

A Journey with Jesus!

PART ONE OF THREE (The Blue Book)

Preparation for the Journey

“From the Bible to the Holy Land and into God’s Book of Life.”



**Including the “Twenty Proofs” that
Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
the Messiah, God made Flesh!**

By: Mr. Guy Murphy O.P. (Lay Dominican) March 19, 2016

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2000 years ago, Andrew and John asked Jesus. “Where do you live?” Jesus replied; “Come and see.” (John 1:39) They went, they saw, they stayed with Jesus and the world was changed. They stayed because they found with Jesus what fulfilled the deepest longing of the human heart. Perhaps we are here because we have the same question as Andrew and John. For the next several days we are going to respond to Jesus’ invitation and “Come and see” for ourselves. Ben and Meghan are typical pilgrims that will ask questions about our journey.

The Journey is split up into three books.

The ‘Blue Book #1’. Imagine Jesus life is like a Rose. When we get to the Holy Land, it is like looking at the beautiful red color of the flower, smelling the sweet fragrance, and feeling the softness of the petals. But to really appreciate the Rose, we not only look at the Flower, but must also look at the stem, the leaves, the roots and even the thorns. That is why we review our origins and the Old Testament to prepare us before encountering God in the Holy land. Man’s historical response is so poor, that God should wipe us out. Instead, by God’s Mercy He promises to make us **His bride**.

The ‘Red Book #2’. Jesus, “The Bridegroom to Mankind” has His earthly journey start out in the womb of Mother Mary in Nazareth. It continues down to Bethlehem for His early life. Jesus mission became public at the Jordan River where He was baptized and then went on to the Galilee area evangelizing.

The ‘Gold Book #3’. Jesus’ mission reaches the culmination in Jerusalem. Jesus’ redemptive victory for mankind! We will follow the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, His Last Supper, Agony in Garden, Carrying the Cross, Calvary where He died, the tomb where He rose, Mount of Olives where He ascended, Pentecost Room where the Holy Spirit carried on the work through Jesus’ Church.

Journey with Jesus part 1 of 3

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to the Blessed Virgin Mary the Holy Mother of God. I am eternally grateful that She took my confused soul and truly “Magnified the Lord” Jesus Christ for me (Luke 1:46).

THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Jesus, for letting me journey with You!

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Introduction:

Our origins (Before we fly to the Holy Land)

Welcome to the pilgrimage experience of a “Journey with Jesus”.

Ben: It is great to be here Guy, where are you going to take us?

Guy: I am going to take you on a Journey with Jesus! “From the Holy Land and into the Book of Life.” For over two thousand years, Jesus Christ has been the “Light of the World.” Some people forget that today and ask “Why is Jesus different from Buddah, or Mohamed, or Confucius or other religious leaders.? That is why this journey will include the “Twenty proofs” that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Messiah, God made Flesh!



Ben: Why did Jesus come on earth?

God is great! Jesus came on earth to make you great! A greatness that will last for all eternity When you journey with Jesus, “Totus Tuus”, you will understand what true greatness is.

Meghan: That sounds wonderful! What does “Totally Yours” mean:

Similar to Saint John Paul II’s motto, we are Totally Yours, Totus Tuus. That means we entrust all the details of this pilgrimage to Jesus through the help of Mary. We need the help, we want the help, we accept the help. This journey is through the eyes of this engineer who relies on Our Lady’s help. Engineers design, build

and fix things. Similarly, Jesus Christ will call us to help build up His Kingdom.

Ben: I like proofs about Jesus, but shouldn't we be afraid to travel to the Holy Land?

We provide a pilgrimage experience of a "Journey with Jesus". As our patron and intercessor, Saint John Paul II said, "Do not be afraid." Do not be afraid to Journey with Jesus. As we journey to the Holy Land our time together will be prayerful, informative, filled with excitement, inspiration, challenges and fun. We hope to lead you on an experience that covers the entire life of Jesus Christ, beginning with the Bible, continuing on into the Holy Land, protected by Our Lady's mantle, into His Sacred Heart and recorded in the Book of Life." Besides that, our experienced Israeli guides will keep us out of any areas that are tense, while sharing their love of their homeland.

Ben: I am ready to go!

Our Lady is always reminding us that our life here on earth is a pilgrimage.

Meghan: What is a pilgrimage?

A tourist goes to a place to see something new. A pilgrim experiences a place and through the grace of God becomes someone new. Many people share life changing testimonies from a Totally Yours pilgrimage experience. What will your story be? After this journey, your family and friends back home will let you know whether you were on a tour or a pilgrimage.

CHAPTER 1:

Origins of our Faith.

Reasonable proof in the existence of God!

Meghan: “How do we start this journey?”

The Holy Land is where it all began, our origins.

Before we can help build up the Kingdom of God, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a good time to review our origins, the origins of our faith and the origins of our human existence. Our faith concerns the very foundations of human and Christian life: According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC #282), “We respond to the basic questions that men of all times have asked themselves: “Where do we come from?” “Where are we going?” “What is our origin?” “What is our end?” “Where does everything that exists come from and where is it going?”

Ben: Why is the Holy Land so important?

On our pilgrimage, we will visit people who claim that: Adam, the first man was created in the Holy Land. God made a Garden of Eden to the east (Genesis 2) in modern day Iraq. Adam died in the Holy Land and was buried in the “Place of the Skull” in Hebrew, Golgatha. Abraham received the promise that the Holy Land would belong to his descendants. The Holy Land is a land where God spoke through the prophets. It is a land where angels appeared often. It is a land where God’s only begotten Son, Jesus, was born, lived, healed, taught, performed miracles, cast out demons, suffered and redeemed us through His death and resurrection, opened to us the gates of Heaven. The pinnacle of the Holy Land is the city of Jerusalem. Jesus called it the city of the great king (Matthew 5:35). God Himself had the people pilgrimage in the Holy Land to Jerusalem as they celebrated the yearly “Passover” (Deuter. 16:16).

Meghan: “What will we see in the Holy Land?”

As we journey to the Holy Land, we see the places where Jesus walked in five major steps.

1. The first step is to visit Mount Carmel and get a glimpse of the Old Testament and what a spiritual mess the world was in before arriving at the Nazareth area where Jesus began His pilgrimage on earth in the womb of the Blessed Mother.
2. Next, we follow the steps of Saint Joseph and Mary to the Bethlehem area where Jesus was born and the angels heralded His coming.
3. The next step is to visit the Judean desert where Jesus was baptized and tempted by the devil.
4. After that we will visit much of the Galilee area where Jesus called His first disciples by the sea, preached and did many miracles.
5. We end up in the Jerusalem area where Jesus taught in the Temple, instituted the Last Supper, made the Way of the Cross, died and rose.

This experience in these steps helps make the scriptures come alive and our faith deepens. Upon our return to our homes, we notice that when we attend Mass and hear the scriptures, we will re-live the images of these sacred places in our mind because we were there. When we pray our Rosary, the meditations will become alive because we were there. When we hear Jesus' Name, our souls will be strengthened because we know Him even better, we understand what He said with greater clarity. We will be more capable of loving Him with all our strength thus fulfilling the purpose for which we were created by God.

Ben: Sounds like it will strengthen us as Christians.

As Christians, we are called to share the Gospel: “to speak as a messenger of gladness, to proclaim good news.” We have the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to read and share. Each one gives some similar and some unique details that helps us to achieve a deeper understanding of Jesus’ life. A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is like reading a fifth Gospel. The land itself speaks to us and reveals details about Jesus which are not recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Ben: How does the land speak to us?

The land will tell us how far Jesus walked, how high the mountains were that He climbed, how green the fields were that he walked through and even how large was the sea that he calmed.

The pilgrimage journey is made one step at a time. Similarly, the spiritual life has five steps that will bring us peace in our hearts on earth and unimaginable joy with the good God in Heaven forever.

The five steps in the spiritual life are:

1. To believe there is a good God.
2. To believe Jesus Christ is the good God made flesh.
3. To believe Jesus Christ gave us a One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
4. To use the tools of His Church to grow in the fullness of a relationship with the good God.
5. To share the love with our human brothers and sisters, even those who are far from the good God.

We will walk through these steps during this journey. Shall we begin?

Ben: Yes, let us begin.

To have a great pilgrimage experience, first we will review the origins of our faith, the Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC #198 states “Our profession of faith begins with God...”

“Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life” (CCC #222).

CCC #286 also states, “The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through His works, by the light of human reason, even if this knowledge is often obscured and disfigured by error.”

Ben: So, how can we know for certain with our human reason that God the Creator exists?

For an example, (Guy will ask Ben to take off his watch and look at it.) Many watches are made up of four compounds, metal, plastic, glass and rubber. Guy told Ben, “Someone made that watch.”

Ben: “Yeah, so what, of course.”

What if I told you, “Someone did not make the watch! That if he took the four individual compounds and put them in a bag and shook it up for one million years, the compounds could arrange themselves randomly to be a watch.”

Ben: “I don’t think so, someone made this watch.”

Guy challenged Ben saying, “How do you know for certain that someone made that watch, you did not see anyone make it? You have never been to Switzerland where the label said it was made. You have no proof that someone made that watch.”

Ben: Proof? The watch itself is the proof.

Of course, you are right. “Our reason sees an “order” in the compounds of that watch. That “order” is functional, beautiful and efficient. Our reason says that it took intelligence and power to put those compounds together in that order that created what we call the watch. Our reason says that the odds of those compounds coming together by chance to make up the watch are so low that we know

for certain that someone made that watch even if I did not go to Switzerland to verify that they made it.”

Your watch not only keeps accurate time; it beeps at the right time when you set the alarm. Yes, the watch was designed by someone with intelligence and power.

In a similar way, let us take a look at a human person we will call her Angela. If we chemically analyzed Angela, we would discover that 95% of her body is made out of four elements, Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Oxygen, and Carbon. Now take a glass or your water bottle that is half full of water and half full of air. Add the inside of a pencil to it and you have most of the same elements that Angela is made up of. Now if you randomly shake up the elements in this glass, even for millions and millions of years, would the elements ever arrange themselves to become Angela? Imagine shaking the glass and asking, “Angela is it you?” Shake the glass again and again and ask, “Angela is it you?”

Ben: (Laughs,) that’s a great point. Guy

Similar to the watch, we know for certain that someone made Angela even though we did not see the designer. Our reason sees an “order” in the elements of Angela. That “order” is functional, beautiful and efficient. Our reason says that it took intelligence and power to put together those elements in that order that created what and who we call Angela.

If a watch took a person with intelligence and power to make it, Someone Who is super intelligent and super powerful made Angela even if we did not go to Heaven to verify God made her.”

Science tells us that our eyes, ears, heart, brain and even a single human cell are much more complicated than a watch.

In modern times there is a microbiologist and mathematician from Caltech named Doug Acts. Doug calculated the odds of the elements arranging themselves to make one simple protein that is found in one part of a human cell. He came up with a number of 1 in 10^{74} power.

Therefore, mathematically, we can agree with Catechism #286 and say by our reason with certainty that there is a God with Divine Intelligence and Power by observing His Creation. Just as you would conclude with certainty that only a fool would say this watch came together by random acts. We can say for certain what the scriptures say in Psalm 14:1; “A fool says in his heart that there is no God.”

Ben: Well there most certainly is God, I am glad the mathematicians and scientist confirm that as well. I suppose when people try to explain random evolution without God for everything, they are really not doing the math.

Yes, exactly, the earth would have to be trillions and trillions of years old just to get a simple protein. A human cell is astronomically more complicated than one protein.

Totally Yours Co recommends Fr. Robert Spitzer’s Magis Center www.magiscenter.com, and Where does the Evidence Lead? www.illustramedia.com to find out more information about the scientific reasons/proofs that God is God.

During this pilgrimage we will not be focusing so much on the numerous proofs that God is He Who Is, but as we “Journey with Jesus”, we will be emphasizing the second step of the spiritual life, the “twenty proofs” that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God made flesh, the Messiah, the Lord of Lords, and if we embrace His Love and saving power we will not only enjoy the fullness of life and obtain peace by fulfilling our purpose in life, but we will also achieve an inheritance that we will enjoy with our immortal soul for all of eternity. As apostles of the Blessed Mother, we find it helpful to be familiar with these proofs in order to articulate the reason for our Hope in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ben: I look forward to hear about the twenty proofs that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

THE BIG RACE! Bill and Jack went to a horse race. Bill put up all his money on a horse called "God Exists". Jack bet all his money on a horse that is called "God does not exist."

During the race we noticed that Bill was very joyful and peaceful and that Jack was very anxious and depressed and started taking medications. We asked Bill why he was so happy. Bill replied, "If my horse wins, I will be happy forever and ever with God in Heaven. If my horse loses, I will never know I lost."

We asked Jack why he was so upset. Jack replied, "If my horse wins, I will never know it. If my horse loses, I will spend all of eternity, forever and ever, regretting that I bet on the wrong horse." Then Jack asked, "Is it possible to change my bet?" Bill replied, "Yes, fortunately this horse track has a mercy window that allows changes before the race is over." Jack replied, "I don't see the window." Bill informed him gently, "It is under the very low ledge, you have to bow your head and get on your knees in order to see it and approach it."

CHAPTER 2:

Creation, the good, the beauty and the confusion.

Meghan: Guy, what can you tell us about the actual land in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land is one of the most Biblically and historically important areas in the world. Geographically, the Holy Land has many names, it is also called the Land of Canaan, the Promised Land, Land of Israel, and Palestine.

Sixty-four times in the Bible the area is called the “Land of Canaan.” When we hear who Canaan is and what he did, then much of the mysteries of the Holy Land and mankind are revealed.

Hint: He is Noah’s grandson.

Looking at the Holy Land on the map, we see it is only about the size and population of the state of New Jersey or 1/7 the size of the state of Illinois.

It is around 50 miles wide and 200 miles long. Much happened in this little area. It has Egypt to the south of its borders, Lebanon and Syria to the north, Jordan to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the west.

Meghan: That is a little but powerful place.



A General map of Israel with its neighbors.

Overview map which shows that Israel is part of the Middle East with Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey located close by.



A General map of Israel with its neighbors.

This world map demonstrates that Israel is located in the middle of the world. As one would travel from Asia to Africa by land, one would pass through Israel's borders.



Overview map which shows that Israel is part of the Middle East with Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey located close by.

Ben: I can see how the central location can make it a hot spot in the world. How does its location provide information about God?

As we travel through the Holy Land it is good to know that there are two types of information about God. There are things we know for certain through our reason, such as “God exists.” There are also things that are above our human reason that the all-knowing God reveals to us out of love for His children in order to help us fulfill our purpose. The Bible is one good example of something that we did not figure out, but God revealed it to us. This type of information is known as Divine Revelation. Much of the Divine Revelation that we received from God was received here in the Holy Land. (CCC #50 to #141 describes Divine Revelation in detail.)

Meghan: What makes the Bible more special than the other books in the world?

The Bible is Unique. The world has nothing to even compare to this ancient document. It claims that God is its author, using over 40 human instruments from 3 continents started over 3500 years ago and lasted over a 1500-year period. It is the most cherished, most translated, most distributed and most persecuted book in the world. It reveals the history of mankind and describes who we are, where we came from, why are we here, where are we headed and how God expects us to behave.

Meghan: Wow!

The Bible is made up of two parts. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two parts shed light on each other; both are true Word of God. (CCC #140)

Ben: So, what did God reveal to us about God?

Many things, God is all powerful, God is Love, God is all Truth, God is absolutely faithful, God is all Holy, God is infinite in every perfection, God is absolute Beauty, God is eternal and many other things as well.

Ben: God is awesome! Why do humans not embrace Him more?

Today, there is much confusion about both the things that we can know about God for certain through our reason and things that God has revealed to us as well. That is one of the reasons we go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A pilgrimage can help us review our origins and see where it all started.

Meghan: Our origins, like creation?

Creation itself can be considered a revelation from God. Therefore, the relationship between God and man includes all of God's wonderful creation. (See CCC #288).

Also, CCC #289 states, "Among all the Scriptural texts about creation, the first three chapters of Genesis occupy a unique place... Read in the light of Christ, within the unity of Sacred Scripture and in the living Tradition of the Church, these texts remain the principal source for catechesis on the mysteries of the "beginning": creation, fall, and promise of salvation."

Ben: The first 3 chapters of Genesis are the principle source? Why is there so much confusion about what we hear about the Bible and Genesis in particular?

Different people Interpret the Bible in different ways. Totally Yours follows the teachings from Jesus Christ as interpreted through His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We believe God is the author and the Bible is the truth. Much of these interpretations of the Bible can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which we will quote frequently. The reasons for this faith in the Catholic Church will be explored during our journey to the Holy Land. Yes, Judas who betrayed Jesus was a bishop in Jesus' One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and "It would be better for that man if he had never been born" (Matthew 26:24). The world has seen billions of holy Christians in our history, but we have had plenty of others that fell off the path to Heaven. The bad examples do not mean that the Holy Spirit is not infallibly at work. As we journey to the Holy Land we will see clearly how to discern. We also respect people who interpret things in a different way, but the Bible and the Catechism gives us a clear identity of who we are and what we believe and how we are to act.

The Catholic Church teaches that you can, but you do not have to interpret the “Genesis Day” as a 24-hour period. If you think of “Day one” as “Era one”, as long as you do not get hung up on this, you can learn much from the wonderful truths of the creation account in Genesis.

Meghan: Can we get a brief summary about Creation?

“The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty of the Creator.

To sum up the creation account in Genesis chapter 1:

In a Genesis Day 1, God created and separated light (day) from darkness (night) this is the Big Bang.

Genesis Day 2: God’s arrangement of waters.

Era 3: God created Dry Land

Era 4: God created Sun and Moon

Era 5: God created Fish and birds.

Era 6: God created Animals and human beings.

Ben: You mentioned the Big Bang in era one of Genesis. I hear of doubts and even ridicules about Genesis, if we do not interpret the day as 24 hours, is this justified and where do these ridicules come from?

There are several wonderful truths that God is revealing about Himself and about man in the Creation account of Genesis. This includes God Wills a culture of Life and goodness. There seems to be a modern day resistance that sows doubt about the validity of the Creation account, so much so that addressing it here can shed some light of truth that will sow doubts in their doubts.

Since the French Revolution of 1789, which was very violently opposed to the Holy Bible, in the world there is a highly financed secularist movement that has an agenda that includes the indoctrination of our children against the Bible. They present topics in a manner that makes “Faith” incompatible with “Reason”. The heart of their agenda is to make a disorder about the truth that God chose not to create everything in one day/step/era but use several steps. The secularists emphasize that there are so many trillions of steps (that our human mind cannot comprehend it) and in that shell game they kick the Creator out and say it all happened by itself.

The average person does not do the math so they tend to believe the highly financed secularist movement because they repeat their agenda over and over so often that the propaganda confuses people. This propaganda is known as “Fake News” and that is plaguing our world today.

More details of “this agenda” are described in subsequent chapters of the “Journey for Jesus” book about the Holy Land.

Ben: Yes, I am well aware of distortions in the media.

Something to keep in mind, the people with the agenda withhold from our children that it was a Catholic Priest and scientist, Fr. George Lemaitre that came up with the Big Bang theory that matches Genesis’, “Let there be Light”



Also, these people do not tell the children that most scientists agree that “nothing” cannot bang itself into “an existing universe.” “Nothing” can only do nothing. The fact that the universe had a “Beginning” implies that a super powerful, super intelligent being, perfectly banged the universe into existence.

Imagine you have nothing, a complete vacuum. Then all of a sudden, “bang” you have the universe. What or Who made the “Big Bang” go Bang?”

Ben: Yes, we do not talk about this and it does indicate the existence of our good God. What else do they withhold from our children in schools?

They do not tell them that in 1850 AD, scientist had thought that a simple cell could be randomly put together in a blob of protoplasm. Since 1950 however, advancements in microbiology are able to magnify cells 50,000 times. They found that even the simplest cells have several complicated biological machines in them complete

with assembly instructions. So, the information that is withheld from our children is what most microbiologists conclude, “that the odds are too astronomically low for even a simple cell to randomly come together by itself.”

There are several other pieces of information that the highly financed secularists’ movement withhold from our children including the actual fossil records of the “Cambrian Explosion.” These records support “Direct creation” and not “Creation by evolution”. There are several creatures that defy evolution steps, such as, the Bombardier Beetle that mixes chemicals and shoots fire at its attackers. Since the Church allows belief in “God’s Creation by evolution”, we will save the unusual creatures for another time.

Meghan: How can evolution be compatible with creation?

The Church teaches that God can use evolution in His great Design. God in His Divine Wisdom can foresee components that came together after a certain time for a purpose. Similarly, our inkjet printers use four base colors that spray out of a nozzle and after time, they land on a paper and the result is a beautiful picture. The picture is designed even though there is a time delay from when the nozzle sprayed the ink until it formed a picture.

Meghan: Yes, I understand.

For believers, we are in wonder and awe as we praise God for His Divine Knowledge and Power in His diversity and beauty of Creation.

Ben: “Yes, praise the Lord!”

Meghan: Why does God Create? What is in it for God?

To understand how awesome God is we must ask ourselves, “Why did God do it?” If God is all mighty, all perfect, all good, all knowledge, perfect happiness, perfect love and nothing we can do will increase His power or perfection or love or happiness, why did God bother to make us?

Ben: If we do not increase His power or perfection, why did God make us?

God is so good that He wanted to share His happiness with others, so He made creatures. In other words, “Love Shares!” When we wrap our minds and hearts around this concept, it provides a good foundation in which to build our spiritual life upon and our motivation for building up God’s Kingdom.

Ben: Praise the Lord! So, What is the purpose of man’s life on earth?

The purpose for our existence is highlighted in the creation account as CCC #347 says: “Creation was fashioned with a view to the Sabbath and therefore for the worship and adoration of God. Worship is inscribed in the order of creation. One can say the purpose of us humans here on this pilgrimage on earth is for us to know, praise, love and serve God in this world and be forever happy with God in the next. One can look at our journey on Earth as an embryo stage for man into which we can develop into children of God and be really born for eternal life Heaven. One could say in our mother’s womb, we live and develop in water for a time and we are born in air on the earth, We live and develop in air on earth for a time and then we are born into the light in Heaven.

Ben: Very good, I like that. I hope I am making good use of my time here on earth.

Meghan: What did God reveal about mankind?

God revealed that out of all creation, **Man is unique with a special dignity. All men are created equal in the image and likeness of God. This is what illuminates our true value.** As CCC #343 states: “Man is the summit of the Creator’s work, as the inspired account expresses by clearly distinguishing the creation of man from that of the other creatures.”

Ben: Why does the highly-financed secularists’ movement try to dethrone God? It seems to be a real and ongoing battle.

The history of the world has been full of tyrants. A tyrant wants to dictate what is right and wrong, who can live or die. If God says; “all men are created equal and have inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”, then this can be very

inconvenient to tyrants who want total control. How could Hitler put millions of people into an ashtray? Or how can the Communists' like Stalin and Mao kill tens of millions of people who spoke against their policies, if the people were united in believing that, "All men are created equal in the image and likeness of God?" God is the Lord and not a dictator. So yes, it is a real battle, even when the tyrant or the shadow party that controls the puppet strings of the visible tyrant, pick the times in which it says they want to be our friends and the times they choose to make the battle bloody.

Ben: Scary, but I guess that is why we pray and be vigilant and rely on God's Divine Providence.

Chapter #3

The Fall of Man and the promise of his redemption.

Meghan: What will we discuss today?

Today we will discuss our paradise home, the fall of man and then through God's great mercy the promise of redemption where we can once again be in paradise and our human history.

Genesis Chapter 1 is the big picture of creation and Genesis Chapter 2 is an account that is zoomed in with the focus on the details of the creation and purpose of man.

Ben: Where do we get our ancient history of Genesis from?

For those with faith know that God not only gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, but as they were travelling through the desert he often spoke to Moses in the meeting tent. (Exodus 33) (Numbers 7&8) God told our history and the law to Moses. God is the author and Moses is the human instrument used to record it. Moses wrote the Pentateuch, which is the first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Moses put these writings in the "Ark of the Covenant", (Deuteronomy 31) along with the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments and his staff and some of the manna that had fallen from the sky. Moses is mentioned over 600 times in the Old Testament and over 70 times in the New Testament. The authors are assuming it is obvious that Moses wrote the Pentateuch (Matthew 22:24). Jesus Himself said that Moses wrote the laws and wrote about Him (Mark 12:26) (Luke 24:44) (John 5:46).

Ben: How do we know today's Bible is accurate and not changed by people as the years go by?

There is an entire group of study called Philology. It is the study of language in oral and written historical sources to determine their authenticity and their original form. The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is **unparalleled in ancient literature**. There are over 5,000 Greek, 8,000 Latin, and another 1,000 manuscripts in

other languages. In contrast, the typical number of existing manuscript copies for any other ancient work is much smaller.

For example, there are only 49 existing ancient manuscript copies of Aristotle and only 7 copies of Plato are still in existence.

Meghan: I see, we are more certain of the New Testament accuracy than any other ancient work written.

Yes! Very good. More of the scriptures will be discussed in chapters 18 and 26.

Ben: Do we still believe that there really was an Adam and Eve?

Note: Adam is mentioned over 40 times in the Bible, including nine times in the New Testament. The Catechism states, “Our first parents, Adam and Eve...” The Gospel of Luke traces Jesus’ lineage all the way back to Adam. The great Saint Paul writes about Adam seven times. The Church calls Adam and Eve saints, their feast day is December 24. The most important thing to observe with Adam and Eve is their relationship with God.

Meghan: Ok. Let us look at Man’s relationship with God.

In order to understand the Holy land, the Bible, our struggles, and to ultimately understand Jesus Christ, it is important to look at the relationship between God and man. This relationship is formally expressed in God’s Covenants.

Our 6000-year human history and the Old Testament.

In Genesis, we will see how Adam and Eve lived in peace and harmony as children of God. God made a covenant with them. God would give them everything and they will obey by not eating from the “Tree of Knowledge” of “Good and Evil.” Sin or saying “No” to God changed their loving relationship with God to a fearful relationship where Adam was hiding from God (Genesis 3). The wounds of sin degraded man and distort their relationship with God. As humans create more wounds through their selfishness, they pervert the good world and degrade it into a hell. Jesus Christ will pay the price to restore the relationship with God to **something even better** than it was before.

The Fall of Man: Here we see what happened to God’s good world. Genesis Chapter 3:1-24: “Now the serpent was more subtle than any of the beasts of the earth which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman: Why hath God commanded you that you should not eat of every tree of paradise? And the woman answered him, saying: Of the fruit of the trees that are in paradise we do eat: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of paradise, God hath commanded us that we should not eat; and that we should not touch it, lest perhaps we die. And the serpent said to the woman: No, you shall not die the

death. For God knows that in what day so ever you shall eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened: and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And the woman saw that the tree was good to eat, and fair to the eyes, and delightful to behold: and she took of the fruit and ate it, and she gave it to her husband and he ate it. And



the eyes of them both were opened: and when they perceived themselves to be naked, they sewed together fig leaves, and made themselves aprons. And when they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in paradise at the afternoon air, Adam and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God, amidst the trees of paradise. And the Lord God called Adam, and said to him: Where are you? And he said: I heard thy voice in paradise; and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself. And he said to him: And who has told you that you were naked, but you have eaten of the tree that I commanded you that you should not eat? And Adam said: The

woman, whom thou gave me to be my companion, gave me of the tree, and I did eat it. And the Lord God said to the woman: Why have you done this? And she answered: The serpent deceived me, and I did eat it. And the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed among all cattle, and beasts of the earth: upon your belly shall you crawl, and earth shalt you eat all the days of your life. **I will put enmities between you and the woman, and your seed and her seed: she shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for her heel.**

To the woman also he said: I will multiply your sorrows, and your conceptions: in sorrow shall you bring forth children, and you shall be under your husband's power, and he shall have dominion over you. And to Adam he said: Because you have listened to your wife, and have eaten of the tree, that I commanded you that you should not eat, cursed is the earth in your work; with labor and toil shall you eat all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring you; and you shall eat the herbs of the earth. In the sweat of thy face shall you eat bread till you return to the earth, out of which you were taken: for dust thou art, and into dust thou shalt return.

Adam called the name of his wife Eve: because she was the **mother of all the living**. And the Lord God made for Adam and his wife, garments of skins, and clothed them. And he said: Behold Adam is become as one of us, knowing good and evil: now, therefore, lest perhaps he put forth his hand, and **take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for-ever**. And the Lord God sent him out of the paradise of pleasure, to till the earth from which he was taken. And he cast out Adam; and placed before the paradise of pleasure Cherubims, and a flaming sword, turning every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

To the trouble-shooting engineer, Genesis chapter 3 shows the start of all the problems that lead to death in the world. The antidote to the problems is also laid out. The Woman will crush the head of the serpent and we will eat the fruit from the Tree of Life and live forever as God originally intended. Simple, but where will we find the Tree of Life? Maybe we will find more clues when we visit the Holy Land.

Ben: So, this is the “Original Sin”.

Yes, and the Church teaches that **ignoring the reality of Original Sin** both undermines the mystery of Christ and gives rise to **serious errors** in our culture. (See CCC #389 and #407)

Meghan: Wow, we ignore Original Sin all the time and we wonder why we have serious errors in our culture, and that is part of our faith!

Yes. However, we see in Genesis 3:15 the promise of redemption. God said; “I will put enmities between you and the woman, and your seed and her seed: she shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for her heel.” The “Prince of this World” will one day be crushed, but for now, there will be much tears, sorrow and penance because for a time, evil will run rampant here on the earth.

Ben: “Why did Adam and Eve do it?” They knew God said that they would die, yet they believed the devil.

They were put to the test. They had a disposition in **their hearts** that caused them to be fooled. **The disposition was, Adam and Eve wanted to please themselves more than they wanted to please God and they sinned.** All sin has this inclination at its root. Satan did not force them to disobey God, he encouraged them. If **their hearts** were growing in true love for God, they would have humbled themselves by calling on God to help them overcome the temptation. The same problem remains throughout all of human history as it is today. The lesson is to always strive to have your **heart please God more than yourself.** This is called having “good will.” Unfortunately, this did not happen. Original Justice and Original Holiness was lost and Original Sin was passed on.

Someday, however, at the coming of Jesus, the angels will sing, “Peace on earth to men of good will” (Luke2:14). God will provide apparitions to help us make the right choices.

Meghan: Why is there so much violence and killing in the world?

Let us look at God's Word and continue with Genesis 4 with Adam and Eve's children named Cain and Abel. They both took time and attempted to worship God. The first thing that we notice is since the "Fall", sacrifice is used in man's worship to God. The trouble in the world seem to initially escalate because of Cain's poor relationship with God. Cain made a stingy offering to God and Abel gave his best to God. Cain grew envious of Abel's relationship with God.

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out in the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" God then said: What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the earth!"

Ben: Wow, what a tragedy. How could he do such a thing?

Remember that in the Bible, God not only reveals Himself to us, he reveals "us" to us as well. We see what man is capable of doing especially if he falls into a certain behavior. While Abel was offering God the best of his flock to please God, Cain pleased himself first and ate the best melon, then offered to God a little melon with bugs on it.

This selfishness led to anger, envy, hatred, and murder. Instead of Climbing the mountain of God that includes self-sacrifice, Cain slid down the slippery slope to the culture of death. Eventually, Jesus will help us to overcome the slippery slope.

The two paths, going up or going down.

Pleasing God, more than self, leads to self-giving, then self-sacrifice, true love and the culture of life. Pleasing self, more than God, leads to self-taking, selfishness, wounds, hatred and the culture of death.

Meghan: How do we offer the best of our flock today?

Our relationship with God today is expressed in our prayer life and our daily living. We will learn that our worship, in a mystical way, we offer the best we have, which is Jesus Christ, during the Holy Mass.

We can still have many pleasures that God gives us, but we cannot be more attached to the gifts than the giver of the gifts. Willing to please God more than self is called “good will” and is the absolute key to peace on earth and to most of the mysteries between man and God. We will review this concept/struggle more as we “Climb the mountain of the Lord” at Mount Tabor.

Ben: ah, I remember the angels at Christmas, Peace on earth to men of “good will.” So, this is the key.

As we look at the entire human history, we see that the wounds of sin degraded man and damage the relationship with God. Even the best of them could not bear to hear God’s voice or they would die. (Exodus 20:19) As humans create more wounds through their selfishness, they pervert the good world and degrade it into a hell. Jesus Christ will pay the price to restore the relationship with God to **something even better** than it was before. Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Jesus, “**As a bridegroom marries a virgin, so will God marry you**” (Isaiah 62:5). As we journey with Jesus, this reality will be made clear.

Meghan: A better covenant? That sounds good. The Lord is Merciful!

Chapter 4

Summary- First 2000 years of Human History

Meghan: How do we sum up the Old Testament and our human history in fifteen minutes?

Every 500 years there seems to be a great historical highlight. It is beneficial to look at our history and relationship with God through the covenants that He made with us. A covenant, like a marriage covenant, is a most intimate and binding contract between persons in which each party gives of themselves in a very committed way, otherwise known as vows. A covenant is more powerful than just a contract because it includes what goes on inside the heart. In our history, God is not only going to reveal Himself to us, God is going to reveal us to us as well. In our human history, we make many mistakes with our evil inclinations; we are always offending God with our hearts but God is patient, merciful and always trying to put us on the right path on our earthly pilgrimage.

Ben: Where do we start? With this 500-year Highlight strategy?

Day 0, (4000 BC) Our human history starts out great. We are created in the image and likeness of God and we are put in a garden of Paradise. Adam had a covenant with God to live happily in paradise, but not to eat the forbidden fruit or he would die. Note, it is not an even a 50/50 covenant. God does over 99% and man just has to do what God asks. By using their free will and choosing to eat the forbidden fruit, they broke the covenant with God. They said, “No”, they disobeyed God, and they gave birth to evil. The culture of Sin and Death entered into the world.

As human history went on, evil grew as Cain killed his brother Abel and then evil continued to spread over the whole earth (Genesis 4).

Meghan: The next 500 years what happened?

Around 500 years after Adam, (3500 BC) there were a couple of bright spots in our troubled history. Seth’s son, Enos, “called on the Lords name” and his great, great grandson, Henoah, “walked with God”.

Ben: The next 500 years is 1000 what happened?

Around 1000 years after Adam, (3000 BC) his great, great grandson Henoch walked with God, and was seen no more: because God took him (Genesis 5).

Good ole Enos and Henoch are the precursors to our goal in the spiritual life. We start out by “calling on the Lord’s Name” and we continue our journey with Jesus, by “walking with God” in our daily lives.

Meghan: The next 500 years is 1500 what happened?

Around 1500 years after Adam was created (2500 BC), Noah was alive on the earth, getting ready for the flood (Genesis 6).

The Great Flood. “When the Lord saw how great the wickedness of human beings was on earth, and how every **desire that their heart conceived was always nothing but evil**, the Lord regretted making human beings on the earth, and his heart was grieved. So the Lord said: I will wipe out from the earth the human beings I have created, and not only the human beings, but also the animals and the crawling things and the birds of the air, for I regret that I made them. But Noah found favor with the Lord” (Gen. 6:5-7). God wipes out the evil people with the great flood. Only Noah and his family are spared. **God makes a new covenant with his people.** In the new covenant God said, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” God gives us all the plants and animals to eat. **Humans are created in the image and likeness of God, they have great value and shall not be used or killed, or else.** This covenant of life, applies to every human being. God will not destroy the inhabitants on the earth again by a flood so be at peace when it is raining outside. They see a rainbow as a sign and will remember the **new covenant** with God. The entire human race will now descend from Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Genesis 9:19)

Noah's sons and their descendants spread out over the earth. Noah's Son Ham and grandson Caanan committed the first big sin after the flood. "Uncovered Noah's nakedness." **Noah curses Caanan and his descendants. Where did they settle?** They settle in that area the size of New Jersey known as the Holy Land or Palestine or the **land of Caanan**. They spread all the way to Sodom and Gomorrah. Eventually God promises the land where these cursed people are living to Abraham a descendent of Shem.



Ben: So, the Holy Land or Land of Caanan goes back to Noah's grandson and his sin?

Yes, to understand all the troubles, battles, and violence in the Holy Land, we recognize that they date back to Caanan's sin and the curse after the Great Flood (Genesis 9:25) (Genesis 17) (Genesis 28). We will go over more details of this in future chapters.

Two other interesting points about Noah.

1. Even though the entire world was purged of sin, **sin starts up again** in Genesis chapter 9 with the eight people who survived. Therefore, we cannot point out to others and say, "If we get rid of these people who are sinning, the world will be a better place. We are all born good but inclined to evil because of Original sin. This makes the life on earth a battle (CCC #409). We need the Messiah to help free us from this battle.

2. Saint Peter, the Vicar of Christ, our first Pope notes that the flood did not only happen, but it also foreshadowed our Christian Baptism. “In the days of Noah, when the ark was being built, eight souls, were saved by water. Baptism...now saves you also” (1 Peter 3:20-21). God provides this type of foreshadowing because He knows all past, present and future will discuss this in later chapters.

A few hundred years after Noah, the descendants wanted to make a city and build a tower hoping the top may reach to heaven. However, they did not do this to give glory to God, but to make their name famous. God confounded their speech and called the place “Babble” (Genesis 11).

Meghan: Yes, we are all learning much Guy, the next 500 years is 2000 years after Adam, what happened then?

About 2000 years after Adam came Abraham (2000 BC). Because of his great faith, God made a **new covenant** with Abraham by circumcision. He blessed him and told him about the Promised Land, the Land of Canaan (Genesis 12-25).

Wickedness grew in the “Land of Canaan.” The wickedness became so rampant that God’s justice destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah which was located on the south side of the Dead Sea (Genesis 19).

Ben: Ouch, all this from Canaan’s sin and the curse. What exactly did Canaan do that changed all of human history and if there is only One God, where are all these false gods coming from? Why is God so angry at people who worship those gods.

That is a loaded but good question. God gave two commandments to Noah. 1. Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. 2. Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Do not use humans as objects (Genesis 9). To understand the false gods, look at the first big sin they committed after the flood. Noah had a vineyard and inadvertently became drunk. Ham, Noah’s son, and Canaan, Noah’s grandson, “Uncovered Noah’s nakedness.” God described that sin to Moses in Leviticus 18, it says that this sin means they had perverted sexual relations with Noah’s wife, apparently while they were drunk.

Ben: Oh boy, that is trouble.

It is easy to imagine that through the temptation of Satan, Canaan and his offspring would be weak and pervert God’s law to satisfy their own lusts. For example, it is said that a virgin loves her first love with her whole heart. As stated earlier, our reason can know for certain that there is a “God” by looking at creation around us. Now Canaan and his offspring introduce the god of Baal. They tell the young unsuspecting virgins, “Do you want to please god?” We will show you how. Instead of treating the young women as beings in the image and likeness of God, the virgins get violated. These vile acts cause deep emotional wounds in the women. This weakens

the family and perverts the culture from one that helps creatures to grow in God's love into one where humans are objects to be used, wounded and abused.

Ben: It sounds like our culture today.

The Canaanites worshiped the gods of Baal, which was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice. Usually the firstborn was the one that was sacrificed (Jeremiah 19:5, Psalms 105:38). As time went on more wounds spread transforming people into children of the devil. Wickedness grew in the "Land of Canaan." Eventually God's justice destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah which was located on the south side of the Dead Sea (Genesis 19). Since God's purpose is to populate Heaven and not Hell, His Mercy is even manifested in the form of chastisements.

The other false gods in the world have similar effects on our culture. These include selfishly treating their fellow humans as objects to be used instead of respecting the dignity of humans created in the image and likeness of God. This provokes God's anger because He loves us and does not want to see us degraded and wounded in this way.

Meghan: We have the same pro-life battle today.

The highly financed secular movement fights the Church because it wants to enthrone the false gods of today for the same old reasons. St. Paul says that lust and covetousness are the real idols (Colossians 3). Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God. Whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon" (CCC #2113).

When people are devoted to a false god and hate the True God, it does not mean they have an unselfish pious affection for the god, but usually are attached to the degrading vice that the practice includes. Letting go of the vice is where the battle takes place. Of

course Satan wants us to be attached to these vices so we will follow him into rebellion against God.

Ben: That makes sense. I am starting to see the big picture of the problems of mankind.

Meghan: We were talking about Abraham, what happened next?

Abraham's son Isaac from the free woman, Sari, had the covenant passed on to him. To prove his love for God, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac. God provided a male ram, with its head caught in the thorns to be sacrificed instead. Because of his great faith, God told Abraham, because you obeyed **through your descendants, all the nations of the earth shall find blessing.**

(Genesis 22)

Ben: This makes many people nervous that God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

Some people complain about God because of this event. However, if God asked him to sacrifice potatoes we would also complain and say, "what is the big deal with Abraham, why is it that **through all his descendants, all the nations of the earth shall find blessing?**"

For those with strong faith knows that Abraham's faith was so strong that he reasoned that God could raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:19).

God knew in advance that He was going to stop Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, but waited until after he displayed his great faith. This example was left to strengthen us



who are on the road to a stronger faith. So praise the Lord and let us ask God for a stronger faith.

Meghan: Don't the Muslims say they are rooted in Abraham as well? How can that be?

Abraham's son Ishmael from the slave girl is believed to be the **ancestor of the Muslims**. Although Muslims, Jews and Christians believe in the same God, their relationship is quite different. The Muslims relationship to God is closer to that of a slave to his master, just like Ishmael. The relationship of the Jews and Christians to their God is closer to the love of a son to his father. The difference in relationship is huge. It is easy to forget how good the Christians have it. The Muslims do not come together as a faith until over 600 years after Christianity.

Ben: We seem to hear so much about the troubles that Muslims are causing these days, any comments?

The Muslim's represent about 1/3 of the world's population. Christians are 1/3 and the remaining 1/3 is pagan. Unfortunately, many Christians in name have become pagan in heart, that truth along with the real remedies will be manifested as we Journey with Jesus.

The Muslims honor the Ten Commandments and they believe in One God, creator of all. The Muslims also acknowledge the importance of prayer to God. They also practice it. We have common ground in this area. If everyone in the world really believed in the Ten Commandments and believed in God, the world would already be a better place.

Beside the slave & son relationship with God, there are a couple of big differences.

Although they respect Jesus as a great prophet, they deny that Jesus is God and deny the Holy Trinity and obviously the Holy Spirit guiding the One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.

Another difference is FORGIVENESS is not rooted in their religion as it is for us who embrace Jesus Christ and His Holy Cross.

Someday we will find out that the devil is using his shadow party to play our differences against each other to try and kill us all. In the mean time we pray and ask for God's Divine Providence as we apply the Gospel.

In our times, the "Woman Clothed with the sun", appeared as Our Lady of Fatima and promised that in the end Her Immaculate Heart will triumph. Fatima was the prophet Mohamed's daughter's name. The Muslims actually believe that Mary is the highest woman in Heaven. She is a perpetual virgin. If we apply Heaven's formula for grace into the world, we can see how the foundation is there through Our Lady's intercession to bring the Muslim people back into the fold of the family of God.

Meghan: Very interesting, what happened to Isaac?

Moving on, Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright from his father to Jacob for a bowl of lentil stew and thought nothing of it (Genesis 25:34). We complain, "How can he so foolishly do that?" Yet we give our Heavenly inheritance away for a bowl of sin.

Although Esau was older, through his mother, Rebecca's intercession, Jacob got the special blessing and the covenant was passed on to him. The angel changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28). Israel stands for the People of God, or "the chosen ones are the people who have the covenant with God".

Jacob had twelve sons that would eventually become the twelve tribes of Israel. The sons sold their brother, Joseph, into slavery, but God was with him. God made Joseph a great man in Egypt and eventually Jacob and all twelve sons came down to Egypt, but they knew one day they would go back to the "Promised Land". Israel died, they embalmed him and Joseph carried his bones back to the Holy Land to bury him. At the end of Genesis Joseph said, "God will visit you, carry my bones with you out of this place" (Genesis 26 to 50).

After a few generations, the Pharaoh of Egypt did not remember Joseph. He oppressed the Israelites and put them into cruel slavery.

Chapter 5

Summary- Year 2000 to 4000 of Human History

Ben: I like the 500 year highlight strategy for the first 2000 years. The next 500 years is 2500 after Adam, what happened then?

Around 2500 years after Adam came Moses. (1500 BC) We now finished Genesis and are into the book of Exodus. Eventually Pharaoh ordered that all the male babies should be killed. (Exodus 1) His mother put Moses in a basket in the river and Pharaoh's daughter adopted him. Moses grew up and killed an Egyptian then he fled into the desert. After forty years, God, remembering His Covenant, appeared to Moses in the burning bush and sent him back to free his people. After God sent numerous plagues, Pharaoh's heart hardened. God asked the Israelites to celebrate the Passover meal that consisted of a combination of unleavened Bread and a male lamb. A lamb without blemish, eat the flesh and sprinkle the blood on the door posts of their house, I shall see the Blood on your house and Passover you and not destroy you (Exodus 12). So when the angel of death came, they were saved by the blood of the lamb. God told them to always consecrate their first born to Him and to celebrate the Passover meal in memory of what God did for them.

Pharaoh let God's people go, but then changed his mind. God parted the Red Sea, they escaped and God drowned all of Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14).



After all the miracles that the people saw, they did not get very far and the people of Israel started to murmur and complaining against Moses (Exodus 15).

Meghan: How did they eat and drink during the journey in the desert?

The Lord fed them. However, even after the Lord rained bread from heaven, quail in the evening, water from the rock and fed the 600 thousand, not counting children, the Israelites still complained (Exodus 16). One could see the **relationship** they had with God was superficial and they complained because they were not eager to please God.

On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments that represented a **New Covenant with God and His people**. In this relationship, God tells them how to stay out of Hell. However, the people quickly went astray and worshiped the golden calf (Exodus 20-32).

God sent an angel to guide them on their journey and told them to heed his voice (Exodus 23). The Lord showed His presence by a cloud by day and a fire by night that guided them (Exodus 40). They were truly journeying with the Lord. The Lord said, “Keep my commandments if you walk against Me, I will go against you” (Leviticus 26).

The people arrived at the Promised Land that was flowing with milk and honey, but they complained against God because they thought the people who lived there (The Canaanites and descendants) were stronger than they were. The Lord became angry at their lack of trust and made them wander around the desert for 40 years (Numbers 14).

At the end of the 40 years, God showed Moses the Holy Land.

Moses gave all the people the great “Conditional Speech”. “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Choose life** so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days,” (Exodus 30:19-20)

The path of human history always leads to the same decision, choosing the “Culture of life” or “Culture of Death”.

Ben: After 500 years of exile, they are entering the promised Land, did they learn their lesson? Did their relationship improve? Was it smooth sailing?

Moses laid his hands on Joshua who led the people of Israel into the “Promised Land.” However, the struggles continued. Instead of clearing the land, they were busy pouncing on the spoils, and it corrupted them. They started to worship the false gods. This was displeasing to God. God told them these people will always be a thorn in their side because they disobeyed Him (Book of Joshua).

God set up Judges to rule the people. Samson was the most famous of the judges. Many of the judges were wicked and took advantage of their position for personal gain. When God sent prophets to give messages to straighten them out, the people ignored or stoned them (Judges).

Eventually the people complained and wanted to be like other nations and get a king. Through Samuel the prophet, God anointed Saul as their first king. Saul did wicked things in God’s eyes and God eventually removed him (1 Samuel).

Ben: The next 500 years is 3000 after Adam, what happened then?

Around 3000 years after Adam came King David (1000 BC). David was a man **after God’s own heart**. God was with David. David slew the giant Goliath. After King Saul died, David became king and reunited the twelve tribes of the people of Israel. He brought the ark of God into Jerusalem and encouraged the people to get rid of the false gods.



For the first and only time in their history, it lasted for only about 70 years, the Holy Land belonged to the united people, the

twelve tribes of Israel. The covenant with David included the promise that the Messiah will come from his lineage (1&2 Samuel).

David's son Solomon was wise, but his 700 wives turned his heart from God and he brought their strange gods into the Holy Land. This was very displeasing to God. After King Solomon's time, because of all these false gods, the twelve tribes of Israel split up forever. At first it was ten tribes (Kingdom of Israel – Northern centered in Samaria) and two tribes (Kingdom of Judah – Southern centered in Jerusalem) and the disunity only increased from there. Only the tribe of Judah and Benjamin stayed together and they controlled Jerusalem (1&2 Kings). Jerusalem was just a single city in a small and divided country/state.

In 722 BC, the king of Assyria did carry away Kingdom of Israel – unto Assyria and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded and would not hear them, nor do them. (2 Kings 18:11–12)

Meghan: Each 500 years there seems to be a spark and a highlight, but then their relationship turns sour very fast. The next 500 years is 3500 after Adam, what happened then?

Around 3500 years after Adam, 500 BC, the people of God went even further away from God. People in the Kingdom of Judah even worshipped the Canaanite god of Baal, thus breaking their covenant with God. They continued to sin and ignored or stoned the prophets whom God used to call them back to Himself. **Their enemies invaded and carried them away from their land into the Babylonian exile.**

Ben: Wow, they even worshipped the Canaanite god of Baal, how ironically disastrous.

Temple Rebuilt: After fifty years in exile, in the first year of Cyrus the king: The pagan king decreed, that the house of God should be built, which is in Jerusalem, in the place where they may offer sacrifices (Ezra 5&6). God worked through a pagan king. The people of the covenant acted so poorly, we know they did not make up this history, or they would have shed a better light on themselves.



Ben: The next 500 years is 4000 what happened then?

Alexander the Great, conquered Judea, then King Antiochus III the Great of Syria and the Second Temple in Jerusalem was looted and its religious services stopped, Judaism was effectively outlawed. In 167 BC, Antiochus IV ordered an altar to Zeus erected in the Temple. He also banned circumcision and ordered pigs to be sacrificed at the altar of the Temple. The famous Judas of Maccabean Revolt took place then and rededicated the temple with the feast of lights installed. Under Roman occupation, **King Herod the Great started expanding the second temple around 15 BC.**

That finishes up the Old testament. We all know, we deserve to be wiped off the face of the earth for the terrible response we had with our relationship with God. However, instead, God manifests His Great Mercy by saying, I am not only not going to wipe you out, I am going to give you another chance and offer you an even greater relationship with Me. A relationship like a husband to a bride, that is how God will be to the human race. Mindboggling.

Around 4000 years after Adam, **Jesus Christ, the Son of God was born** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Jesus has begun His pilgrimage on earth.

It was prophesized that, “Through His suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt He shall bear” (Isaiah 53:11). As Adam and all the rest were disobedient, the New Adam, the perfect one was to **undo the damage** by being “obedient to death, death on the Cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

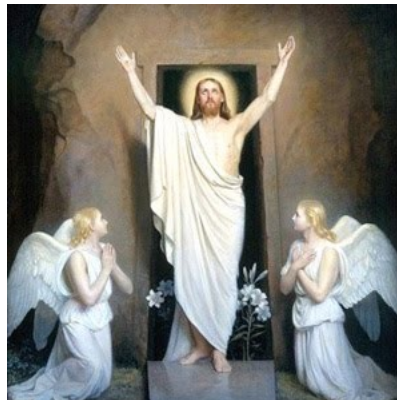


As a hero of heroes, Jesus not only taught, healed, helped and showed us what true love is, He also paid the price to Redeem the entire human family for all the offenses done against God. In this relationship between God and man, Jesus teaches them

how to be children of God. Jesus started a visible universal Church that was appointed to teach all nations until the end of time. (Matthew 16 & 28)

The Jewish leaders did not want to listen and change their evil ways, so they had Jesus killed. Jesus allowed His death, in order to redeem us from our sins.

By His own power, Jesus, our God, rose from the dead, forgave everyone and invited them to “journey with Him”, and His Church has been growing all over the world. We need the grace of Jesus Christ through His Church that He Himself established to save us from our sins and evil inclinations.



Some Jews and Gentiles embraced the grace of Jesus, others reject the grace and its beneficial promises. Our 4000-year history testifies that we cannot do it on our own effort.

Around 6000 years after Adam, (2000 AD) **here we are walking with Jesus**. Jesus' Mother is the New Eve. Eve stole God's fruit which led to death. Mary had to undo the crime by offering the fruit of Her womb, "Jesus" to God on the altar of the Cross. This has already been accomplished. However, Eve had a second crime, she shared the fruit with Adam. Today, Mary is working on the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart, where through Her numerous apparitions She encourages us to love Jesus the way She does and eat the "Bread from Heaven", so we can live forever. When we apply the grace of the **covenant with Jesus** our hearts will be changed, we enter the eternal Kingdom with God and the world is a better place.

God became man to become part of human history. It gives **glory to God to use the year God made man in the person of Jesus Christ as the reference point for all human history**. Thus this year is 2019 AD, where AD stands for Anno Domini, or birth year of Our Lord and God Jesus Christ.

The creation of Adam would have been around 4000 years BC or "Before Christ". King David reined around 1000 years BC, etc. Jesus Christ is the center of all human history.

Ben: What lesson do we get from all of our human history.

What is amazing is God can create billions and billions of stars and it is not hard for Him (CCC #268 to #274). What remains a mystery is how hard it is for an all-powerful God to get us humans to behave. The mystery will become even greater when we observe Jesus Christ's life, suffering and death on the Cross. I am a trouble-shooting engineer. When I first read the Bible, I would suggest to God, "You should try this miraculous encouragement" or "You should try that warning or chastisement". The more I read, the more I realized that God tried everything during our 6000-year history, from being patient and encouraging to whacking us. Nothing seemed to work, especially when God blessed us with riches. I would even be so foolish to consult God and tell Him, "The problem is, that You are making these people too stupid." However, even

when God blessed King Solomon with super intelligence and wisdom, it only **served to do more damage** to the entire people of God.

Our 6000-year history proves that God is patient and merciful (Psalm 25:6) and we are a stiff neck people who need the holy messiah Jesus Christ and His Cross. Our historic response to God has been so poor that we know we deserve to be wiped out.

We can only be in awe at God's Divine Mercy. God promise that instead of wiping us out, He will invite us to become His brides.

Meghan: How beautiful. I want to learn more.

Ben: "Jesus, save us! We are lost both in this world and the next without you!" We have hope that with God's grace we can respond as children of God.

Chapter 6: Difficulties Explained.

Great faith can have difficulties but not one doubt.

Difficulty #1, How could a human live to be over 900 years old?

The long life of humans in the early days of human history is puzzling to some people. Because of our human experience, we have a hard time grasping that humans could have lived to be several hundred years old.

The Church never declared that we have to believe that humans lived to over 900 years old, however, is it possible?

Early on, some humans were reported to live a long time and because of our wickedness, God limited it to 120 years (Genesis 6). If we had a 25-year-old body but a much older experience of wickedness in our souls, imagine how much more trouble we would get ourselves into. The Lord is truly merciful for limiting our pilgrimage on earth to 120 years or very few of us would get into Heaven.

Ask a micro biologist and you will find that every seven years, all the cells in our bodies die and are replaced with new ones. Something in our genes switches off as we get older. Instead of cells strengthening our organs as they replicate, cells start replicating in a way that makes the human person age and die. A condition called “Progeria” is extremely rare genetic disorder that signs of aging are manifested at a very early age. People who have this disease die of old age at 12 years old instead of 120 years old. It is all in the design of the genes.

This condition helps us grasp the possibility that different dates of aging are possible. It is just the right switch in the genes. Could God have our genes switch “on” so as our cells replicate in a manner that we have a longer life? If it would help our eternal life, of course He could give us a longer life here on Earth. However, our purpose is to make it to Heaven.

Difficulty #2, Since God is perfect and created everything good, why is there evil in the world?

When one struggles with the concept of evil it is usually **not contemplating evil** that will shed light on the issue, **but contemplating the mystery of love** that will provide a deeper understanding. Can the “sun” love? **Love requires a free will** and the sun does not have a free will. It is only a big ball of Hydrogen fusing into Helium. The summit of creation, “Man” has a free will, therefore, giving “Man” the capacity to love. In paradise, Adam said “No” and disobeyed God and thus evil is in the world with its numerous consequences. If God forced Man to say “Yes” and to love Him, it really would not be love. Man would be more like a computer program or a robot that just does what it is programmed to do.

But why was the serpent in the garden in the first place? The Church officially teaches that God does not make evil but if God allows some evil in the world, it is because He can bring a greater good out of it (CCC #395, #412).

If the serpent was not there, where would the merit of man come from when he is in a paradise? A good doctor will put a vaccine into a healthy body. The vaccine usually contains a weakened form of a disease that is put into a healthy body. Why would a good doctor do that? The body learns how to fight the disease in this weakened form and develops an ability to protect itself from the real disease for the entire lifetime of the person. In a similar way, God allows the devil in a weakened form here on earth. If we have good will, we will learn how to fight the evil in this weakened form and this ability that our soul develops of mature love, will be good protection that will last throughout all eternity in Heaven. We will never fall like Lucifer did. Our love will want to say “Yes” to God and please God more than myself.

In this light, we see the Divine Providence of God at work as our pilgrimage on earth not only tests us but helps us, build up our capacity to love. We know that the angels were in Heaven before they fell.

God has given us free will just like they had. After this earthly battle is won, no one will ever fall from Heaven ever again.

In our day, our good doctors contend with policies set by big businesses. If the doctors are not very good, they can be pressured by profit driven corporations to sell too many vaccines and put it into a healthy body. In this case, too much of several weakened diseases can cause much havoc on a healthy body. So, we must remain vigilant. In a similar way, we try to avoid near occasion of sin. Praise the Lord.

Difficulty #3, If everyone came from Adam and Eve, did their children commit incest?

Genesis chapters one through four described three miraculous ways that God created a new living person.

1. Out of the slime of the earth, blew into him the breath of life and Adam became a living being.
2. Adam went into a deep sleep and God took Eve out of the side of Man.
3. Adam had intercourse with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, saying, "I have produced a male child with the help of the Lord." The scriptures did say that Adam and Eve had more male and female children.

Is any of these miracles more spectacular than the other two.

In populating the earth, it makes sense to me that God did not create others directly from the slime of the earth, because God wants us to be one big human family.

Although it does not go into details, it is safe to assume that God took a woman out of the side of Cain, Seth and others, until there were enough men and women on the earth where incest was not needed to populate the earth. After that time, God used the third method to give the great miracle of life to human beings.

Today in our rebellious arrogance, the media elites, supported by the highly financed secularist' movement, propagate the concept of "Test-tube Babies" as if man can produce humans out of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen etc. The truth is without the mother's egg they cannot do anything. To give the impression otherwise is diabolically deceptive and all people of good will should expose such deception.

Difficulty #4, If everyone on earth descended from the eight that survived the flood, where do all these other “false gods” come from? Why is God so angry at people who worship those gods?

God gave two commandments to Noah. 1. Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. 2. Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Do not use humans as objects (Genesis 9). To understand the false gods, look at the first big sin they committed after the flood. Noah had a vineyard and inadvertently became drunk. Ham, Noah’s son, and Canaan, Noah’s grandson, “Uncovered Noah’s nakedness.” God described that sin to Moses in Leviticus 18, it says that this sin means they had perverted sexual relations with Noah’s wife, apparently while they were drunk.

It is easy to imagine that through the temptation of Satan, Canaan and his offspring would be weak and pervert God’s law to satisfy their own lusts. For example, it is said that a virgin loves her first love with her whole heart. As stated earlier, our reason can know for certain that there is a “God” by looking at creation around us. Now Canaan and his offspring were tempted to introduce the god of Baal. They tell the young unsuspecting virgins, “Do you want to please god?” We will show you how. Instead of treating the young women as beings in the image and likeness of God, the virgins get violated. These vile acts cause a deep emotional wound in the women. This weakens the family and perverts the culture from one that helps creatures to grow in God’s love into one where humans are objects to be used, wounded and abused.

The Canaanites worshiped the gods of Baal, which was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice. Usually the firstborn was the one that was sacrificed (Jeremiah 19:5, Psalms 105:38). As time went on more wounds spread transforming people into children of the devil. Wickedness grew in the “Land of Canaan.” Eventually God’s justice destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah which was located on the south side of the Dead Sea (Genesis 19). Since God’s purpose is to populate Heaven and not Hell, His Mercy is even manifested in the form of chastisements. The other false gods in the world have similar effects on our culture. These include

treating their fellow humans as objects to be used instead of respecting the dignity of humans created in the image and likeness of God.

This provokes God's anger because He loves us and does not want to see us degraded and wounded in this way.

The highly financed secular movement fights the Church because it wants to enthrone the false gods of today for the same old reasons. St. Paul says that lust and covetousness are the real idols (Colossians 3). Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God. Whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. **Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon"** (CCC #2113).

When people are devoted to a false god and hate the True God, it does not mean they have an unselfish pious affection for the god, but usually are attached to the degrading vice that the practice includes. Letting go of the vice is where the battle takes place. Of course, Satan wants us to be attached to these vices so we will follow him into rebellion against the One True God.

Difficulty #5, Why was the God in the Old Testament so violent and the God of the New Testament is so Merciful? Is it the same God? Yes, it is the same God. God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah if He would have found ten righteous people. The practice of worshiping the false Canaanite gods was greatly wounding their own people. In His Mercy and infinite knowledge, He knew it was best to eliminate them because there was no hope for them. God knew they would only be producing children to populate Hell, so destroying them was an act of Mercy.

God looks at the big picture that includes all people for all eternity. The smile of God, Jesus Christ, and His grace to transform us into children of God, was not in the world yet. Today we have the grace of Jesus Christ, so no matter how wicked or how far we fall away from Him, there is always hope. This battle will be won by Jesus. He paid the price and through His fellowship, love, light and grace, He heals and helps us to reject the lies and slavery of mammon, so we can freely love as children of God. Praise the Lord!

Chapter 7:



Old Testament Prophecy, describing details of Jesus Christ life is Proof #1 that Jesus Christ is God, the Messiah.

It is good to look at the prophecies of Jesus Christ as a transition point as we finish up the Old Testament and enter Nazareth and the New Testament. The Church teaches that the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New (CCC#129).

Proof #1 that Jesus is God is that people wrote about Him 100 to 1500 years before He was born and described many details about Him. They described details about where and when He would be born. They described details about His mission, His miracles, His suffering, His death and His resurrection. They even recorded details about His Mother and His precursor, John the Baptist. These details are given in a Book called the Bible. That book is believed to have God for its author. **Even some people who hate Jesus testify** that the texts are ancient and authentic. Archaeological evidence has shown that these various prophecies were written at least 400 to 1000 years before they actually occurred.

Throughout our history, no one has written about the coming of Buddha, Confucius, Mohamed, or anyone else, but only Jesus, Him and none other.

There is said to be over 350 prophecies describing Jesus in the Old Testament. We will list about one hundred of my favorite ones.

Jesus Christ said to the persecuting religious scholars, “You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life (John 5:39-40).

Jesus also said, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?” (John 5:47-48)

To the friendly disciples who encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus on Easter Sunday, the scriptures say; Then beginning with

Moses and all the prophets, (Jesus) **interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures.** As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, “**stay with us**, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “**Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road**, while He was opening the scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:28-32)

So what did Jesus interpret for them?

What follows is a list of some of the prophecies about Jesus. A successful pilgrimage includes visits to the actual places in the Holy Land where Jesus journeyed. As we “Journey with Jesus” we experience the words of the disciples, “**were not our hearts burning within us, while he was opening the scriptures to us?**”

Lord Jesus, let the word of God set our hearts on fire!

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES	DESCRIPTION ABOUT JESUS PROOF #1	NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT
	He is God Made flesh	
Isaiah 7:14	He would be called Emmanuel	Matthew 1:23
Psalms 2:7	Messiah would be declared the Son of God	Matth. 3:16-17, 17:5 Mark 1:11, 2 Peter 1:17
Psalms 45:7-8 Daniel 2:44	Anointed and eternal throne	Luke 1:32-33, Hebrews 1:8-9
Exodus 3:14 Isaiah 9:6	Name is I AM, God Hero, Father Forever, Prince of Peace.	John 18:6
	The Messiah's Lineage	
2 Sam 7:12-13 Isaiah 9:6 Psalm 132:11, Jer 23:5	Messiah would be heir to King David's throne	Matthew 22:41-42, Mark 12:35 Luke 1:32, 20:41, Rom 1:3
Genesis 12:3, Genesis 22:18	The lineage of Abraham	Matthew 1:1 Roman 9:5, Gal 3:29
Genesis 17:7,19, Genesis 21:12	A descendant of Isaac	Luke 3:34, Romans 9:7

Numbers 24:17	A descendant of Jacob	Mat 1:2, 17, Luke 1:33
Genesis 49:10	Come from the tribe of Judah	Luke 3:33 Hebrews 7:14
Isaiah 11:1	Would be called a Nazorean	Matthew 2:23
Psalms 2:6 Zechariah 9:9	Messiah would be called King	Matthew 21:5, 27:11, 17, 37
Isa 66:10,12 Songs 2:10 Sir 24:3 Sir 24:18 Prov 3:18 Pslm 45:9 Ps 87 Song 6:10 Ps 44:14	Details of His Mother	Galations 4:19, James 1:12
Genesis 3:15	I will put enmities between you and the woman	Luke 1, Revelations 12
Isaiah 7:14	Messiah to be born of a Virgin	Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:26-31
Wisdom 7:4-14	All good things came with her	Luke 1
	His Birth	
Micah 5:2	Messiah is Born in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1, 6, Luke 2:4-6
Psalms 72:10	Great persons adore him	Matthew 2:1-11

Isaiah 60:6	Gifts of gold and frankincense	Mt 2:1-11
Jeremiah 31:5	Slaying the children in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1-11
Jeremiah 2:6, Hosea 11:1	Messiah would visit Egypt	Matthew 2:13-15
	His Precursor	
Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1	A Messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah. The voice crying out in the desert.	Matthew 3:3, 11:10, Mark 1:2 Luke 1:76, 3:4-6, 7:27, John 1:23
Sirach 48:10, Malachi 3:23	Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.	Matthew 11:13-14, 17:10 Mark 9:11-13 Luke 1:17
	His Mission	
Ps 45:7 Isaiah 11:2, 61:1	Messiah anointed with the Spirit	Matthew 3:16 John 3:34
Deuteronomy 18:15	Messiah would be a Prophet	Matthew 17:5 John 6:14; 7:40 Acts 3:22; 7:37
Ezekiel 34:11	Messiah will search for His sheep	John 10
Isaiah 9:1-2	Bring light to Galilee	Matthew 4:14-16

Isaiah 35:5-6	Messiah raises the dead; heals blind/deaf/lame/mute	Matthew 11:5
Psalms 78:2-4 Isaiah 6:8-10	Messiah would speak in parables	Matthew 13:10-15, 13:35 Mark 4:33-34, 10-20, Luke 8:9-10
Isaiah 61:1-2	Messiah would be sent to bring liberty to captives	Luke 4:18-19
Psalms 110:4	Messiah will be a Priest after order of Melchizedek	Hebrews 5:5-6
Isaiah 53:2, 42:2	Messiah would be poor and meek	Matthew 2
Isaiah 25:8	He will swallow up death forever	Hebrews 2:14
	Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem	
Daniel 9:24-25	Appropriate time for Messiah to enter Jerusalem	Galatians 4:4-5
Zechariah 9:9	Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey/colt	Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19

Haggai 2:7,9 Malachi 3:1	Messiah enters the Temple	Mt 21:12, Luke 2:27-32
Wisdom 10:21 Psalms 8:2-3	Messiah praised by little children	Matthew 21:16
Psalms 69:9-10, Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 49:7, 63:3	The plots against Him	Matthew 13:54-58, Mark 6:1-6, Luke 4:16-30 John 1:11, 7:5
Wisdom 2:12-20	He boasts God is His Father, Lets condemn Him,, a shameful death	Matthew 26:63-68
Psalms 41:10	His Betrayal	Matthew 26:14-16 Mark 14:10-11
Zechariah 11:12-13, Jeremiah 19:1-13; 32:6-9.	Messiah's blood money used to buy potter's field 30 silver pieces	Luke 23:3-6, John 13:18
Psalms 22:7	His Suffering	Mark 14:65, Luke 22:63-65 Matthew 27:39-44, 67-68
Psalms 35:11	Messiah would be falsely accused	Mat 26:59-61, Mark 14:57-58
Isaiah 53:7	Messiah would be silent before his accusers	Matthew 26:61-63, 27:12-14 Mark 15:3-5
Isaiah 50:6-7	Messiah to be spat upon & struck	Mat 26:67, 27:30, Mark 14:65 Luke 22:63-65

Psalms 35:19, Psalms 69:4	Messiah hated without cause	John 3:20, 15:25
Zechariah 13:7	Messiah is struck & sheep scatter	Matthew 26:31
Isaiah 53:5-12	Messiah to be a sacrifice for sin	Romans 5:6-8
	His Death	
Psalms 22:19	Lots cast for Messiah's clothes	Mat 27:35 Mark 15:24, Luke 23:34
Isaiah 53:12	Messiah crucified with criminals	Matthew 27:38 Mark 15:27
Psalms 69:22	Messiah given vinegar to drink	Luke 22:37, 23:33
Psalms 34:21	Messiah's bones not broken	John 19:31-36
Psalms 22:17 Isaiah 53:5	Messiah's hands and feet pierced	John 20:25-27
Psalms 22:2	Messiah forsaken by God	Matthew 27:46 Mark 15:34
Zechariah 12:10	Soldiers pierce Messiah's side	John 19:34-37
Amos 8:9	Darkness over the land at noon	Matthew 27:45

Isaiah 53:9	Buried in a rich man's grave	Luke 23:50-53 John 19:38
Hosea 6:2 Psalm 16:8-11 Psalms 49:15-16 Isaiah 25:8 Jonah 2:1 Zephaniah 3:8	His Resurrection	Matthew 16:21; 20:18-19; 28:1-9 Mark 8:31; 10:33-34; 16:1-8
Isaiah 28:16 Isaiah 9:7 Ps 22 Psalm 45:6,7 Isaiah 22:2	His New Church	Mathew 16: 13-20
Zechariah 6:13 Malachi 1:11	Priestly office Heaven/Mass	Matthew 26:28 Roman 8:34 Hebrews 10
Psalms 24:7, 9; Psalms 68:18-20 Ezechiel 36:25-28 2Kings2:1-15	His Ascension	Mark 16:19 Luke 24:50-53 Acts 1:11 Ephesians 4:10
Psalms 110:1	Seated at God's right	Matthew 22:44, Mark 16:19 Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13
Psalm 72:8-11	A Universal Dominion	Luke 1:32,33, Philip 2:9,11
Daniel 7:13-14	Come again in Glory	Acts 1:11 Revelation 19

Chapter 8



Arrival into the Holy Land.

Mount Carmel and Elijah's cave.

Welcome to the Holy Land. We have landed and our “Journey with Jesus” has already begun. Having an opportunity to review our origins, we are certain that the existence of God can be known through our reason. Just as we are certain that someone with intelligence and power designed a watch and put it together, we are certain that someone with super intelligence and super power designed and created us. We have reviewed, and we understand that much of the Divine Revelation was given by God here in the Holy Land, a land that is only 1/7th the size of the state of Illinois.

Creation itself is a revelation from God. The beauty of creation only reflects the beauty of the Creator. We are created by God. Whether God used several steps in an evolutionary process from slime into a monkey then into a man, or one big step from slime into man, is open for discussion. Our faith tells us that all humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Man, is the summit of the Creator's work. As God rested on the Sabbath, Worship is inscribed in the order of creation.

God saw that all of creation was very, very good. As we drive from Tel Aviv up to Mount Carmel, we will enjoy some of the beauty of God's creation. We will see the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea, the mountains and valleys as it highlights the white clouds and the blue sky. For thousands of years, people have been able to grow food on these lands in order to live through God's Divine Providence. Praise God!

Mount Carmel: Our first stop on our pilgrimage is Mount Carmel which means God's vineyard. Mount Carmel is not only the location of the cave where Elijah lived, but is home to the New Testament Order called the Carmelites. The Carmelites were driven out by the Muslims during the Crusades. They returned to Mount Carmel in 1342.



The church is actually built around the cave entrance. Underneath the main altar you can actually go into the cave where Elijah stayed.

Ben: Who is Elijah?

The Old Testament scriptures consist of the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets. One of the greatest Prophets in the Old Testament is the Prophet Elijah. A Prophet is someone who God chooses to speak to and then calls that person to share God's message. God has always spoken to man from the beginning of our human history and continues to this day. Today a prophet can receive "Private Revelation." This means God is not going to reveal to us a new faith, but help us live the faith of Jesus Christ. (CCC #67)

Ben: What is the time line when Elijah appears on the scene?

When Elijah the prophet is on the Biblical scene, the Holy Land is in a mess. The prophet Elijah came about 100 years after the time of King David, around 900 BC. David's son, King Solomon, had already brought all the false gods in to the Holy Land due to his 700 wives, and the tribes of Israel were divided. However, where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. If there is one message that is highlighted on Mount Carmel, it is what the true prophet Elijah said; "We have to follow the Ten Commandments of God" and the 450

false prophets have said; “we do not have to follow the Ten Commandments of God.”

Ben: It sounds like us, when we are called cafeteria Catholics for picking and choosing what commandments we want to follow.

Yes Ben, the names are changed but the story remains the same.

Ben: What did Elijah do to make him so famous?

His name “Elijah” in Hebrew means "My God is Yahweh",

In (1Kings 17), Elijah the Tishbite warns King Ahab that because of their sin, there will be years of catastrophic drought so severe that not even dew will fall. All of this happened because Ahab and his queen Jezebel have "done evil in the sight of the Lord." King Ahab had built a temple to the false god of Baal. Imagine, they are worshipping a false god that got the Canaanites thrown out of their land and promised to Abraham’s children in the first place. Now the children of Abraham have gone astray. God tells Elijah to flee to a hiding place east of the Jordan where he will be fed by ravens. When the brook dries up, God sends him to a widow living in the town of Zarephath. Elijah asks her for some food. The widow says she and her son will die after eating their last meal. Elijah said; "Don't be afraid, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.'"

Ben: I think today we would not listen to a prophet and call the drought “climate change” and keep on offending God. Did they listen to Elijah? Was he powerful?

Sometime later the widow's son dies. Elijah prays and God "heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived." This is the first instance of someone being raised from the dead recorded in the Scriptures.

Ben: Wow, he rose someone from the dead. Did that happen to anyone else in the Old Testament?

Yes, but only three times. His successor Elisha rose someone from the dead. Years later, when Elisha's bone relics were touched to a dead man, the man rose also. (2 Kings 13:21)

Ben: In the Church, we use bone relics of saints all the time, I did not realize it had such a Biblical basis.

Yes, it is the same God in the Old and New Testament, but we have more grace and more miracles available to us now because Jesus Christ is with us, but we will get to that later.

Back to our story, Elijah comes back to his cave here after three years of drought and famine. Because of the drought and Elijah's prediction, people were wondering if it was caused by their sins. King Ahab did not want to change his behavior and called Elijah the "Troubler of Israel." To silence the voice of repentance, Queen Jezebel was killing all the true prophets of Israel.

Elijah challenged the 450 false prophets of Baal and defeated them which we will hear about at our next stop. The people temporarily repented of their evil ways and God thus ended the drought.

Inside the Church of Stella Marie is Elijah's cave where he slept and prayed.

The cave is about 10 feet high, 30 feet wide and about 15 feet deep. There is a statue of Elijah above a small altar in the middle of the cave and a place to light candles for your intentions on the left side. The simplicity of the cave helps us recall the Carmelite's spirit of detachment in order to focus on God. There seems to be an aura of holiness in the cave.

Ben: What else is in the Church?

Two things, St. Simon Stock, the Brown Scapular & the power of Mental Prayer – St. Teresa Avila

As we are here in the church on Mt. Carmel, we see Elijah's cave underneath and the beautiful statue dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel on top.

On the right is a picture of Our Lady, in Her apparitions, giving the Brown Scapular to the Superior General of the Carmelite order, St. Simon Stock in the year 1251.

Ben: Many people look at the Brown scapular as outdated superstition.

As we come on this pilgrimage, we will learn the difference between superstitious and supernatural.



The Brown Scapular is a sacramental that is a sign that you are consecrated as child of Mary or a brother of Jesus. When Jesus was dying on the Cross, He knew many of us would still blow it, He said; “Behold Thy Mother” (John 19), and appointed Mary, the New Eve as the Mother of all the living. She helps us more than our angel can help us. When we wear the Brown Scapular, we use our free will to embrace Mother’s help. God showers grace through this sacramental and gives Our Lady permission to help us grow even closer to Christ.

Ben: I am still struggling.

Most of us are familiar with the sacramental of the Wedding Ring. It is a sign that you belong to your spouse and God showers grace through that sacramental to help you live your commitment. Since it is a sign and God showers grace through it, we can call sacramentals “power signs”. We use them because we can use all the help we can get. When we are dealing with these sacramentals or “holy things” or “power signs”, we are dealing with supernatural power that is outside of ourselves and a grace that comes from God in the person of Jesus Christ. The Church alone has the God given authority to define these items and assures that they can help us. Wearing one gives glory to God. The power does not come from the object but from Jesus Christ. The blessed object prepares us to receive grace and disposes us to cooperate with this grace (CCC #1667 to #1679). Common sacramentals include Holy Water, the

crucifix, rosary, blessed medals, and scapulars etc. They usually remind us of something holy. Holy water is a sacramental that reminds us of our baptism.

Ben: I am starting to get it.

The power of Jesus Christ is supernatural and this is not to be confused with false power or false gods known as superstitions. For example, a “rabbit’s foot” is not a sacramental and does not give glory to God. There is only one God. If any supernatural activity comes from things that are outside of Jesus Christ and His Church such as a “rabbit’s foot”, then that power comes from the prince of darkness. It is wise to avoid such things. The people in Elijah’s time knew the difference but for whatever disposition was in their hearts, many were embracing the false gods.

Ben: That was the Old Testament, what about the New Testament?

In the gospel of Luke, the angels told the shepherds. This shall be a SIGN for you. You will find a child wrapped in “swaddling clothes”. (Luke 2:12) Our Lady said: “the Brown Scapular is your swaddling clothes that is a SIGN that you are Her child like Jesus was.” Praise the Lord.

Ben: I get it and I appreciate that we are in a spiritual battle and that we can use all the help we can get. I know we can still get those from religious stores.

Meghan: Some of us wonder, what the Carmelites did for all those years in this cave?

In the cave, there is a picture of a Sister who is known as the master of mental prayer, **St. Teresa of Avila**. She was a Carmelite. She wrote a book called, “*The Interior Castle*”. In Teresa’s book, she says, “your soul is like a castle made out of a diamond. You are created in the image and likeness of God. If you knew the beauty of your soul, you would not let the enemy disfigure it.” She says, “most people spend their entire lifetime outside the drawbridge of this castle.” The big question becomes, “How do you get inside the castle?” Her answer was, “mental prayer”. The first stage of

meditation brings you through the drawbridge into the castle. She says, “many of the critters come in with you thru the drawbridge. The critters are all the things we are attached to in our earthly life.”

Ben: I think we all like our critters, but if it disfigures the beauty of our castle made out of a diamond which is our soul, how do we get rid of them?

She describes the spiritual life as growth. Upon practicing meditation, you grow spiritually, and you spiritually travel through the seven mansions, or the seven rooms inside your castle. By the time one gets to the fourth room, only those agile lizards go in with you. So, they start leaving all those other critters behind. And as they continue with the mental prayer (the meditation) they get all the way to the seventh mansion, and that is where they enter into mystical union with Jesus Christ and become the brides of Christ.” Some of the Carmelite orders are strictly “Contemplative Orders”, they pray, do their daily duties and work on developing meditation skills. They battle spiritual warfare as they go thru those 7 rooms, and become a mystical Bride of Christ. **So, that is what many of the Sisters do in these orders.**

Ben: Wow, brides of God. That is incredible for mere mortals, is meditation just for the sisters? What about us?

Most of us are in the world, but we can share in the same kind of meditation. Since St. Theresa of Avilla is one of the patron Saints of the Angels of New Era, as pilgrims, we will say that little prayer to help us learn how to meditate and to teach others how to meditate. The Angels of the New Era prayer:

Meghan and everyone (repeats after me.)

“Dear God,, I beg you, to please give me the grace, ,,,, that the three powers of my soul.... my memory, my intellect,and my will, will be for the greater glory of God. Amen.”

St. Teresa, help us on our physical and inner journey while in the Holy Land.

Meghan: Are we going to learn how to meditate?

Yes, because that helps with our inner journey that very long journey that goes from the 18 inches from our head into our heart. The angels will teach us this later when we get to the shepherds' field.

Upon leaving Elijah's Cave, we can see the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.

We are headed to where Elijah defeated the 450 false prophets. After he defeated them, Elijah came back here with King Ahab. This is how the severe three-year drought ended. It helps to hear this when we have a view of the cave and the beautiful blue Mediterranean Sea. We are 500 feet above sea level.



Elijah then said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink, while Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, crouched down to the earth, and put his head between his knees. He said to his servant, "Go up and look out to sea." He went up and looked, but reported, "There is nothing." Seven times he said, "Go look again!" And the seventh time the youth reported, "There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea." Elijah said, "Go and say to Ahab, 'Harness up and go down the mountain before the rain stops you.'" All at once the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain fell. Ahab mounted his chariot and headed for Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:41-46)

Chapter 9 Elijah's challenge

at El Muhraka



This is El Muhraka on Mt Carmel, the spot of the great challenge of Elijah with the 450 false prophets.

As we enter the shrine, we see a large statue of the prophet Elijah with a sword in his hand.

To recap our history. The wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel built a temple to the false god of Baal. Baal was a Canaanite god of fertility and of rain. They violated young women in the name of Baal. They even did human sacrifice on their children. The perverted behavior that was required



to serve Baal sums up the whole reason that God was going to drive the Canaanites out of the Holy Land in the first place. God told Elijah to tell King Ahab these acts were wicked things and there was going to be a severe drought. There was no rain for three years as Queen Jezebel was busy killing all the true prophets in Israel. God told Elijah to hide. **Usually with the false prophets, in the name of tolerance of God's laws, they are very intolerant and the most vicious killers of God's prophets.** After three years Elijah came out of hiding and told King Ahab and all the people that he challenges the false prophets to prove who the true God is. Everyone was so tired of the drought that they were anxious for the truth.

Meghan: To follow the entire story, we can read (1 Kings 18:17 to 40)

Elijah challenged all the 450 false prophets through King Ahab. The word of God in first kings chapter 18 says;

So King Ahab summoned all the Israelites and had the prophets gather on Mount Carmel. They met at a spot that has a view of the “Valley of Armageddon.”

Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long will you straddle the issue? If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him. So Elijah said to the people, “I am the only remaining prophet of the Lord, and there are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Give us two young bulls. Let them choose one, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood, but start no fire. I shall prepare the other and place it on the wood, but shall start no fire. You shall call upon the name of your gods, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. The God who answers with fire is God.” All the people answered, “We agree!”

Nothing was happening with the god of Baal. Eventually Elijah taunted them: “Call louder, for he is a god; he may be busy doing his business, or may be on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” But there was no sound, no one answering, no one listening.

Elijah called on the Lord and he sent fire down to consume the sacrifices. The people said, “God is the Lord” and then Elijah ordered the 450 false prophets to be killed. The word of the Lord.

It actually was a great Old Testament victory. Elijah taunted them and God backed him up.

Ben: Why was the God in the Old Testament so violent and the God of the New Testament is so Merciful? Is it the same God?

Yes, it is the same God. God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah if He would have found ten righteous people. In His

Mercy and infinite knowledge, God and only God can know it was best to eliminate them because there was no hope for them. God knew they would only be producing children to populate Hell, so destroying them was an act of Mercy.

God looks at the big picture that takes into account all people for all eternity. Remember, the most important thing to understand this is that the smile of God, Jesus Christ, and His grace to change us was not in the world yet. Sometimes we underestimate the power of His Grace. Today we have the grace of Jesus Christ, so no matter how wicked we become or how far we fall away from Him, there is always hope.

This battle will be won by Jesus. The tricky part for us is to let go of our sin and embrace the grace of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

Meghan: Did the people of God get on the right path after Elijah's victory?

Elijah's victory was short lived. When Queen Jezebel heard of it, she sent the army after Elijah and he had to flee the country. The little chapel here commemorates a scene where God sent an angel to help as Elijah who collapsed under a Juniper Tree. As he fled, he was tired and could not take another step. The food and drink the angel gave him helped him go all the way to Mount Sinai.

Even though God delivered a great victory through Elijah, the people quickly went astray. Eventually God delivered them up to their enemies and they were carried off as slaves in the Babylonian exile. God worked it out where the Israelites would come back here.

Ben: So, Canaan messed up and he is cursed, Abraham's children mess up and are they immune to punishment?

The Apostle Paul (Romans 11) and the Old Testament prophet (Jeremiah 31:31) and elsewhere said the "Promised Land" was conditional and the people of God forsook their covenant. God will make a new covenant and the real "Promised Land" will be Heaven.

The prophet Jerimiah chapter 31 says;

Behold the days shall come, says the Lord, and I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt: the covenant which they made void, and I had dominion over them, says the Lord. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, after those days, says the Lord: I will give my law inside of them, and I will write it in their heart: and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31).

Meghan: So, what did the first 4000 years of human history prove to us?

The fact that we are created good but inclined to evil is obvious. God is patient and Merciful and we humans are easily led astray. All of our mistakes prove that we need Jesus Christ to Redeem us and establish that New Covenant to strengthen us so we can be pleasing to God. We need the “Light of the World”. Come Lord Jesus Come!

The most amazing thing about God’s Divine Mercy is revealed. Instead of God wiping us out as we deserve, He promises to give us something better. Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Jesus, “**As a bridegroom marries a virgin, so will God marry you**” (Isaiah 62:5). As we journey with Jesus, this reality will be made clear.

Meghan: God is so amazing!

Chapter 10: Finishing up the Old Testament and the battle of Armageddon (Revelations 16:16)

Meghan: I liked the visit to Mount Carmel, it is good to see our roots in the Old Testament. Where are we going now?

We are headed to the famous “Valley of Armageddon.” And then the city of Nazareth where Jesus started His pilgrimage on earth in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ben: My battle gear is on. Everybody talks about Armageddon, what can you tell us about it?

We are all familiar with the great final battle in the Book of Revelations (16) at Armageddon, “The battle of good versus evil.” Armageddon is a slang name derived from the Hebrew "Har Megiddo" meaning "Hill of Megiddo". Megiddo is a city between the two great mountains of Mount Carmel (Old Testament) and Mount Tabor (New Testament).

Ben: Armageddon is a slang term? I never heard that before. Meggido Uh!

Yes. As we leave Mt. Carmel, on our way to Nazareth, we drive by ancient Megiddo and through the “Valley of Armageddon.”
(Revelations 16:16)

The city of Megiddo is on the south west side of a very rich valley. Some call it the Valley of Armageddon others call it the Jezreel Valley. It is a very large fertile valley in the Galilee area. The word Jezreel comes from the Hebrew, and means "God sows".

Meghan: I imagined it would be some barren ground trenched with blood, but actually it is green and beautiful. Like a big garden. I am surprised.

Yes, it looks nice, however, throughout history, some famous battles that took place here including:

- Battle of Megiddo (609 BC): fought between the Egyptian pharaoh Necho II and the Kingdom of Judah, in which King Josiah fell.

- Battle of Megiddo (1918): fought during World War I between Allied troops, led by General Edmund Allenby, defeating the defending Muslims, the Ottoman army.

In 1964, during Pope Paul VI's visit to the Holy Land, he came to Megiddo.

Ben: Everybody wants to know about when will the battle of Armageddon start?

Ben, when they ask you this, tell them to open up their eyes because spiritually we have been in the great battle for a long time. If we do not even know that we are in a battle, we are going to keep on losing.

From a spiritual point, one of the things we will learn on this pilgrimage is that when Jesus walked the earth; many struggled with understanding His true mission because they were looking for an earthly warrior king or Messiah like King David. Jesus Christ had a much greater plan than that. He was building up the Universal Kingdom of God and it starts in our hearts and it will bring us to Heaven.

Ben: Yes, I want that.

God's word reveals that before Jesus comes again, the anti-Christ will come. He will be that earthly king that some people are looking for. He will probably win some kind of battle here in this valley of Armageddon. As St. Paul states, "the son of perdition will take his seat in the temple at Jerusalem and be worshipped as a god" (2 Thessalonians 2:2-14).

Meghan: Wow, that is scary. People will worship the devil as a god.



The Valley of Jezreel, also known as the Valley of Armageddon

Let us look at the big picture so we do not get fooled. For the true battle in Revelations, we believe that we can not only look at (Revelation 16:16) that talks about Armageddon but in context, we must also look at (Revelations 12 to 22) where it talks about the Woman clothed with the Sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars

(Revelations 12:1), all the way through to the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Ben: The Woman clothed with the sun sounds familiar. So will the great battle be by the city of Megiddo or between the great mountains?

The “Woman” and St. Michael the Archangel are battling the Red Dragon who is Satan. The Woman is bringing souls closer to Jesus Christ and the devil is pulling souls away from Jesus. So when everyone looks for an earthly place in the little valley for the last great battle, my opinion is the fulfillment or true “Har Megiddo”, the city between the two great mountains is Medjugorje which means “Between the Mountains”. Medjugorje is surrounded by two mountains, Cross Mountain and Mount Podbrdo also known as “Apparition Hill”.

Ben: I have been there and it is an awesome place to be renewed. But you are saying the true Armageddon is not a bloody battle but a spiritual battle, of praying, fasting, confession and the Holy Mass.

The main true battles are always spiritual. Saint Paul said in Ephesians 6:12. The battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spirits of wickedness. However, the fruit of that battle can always turn bloody, that is another reason we pray as our true weapon. We will be hearing more about that true weapon later.

Ben: I am sure people will want to know where Medjugorje located?

Medjugorje is located in the former Yugoslavia just east of Italy. It's name not only means between the mountains, it is the spot where the east met the west during the time of the Roman empire. In our time it is also located between the two mountains of Communism on one side and Western Europe on the other side. Further, the mountains of Islam meet up with the mountains of Christianity in Medjugorje.

Ben: That is interesting, those are powerful mountains in the world today.

God is using His Mother and six children as prophets to bring a message of peace to the world. Here the true prophets under scientific scrutiny describe seeing the Woman with a crown of twelve stars on Her head just like the Book of revelations describes the Woman in Chapter 12.

Ben: I love it when modern day scientists can study these things. What did the scientist say?

Not only one scientist, but over the years several teams of scientists.

Daniel Klimek Dissertation Defense is a good reference to show the several scientific proofs to support the mystical nature of the apparitions.

The Medjugorje movement is using God's prophets through Our Lady's intercession to renew the people of God's Covenant on a world- wide scale, through prayer, fasting, the Eucharist, Confession and the Holy Bible. Of course, it is a battle over hearts. "The devil was angry against the woman and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:19).

Ben: What does the Church say about Medjugorje, there seems to be some controversy.

As of today, there are no official declarations regarding the authenticity of the apparitions of Medjugorje. The Vatican itself has conducted an investigation. As of January 2014, the commission put the final report on Pope Francis desk and he can release it at any time. We at Totally Yours humbly submit to the Popes final ruling. Actually, we will become convinced of the supreme authority of the Pope as we pilgrimage to the Holy land. In the meantime, the faithful are allowed to go and experience the place. Many bishops, priests go there as well.

If you are uncomfortable with controversy, then read about or visit the several Marian apparition sites around the world that have been approved by the Church, including Guadalupe Mexico, Lourdes France, Fatima Portugal in which the big 100-year anniversary has marked the world. The main message is the same. Our Lady teaches us how to win the great battle with prayer, sacrifice and love.

Ben: What happens when we go there.

When we go to the “Youth Fest” in Medjugorje, the first week in August, each year, it is amazing to see 500 priests concelebrate the mass and 75,000 young people, from 65 countries, enthusiastically and peacefully gathered for a week experiencing God’s love through prayer, singing, testimonies and sharing. There is no smell of pot in the air, or other evidence of drug use, but they are all high on the love of the Holy Spirit. They all have their FM radios for translating things into a language they understand. It is like the inverse of the “Tower of Babel” where they are building up the mystical city of God.



You cannot help but think that if Our Lady of Medjugorje was not gathering them here to love Jesus, the devil would use some highly financed movement that would encourage crooked politicians to have the same young people fighting a war and killing each other for a cause that no one is even sure about.

Thank you, Jesus and Mary, for providing us with this time of “great graces” a true Triumph.

We can learn much from being here. Look on the map. The valley of Armageddon has Megiddo on the south side, Mount Carmel on the west side, Mount Tabor on the east side, and Nazareth on the north side. That is Mary’s home town. So, we know Mary has the home court advantage in the last great battle.

We will now cross the Valley of Armageddon and go to Nazareth where Jesus pilgrimage on earth started. Whenever our groups travel across this valley, we use the true weapon and pray the Rosary as we go to Mary’s home. Amen.

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