Jesus commands us to participate in His work of redemption. Every disciple goes out to evangelize as an individual with Almighty God dwelling within his soul. This is how we begin to participate in the work of redemption, just as the Israelites began to participate after they left Egypt. All of the work in Egypt was accomplished by God alone, and all of the work of Jesus' Passion was accomplished by Jesus alone. Now it was time for Israel to take possession of the land, and it could only be accomplished by obedience to God. Obedience first in worship as defined by God, and secondly in every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Whoever does not recognize what is meant by the mouth of God, cannot hear His voice. Just as John the Baptist was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins." John is the last of a cycle of prophets that began with Elijah.

There is a New Testament cycle of prophets that began with St. Peter. It began with St. Peter saying, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." This is the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the second coming of Christ. When John the Baptist began crying out in the wilderness, Jesus was already dwelling in their midst. When St. Peter began crying out on the day of Pentecost, Jesus was already dwelling in their midst, this time in spirit.

Sometimes even disciples become deaf, and even refuse to see. They will no longer hear Jesus' voice, because they no longer belong to the truth. But Jesus has an answer for a dilemma as such. His answer is a new Pentecost: the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.