

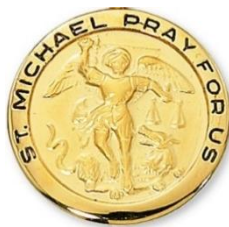
The Alpha and Omega of Creation

Teachings from Heaven



Special Edition 5

The Holy Family Flees to Egypt



Preserved and presented by:
Samuel

The Alpha and Omega of Creation

Special Edition Series

SE_1. The Seven Rosaries of Mary

SE_2. Passion and Death of Jesus Christ

SE_3. 40 Day Rosary of Lent

SE_4. Advent Rosary and The Epiphany of the Lord

SE_5. The Holy Family Flees to Egypt

SE_6. The Miracle Work of the Child Jesus in Egypt

SE_7. The Departure of the Holy Family from Egypt

SE_8. Moses and the Ten Commandments

SE_9. The Vineyard Workers of the Lord

SE_10. Becoming a Child of God

SE_11. Pathway to the Holy Spirit

SE_12. Continuation of Life after Death

SE_13. The Primordial Essence of God

SE_14. Knowledge/Progress Advanced Civilization of Adam

SE_15. People of the Star Worlds and the Cosmic Man

SE_16. The Fallen Angels – who are they?

SE_17. The Real Story of the Flood

SE_18. The Three Days of Darkness

SE_19. The Last Seven Years of Earth

SE_20. The Fall of a Great Nation – WW III – Antichrist

SE_21. The Seventh Trumpet – Woe- judgement Day

Bonus – The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross

Visit: WWW.AlphaAndOmegaOfCreation.Org

The Teachings of Jesus

Become an Apostle of Truth

Truth only comes from God and before the world can come to an end, as we know it, the truth must be revealed. How will this be done? The Lord will accomplish this by using his prophets; the same way He used the prophets in the Old Testament which also contains the Book of the Prophets.

This work presents the teachings that were given, by the Lord, to the prophets of our time that are located throughout the world. When these teachings are brought together, they present a clear picture of the events that will lead us to the return of Jesus in Glory and the end of a period of salvation.

Jesus is speaking: "All the strands of this Mission are being drawn together to form a pattern. Then, when the various parts are linked and fitted together, like the pieces of a jigsaw, when all the pieces begin to merge, the final picture will become clear."

Ref: MDM message Jan 24, 2014

The 'final picture' has been assembled and presented in the twelve volumes of the Alpha and Omega of Creation Series



Become an Apostle of truth by passing on the Lord's teachings to family and friends. The Lord has revealed the past, the present and the future. You can't even begin to comprehend His love for you unless you understand the very beginning, only then will you understand who you really are and how great is His love for you.

In Honor of the Holy Spirit

May the Holy Spirit descend upon you and fill you with love and wisdom, as you journey through space and time, to discover the wonders of creation as the Father reveals His Divine Plan for mankind. May the Magnificat of the Blessed Mother's "yes" be your "yes" as you open your heart and mind to receive knowledge, truth, and understanding that only the Holy Spirit can give.



"When the Paraclete comes, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father – and whom I Myself will send from the Father – He will bear witness on My behalf. He will guide you to all truth."

(John 15, 26-27; 16:13)

The Spirit of Truth Prayer

Holy Spirit baptize me with the fire of your love. I have surrendered to you the best of my ability, and now I want to activate Your Spirit of Love within me. I need Your power in my life. Please fill me now. I believe that as I yield and ask, You will release Your strength, wisdom, healing, and love to meet the needs of the hour. Work in me in a powerful way. I want every purpose God has for my life to be fulfilled, and I need you, mighty Spirit of God, to bring that purpose to fulfillment. Release Your Spirit within me, Amen.

They shall all be taught by God

John 6:41-51

Table of Content:



Table of Contents

Become an Apostle of Truth.....	3
In Honor of the Holy Spirit.....	4
Table of Content:.....	5
The Holy Family Flees to Egypt	9
The Journey to Egypt – Tyre.....	11
The Melting of The Idols	13
Joseph Vindicates Himself Before Cyrenius	14
A Golden Goblet Is Sublimed	16
In The Lowliness of The World	17
Mary's Wisdom Astonishes Cyrenius.....	18
The Voyage to Egypt.....	19
The Arrival in Ostracine – Egypt.....	21
Cyrenius Buys a Villa	22
The Family's New Home	23
A Comparison with Israel in Egypt.....	24
The First Letter of Cyrenius to Herod.....	24
The Second Letter of Cyrenius to Herod.....	25
The Great Confrontation	26
The Prefect of Jerusalem's Complicity	27
A Promise for Maronius Pilla	28
The Baby Speaks His First Words.....	29
The Roman Military Inspection.....	30
Cyrenius Learns Wisdom from The Baby.....	31
A Prophecy of Joseph Is Fulfilled	32

The Long Arm of The Baby	33
Maronius Makes Some Wrong Conclusions	34
Joseph Discourses on The Brother-Eye	35
James Repents His Vain Curiosity	36
Joseph Counts God's Love as Man's Greatest Wealth	37
The Violent Storm	38
The Master of The Storm	38
The Heathen Priests Demand a Sacrifice	39
The Martyrs Gain Time.....	40
The Sentence for The Priests	40
The Law of Sacrifice	42
Vengeance Belongs to The Lord Alone	43
The Lion of Judah	44
The Baby's Dictum to Cyrenius.....	45
The Pardon of The Priests	46
The Sword Justified as A Shepherd's Staff	47
The True Mythology of The Gods.....	48
The Reawakening of The Seven Guides	49
The Strange Effects of The Earthquake	49
A Judgment Is Avoided.....	50
The Lord Pinches Those Who Love Him.....	51
A Great Prophecy for Rome	52
The Mythology of Ostracine	53
Anxiety Negates God's Help	54
A Blind Beggar Woman Regains Her Sight.....	54
A Prophecy for Mary.....	55
The Tale of the Woman	56
The Woman's Immeasurable Gain	57
Joseph Adopts a Lovely Daughter	58
The Maiden Recognizes the Baby	59
Cyrenius Seeks the Maiden's Hand	60
The Three-Fold Roman Marriage Law	61

Victor Aurelius Dexter Latiid.....	62
A Gospel On Marriage Acceptable Before God	63
The Seat of Life is in the Heart	64
For Every Man I Created Only One Woman	65
Cyrenius Makes a Sacrifice	66
Eudokia Finds a Greater Splendor.....	67
Joseph Accepts a Gift from Cyrenius.....	68
A Secret Roman Marriage Law.....	69
An Official Marriage Covenant.....	70
Do Not Sigh Because of the World.....	71
The World Is a Stage of Deceit	72
This is the Voice of the Teacher	75
"I Am with you always	75

The Holy Family Flees to Egypt



Teaching messages are taken from Vol.3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3:125-186

The Journey to Egypt – Tyre, The Melting of Idles, A Golden Goblet is Sublimed, In the Lowliness of the World, The Voyage to Egypt, The Arrival in Ostracine – Egypt, Cyrenius Learns Wisdom from the Baby, A Prophecy of Joseph is Fulfilled, The Long Arm of the Baby, Anxiety Negates Gid’s Help, The New Order for Heaven and Earth, A Protective Watch in the Night, The Reawakening of the Mercenaries, God’s Love for His Children, The Lord Always Knows the Best Way, A Treacherous Attack. . .

The Journey to Egypt – Tyre

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus Ch 3



Jesus is speaking: "After this discussion with the captain, Joseph said to his sons, 'Bestir yourselves and load the pack animals, then saddle the six new donkeys for me and for you and the old, tried one for Mary. Take along as much of the foodstuffs as you can, but we will leave the ox and cart here with the midwife as a keepsake and reward for taking care of us.'

Thus, the ox and cart were taken over by the midwife and was not used for work henceforth.

Salome now asked Joseph if she might not go with him.

Joseph answered, 'That depends on you, but you know that I am poor and can pay you no wage if you wish to serve me. If you have the means and can provide yourself with food and clothing along with me, you are surely welcome to come along!'

At this Salome asserted, 'Listen, son of the great king David! My wealth shall suffice for a hundred years not only for me, but for your whole family! For I am wealthier in worldly goods than you might suppose. So, wait only an hour more and I shall stand here laden with treasures, ready to go.'

Here Joseph replied, 'Salome, listen, you are a young widow and a mother, so you will also have to take your two sons along. Now this will cause you much work and I do not have another minute to lose, for in three hours Herod will already make his entry here and his advance messengers and runners will arrive already in one hour!

From that you can see that it is impossible for me to wait until you are ready. So, I would say that you will do better if I am not held up on your account, and when according to the Lord's will I return someday, I shall make my home in Nazareth again.

Now since you would really like to be of service to me, then go to Nazareth when you get a chance and lease my farmstead for another three to seven or ten years, so it will not fall into strange hands.'

At this Salome desisted from her wish and contented herself with this task.

Joseph then embraced the captain, blessed him and then called Mary, so she with the Baby might take her place on her pack animal.

When everything had thus been prepared for the departure, the captain asked Joseph, 'Man in my highest esteem, will I ever see you and this Child with His mother again?'

And Joseph replied, 'Hardly three years will go by until I, the Child and His mother will greet you again! Be assured of that and now let us depart. Amen.'

Here Joseph mounted his beast of burden, his sons followed his example, whereupon Joseph grasped the reins of Mary's pack animal and amid praises to the Lord led it out of the cave.

When everyone was outside, Joseph saw a great many people who began to press out from the town to watch the departure of the New-Born. This urge to stare was most inopportune for Joseph, so he asked the Lord to shield him as soon as possible from this inordinate desire of idle people to gape.

And behold, a thick fog quickly descended on the whole town, and it became impossible for anyone to see even five steps ahead. At this the crowd became vexed and withdrew into the town, and Joseph, led by the captain and Salome, was able to reach the nearest hills unseen.

When he reached the border between Judea and Syria, the captain gave Joseph a letter of safe-conduct to the governor Cyrenius, who was set over Syria.

Joseph accepted this with thanks, and the captain said, 'Cyrenius is my bother - more I need not tell you, so travel safely and return in the same manner!' Here the captain turned back with Salome, and Joseph traveled on in the name of the Lord.

About noontime Joseph reached the high point in the hills at a distance of twelve hours from Bethlehem. The high point lay wholly in Syria, which in that day was called Coelesyria by the Romans. For Joseph had to take this more round-about way, since no safe route led from Palestine to Egypt.

And his route of travel was as follows: The first day he came into the vicinity of the little town of Bosra. There he spent the night praising the Lord. Here they also encountered a group of robbers who were planning to rob the Holy Family as they passed by. Within the group was a small boy who was watching the Blessed Mother and baby Jesus. He managed to convince his friends to let them pass because of the mother and her child. As the Holy Family passed, the Blessed Mother asked God the Father to bless this boy for his kindness and for showing mercy. Then they fell on their faces worshiping the child and then fled into the hills in great fear.

Little did this young boy know, that later in life when he was a grown man, he would again meet the mother and her Son. Only this time, he would see them while hanging from a cross next to her Son. His name was Dismiss. Ref: PMG] (Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy – Beatitudes.)

The following day Joseph again crossed a massive highland, and that evening arrived in the region of Apnea, a little border town between Palestine and Syria to the north.

From Apnea he reached the province of Phoenicia on the third day and came into the neighborhood of Tyre, where on the following day he went with his letter of safe-conduct to Cyrenius, who at that time was present in Tyre on matters of state.

Cyrenius received Joseph in a very friendly manner and asked him what he might do for him.

Joseph answered, 'That I might get to Egypt safely!' - And Cyrenius observed, 'Goodman, you have taken the long way around, for Palestine is obviously much closer to Egypt than Phoenicia! Now you will have to travel through Palestine again and must go from here to Samaria, from there to Joppa, thence to Ashkelon, then to Gaza, from there to Geras and from there finally to Elsa in Arabia!'

Here Joseph was sad because he had thus gone astray. But Cyrenius took pity on Joseph and said, 'Good man, it pains me to see your trouble. You are, to be sure, a Jew and an enemy of the Romans - but since my brother who means everything to me likes you so well, I will also do you a favor.

See, tomorrow a small but seaworthy ship leaves here for Ostracine! With it you should arrive there in three days; and once you are in Ostracine, you are already in Egypt! - And I shall give you a letter of safe-conduct with which you will be able to remain in Ostracine without hindrance and will also be able to buy yourself some property. But for today you are my guest, so have your baggage brought in."

The Melting of The Idols

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "And Joseph went outside and led his family to the house where Cyrenius lived, and the latter promptly ordered his servants to provide for Joseph's pack animals and led Joseph with Mary and the five sons into his most ornate chamber, in which everything was lavishly decorated with gold, silver and precious stones.

Now on a table of white, very finely polished marble there stood a mass of statues about a foot in height, exceedingly well formed of Corinthian bronze.

Here Joseph asked the governor what these statues might represent.

The governor replied in a friendly manner, 'Good man, see, these are our gods! We must display them and buy them from Rome according to law, even though we do not believe in them. I look upon them only as works of art, and in that alone do these images of the god shave some sort of nominal value to me, but otherwise I can only look upon them with the utmost disdain!'

Joseph thereupon said to Cyrenius, 'But if that is all you believe, then you are a man without God and without religion. Does that not bother your conscience?'

And Cyrenius replied, 'Not in the least, for if there is no other God than these bronze ones here, then any human being is more of a god than this stupid bronze in which there is no life! Now I do believe that there is some sort of true God who is eternally alive and almighty - therefore I have only disdain for such old nonsense!'

Now Cyrenius was also a great friend of children and for that reason approached Mary, who was holding the Child in her arms, and asked her whether she was not tired from constantly carrying the Child.

And Mary said, 'Oh mighty ruler of the land! I am indeed very tired by now, but my great love to this my Child makes me forget all fatigue!'

Here the governor said to Mary, 'See, I am also a great friend of children, but although I am married, nature or God have not blessed me with posterity, so I am given to not seldom adopting strange children - even those of slaves - as my own. Now I do not intend to say therewith that you should also give me yours, for He is

indeed your life. But I would like to ask you to lay Him upon my arms so I might fondle and caress Him a little!'

Since Mary found the governor to be of such an affectionate nature, she answered, 'Whoever is like you in his heart may indeed take this, my Baby, on his arms!'

Here Mary handed the Baby to the governor to caress him - and when the governor took the Baby on his arms, such a feeling of joy came over him as he had never before experienced. And he carried the Baby back and forth in the chamber - and thus also brought Him close to the table bearing the Roman gods.

But this approach immediately cost all the heathen statues their existence, for they melted like wax on red-hot iron.

At this Cyrenius was profoundly shocked and he exclaimed: 'What goes on here? The hard bronze has completely dissolved, and not even a trace of it remains! You wise man from Palestine, do explain that to me! Are you then a magician?'"

Joseph Vindicates Himself Before Cyrenius

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Joseph was greatly surprised at this himself and said to Cyrenius: 'Listen to me, mighty ruler of the land! It cannot be unknown to you that according to the law of my country every sorcerer must be burned.

If accordingly, I were a sorcerer, I would not have become as old as I am, for as such I would long ago have fallen into the hands of the high priests in Jerusalem!

Hence the only thing I can tell you here is that this manifestation must surely be connected with the great holiness of this Child. For even at the birth of this Child signs occurred at which everyone was amazed: the firmament stood open - the winds were hushed - the brooks and rivers stood still - the sun remained standing on the horizon - the moon did not leave its position, not for about three hours; thus, the stars did not move onward either - the animals did not feed nor drink, and everything which normally creeps and stirs sank into a dead rest - I myself was walking and had to remain standing!'

When Cyrenius heard this from Joseph he said to him, 'So this is that remarkable Child, of whom my brother wrote me with the words: Brother, I must give you the following news - In the neighborhood of Bethlehem a Child has been born to a young woman of the Jewish nation from which emanates a great, wondrous power. I am just about convinced that He is a Child of the gods! But His father is such a completely honest Jew that I just cannot bring myself to undertake a closer investigation of the matter. If you should happen to come to Jerusalem in the near future, it might not be uninteresting to you to visit this man in Bethlehem. I keep on thinking that the Child is some sort of masked young Jupiter or at least Apollo. But come and use your own judgment. - See, good man, that much of the matter is known to me, but what you have now told me is quite new to me. Therefore, tell me whether you are the same man of whom my brother informed me from Bethlehem.'

And Joseph answered, 'Yes, mighty ruler, I am the same! And it is well for your brother that he did not tell you more about the Child! For he received a word from heaven to be silent about that which took place. Truly, had he told you more,

then that would have happened with Rome, which there before your eyes just happened to the images of the gods that stood there on the table!

And great good fortune to you and your brother if you are silent! For you shall both be blessed for that by the Lord who is the eternally living God, the Creator of heaven and earth!

These words instilled a great respect of Joseph in Cyrenius and a fear of the Child, so that he promptly laid the Child in Mary's arms again.

After that he again turned to Joseph and said: 'Good, upright man, now listen carefully to what I shall say to you, for a good thought has just come to my mind, which you shall hear and answer me concerning it! See, if this Child is of divine descent, then you as His father must also be the same. Neither can a child of the gods be a descendant from an ordinary human being.

Now you as well as your five other sons who are standing behind you appear to be only ordinary human beings to me - yes even the young mother, while to be sure, a well-mannered Jewess, does not seem to have anything particularly divine about her.

That requires a great, almost unearthly beauty and great wisdom, as we know from the traditional stories about those women with whom at one time the gods are said to have consorted - which to believe requires an indeed great faith that I do not in the least have. 'Besides, I must also call your attention to something else - which is that it was possible for you with your divine Child as one wishing to travel from Bethlehem to Egypt to have gone astray to here, as manifest by your being sad and confused when I pointed out to you that you had gone so far astray on the way to Egypt!

Should your God - or the gods of Rome - really be ignorant of the nearest route from Bethlehem to Egypt? See, these are sharp contradictions which build up the more one pursues the matter! And on top of that you have even made a threat as to the destruction of Rome if I or my brother were to betray the Child! Now why should gods threaten the weak mortal, as if they were afraid of him? After all, they need only to openly set foot on the earth, and everyone must blindly obey their mighty will!

So, you see, your whole story seems to me to be nothing but a weak deception, intended to mislead me so I might not recognize you for what you really are, either a Jewish magician who sets out for Egypt to make his living with this trade there, since his life is not safe in his homeland or perhaps even a crafty Jewish spy, bribed by the power-hungry Herod to detect how the Roman shore-fortifications are set up?

I do of course have the letter of safe-conduct from my brother, and the earlier letter which I mentioned to you - but I still have not discussed this with my brother and therefore these documents could be forged, because my brother's handwriting can also be imitated. And I now consider you to be both, in other words, a magician and a spy! Now justify yourself in every detail - otherwise you are my prisoner and will not escape a just punishment!

At these words Joseph looked at Cyrenius firmly in the face and asserted: 'Send a fast messenger to your brother Cornelius, have him take both letters with him, and your brother shall bear witness whether matters with me are of such a scandalous nature as you are of the bad opinion!

And such I now insist on from you, for my honor is justified before the eternal God and shall not be crushed underfoot by a pagan! For while you are a patrician of Rome, I am none-the-less a direct descendant of the great king David before whom the circle of the earth trembled, and as such I will not allow myself to be dishonored by a pagan! And I shall not leave your side now until you have restored my honor to me, for no pagan shall deprive me of the honor which I have received from God!

These energetic words took Cyrenius aback, for in this manner he as governor, who had command over life and death without restriction, had never heard anyone speak to him. He therefore thought by himself, 'If this man were not conscious of an extraordinary power with him as concerns me, he could not speak like that! Hence, I must talk to him now in quite a different manner!'

A Golden Goblet Is Sublimed

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "After determining on this, Cyrenius again turned to Joseph and said, 'Good man, you should not hold that against me, for you will surely concede that I as governor do after all have the right to cross-examine someone to find out if he is a friend or enemy of the state!

And that I could not exempt you therefrom - as gladly as I would otherwise have done -for that you need only look at yonder disastrous table which has been freed from its decorations, and it must surely be evident to you that one must look upon people of your kind a bit more sharply than upon those who only drift about as insignificantly as daily flies.

Now I do not feel that I insulted you thereby, but on the contrary only gave you a distinction in that I judged you to be that important and spoke to you as becomes me as governor. You see, I am interested in nothing else than the truth about your background because I judge you to be a truly noteworthy man. Therefore, I purposely raised doubts about you so you should fully assert yourself before me.

Now your manner of speech has shown me that you are a man in whom there is no deceit. I therefore need neither a second message from my brother nor any binding documentary proof from some other source, for I am now convinced that you are a completely honest Jew! - Tell me, is there any need for more than that?'

And Joseph answered, 'Friend, see, I am poor, but you are a mighty ruler! My riches are my loyalty and faith to my God and my complete honesty toward everyone! But you in addition to representing the emperor, are also extremely wealthy in the riches of the world, which I do without. When someone slights your honor, you still have the riches of the world to fall back on. But what is left for me if my honor is taken from me? You can buy honor for yourself with the treasures of the world, but with what shall I buy it?

For that reason, the poor man, once he has lost his honor and freedom to a rich man, becomes a slave; but if besides that he has secret riches somewhere, he can again buy honor and freedom. Now you threatened to make me your prisoner - say, would I then not have lost all my honor and freedom. And was I then not right in defending myself, since I was after all called to account by you, the governor of Syria and the co-governor of the coast of Tyre and Sidon?'

Here Cyrenius said, 'Good man, I now beg you - let us wholly forget what is past. See, the sun now stands close to the horizon. My servants have prepared the evening meal in the dining hall, so come with me and refresh yourselves. For I have not had Roman foods, but those of your people prepared, which you are permitted to eat. So, follow me without any ill feelings against me, now your friend.'

Hereupon Joseph followed Cyrenius into the dining hall with Mary and the five sons and was greatly amazed at the indescribably rich splendor of the tableware which was mostly wrought of gold, silver and precious stones. And since the ornate vessels were decorated with all manner of images of pagan gods, Joseph said to Cyrenius, 'Friend, I see that all these vessels for your table are decorated with your gods - and you already know the power that emanates from my Child. See, if I sit at your table with my wife, and my wife with her Child, you will instantly lose all your rich tableware and vessels! Hence, I would advise you to either have vessels set up that are quite plain or common earthenware, or I will not guarantee you your gold and silver.'

When Cyrenius heard this from Joseph, he was startled and at once followed Joseph's advice. The servants promptly brought the food in dishes of earthenware which were quite smooth and quickly set the gold and silver dishes aside.

But his curiosity nevertheless enticed Cyrenius to bring a magnificent gold goblet near the Child, to ascertain for himself whether the nearness of the Child would really have such a destructive effect on gold as formerly on the bronze images.

And Cyrenius had in fact to pay for his curiosity with the sudden loss of the precious goblet for a time.

When he had thus suffered the loss of the goblet, he took fright and stood there as if he had received an electric shock.

Only after a while did he say, 'Joseph, you great man, you advised me well, and I thank you for it! But I myself will be accursed if I leave this spot before I find out from you just who this Child is, since He has such power at His disposal!'

Here Joseph turned to Cyrenius and briefly told him the story of the Child's conception and birth. And Cyrenius, upon hearing Joseph tell this in a firm tone of voice, fell down before the Child and worshiped Him.

And behold, at that instant the destroyed goblet stood on the floor in front of Cyrenius, but quite smooth and of the same weight. - Hereupon Cyrenius arose and just could not help himself for joy and happiness."

In The Lowliness of The World

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "In this happy frame of mind Cyrenius said to Joseph, 'Hear me again, oh great man! If I were now emperor in Rome, I would abdicate the throne and the emperor's crown to you. And if the emperor Augustus knew about this Child as I do not, he would do the same! For while he takes great stock in the fact that he is the mightiest emperor on the earth, so do I also know how highly he places all things divine far above himself.

If you wish, I will write the emperor and guarantee you in advance that he will bring you to Rome amid the greatest honor and will build to the Child, as an unequivocal Son of the most high God, the greatest and most glorious temple and

will exalt Him therein to the skies and will himself lie in the dust before the Lord whom the elements and all the gods must obey!

And that such is the case with the Child I have now convinced myself for the second time, since not even Jupiter is able to protect himself from Him and no metal can withstand His power!

As I said, if you wish, I will send messengers to Rome still today. Truly, that would cause an incomparable sensation in the great imperial city and would surely humble the proud hierarchy of priests to some extent, who are anyhow at a loss as to how they might further deceive and betray mankind most effectively.'

Hereupon Joseph answered Cyrenius: 'Dear, good friend! Do you really suppose that Rome's veneration means anything to Him whom the sun, the moon and the stars and all the elements of the earth must obey? Had He so willed that all the world should honor Him like an idol, He would have come down to the earth in all of His infinite eternal divine majesty before the eyes of all the world! But thereby all the world would also have been condemned to its judgment. Instead, He has chosen the lowliness of the world so He might bless the world, as it is written in the book of the prophets; so, leave well enough alone as concerns the message to Rome!

'Now if you want to see Rome destroyed then do as you please for this One has come for the fall of the world of the high and mighty and for the redemption of the lowly - a consolation to the sorrowful and for the resurrection of those who are held in death.

This I firmly believe in my heart. But I have revealed this my faith only to you, otherwise no one shall hear it spoken of by me.

So, keep these words as a sacred trust in your heart until that time when a new sun of life will rise for you, and you will be well off.'

These words went like arrows into the heart of Cyrenius and completely changed his attitude to the extent that he would immediately have given up all his authority and assumed a lowly station in life.

But Joseph said to him, 'Friend, friend, remain what you are - for power in the hands of men of your kind is a blessing of God for the people! You see, you are what you are neither from yourself nor from Rome, but only from God! Therefore, remain what you are.' - Here Cyrenius praised the unknown God, then sat down at the table in a happy frame of mind and ate and drank with Joseph and Mary."

Mary's Wisdom Astonishes Cyrenius

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "After that Cyrenius arose and said to Mary, 'Oh happiest of all women and all mothers on the earth! Tell me, how does your heart feel, since you surely have the fullest conviction within yourself that heaven and earth here rests upon your arms!'

And Mary replied: 'Friend, how can you ask me what your own heart tells you?

See, we walk the same earth which God created by His will, we constantly tread on His wonders with our feet - and still there are millions upon millions of people who would rather bend their knees before the works of their hands than before the eternally true and living God!

Now if the great works of God are unable to awaken the children of men, how then shall a Child in diapers bring that to pass?

'For that reason, it will be given to only a few to recognize the Lord in the Child! Only to those who like you are of good will!

And those who are of good will do not need to come to me, so I might tell them how I feel in my heart.

The Child will reveal Himself in their hearts and will bless them and will let them feel like the mother feels who carries the Child on her arms! I am very happy, yes, immeasurably happy that I carry this Child on my arms - but in the future, all those who carry Him only in their hearts will be greater and happier still!

Do you also carry Him imperishably in your heart, and you will receive that of which my husband Joseph has assured you!

When Cyrenius heard these words from the lovely Mary, he was greatly astonished at her wisdom. He therefore said to Joseph, 'Listen, you most fortunate of men on the earth! Who would ever have looked for such truly deep wisdom in your young wife? Truly, if there really were a Minerva, she would have to hide herself in the depths of the earth from this most captivating mother!'

And Joseph replied, 'See, every human being can be wise in its way from God, but without Him there is no wisdom on the earth.

This also explains the wisdom of my wife.

And since the Lord in times past has already spoken to men by the mouth of animals, why should He not do so through men?

But let us leave that be for now, for I believe it is time to plan for the departure tomorrow!'

Here Cyrenius said, 'Joseph, do not worry about that, for everything has been attended to, and tomorrow I will accompany you to Ostracine myself!'

The Voyage to Egypt

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Thereupon Joseph said to Cyrenius: 'Noble friend, your intention is worthy and good, but you will hardly be able to carry it out.

See, this very night letters will arrive for you from Herod in which you will be requested to seize all male children along the seacoast in their first and second years and to send them to Bethlehem so Herod may kill them there!

Now you are of course able to oppose Herod, but your poor brother will unfortunately have to go along with this evil business so he will not expose himself to the bite of this most venomous of all serpents.

Believe me, while I am now with you, murder stalks in Bethlehem and a hundred mothers are rending their garments in despair because of the cruel loss of their children. 'And all that is taking place because of one Child, of which the three wise men from Persia declared in the spiritual sense that He would be a king of the Jews.

But Herod understood a worldly king thereby, and that is why he wants to kill Him, since he wants to bring the scepter of Judea on his posterity and fears that this One might wrest it from him - when actually this Child only came into the world to redeem mankind from eternal death!'

When Cyrenius heard this, he sprang up in fury against Herod and announced to Joseph, 'Listen to me, oh man of God! This monster shall not make use of me as his tool! This day I shall depart with you, and you will find a good night's lodging in my own thirty oared ship! In the meantime, I shall instruct my most trusted and by all the gods sworn officials what they are to do with all messengers who arrive here with dispatches for me.

See, according to our secret laws they must be detained until I return. The letters will be taken from them and must be sent after me unbeknownst to the messengers of Herod, so I may know what is in them.

Now I already know what the contents of these letters are certain to be, and I also know how long I shall be gone. Should other messengers follow, the detention tower will hold them also until I return. So then have your family get ready for the journey, and we will promptly board my seaworthy ship!'

Joseph was satisfied therewith, and in one hour all were comfortably lodged on board ship, wherein Joseph's pack animals were also well accommodated. A north wind blew, and the voyage progressed smoothly.

The voyage lasted seven days, and all of the ship's company made assurances that never before had they rowed through these waters without the least hindrance - which they felt was all the more remarkable this time since - as they said according to their belief - Neptune was dealing with his element in a remarkable way, for he was putting his creations in the depths of the sea in order and was holding a council with his attendants.

Here Cyrenius said to the wondering ship's crew, 'Listen, there are two kinds of ignorance - one is of one's own free will, the other is imposed. If yours were freely held, then it would be possible to help you; but you are held in the one that is imposed and sanctioned by law, and there one cannot help you; so you may as well hold to the idea that Neptune has lost his triad and does not trust himself to chastise us now with his scaly hand for the sacrilege of sailing across his domain.'

Hereupon Joseph asked Cyrenius, is it not customary to reward the ship's company? Tell me, and I will do what is fitting so they shall not speak ill of us.'

At this Cyrenius said, 'Do not worry about that. See, they are under my command and have their pay for their service - so you need not be concerned there.'

Joseph answered, 'That is of course true - but they are also human beings like we are, so we should deal with them as such. Insofar as their ignorance is sanctioned by law, let them dedicate their outer self to it, but my gift shall make their spirit free! So let them come over here that I may bless them, and they may begin to realize in their hearts that the sun of grace and salvation has risen for them also!'



Here Cyrenius called the ship's company together and Joseph spoke the following words over them: 'Hear me, oh faithful servants of Rome and this your master! You have guided the ship faithfully and diligently, and you shall have a good reward from me, who benefited from this voyage. Now I am poor and have neither gold nor silver - but I have the grace of God in rich measure, which is the grace of that God whom you call: the Unknown! May the great God pour this grace into your breast, so your spirit may be awakened!'

At these words all of them experienced a feeling of infinite joy and began to honor and praise the unknown God.

And Cyrenius marveled at this effect of Joseph's blessing and then had himself blessed by him also."

The Arrival in Ostracine – Egypt

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Cyrenius also experienced such a feeling of great joy that he affirmed, 'Man in my greatest esteem - I now feel just as I did when I held the Baby in my arms! Are you then of the same nature with Him? Or how is it that I now feel the same blessing?'

And Joseph replied, 'Noble friend, such power does not come from me, but only from the Lord of heaven and earth! It only streams through me on such an occasion, that it might thereupon flow over to you with its blessing - but I myself will never have such power, for God alone is all in all. Therefore, honor this one and only true God constantly in your heart, and the fullness of this His blessing will never depart from you!'

Joseph continued, 'And now, friend, look, we have reached this shore with the almighty help of the Lord, but it seems to me that we are still a long way from Ostracine. In which direction does it lie, so we might go there? See, the day is waning. What are we going to do? Will we go on or remain here until tomorrow?'

And Cyrenius replied, 'See, we are at the entrance to the Great Bay, in whose innermost angle on our right lies Ostracine as a rich city of commerce. If we go ashore here, we can easily reach it in three hours - but if we arrive there at night, we will have difficulty in finding a lodging. So, I suggest that we spend the night here on board and go there tomorrow.'

But Joseph said, 'Oh friend, if it is only three hours away then there is no reason for spending the night here. It is well for your ship to remain here, so you will attract no attention in this city - but I shall secretly go to my destination. For if the Roman garrison there were to discover the ship of a governor from Rome, they would have to receive you with great honors, and then I as your friend would have to share your honors with you whether I wanted to or not, which would certainly be most inopportune for me. I am therefore quite anxious to continue the journey right away. See, my pack animals are now well rested and can very easily take us to Ostracine in a short time. My sons are strong and nimble afoot; they can walk, and you with your needed servants can use these five pack animals and we can easily travel the road to the not-far city.'

Cyrenius accepted Joseph's advice and turned the ship over to the faithful care of the ship's company, then took along four servants, whereupon 'they mounted Joseph's pack animals and promptly traveled with Joseph to the city,

which was reached in two hours. As they entered the city, the guard at the gate requested letters of safe-conduct.

Cyrenius then revealed his identity to the captain of the guard who immediately had the soldiers salute him and then made arrangements for lodging.

Thus, the party of travelers was received in this city without the least delay and was lodged in the best possible quarters."

Cyrenius Buys a Villa

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "On the morning of the following day Cyrenius promptly sent a messenger to the commander of the military garrison and invited him to come to him as soon as he reasonably could, but without any ceremony. And the commander came to Cyrenius and said, 'Exalted vice-regent of the great emperor in Coello-Syria and supreme commander of Tyre and Sidon, I await your wishes!'

Cyrenius replied, 'Most esteemed commander! In the first place I desire that no marks of honor be accorded me this time, for I am here incognito.

Secondly, I would like to find out from you whether it is possible to buy or at least rent an unpretentious home here, either in the city itself or some villa not too far from the city. For I would like to buy something like that for a very highly esteemed and most honorable Jewish family. This family has been forced to flee Palestine for reasons well known to us, pursued by that rare Herod, and now seeks protection under our Roman tolerance and constantly firm justice. I have closely investigated the background of this family and found it to be just and without blemish - but that as such it cannot hold out under Herod is just as understandable as it is understandable that this abominable creature of a tetrarch of Palestine and a part of Judea is Rome's greatest enemy. I believe you understand just what I mean by that. I therefore would like to buy a small piece of land useful here for his said family. If you know of anything like that, do me the favor and let me know. You see, I cannot remain here very long this time, for important matters await me in Tyre, so everything must be arranged still today.'

Here the commander said to Cyrenius, 'Most illustrious ruler! Then the matter is soon taken care of - for I have built a nice little villa for myself about half a mile outside of the city and there are developed orchards and three fine acres of corn. But I just have too little time to properly take care of it. It is wholly my own, so if you want it, I will sell it with everything that goes with it for a hundred pounds, and it can be owned without payment of taxes.'

When Cyrenius heard this, he gave his hand to the commander, then had his servant bring his purse and immediately paid the commander in ready money for the villa sight unseen and then, unseen by Joseph, had the commander take him there so he might inspect his purchase.

When he had looked over the very pleasing villa, he told his servants to remain in the villa until he returned with the family.

Thereupon he went to the city with the commander, had him draw up the parchment scroll signifying property ownership, took his leave from the commander, and then joyfully went to see Joseph.

The latter at once said to him, 'Dear, good friend, I must thank my God for His blessings upon you which have enabled you to bestow so much friendship on

me! I am now saved and had a wonderful lodging here last night. But I must remain in this land - what will the future bring? Where will I live, how will I make my living? See, I must look to that right away.'

Cyrenius answered, 'Quite so, my greatly esteemed man and friend! Therefore, have your family pack up your belongings and come with me bag and baggage, and we will look for something a few hundred steps outside of the city, since I have learned that nothing is available in the city.' - This was quite agreeable to Joseph, and he did as Cyrenius wished."

The Family's New Home

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius reached the purchased villa with Joseph and his family, Joseph said to Cyrenius, 'Noble friend! There I would be happy - an unpretentious villa, a comely orchard full of dates, figs, pomegranates, oranges, apples, pears and cherries, grapes, almonds, melons and a mass of vegetables. And next to it a pasture and three acres of corn - all that surely belongs to this!

Truly, I want nothing pretentious or ornate, but this practically laid-out villa, which has great similarity with my leased farm stead at Nazareth in Judea, I would like to either rent or buy.'

Here Cyrenius drew out the ownership scroll and handed it to Joseph with the words, 'May the Lord, your and now also my God, bless it for you! I herewith hand over to you the tax-free, complete ownership of this villa. Everything that you see enclosed by a thick hedge and held in with a palisade fence belongs to this villa! In back of the dwelling there is also a roomy stable for donkeys and cows, where you will find two cows and space for your pack animals, of which you already have enough for your needs.

But if in time you wish to return to the land of your fathers, you can then sell this property, and with the money buy yourself some property there. In short - you, my great friend, are now in full ownership of this villa and can do with it what you will.

I am going to remain here for today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow so Herod's messengers of ill tidings shall impatiently await me all the longer.

For this short time only, I will also make use of this villa because of my great love for you. I would of course only need to give the order, and the imperial palace would have to be made ready for me at once - in the first place because I hold the emperor's full power of authority, and because I am a close relative of the emperor. But all this I set aside because of my great respect and love for you, and quite especially for the Child whom I unquestionably consider to be at least the Son of the Most High God!'

Joseph was so deeply moved at this noble surprise that in his heartfelt joy he could only weep but not smile. And Mary also fared no better, but she quickly regained her self-control, went over to Cyrenius and expressed her gratitude by laying the Baby in Cyrenius' arms.

And Cyrenius, deeply touched, asserted, 'O my great Lord and God! Is a sinner really worthy of holding You on his hands? So then be gracious and merciful to me!'"

A Comparison with Israel in Egypt

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Joseph recovered from his great surprise, he inspected everything with Cyrenius.

Mary, who again took the Baby from the arms of Cyrenius, also looked at everything and was full of joy at the great kindness of the Lord, since He had also provided so well for her in an earthly way.

When they had seen everything and entered the well-kept dwelling, Mary blissfully said to Joseph, Oh my dear, beloved Joseph! See, I am overjoyed that the Lord has provided for us so well!

Yes, on the whole it seems to me as if the Lord had turned the whole old order around. Just look, once He led the children of Israel from Egypt into the Promised Land of Palestine, in that day called Canaan, but now He has again made Egypt into the promised land and fled with us or rather led us here Himself from where He once redeemingly led our fathers through the desert into the Promised Land, which overflowed with milk and honey.'

Joseph replied, 'Mary, there is much to be said for your glad comment, but I believe that your statement applies only to our present situation. On the whole it seems to me as if the Lord had now done with us what he once did with the sons of Jacob when the great famine had just broken out in the land of Canaan. The people of Israel then stayed in Egypt until Moses came, but Moses led them home again through the desert. And I believe It will also be the same with us - we too will not be buried here and will surely have to return to Canaan when the time is right. To guide our fathers homeward, a Moses did indeed have to be first raised up, but now we already have the Moses of Moses in our midst! Therefore, I believe it will come to pass as I have spoken!

Mary kept all these words in her heart and agreed with Joseph. And Cyrenius also listened to this conversation very closely and then asked Joseph to tell him about the early history of the Jews."

The First Letter of Cyrenius to Herod

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "On the fourth day Cyrenius took his leave after especially enjoining the garrison commander to unfailingly make his protection available to this family at every opportunity. And when he was leaving, Joseph with his entire family wanted to accompany him to where his ship was anchored.

This Cyrenius declined in a very friendly manner and said, 'My very dear, venerable friend, save yourself the trouble and stay here. For one cannot know how many later messengers may already have caught up with my ship - and with what manner of reports. And while your safety is now assured, it is also necessary for me to use such prudence here that no spying probers shall find out for what reason I now visited Egypt in January.'

Joseph well understood Cyrenius, remained at home and blessed his benefactor in the entrance hall of the house.

Thereupon Cyrenius, after promising to visit Joseph again soon, departed on foot with his four servants and in a short time reached his ship.

Arrived there, he was immediately received with great rejoicing - but after this several news-bearers came to him with great lamentations. For many parents fled the coast of Palestine from the persecution of Herod, the child-murderer, and in great agitation told Cyrenius of the abominations Herod was committing around Bethlehem and in the whole southern part of Palestine with the help of the Roman soldiers.

At this Cyrenius immediately wrote a letter to the prefect of Jerusalem, and another of the same import to Herod himself. And the letter read briefly as follows:

I Cyrenius, a brother of the emperor and supreme governor of Asia and Egypt, command you in the name of the emperor to desist from your cruelty on the spot, failing which I shall look upon Herod as a naked rebel and shall discipline him according to the law, according to decency and according to my just anger. His abominations are to be closely investigated by the prefect of Jerusalem who is to unfailingly inform me thereof, so the ruthless tyrant shall not escape a just punishment for his deed.

Written on my ship "Augustus" off the coast of Ostracine, in the name of the emperor, by his supreme representative in Asia and Egypt and particularly governor of Coelesyria, Tyre and Sidon. Cyrenius vice Auguste.'

The Second Letter of Cyrenius to Herod

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The prefect of Jerusalem and Herod were greatly terrified at the letter from Cyrenius, ceased their abominations and sent messengers to Tyre, who were to acquaint Cyrenius with the important reason why they were acting thus.

They described in lurid colors the legation of the anyhow slippery Persians and even claimed that they had discovered important secret leads which showed that none other than Cornelius, the brother of Cyrenius, had a part in this secret, typically Asian intrigue. For it had been ascertained that Cornelius had taken this new king of the Jews under his protection, and that Herod now had in mind to send messengers to Rome because of this if Cyrenius were not to grant him security.

Therefore, Cyrenius was to subject Cornelius to the strictest examination - failing which the report would unfailingly be dispatched to the emperor. This reprisal, which Cyrenius received when he had already returned to Tyre, at first made him hesitate. But he quickly got hold of himself, led by the Spirit of God, and wrote the following lines to Herod:

'How does the secret law of Augustus read in regard to the discovery of a possible intrigue? It reads thus: If anyone discovers any manner of secret intrigue, he is to conduct himself very calmly and shall immediately and in all detail report everything to the highest state authority. Neither a separate governor, nor still less a prefect, shall lay hold of the sword without an explicit order from the highest state authority which first must well investigate the whole matter. For nowhere can an untimely attack effect greater damage against the state than in just this point, since the conspiracy in that case retreats and hides its intrigue with still more artful cunning and effectively comes into the open with it under more favorable circumstances when it can be certain of attaining its end.

'This is the wisest emperor's law from his own mouth in this ever so important consideration. Did you act in accordance with it? - My brother Cornelius acted in accordance with it! He quickly took possession of the supposed new king of the Jews, then delivered him into my hands, and I have long given orders for his most just disposal according to the power vested in me over Asia and Egypt.

My brother made representations to you regarding all that - but he spoke to deaf ears. As actual rebels you have undertaken the murder of the children against all representations of my brother and on top of that have impudently called upon me to support you! Is that what you call administering the imperial law?

'I now tell you: the emperor has already been informed of the whole matter and has empowered me to depose the prefect of Jerusalem, although he is related to me, and to impose on Herod a fine of ten thousand pounds in gold.

The deposed prefect is to appear before me within five days, and Herod is to settle his fine here in at most thirty days in full, failing which his right of tenure will be declared forfeit. Fiat! Cyrenius, vice Auguste.'"

The Great Confrontation

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "This letter of Cyrenius finally aroused the utmost alarm in the prefect of Jerusalem as well as in Herod.

Herod and the prefect, named Maronius Pilla, therefore hastily made their way to Cyrenius - Herod, to bargain down some of his penance, and the prefect, to again be admitted to his office.

When they arrived in Tyre with many attendants, the populace became terrified - for it was of the opinion that Herod would also carry out his terror here with the agreement of Cyrenius. Therefore, they ran breathlessly toward him, prostrated themselves and begged and screamed for mercy and pity!

Cyrenius, who did not know what caused this consternation among the people, was at first shocked, but then collected himself and sympathetically asked the people what had taken place that caused them to cry out before him in such great fear.

And the people cried: 'He is here, he is here, the monster of monsters who had many thousands of most innocent children murdered in all of Palestine!'

At this Cyrenius understood the reason for the people's fear and reassured them, whereupon the people lost their fear and went their way while he prepared himself to receive the pair.

The people had barely dispersed when both already asked to be admitted. Herod was the first to step before Cyrenius, bowed deeply before the imperial eminence, and asked for permission to speak.

And Cyrenius, in great excitement, loudly demanded: 'Speak, you for whom hell is too good to give you a name! Speak, most evil outcast from the lowest hell! What do you want from me?'

And Herod, fully paling before the stentorian voice of Cyrenius, quakingly spoke: 'Lord of the glory of Rome! Too unattainably high is the penance dictated by you - abate me therefore the half of it! For let Zeus be my witness that I undertook what I did in just fervor for Rome! I have, I admit, acted cruelly; but it could not have

been done otherwise, for the glittering Persian delegation obviously gave me cause to act that way, since it deceived me contrary to its promise!'

But Cyrenius thundered: 'Get thee behind me, wicked liar to your own advantage! I know the whole story! Acknowledge the dictated penance at once, or I will have your head struck from your body on this very spot!'

At this Herod acknowledged the penance, and that under the threat of losing the right to his letter of tenure, which was demanded of him and was only restored after the penance was met.

Cyrenius then ordered him to depart and received Maronius Pilla. But the latter, since he had heard the voice of Cyrenius from the antechamber, came before him more dead than alive.

But Cyrenius said to him, 'Pilla, get hold of yourself; for you were forced to act as you did. You must give me important clarifications - that is why I sent for you. No penance awaits you except that of your heart before God!'"

The Prefect of Jerusalem's Complicity

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "After being thus addressed by Cyrenius, Maronius Pilla felt as if a stone had been lifted from his chest, his pulse began to beat more freely, and he was soon able to answer Cyrenius.

When Cyrenius saw that Maronius Pilla had recovered, he asked him as follows: 'I tell you, give me the most conscientious answer to what I am going to ask you! Tell me, do you know whose first-born Child is supposed to be the so-called new King of the Jews?'

Maronius Pilla answered, 'Yes, I know them personally according to the declaration of the Jewish priests! The father is named Joseph and is a carpenter of the best reputation in all of Judea and half of Palestine and resides close to Nazareth. His honesty is known in the whole country as well as in all of Jerusalem. About eleven months ago he had to take a matured girl out of the Jewish temple into his care, by some manner of casting lots, I believe.

In the absence of this upright carpenter this girl probably paid homage to Venus a bit too early, became pregnant, for which reason according to my knowledge this man then had to withstand serious difficulties with the Jewish priesthood.

To that extent the matter is well known to me, but as concerns the giving birth by this girl - whom this man, to avoid the disgrace which he had to fear from his compatriots, is supposed to have taken to wife before she gave birth - extremely mystical tales have spread among the people, and one just does not know what one should believe.

On the occasion of the census-taking she delivered in Bethlehem, and that in a stable -this much I have ascertained. Anything more than that is wholly unknown to me, and such I also told Herod. But he was of the opinion that Cornelius wanted to hide the family of which the Persians made him suspicious somewhere among the people, so he might contest his right to the tenure of the throne, since Herod well knows that your brother is not his friend. That is also why he took his refuge in this abnormal cruelty, so he primarily might thwart the plan of Cornelius rather than to actually seize this new King. He therefore committed this infanticidal vengeance

more to revenge himself on your brother than from fear of this new King. That is all I can tell you of this strange occurrence.'

And Cyrenius stated: 'Up to now I have realized from your words that you did indeed speak the truth, but I in no way failed to see that you in effect wanted to whitewash Herod before me. Now I tell you: Herod's act, as I have written, is in no way excusable. For I will tell you why Herod perpetrated this most inhuman cruelty.

Listen! Herod is himself the most tyrannical human being whom the earth ever nurtured. If he could do it and to some extent had the power, he would even today do that with us Romans, Augustus did not except what he did with the most innocent children! Do you understand me?

He undertook this infanticide only because he was of the opinion that by doing us Romans a great, estimable service and by thus showing himself to be a genuine Roman patriot, the emperor would also bestow my office upon him in addition to his tetrarchy, with which, as representative of the emperor just as I am, he could then make unrestricted use of one-third of the entire Roman might and thus also make himself wholly free and independent of Rome, so that he might hold sway as the only sovereign over Asia and Egypt.

Do you follow me? - See, that is the to me well-known plan of this old monster; and as I know him, so also does Augustus now know him. And now I ask you with your head as forfeit of the truth, which you are to tell me as to whether you knew about this plan of Herod when he made you his most despicable instrument. Speak, but remember that every untrue, evasive syllable will cost you your life! For I know every point in this matter in minute detail.'

Here Maronius Pilla again turned into a corpse and stuttered, 'Yes, you are right, I also knew what Herod had in mind. But I feared his arching spirit of intrigue and therefore had to do his bidding, that by doing so the basis for a still greater intrigue might be destroyed for him. But I did not know Herod as completely through and through as I now know him through you; for if I had, he would not be alive today!'

'Good,' responded Cyrenius, 'I am sparing your life in the name of the emperor - but I shall not restore you to your office until your soul recovers from a great illness! You will be cared for here at my side, and your duties will be looked after for the time being by my brother Cornelius, for I just do not trust you. So, you will remain here until you get well.'"

A Promise for Maronius Pilla

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking "When Maronius Pilla received this verdict from Cyrenius, he declared in a quaking voice, 'Woe is me, all is betrayed! I am a republican, and such has been openly set forth to the emperor. Woe, I am lost!'

And Cyrenius asserted, 'I well knew what purposes you both served and what motive allied you with Herod in the murder of the children. That is also why I acted as I did. Truly, if you, like me, were not descended from the first house in Rome, I would without any mercy have had your head struck off, if I did not even have you fastened to a cross! But I pardoned you, in the first place because you were more misled by Herod to take this step, and because you are one of the first patricians of Rome along with me and Augustus Caesar. But you will not be perfect as long as

Herod lives and until you are completely healed. And you will fulfill the condition of your being here in that you will take upon you without any argument the work which I shall portion to you, and that you shall lead your life under my strict observation.

'In the spring I am going to make an official trip to Egypt - to where you will accompany me. There, a wise old man lives outside the city. I will let him examine you - and he will tell you all about your illness. There the first moment will show to what extent all your statements are to be trusted. So, prepare yourself well, for there you will encounter more than the oracle at Delphi. There you will be confronted by a judge whose keenness of eye makes bronze melt like wax. - So be prepared, for this declaration will stand!'

The Baby Speaks His First Words

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "That certain spring soon arrived, for in this region spring begins in the middle of February. But Cyrenius decided to leave for Egypt only by the middle of March, which month was usually chosen by the Romans for dealing with military matters.

When the middle of March arrived, Cyrenius quickly had his ship made ready and embarked on the journey to Egypt with Maronius Pilla promptly on the fifteenth of the month. This time the voyage was made in five days.

On this occasion Cyrenius allowed himself to be received with all honors in Ostracine, since he had to undertake extended military inspections and visits this time, which required that he be received with full ceremony. Consequently, his arrival caused an unusually great sensation in Ostracine, word of which soon reached the villa.

Joseph therefore sent his two oldest sons into the city to carefully inquire what it was that brought the whole city into such activity. The two sons hurried away and soon returned with the good news that Cyrenius had arrived in the city, and where he resided.

When Joseph heard this, he said to Mary, 'Listen, we must promptly visit this great benefactor, and the Baby must be taken along also!' And Mary, full of joy at this news, declared, 'Oh dear Joseph, that is taken for granted, for the Baby is after all the special darling of Cyrenius!'

Hereupon Mary promptly dressed the by now considerably grown Child in completely new clothes which she had made herself and thus in her motherly love and innocence asked the Baby, 'Well, my darling little Son, my beloved Jesus, are You also coming along to visit the dear Cyrenius?'

And the Baby smiled at Mary ever so cheerfully and clearly spoke the first word, and the word was: 'Mary, now I follow you, until one day you will follow Me!'

These words brought about such an exalted frame of mind in Joseph's house that Joseph almost forgot he planned to visit Cyrenius. But the Baby Himself admonished Joseph not to postpone his intended visit, saying that Cyrenius this time had much to do for the people's welfare."

The Roman Military Inspection

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Thereupon Joseph and Mary immediately set out on the short trip, and Joseph's oldest son accompanied them, showing them the way to the fortress where Cyrenius was staying.

When they arrived at the great square, behold, it was completely filled with soldiers, so that it was very difficult to reach the entrance of the fortress. At this Joseph advised Mary, 'Beloved wife, see, what is impossible for us human beings, will remain impossible for us.

Consequently, it is now utterly impossible to reach the fortress through all these rows of soldiers, so we should turn right back again and await a more favorable time.

The Baby also looks at these rough rows of warriors quite timidly. He could easily become frightened and become sick after that, and we would then be to blame, so let us go back!'

And Mary said, 'Beloved Joseph! See, if my eyes do not deceive me, then that man who is walking in front of this last row with a shining helmet on his head is none other than Cyrenius! So let us wait a little until he gets over here. Perhaps he will notice us and then he will surely give us a hint as to what we are to do - whether we should come to him or not.

Joseph replied, 'Yes, beloved wife, you are right, it obviously is Cyrenius himself. But just look quite sharply at the other warrior who walks beside him. If that is not the notorious prefect of Jerusalem, my name is not Joseph. What is he doing here? Could his presence concern us? Could Cyrenius thus most shamefully have delivered us over to Herod?

The best part of the matter is that he surely does not know you and me personally, so we can still save ourselves by a new flight deeper into Egypt. But if he knew me or you, we would already be lost, for he is now hardly more than twenty steps away from us and could have us seized immediately. So let us withdraw in all haste - for if we are seen by Cyrenius, who surely still knows us well, we are lost!'

At this Mary took fright and wanted to flee back at once. But the pressure of the crowd permitted no flight here, for curiosity drew so many people to the square that it was as good as impossible to push one's way through.

Joseph therefore said, 'What is impossible is just impossible. Let us therefore resign ourselves to God's will! The Lord will surely not leave us this time either! But as a precaution let us put our heads right closely together, so that at least Cyrenius does not recognize us by our faces.'

On this occasion Cyrenius came quite close to Joseph and pushed him a bit out of the way. But Joseph could not give way because of the pressing throng; hence Cyrenius looked at his unbudging man more closely and promptly recognized Joseph. And when he caught sight of Joseph and Mary and the smiling Child that was looking at him, his eyes became filled with tears of joy - yes, he was so overjoyed that he could hardly speak.

But he regained his composure as quickly as possible, grasped Joseph's hand in haste, pressed it to his heart and said, 'My venerated friend! You see my preoccupation!

Oh, forgive me that I have not been able to visit you sooner, but the review is just completed. I shall immediately let the troops withdraw to their quarters, give the garrison commander my short orders for tomorrow, then promptly change uniform and join you here to lead you to your home.'

Still full of joy he then turned to Mary and to the Child and asked, while at the same time caressing the Baby, 'O my Life, my all, do You still know me? Do You love me, my loveliest little Child?'

And the little Child spread His little hands widely toward Cyrenius, smiled at him tenderly and then said clearly: 'Oh Cyrenius! I well know you and love you, because you love Me so much! Come, come to Me - for I must be sure to bless you!'

This was too much for Cyrenius' heart, and he took the Baby in his arms, pressed Him to his bosom and declared, 'Yes, my Life, with You on my arms I will give the command for a long peace among the nations!'

He now called the commander over, let him know that he was wholly satisfied and told him to let the troops withdraw and to provide for them for three days at his expense as governor, and then invited the commander as well as several centurions to a good meal at Joseph's villa.

And he himself, while carrying the Baby and accompanied by the ever more wondering Maronius Pilla, immediately went as he was out to the villa with Joseph and Mary and there promptly had his servants prepare a festive meal. Now this caused a great sensation in the city, for all the people were inflamed with love for Cyrenius since they found him to be such a great friend of children."

Cyrenius Learns Wisdom from The Baby

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When the meal was ready, the invited guests came into the dining room. Cyrenius, who was still coaxing the Baby which played with him and also caressed him, then gave the Baby back to Mary and gave the sign for the meal to begin.

All now sat down at the freshly set table - but Mary, since she had no fine clothes, went into a side room and sat down at the table with Joseph's sons.

Cyrenius soon noticed this, hastened after the dear mother and said, 'Oh, most charming mother of This my Life, what are you trying to do? You and your Child are of the foremost concern to me - you are the queen of our gathering, and now you are the very one who does not wish to take part in my feast of celebration which I had arranged here especially for you! Oh no, that is altogether out of the question! So, hurry and come into the dining room and sit on my right - and on my left sits your husband!

But Mary responded, 'Oh see, dear sir, my clothes are very shabby - how will they look at your glittering side?'

And Cyrenius replied, 'Oh dear mother, if my golden clothes, which mean absolutely nothing to me, should bother you, I would immediately throw them aside and don a common sailor's frock just so I would not miss you at my table!'

Since Mary was convinced of the great humility of Cyrenius, she returned and sat down at the table beside Cyrenius with the Child on her arms.

As they all sat at the table, the Baby constantly looked at Cyrenius and smiled, while Cyrenius also could not take his eyes off the Child for all his love of Him.

For a short time Cyrenius held out, but then his love for the Child became too great and he asked the dear little One, 'Am I not right, my Life - You would like to come to me again in my arms?'

And the Baby smiled sweetly at Cyrenius and again said quite distinctly: 'Oh, My beloved Cyrenius, I come to you very gladly - because you love Me so much, I also love you so much!'

At this Cyrenius quickly stretched out his arms to the Child, took Him to himself and caressed Him fervently.

Her Mary banteringly admonished the Baby, 'Now be sure that You do not get any dirt on the Lord Cyrenius!'

And Cyrenius said in deep emotion, 'Oh dear mother! I do indeed wish that I were clean enough to worthily carry this Child on my arms! This Child can only make me clean, but never dirty me!' Thereupon he again turned to the Child and asked, 'My dear little Child, is it not true, I am still very unclean and very unworthy to carry You?'

Here the Baby again said distinctly: 'Cyrenius, whoever loves Me as you do, he is clean -and I love him as he loves Me!'

Cyrenius, quite enchanted, continued to ask the Baby, saying, 'But how is it, my dear little Child, that You, while hardly a few months old, already speak so sensibly and clearly? Did Your dear mother teach You that?'

And the Baby, smiling very gently, sat up on the arms of Cyrenius and stated like a little lord: 'Cyrenius, that does not depend on one's age or learning, but on the greatness of one's spirit. Only the body and the soul must learn - but the spirit already has everything in it from God. Now My Spirit is full of power from God - that is why I am able to speak so soon!'

This answer caused the utmost astonishment in Cyrenius as well as among the entire company, and the garrison commander asserted, 'By Zeus, this Child even now puts all of the world's wise men to shame with this answer! What by comparison are Plato, Socrates and a hundred other wise men? And what great things will this Child accomplish when He grows to manhood? - And Cyrenius responded, 'Certainly more than our wise men along with all our gods!'"



A Prophecy of Joseph Is Fulfilled

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Joseph now asked Maronius, 'Since I have discerned by the great grace of my Lord and God that no ill will remain in you, I would like to hear what you think of Herod, since you must have noticed how his heart is disposed toward the children that he murdered because of the new King of the Jews.

Was it not softened by the most innocent blood of the children, by the anguished wailing of the mothers? What would he do if he found out by a new report that among the many murdered children, he nevertheless did not murder the right One? What if he should find out that the right Child were still alive quite safe and sound somewhere in Judea or Palestine?'

At this Maronius looked at Joseph in a greatly puzzled manner and replied after a while, 'Truly wise man, all I can tell you there is this - If you were to make the

worst possible use of your wisdom and would demand of Herod ten thousand pounds of gold in return for which you would for certain betray the right Child to him, truly, you would receive this enormous sum in advance! For gold is nothing to that blood-thirsty villain compared to his lust for power.

Since he has so much gold that he could build houses from pure gold, he hardly looks at it, and if he could secure the throne for himself, he would slay a world full of people for it and throw all his gold into the sea.

See, at first, he also wanted to bribe me heavily with gold, diamonds, rubies and the largest pearls, but my genuinely Roman patrician code of ethics strictly rebuked the old blood hound in this.

That inflamed his anger all the more, and he threatened to expose me to Rome on the basis of his seeming patriotism. Only then was I forced to do what he wanted, and no way out was possible for me, for he gave me a document by his own hand which stated that he took responsibility for the whole matter with Rome upon himself.

Therefore, I was forced to act as is surely known to you. That accordingly nothing good is to be expected from his heart to this hour you can be fully assured of! I believe that I hardly need to tell you who are such a very wise man any more about this veritable king of all furies, about this living Medusa-head!

And Joseph said, 'May the eternal One, true God bless you for these faithful words! Believe me, you will become convinced of it: this scourge of mankind will have a crown, for which he is so bloodthirsty, set upon his head while still in the flesh by the eternally just God that will cause all the world to wonder!'

Here the Baby raised up Its hand and again said very plainly: 'Herod, Herod, I have no curse for you - but you shall carry a crown in this world which will become a great torment to you and will pain you more than the gold which you had to pay to Rome!'

At the time the Baby spoke this in Egypt, Herod was covered with lice, and his household servants had their hands full throughout the remainder of Herod's life to cleanse him from lice, which constantly increased in numbers and finally caused his death."

The Long Arm of The Baby

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius heard this from Maronius Pilla and also the declaration of Joseph and that of the Baby, he was thoroughly shocked and exclaimed, 'Oh you eternal powers of a most high Ruler of the universe! Have you no more lightnings to hurl upon this monster of a vassal of Rome?

Oh Augustus Caesar, my good brother! Which of the furies did that day bedazzle your eyes when you invested this monster, this outcast from the lowest Tartarus, from the true Orcus, with Palestine and Judea? No, no that is too much to hear at one time! - Maronius, why did you not tell me anything about that when Herod stood trial before me in Tyre?

According to my jurisdiction I there would instantly have had his Medusa-head struck from his body, and a worthy vassal would long have been standing in the place of this monster from Greece! But what can I do now? He has fulfilled his penance. Now I cannot impose another on him, may not punish him further.

But just wait, you old bloodhound, you hyena of hyenas! A hunt shall be organized for you of which all the furies have never dreamt!'

Maronius, Joseph and Mary quaked before the fury of Cyrenius, for they did not know what all Cyrenius might undertake. No one dared to ask him a question, for too stirred up was his soul.

The Baby alone showed no fear of the powerful voice of Cyrenius but constantly looked at him calmly in the face. And when Cyrenius' storm had somewhat subsided, the Baby again said quite plainly to Cyrenius, 'Oh Cyrenius! Listen to Me! Come here to Me, take Me on your arms, and carry Me out into the open. There I will show you something!'

These words acted as balsam upon the sore heart of Cyrenius, and he promptly went over to the Baby with open arms and filled with love he tenderly took Him on his arms and in the company of Joseph and Mary and Maronius Pilla carried Him out into the open.

When He arrived in the open, the Baby promptly asked Cyrenius in plainly discernible words: 'Cyrenius, which of us two do you suppose has the longer arm? Measure Mine against yours!'

This question appeared strange to Cyrenius, and he did not know what he should answer the Child thereto, for he obviously saw his own to be three times as long as both of the Child's together.

And the Baby said again: 'Cyrenius, you consider your arm to be much longer than Mine. But I tell you that Mine is nevertheless much longer than yours! Do you see there at a considerable distance from us a high pillar, decorated with an idol? Reach over to it from here with your longer arm, tear it down, and then pulverize it with your fingers!'

Here Cyrenius, still more taken aback than before, declared after a short pause, 'My dear little Child, my Life - that is surely impossible to anyone but God!'

And the Baby stretched His arm toward the pillar, which was a good thousand paces away - and the pillar tumbled down and quickly turned to dust.

Thereupon the Baby said to Cyrenius: 'So do not concern yourself in vain about Herod, for My arm obviously reaches farther than yours! Herod has his reward - but you forgive him as I have forgiven him, and you will be better off! For he too is a blind son of the earth!'

These words took all the anger out of Cyrenius, and he secretly began to worship the Child in all earnestness."

Maronius Makes Some Wrong Conclusions

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Maronius Pilla was so greatly startled at this marvelous manifestation that his whole body trembled like the leaves of an aspen-tree during a great storm. Joseph soon saw the great distress of Maronius, therefore he went directly over to him and asked Maronius Pilla, 'why do you tremble so greatly? Has anyone done you harm?'

Maronius answered Joseph, 'Oh man, you who do not have the likes of you on earth, for you it is easy - for you are a god whom all the elements must obey! But I am only a weak mortal subject to death, whose life as well as the existence of

yonder pillar rests in your hand. With your thoughts you can destroy me as well as the whole world in an instant.

So why should I not tremble before you who are surely the mightiest ancestral father of all our gods, if they really should happen to exist somewhere? Yonder pillar was already dedicated to Jupiter Stator since time immemorial. All storms and lightning shuddered back before it in great awe.

And now even your minor Child destroys it. Now if your Child can do such, what power must be based in you? So, allow yourself to be worshiped by me as the most unworthy worm of the earth!"

Here Joseph said, 'Listen, friend and brother Maronius, you are greatly mistaken! I am no more than you, therefore only a mortal man. Now if you in your life can be silent before all the world, I will tell you something. But if you are not silent you will not fare much better than the yonder pillar did. So then listen to me if you wish and if you can trust yourself.'

But Maronius begged Joseph on his knees to tell him nothing whatever, for he might after all let something slip accidentally and then he would be lost.

And Joseph said, 'Have no fear whatever of that, for the Lord of heaven and earth never chastises anyone for a mere accident. So, you may listen to me quite without fear; what I shall tell you will not be your undoing but will save you eternally.'

At this Cyrenius, while worshipping the Child and still caressing Him upon his arms, went over to Joseph and said to him, 'My best and dearest friend! Leave Maronius to me, and I will prepare him today myself while he is with me, and you can then give him the higher initiation tomorrow.'

To this Joseph agreed and promptly returned to the house accompanied by the others."

Joseph Discourses on The Brother-Eye

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When evening came, Cyrenius said to Joseph, 'My friend, my godly brother, how very sorry I am that I cannot spend the night here with you. And how sorry I am that I must set tomorrow aside for the business of state until the afternoon.

But around the third hour of the afternoon, I shall return to you with Maronius, and you can then give him the higher initiation after my lesser initiation. It means a great deal to me to see this in other matters so well-informed man saved by means of your God's holy school of life, which I hold to be the only true and living one!'

Joseph responded: 'Yes, eminent friend, that is just and fair. For nothing pleases the Lord more than that we act with love toward our enemies and are concerned for their timely and eternal welfare! Let us look upon every sinner as an errant brother, and God will then look upon us as His errant children, but otherwise only as creatures of ill will who always come under His judgments and suffer death like the ephemerids.

Behold, that is why the Lord has given us human beings two eyes and only one mouth for speaking, so we should with the one eye look upon men only as men,

but with the other as brothers. If men then err before us, we should open our brother-eye and close the eye reserved for men.

But if our brothers err before us, we then should close our brother-eye and direct the eye reserved for men upon ourselves and thereafter look upon ourselves as errant men in regard to our errant brothers. With our one mouth we should all confess one Lord, one God, and one Father, and He will acknowledge us all as His children!

For God also has two eyes and one mouth. With the one eye He sees His creatures, and with the other His children. If we regard each other with the brother-eye, then the Father looks upon us with the Father-eye - but if we regard each other only with the eye reserved for men, then God looks upon us only with the eye of the Creator, while His also only one mouth declares His love to His children, but judgment to His creatures! Thus, it is only fitting and proper that we should concern ourselves for our brother Maronius.'

Here Joseph blessed Cyrenius and Maronius, who then went into the city with their aides while Joseph looked after his household."

James Repents His Vain Curiosity

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "In the evening, Mary laid the already tired Baby into the crib which Joseph had made after arriving in Ostracine. James, Joseph's youngest son, was the Baby tender as usual and rocked the Baby so He would go to sleep, while Mary prepared the evening meal in the kitchen.

Now James would have been pleased if the Baby had gone to sleep somewhat earlier this time, for he was very anxious to watch the lighting-up of a triumphal arch outside with his brothers, which had been erected near the villa only recently in honor of Cyrenius. James therefore rocked the Baby diligently and sang and whistled thereby. But the Baby just would not go to sleep - as soon as he ceased rocking, the Baby promptly began to stir again and let the cradler know that He was still awake.

This brought the Baby-tender almost to despair, since it had already become very bright outside from the many burning torches. He therefore decided to leave the Baby for a little while even though He was still awake, so he might gape a bit at the spectacle outside.

But when James thus partly arose, the Baby said: 'James, if you desert Me now, matters shall fare badly with you! Am I not worth more than the foolish spectacle outside and your vain curiosity? See, all the stars and all the angels envy you your service which you are now doing Me, and you are filled with impatience because of Me and want to leave Me?

Truly, if you do that, then you are not worthy to have Me as a brother! You are quite at liberty to go outside if the spectacle of the world is dearer to you than I. See, the whole room is full of angels who are ready to serve Me if your small and easy service to Me is burdensome to you.'

These words suddenly deprived James of all desire to go outside. he remained by the crib and asked the Baby with all his heart to forgive him and diligently continued to rock Him. And the Baby said to James: 'Everything is forgiven you, but another time never let the world tempt you! For I am more than all the

world, all the heavens and all human beings and angels!' These words nearly cost James his life, for he became subtly aware just who really dwelt in the Child.

Mary, Joseph and the other four sons now came into the room and sat down at the table, whereupon James promptly related what had taken place."

Joseph Counts God's Love as Man's Greatest Wealth

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When James had finished his story, Joseph said to him, 'Yes, so it is and has always been and will always be - one must love God more in the least of His works than all the splendors of the world!

For what after all can all the gaudy splendors of the world give a human soul? David himself had to flee before his own son, and Solomon finally had to bitterly taste the displeasure of the Lord because he strove too much after the splendors of the world.

Now God gives us new life with every second, so why should we not love Him more in the least of His works than all the world, which passes away and is filled with carrion and rubbish! And we are all convinced among ourselves that this our Baby is from above and is called God's Son. He is therefore no trifling part of God, and it is also but reasonable that we love Him more than all the world.

Look at the pagan Cyrenius. It is not because of us that he is kind to us, but because of the Baby, for his heart tells him that according to his concepts a most high Deity stands in closest contact with this our Child, which is why he fears and loves Him. Now if a pagan does this, how much more then must we do so, who fully know whence this Baby came and who His Father is!

Therefore, all our attention should be directed toward this Baby at all times, for the Child is more than we and all the world! Take an example from me also, and see how many sacrifices I, an old man, have already made for this God-Child! But I made them freely and with great love because I love God more than all the world. Now did we ever lose anything on account of that? Oh, no! We have still gained after each sacrifice!

All of you therefore do and think the same and you will never lose anything but only gain greatly at all times! Besides, this Child is anyhow of such a gentle nature that it is truly a joy to be with Him. Only very rarely does He cry. He has never been sick, and when one coaxes Him, He looks about so blithely and cheerfully and smiles at every human being in such a cordial way that one is touched to tears by Him. And now that He also has wondrously begun to speak all at once, one could just overwhelm Him from sheer love!

Therefore, my children, consider well who this Baby is, and be sure to tend and take care of Him with all possible care! For otherwise He could fittingly punish you if, as our greatest wealth, you should value Him less than all the meaningless follies of the world.

These words brought all the five sons to tears, and all arose from the table and gathered around the crib of the Child. At this the Baby looked at His brothers in a most friendly way, blessed them and said, 'Oh brothers, become as I am if you want to be eternally happy!' And the brothers wept and ate nothing that evening."

The Violent Storm

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "But the sons of Joseph did not want to leave the cradle at all, for too great was their love for their divine little Brother.

Since it had already become quite late, Joseph said to the sons, 'You now have sufficiently shown that you love the Baby. It is late at night and tomorrow will again dawn early, so you may retire in the name of the Lord. The Baby is already asleep, so place the crib carefully beside the bed of the mother and then go to your bedchamber.'

Joseph had just finished speaking, when the Baby opened His eyes and said: 'Remain here for the night, all of you, and set the bedchamber aside for strangers who will take refuge here even tonight. For a most violent storm will soon overrun this region, the likes of which have never been seen here. But let none of you be afraid, for not a hair on anyone's head will be harmed thereby! And be sure to bar no doors because of it, so the fugitives may save themselves in this house!'

Joseph was alarmed at this prediction of the Child and quickly went outside to see from whence the mighty storm would come. But when he was outside, he could not see even a small cloud anywhere; the sky was wholly clear and not a breeze stirred. A silence of the grave spread over the whole country and there was no whisper of an approaching storm.

Therefore, Joseph promptly went back, gave God the glory and remarked, 'The Child probably dreamt, for there is no sign whatever of a storm. The sky is clear in all directions and not a breeze stirs - from where should a storm come?'

Joseph had hardly finished speaking these words, when suddenly a clap was heard as from a thousand thunders. The earth quaked so violently that a number of houses and temples collapsed in the city. Immediately thereafter such a violent tempest began to rage those tall waves from the nearby sea were driven into the city, and all the people, awakened by the mighty earth shock, rushed out of the city to the more highly situated suburbs.

Cyrenius himself with Maronius and all his aids soon came in hasty flight to Joseph in the villa and hurriedly sketched the scenes of horror that were caused by the earthquake and the storm.

Hereupon Joseph quieted Cyrenius by immediately telling him what the Baby had said a short while ago. At this Cyrenius began to breathe more easily and the raging of the storm ceased to alarm him, for he felt himself to be well protected."

The Master of The Storm

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking; "When Cyrenius had regained his composure, he went to the crib and regarded the Child, his breast filled with great thoughts. The Baby slept quite calmly, and the terrible rage of the storm did not disturb His sleep. But in a short time, the hurricane began to thrust so fiercely against the building that Cyrenius feared it might collapse.

He therefore said to Joseph, 'Esteemed friend! I believe that because of the constantly increasing power of the storm we would do better to leave this building. For how easily a mighty whirlwind can seize this - although firm - building and bury

us all beneath the rubble! Therefore, we would do better to take flight early since we cannot be sure that the same thing may not happen here as well as in the city!'

Here the Baby suddenly reopened His heavenly, divine eyes, immediately recognized Cyrenius and said to him very clearly: 'Cyrenius, when you are with Me, you need not be afraid of this storm - for also the storms, like all the world, lie in the hand of your God! The storms are necessary and must be put to flight the hatched-out evil of hell!

But they can never harm those who are around Me, for the storms also know their Master and do not do what they do planlessly. For the One who is most loving, wise and almighty, holds their reins in His hand. Therefore, My Cyrenius, be without fear here with Me, and be assured that not a hair on anyone's head will be harmed! These storms know exactly who is at home here.

See, this evening the people accorded fiery honors even to you, who are only a human being! But here the storms honor Someone who is more than only a human being. Do you find that to be unreasonable?

See, that is a song of praise from nature, which honors its Creator! Is that not reasonable?

Oh Cyrenius, the air which wafts against you also understands Him who created it - that is why it can also praise Him!'

These words of the Baby, which soon slumbered again, brought all to silence and Cyrenius knelt down by the crib and secretly worshiped Him."

The Heathen Priests Demand a Sacrifice

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "A less violent hour went by, and no one was any longer too much concerned with the raging and blustering storm outside.

After an hour had passed, couriers came to Cyrenius in Joseph's house and reported, saying, 'High and mighty ruler! Unheard of things are taking place: Fire breaks forth from the earth in several localities; flying pillars of fire are driven back and forth by the hurricane and are destroying everything they come in contact with. Nothing is solid and strong enough to withstand their terrible power. The priests have said: The gods in their entirety have been provoked to anger and want to destroy us all! - And it is truly so, for one can plainly hear the barking of Cerberus, and the furies are dancing about everywhere! Vulcan has directed his funnels to the upper earth, while his Cyclops are wantonly destroying the houses and mountains. And Neptune has united all his powers into one! Like unto mountains he lifts the sea and wants to drown us all.

If great human sacrifices are not suddenly offered the extremely angered gods, we will all be destroyed!

The priests have determined upon a thousand youths and a thousand maidens for a sacrifice, and we are therefore dispatched to you in all haste that we should receive from you: the Fiat - the order: let it be done!'

Cyrenius was terribly startled at this news and just did not know what to do. He hesitated to directly oppose the call from the priests for reasons of statecraft, but to consent to the sacrifice was still more impossible to his heart than to contradict the priests.

He therefore turned to the Baby, who had just awakened, and asked His advice in this terrible matter. And the Baby said, 'Be calm, for in one minute the storm will subside and those who wanted to slaughter human beings are no more! Therefore, be calm, My Cyrenius!'"

The Martyrs Gain Time

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "In the meantime the couriers were still waiting for the supreme command of Cyrenius.

Cyrenius now arose from the crib and said to the couriers, 'Go to the priests, and deliver to me the list of the youths and maidens intended for sacrifice, for I must ascertain for myself whether the choice is just!'

At this the couriers hastened away while the storm had already come to a complete standstill. But when they arrived in the city, they found to their horror that the palace which housed the priests had been transformed into a mighty heap of rubble, under which with the exception of three lesser priests all other higher priests had found their doom.

The couriers therefore soon turned back and brought the news of what had happened with the priests to Cyrenius.

Cyrenius, now fully convinced of the correctness of the Baby's declaration, did not know what to do next and again wanted to ask the Baby's advice. But at that moment the three remaining lesser priests also came, and hurriedly asked what was to be done, since a new earth-shock had buried all the devout servants of the gods in their palace while they were in fact equipped for the great sacrifice.

They stated that the thousand youths and the thousand maidens already stood prepared for the great sacrifice at the site where the pillar of Jupiter had been, which unfortunately was also fully destroyed. Should the sacrifice be undertaken directly or only at sunrise?

In no case could the sacrifice be cancelled, since this could easily cause the gods to fall into still greater anger because of the ingratitude and the treachery of men!

Here Cyrenius answered the three lesser priests, 'The sacrifice may under no circumstances be undertaken today, and tomorrow morning under penalty of death only when I personally give the order for it!'

Thereupon the three lesser priests left Cyrenius and went to the site where the poor martyrs wept and lamented and in fear of death lifted their hands to the gods, begging that they might be spared.

And Cyrenius could hardly await the next morning, for he felt very sorry that the frightened martyrs had to endure such a night of terror."

The Sentence for The Priests

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When the three lesser priests arrived at the place of sacrifice, they at once announced to the guards as well as to the poor young martyrs, who were overwhelmed by fear of death, that the determined-upon and irrevocable sacrifice would be carried out the following morning, and that with all the more certainty because the eminent Cyrenius himself had so ordered it.

What sort of an impression this news made on the two-thousand martyrs needs no elaboration for him who knows from historical tradition that such martyrs were tortured and killed in many ways to appease the different gods, and that there were approximately a thousand forms of sacrifice.

Very early the next morning Cyrenius, Maronius and Joseph arose and went to the city. It was an unusually clear morning as the three approached the determined-upon place of sacrifice.

While still some distance away, Cyrenius with the greatest bitterness of feeling already heard the terrible lament of the young people to be sacrificed. He thereupon hastened his steps so he might put an end to this scene of horror as soon as possible.

When he arrived at the site, he was shocked at the inhuman feelings of the three lesser priests, who in greatest eagerness already awaited the command of Cyrenius to begin the slaughter.

Cyrenius immediately had the priests come to him and asked, 'tell me, are you not at all sorry for this glorious youth, since they are to be murdered in a most cruel fashion? Have you no sympathy for them in your heart?'

And the priests declared, 'Where the gods have feelings, there is an end to human sympathy! The life of men is nothing to the gods - and often only an abomination; hence this disposes our feelings as their servants on earth to be like unto theirs and we can have no compassion in us, but only an ecstasy and a rejoicing because we are able to serve the gods punctually! Consequently, we are in fact looking forward with exceeding joy to the slaughter of these by the high gods anyhow seldom required sacrifices!'

This declaration gave Cyrenius such a great jolt in his heart that he began to tremble from wrath at these priests. But he soon regained his composure and again asked the priests, 'But how would it be, if Zeus himself were here and granted these martyrs their lives? - What would you do then?'

The priests answered, 'Then the sacrifice would have to be undertaken with all the more certainty, because that would only be a test of our priestly zealousness to serve! If we then were to take pity on the destined martyrs, Zeus would look upon us as blasphemers and destroy us with thunder and lightning!'

At this Cyrenius continued to question the priests, saying, 'What then have the other high priests committed before the gods, in that they were so miserably killed in their palace?'

Here the priests answered, 'Do you not know that above all the gods and their priests there reign an inexorable Destiny? It has killed the priests, as it has excited the gods before that. Now the gods It cannot kill, but only the here and there still mortal priests!'

'Good,' retorted Cyrenius, 'Last night past midnight Destiny came to me and gave me the command to grant all these young people their lives - and to sacrifice you instead, and that as surely as my name is Cyrenius and my brother Julius Augustus Caesar reigns as first consul and emperor in Rome! - Now what do you say to these tidings?'

These dread tidings caused the priests to turn pale and brought the other martyrs back to their senses. And Cyrenius immediately had all of the martyrs spoken free, but the three priests bound and prepared for execution."

The Law of Sacrifice

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Joseph now went over to Cyrenius and asked him, 'Highly honored and very dear friend, are you unalterably determined to have these three idolatrous priests killed?'

And Cyrenius, filled with wrath toward these three utterly heartless human tigers, answered Joseph, 'Yes, my highly esteemed friend! Here I will set up an example by which all the people shall know that I avenge nothing so severely as the utter lack of human kindness! For a person without love and without any feeling of sympathy is the greatest evil on the face of the earth. All rending animals are lambs, and the furies of hell are hardly poor students compared to him. I therefore consider it to be the first and foremost duty of a true ruler of the people to root out such monsters and to completely exterminate them from the face of the earth. The priests should make it their first duty to especially instruct the people in charity. They should set a good example for everyone! But when these principal teachers and leaders of the people become furies, what then shall become of their students? Therefore, away with such brutes! I am only considering the most tormenting manner of death now - once I have it, the staff shall immediately be broken over them.'

Joseph hardly dared to make any objections to Cyrenius, for he had spoken these words with the greatest determination.

After a while the three priests fell down before Cyrenius and entreated him for mercy with the assurance that they would unfailingly change their way of life and were also ready to lay down their priesthood on the spot. To gain grace they appealed to the law of the priests, which had caused them to act thus and not otherwise.

Here Cyrenius retorted, 'Do you rascals suppose that I am not familiar with the laws of the priests? Listen, the special law of sacrifice reads thus: If any people have obviously become unfaithful to the gods by their excesses and the gods visit them with war, hunger and pestilence, the priests should then warn the people to better their ways. If the people take heed, the priests should again bless them and, to reconcile the gods, lay upon the people the duty of bringing certain sacrifices of gold, cattle and grain before the priests, so these can dedicate the sacrifice and make a smoke offering with it. But if there should be such a stubborn, unconvertable people who mocked the priests, then the priests should have the mockers as well as their children seized and instructed with the whip in subterranean chambers seven months long. 'If the blasphemers repent, they shall again be given their freedom, but if they do not repent, they shall fall by the sword - and then only be paid in the flame as an atonement to the gods. - Does the wise old law of sacrifices not read thus? Was there war, hunger and pestilence here? Was this beautiful youth faithless to the gods? Did you first instruct them for seven months? - No, instead you wanted to kill them out of ambition and lust! And therefore, you must die as the greatest blasphemers against your own law!'

Vengeance Belongs to The Lord Alone

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking; "After this declaration of Cyrenius, Joseph again went over to him and said: 'Cyrenius, my highly esteemed friend and brother! I think that you should leave the punishment of these three idolatrous priests, who are apparently creatures of ill-will, to the Lord!

Believe me, no one performs an agreeable service to the Lord, the almighty God of heaven and earth, by taking a life, not even when he has the greatest malefactor executed. Do therefore without any qualms leave the just chastisement of these three to the Almighty, and the Lord will bless you by means of the punishment which He will very surely visit upon these three, unless they undertake a very great penance and make a complete about face!' But if, within themselves, they adopt true penitence and return to the only true God, they can still also become noble men!

These words of Joseph caused Cyrenius to consider just what he should actually do. After a while he decided to at least expose the three to a strong fear of death in reprisal for the fear which they caused the poor young people.

He therefore said to Joseph, 'My closest and highly honored friend and brother! I have well weighed your counsel and shall also heed it! But at the present moment I just cannot do that. I must follow through by breaking the threatened staff before these wicked servants and condemn them to a most painful death. Once they have suffered a twenty-four-hour-long fear of death, then do you loudly entreat me before all the people at this execution site for mercy and the lifting of the death penalty, and I shall manifestly grant your request and then after the order of the law let these three rascals off with their lives! I believe that is best, for I just cannot pardon them right away because I have discerned them to be gross offenders against the law of the priests. According to the law they must hear the death sentence. Once that is done, then only in extraordinary cases can the pardon take the place of the execution of the sentence. And now I shall fulfill this task at once!'

Joseph agreed to this, and Cyrenius immediately called the judges, the carriers of the staves (lectures) and the jailers over and declared, 'Bring three iron crosses and chains! Set the crosses firmly into the ground and maintain a fire around the erected crosses for twenty-four hours! Once these have reached the proper red-heat, I shall arrive and have the three blasphemers hoisted upon the red-hot crosses! Fiat!'

Thereupon Cyrenius took a staff, broke it, threw it under the feet of the three and asserted, 'Now you have heard your sentence. So, make yourselves ready, for you deserve such a death! Fiat!'

This sentence had the effect of a thousand bolts of lightning on the three. They immediately began to weep and wail and to call upon all the gods for help.

Then they were promptly put under close guard, and the jailers went directly to jail and brought the designated instruments of torture. And Cyrenius, Joseph and Maronius promptly returned to the villa."

The Lion of Judah

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius with Joseph and Maronius Pilla approached the villa, Mary with the Child in her arms went to meet the three in anxious concern and quickly asked Joseph, 'Joseph, my dearly beloved husband! Oh, tell me, what happened to the young people? For if such sacrifices always take place here because of the not infrequent occurrence of such elemental storms, then we are not safe either with our Child! For while He has great power - we still had to flee Palestine before Herod despite this power, from which I have concluded that in certain instances the Child still has too little power! Therefore, it is our responsibility to remove Him from all great dangers!'



Joseph answered Mary, 'My by the Lord Himself to me espoused wife, have no fear on that account! Behold, not a hair of the young people so ignominiously intended for sacrifice has been touched! Our dear Cyrenius has promptly given them their freedom and in their stead condemned the three priests who were here yesterday and requested his permission for the slaughter of these young people. The priests are now condemned to a most excruciating death on red-hot iron crosses!

But - among ourselves - only seemingly. Tomorrow morning, instead of the fulfillment of the death sentence, they shall obtain a pardon! And this rebuke will certainly serve them as a thorough warning, by means of which they surely will no longer suggest any such sacrifice to idols. Therefore, my dearly beloved wife, be wholly without fear and consider: The Lord, who has led us so safely up to now, will neither deliver us up to the power of the heathen in the future.'

These words put Mary completely at ease and her mind regained its cheerfulness.

Here the Baby smiled into the mother's face and said, 'Mary, if someone had tamed a lion in such a manner that the lion carried him about like a gentle beast of burden, do you suppose that it would be praiseworthy of him while, astride the mighty back of the lion to be afraid of the flighty rabbit?'

Mary was astonished at the deep wisdom of these words, but she did not understand them.

And the Baby again said to Mary, and that with quite a serious mien: 'I am the mighty Lion of Judah who carries you upon His back. How then can you fear those whom I can scatter like loose chaff? Do you really suppose that I fled before Herod to protect Myself from his wrath? Oh no! I only fled to spare him, for if My countenance had beheld him, he would have been lost forever! - See, the dear little children who were slaughtered for Me are already happy beyond measure in My kingdom - they are around Me daily and even now perfectly know Me as their Lord forever!

See, Mary, that is the way matters stand. And that is why you should be silent about Me wherever you are, as you were warned. But you may well know for yourself who He is whom you shall call: the Son of God and also did call Him that!

These words made Mary quake through and through - for she now fully realized that she was carrying the Lord on her arms.

But also, Maronius, who was behind Mary, heard the words of the Child and fell down before Him.

It was only now that Cyrenius discovered Mary's presence, for until now he was engaged in conversation with one of his accompanying secretaries. He therefore suddenly hurried over to the Child and kissed and caressed Him, while the Baby did the same and then said, 'Cyrenius, raise up Maronius - for he is now prepared. Now he may recognize Me! - Do you understand what I am saying therewith?'"

The Baby's Dictum to Cyrenius

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking; "When they all had arrived at the villa, Cyrenius immediately sent his adjutant into the city to the garrison commander and informed him that on this and the following day no parades nor marches from the city were to take place.

For such was the custom with the Romans on extraordinary occasions that with certain phenomena - as perhaps an eclipse of the sun or moon, a violent storm, fiery meteors, comets, the sudden appearance of an insane person, an epileptic seizure, as well as extraordinary days of execution - all these by custom did not permit the Romans to also deal with ordinary matters of the state.

For all such days were considered by the otherwise in many ways realistic Romans as days of misfortune or as special days of the gods, which the people were to keep holy at the first opportunity and were not to make use of them for their personal business.

While Cyrenius did not take much stock in these empty customs by himself, he had to observe them because of the populace which still adhered firmly to such follies.

When the adult had departed, Cyrenius said to Joseph, 'Esteemed friend and brother! Have breakfast prepared now. After breakfast we will all go into the city together and there view the ravages of the storm.

On this occasion we will undoubtedly find many citizens of this locality who are poor and were struck by misfortune, to whom we shall give aid in every possible way. Then we will inspect the harbor and see what condition the ships are in and if and to what extent they were damaged.

No doubt a number of tasks will arise for your sons, whom I will immediately name as first overseers, since this city especially has a very great lack of builders. For Egypt, from the architectural point of View, is now far inferior to what it was a thousand years ago at the times of the old Pharaohs.'

Joseph immediately acted on the wish of Cyrenius and had a simple breakfast prepared consisting of bread, honey and milk and a few fruits.

After the meal Cyrenius and all the table guests arose and wanted to go into the city according to his intention. But the Baby called Cyrenius to himself and said

to him: 'My Cyrenius, you are going into the city to help the suffering citizenry in any way you can, and your greatest desire is to have Me with you. Yes, I will also go with you, but you must hear Me and follow My advice!

See, those who are suffering the most are surely those three who were condemned by you to a twenty-four-hour fear of death.

Now mark, I am not pleased with the too great suffering of these who are wretched - so we will first go there and help these most miserable souls. Only after that we will visit the lesser unfortunate in the city and the sea harbor. If you will do that, I shall go with you, but if you will not, I shall stay at home. See, I am also a Master in My own way and can do as I please without relying on you. But if you do take My advice, I will surely rely on you.'"

The Pardon of The Priests

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius heard this from the all-exalted little Cradle-Orator, as he sometimes called Him, he hesitated within himself and did not know just what to do. For on the one hand, he felt himself to be too greatly exposed before the people as an inconsistent commander-in-chief and supreme governor, but for all that he just had too much respect for the tried and tested power of the Child.

For a while he thought back and forth and then said to himself, 'Oh Scylla, oh Charybdis, oh myth of Hercules at the crossroads! Here the hero stands between two chasms; if he avoids the one, he plunges inevitably into the other! What shall I do now? Where shall I turn? Shall I for the first time appear inconsistent before the people and do the will of this mighty Child? Or shall I act according to my own anyhow very mild decision?'

Here the Baby again called Cyrenius to Himself and smilingly said, 'My dear friend, you concern yourself vainly over nothing! What is Scylla and what Charybdis and what is the hero Hercules before me? You follow Me, and you will not have to deal with these transitory things!'

And Cyrenius, recovering from his indecision, said to the Child, 'Yes, my Life, my little Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in the cradle, You I will please let come what may! So then let us go to the place of execution and there promptly transform our sentence into mercy!'

At this Maronius also approached Cyrenius and said to him in an aside, 'Imperial, consular highness! I am quite in agreement with the advice of the Child. For it has just come into my mind that the death penalty in priestly matters may never be inflicted on the priests without the sanction of the Pontifex maximus in Rome - unless they were instigators to revolt against the state, which these here are not, but only blind zealots in their cause. Therefore, I am altogether for the advice of the Child. To comply with it can only be to your advantage and can never give you a setback.'

Cyrenius was pleased at this observation of Maronius and therefore went on his way at once with all who were to accompany him.

Arrived at the place of execution, he found the three priests almost lifeless - from too great fear of a most excruciating death. Only one of them still had enough

presence of mind to lift himself up before Cyrenius with the greatest difficulty and entreat him for a merciful manner of death.

And Cyrenius said to him as well as to the other two, 'Look at the Child whom this mother carries upon her arms. He gives you back your life, and thus I also grant it to you and recall my sentences. Therefore, arise again and walk at liberty. Fiat! And you guards, judges, carriers of the staves and jailers, depart with everything. Fiat!'

This declaration of grace cost the three priests their lives - but the Baby stretched a hand over the three and they came back to life and in a happy frame of mind promptly followed the little Savior of their lives."

The Sword Justified as A Shepherd's Staff

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Quickly leaving the place of judgment, the entire group now made its way into the city, accompanied by the three pardoned priests.

When the group arrived in the city at the great square and saw the mighty heap of rubble of the great temple and of the entire, still greater palace of the priests, Cyrenius clapped his hands together above his head and exclaimed in a loud voice, 'What an enormous change! Yes, only the power of a God can manifest itself like this! Long periods of time are not needed, but only a nod of the Omnipotence suffices to transform the entire circle of the earth into dust. Oh men of earth, would you fight Him who commands the elements and they obey His nod? Would you be judge where the Deity's omnipotence commands, and rule where a slight nod of the Eternal Ruler crushes you to dust?

No, no! I am a fool that still carry my sword girded about me as if I had any power!

Away, you wretched trappings! Here in this heap of rubble is the best place for you. And my true sword shall be You, whom the mother carries upon her arms.'

Here Cyrenius suddenly loosened his sword and his belt of honor from his body and vehemently wanted to hurl them into the heap of rubble. But the Baby, who was present at Cyrenius' side in Mary's arms, admonished him:

'Cyrenius! That you must not do! For truly, whoever carries the sword after your manner carries it justly. Let him who uses the sword as a weapon cast it from him - but whoever uses it as a shepherd's staff, let him keep it. For thus is the will of Him whom heaven and earth must eternally obey!

Now you are a shepherd to those who are written in the book of your sword, so gird yourself again now with just honor, that your people will know you as its shepherd. If your flock consisted solely of lambs, then you would require no staff. But among it there are very many rams, therefore I would rather add another staff to you than take the one from you!

It is indeed true: apart from God there is no power, but when God bestows power upon you, then you should not cast it from you into that which is under God's judgment!'

These words moved Cyrenius to immediately regird the sword while he constantly worshiped the Baby in silence. And the three priests were amazed beyond measure at the wisdom of this little Child.

The True Mythology of The Gods

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "With the greatest esteem the three priests approached Joseph and asked him how this Child had come to such a most amazing wisdom, and how old He already was.

Joseph answered them, 'Dear friends, do not ask about that too soon, for a too premature answer could cost you your lives! But follow us and drop your many gods, believe that there is only one true God of heaven and of earth, and believe that this one true God is the same whom the people of Israel worship and honor at Jerusalem, and you will find out within yourselves and from this Child whence His wisdom is!'

Here the priests asked, 'Sir, you speak strange words here! Are then our main gods, Zeus, Apollo, Mercury, Vulcan, Pluto, Mars and Neptune, Juno, Minerva, Venus, and others nothing more than mere creations of human fancy?'

And Joseph answered: 'Listen to me, friends! All of your gods came into being by the imagination of your forefathers at a time when they still knew the one God very well. These were rare poets and singers in the courts of the old kings of this land and personified the characteristics of the one true God in apt analogies.

To them Jupiter represented the grace and love of the Father from eternity, while Apollo portrayed the wisdom of the Father, and Minerva the power of this wisdom. Mercury signified the presence everywhere of the one God by His almighty will. Venus portrayed the glory and beauty and eternally constant youth of the Deity. Vulcan and Pluto represented the one God's absolute power over the whole earth. Mars depicted the divine earnestness, judgment and death for the condemned. Neptune represented the spirit of the one God active in all waters and how He gives life to the earth through these waters.

Thus, the old Isis and also Osiris signified the divine, inviolably Holiness, which is divine love and wisdom from all eternity in Itself. And thus, all the other gods portrayed nothing but the various attributes of the one God in analogous pictures!

That was a highly praiseworthy illustration, for it entered no one's mind but that all of this signified only the one God in the diverse and infinite manner of His *modus operandi*. But in time selfishness, self-love and lust for power deluded and obscured the light in mankind. They lost the spirit, and nothing remained for them than the outward form and they became pagans, which means the same as: they became coarse materialists, lost the one God and therefore gnawed on outer, empty and incomprehensible pictures like dogs which in their hunger gnaw on bones on which there is no more meat. - Do you understand me?'

Here the three made big eyes at each other and replied, 'Truly, you are better versed in our religion than we are! But where did you learn all this?'

And Joseph replied, 'Just be patient; the Child will reveal it to you. So, follow us and do not fall back again.'"

The Reawakening of The Seven Guides

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking; "The three Priest now asked no more, for they recognized in Joseph a man who seemed to be deeply initiated into the old mysteries of Egypt which otherwise were known only to the chief priests of this land.

Cyrenius then turned to the three priests and asked them how many of their number had lost their lives here.

And the three said, 'Most powerful governor, we cannot give the number exactly, but there certainly were more than seven hundred which were buried, without counting the novices of both sexes.'

'Good,' observed Cyrenius, 'we shall soon inform ourselves more closely in the matter.' He thereupon asked Joseph if it was not advisable to dig out those buried in the rubble.

Joseph answered, 'That is even a strict duty, for some novices could still be alive here and there in the catacombs, and to save these is a strict duty.'

When Cyrenius heard this, he immediately had two thousand laborers called, who promptly began removing the debris. In a few hours seven corpses were pulled out, which were none other than the guides to the catacombs.

Thereupon Cyrenius said, 'Truly, I am sorry about these, for without their help we will not accomplish much in the subterranean labyrinth of countless passages upon passages.'

Here the Baby said to Cyrenius, 'My Cyrenius, as concerns the catacombs, nothing of much use is to be found in them, for they lie unused for several hundred years and are filled with mud and all manner of vermin.

These seven guides to the catacombs merely had the empty title as such, for not one of them ever set foot in a catacomb. And now, so you may believe what I am telling you, I will also tell you that these seven guides are not quite dead but lie there in a great stupor and can therefore be recalled to life. Have them massaged about their temples, chest, neck, hands and feet by robust women, and they will soon awaken from their stupor.'

At this Cyrenius asked the Baby, 'O my Life! If You were to touch them, they surely would also awaken.'

And the Baby answered, 'Do what I have advised you, for I must not do too much if I do not want to bring a judgment instead of a blessing to the world.'

Cyrenius did not understand these words, but he nevertheless followed the advice of the Baby. He immediately had ten robust maidens brought so they might massage the seven guides.

After a few minutes the seven awoke and asked the bystanders what had happened to them and what was taking place.

Hereupon Cyrenius promptly had them taken to a good inn, while the people were greatly surprised at this awakening and accorded the maiden's great respect."

The Strange Effects of The Earthquake

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "After this the digging continued, and Cyrenius gave the order that all corpses which were not too greatly mutilated should be laid face downward at a designated place which was covered with mats.

Only the greatly mutilated corpses were to be either cremated at once or buried eight feet deep in the common burial place. With the less mutilated corpses similar attempts to restore them to life should be made as was done with the seven, and those restored to life were promptly to be brought into the inn to the seven others.

When he had given this order, Cyrenius, accompanied by Joseph, left with his aides to inspect other parts of the city. And he found to his great surprise that nowhere was there a citizen's house damaged in the least, while on the other hand not a temple of the gods was to be found anywhere which did not lay in ruins, with the exception of a single little temple which was locked and bore the inscription, "To the unknown God".

When the group along with a great following of the people had thus wandered through the whole, not unimportant little city of eighty thousand inhabitants, Cyrenius asked Joseph to come over and said to him, 'Listen, my highly esteemed friend and brother, I simply have to laugh to myself because of the peculiar effect of the earthquake as well as that of the storm. Now just look over here! Along this lane in front of us stand houses of the most wretched type of construction; dry stones are laid one above the other without mortar and rather unsymmetrically at that - to make a wall.

One would suppose that they are hardly solid enough to withstand the shock caused by the hoof of a horse that has any more than average weight. But look, these veritable ant structures stand unharmed! Not one is damaged even in the least, while right among these truly from-today-until-tomorrow-houses the temples, solidly built to last for thousands of years, are all rubble! What do you think of this truly strange phenomenon? Is it not obvious here that the earthquake as well as the storm must have gone about their work very intelligently? Truly, to my great joy I must confess to you and say, If your little Son with His almighty fingers did not play a little among the temples in company with the storm, my name is not Cyrenius!'

Here Joseph said, 'Keep what you believe holy to yourself and be sure to speak to no one about it - for it would certainly seem to be so! Now let us now go to the harbor and see if there is anything to do for me there.' – and Cyrenius promptly followed Joseph's advice and went down to the seashore."

A Judgment Is Avoided

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Once the party arrived at the seashore, where the harbor was constructed partly by nature and partly by the artifice of men, Cyrenius again was considerably surprised. For nowhere was any damage to be seen, except that all the mythological decorations on the pretentious ship of Cyrenius were as good as destroyed.

At this Cyrenius said to Joseph, 'My very esteemed friend, under these circumstances your sons will have little to do. See, not one vessel has received any other damage than that - which is quite welcome to me - the idols have apparently been cast into the water, especially from my ship, with which I am indeed highly pleased for I certainly shall not have any more placed anywhere else on my ship. All praise; all honor to your God for that! But for all that I shall so reward your sons for

eventual little repairs, which will have to be done here and there on the ships, as if they had done something big.'

Here Joseph said to Cyrenius, 'Oh friend and brother, do not overly concern yourself with the earnings of my children. See, not because of the earnings, but just to render you a good service I would gladly have come to your aid in such a matter of carpentry. But the Lord has helped you and it is better that way, for now you can easily do without my help.

Now that we have seen everything and since it is already rather late in the afternoon, I suggest that we go home again and wait until tomorrow to look at anything that may still remain.'

Cyrenius agreed, 'That is what I think, for I am very sorry indeed for the poor mother, so we must see to it now that we get home as soon as possible! I shall have a litter brought for her at once, so she may be carried home with the Baby.'

Here the Baby immediately made His presence known in back of Cyrenius and said to him: 'Be sure to do that, for the said mother has already become very tired, since she had a heavy burden to carry in Me. But on the way home you must not follow your intention to make your way across that certain square of the priests. For if My mother were to carry Me past there, where by now about one hundred of those buried in the rubble are lying upon mats, they all would suddenly return to life, and that would be a judgment for you and all the people which would do great harm to everyone concerned.

But this way they will be awakened throughout the night by means of human assistance under My secret influence. In this manner the appearance of the miraculous will be avoided, and you and all the people will be spared from a judgment that kills the spirit forever!'

Cyrenius closely followed this advice, greatly gladdened in his heart. Litter was instantly provided, and Mary with the Baby took place in the same. And Cyrenius chose another route, by which the whole company including the three priests quite soon and very comfortably reached the villa of Joseph."

The Lord Pinches Those Who Love Him

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When he arrived at the villa, Joseph went directly to his sons who just then were busy with the preparation of a noon meal and said to them, 'Good, good, my sons, you have anticipated my wish, but today we have three more guests, namely the three priests who early today were set out to die!

These we want to treat exceptionally well, so they will become our friends in the recognition of our Father in heaven, who has chosen us to be His children through the covenant which He made with our fathers.

You, James, go outside quickly to meet the mother who has become very tired and relieve her of the Baby dearest to us all, and put Him to bed right away, for He also is noticeably tired and yearns for His cradle!'

James immediately ran out and went over to Mary who was just getting out of the litter, and at once with great love and joy took the Baby from her arms. The Baby also returned the same great affection to James - for He frisked about on his arms and smiled and pinched and pulled on him as much as ever He could get hold of him with His little hands.

And the three priests, who were filled with the utmost respect of this Child, were surprised and delighted in their souls because they discovered something quite childlike in this Child.

One of them therefore went over to James and asked him in good Hebrew, 'Tell me, is this most miraculous Child of all children always so hearty, yes one might say even a bit teasingly rough like ordinary children sometimes are, although not until they are two or three years old?'

Here the Baby promptly answered in place of James, saying: 'Yes, yes, My friend! Those I love, I also pinch, squeeze and tease - but that happens only with those who love Me as My James does - and I love them as I love My dear James here. But I do not do them any harm for all that! - Is it not so, My dear James, it does not hurt you if I pinch and squeeze you?'

At this James, quickly touched to tears as usual, said, 'Oh my divine, dearest little Brother, how could You hurt me?'

And the Baby thereupon answered James, saying: 'James, My brother, you do truly love me! And I love you so much that you will eternally never be able to quite comprehend how much I love you! See, my dear brother James, the heavens are wide and infinitely great - they include countless numbers of shining worlds of light in relation to which the earth is only a drop of dew - and these worlds carry countless numbers of most happy beings of your kind. But among them none is happier than you, now My dearest brother! At present you do not understand Me, but in time you will understand Me quite well. I do not want to sleep now while the children of men keep watch about Me. And with you, James, I shall remain!

These words broke James' heart anew and he wept for joy of love, and the inquiring priest nearly sank into the ground from sheer reverence and highest respect for this Child."

A Great Prophecy for Rome

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Cyrenius, who had also heard these words of the Baby quite well, instantly went over to the Baby and asked Him in a most loving manner, 'Oh my Life! Then You surely do not love me as much, for when I had You on my arms You never pinched and squeezed me?'

Here the Baby answered, 'Cyrenius, do not be concerned about that - behold, all the troubles which you have already endured for My sake were just so many pinches and squeezes by Me because I love you so greatly! Now do you understand what I have told you. For I shall indeed pinch and squeeze you still often enough - and from sheer love of you will be quite rough. But listen, you must not be afraid of Me because of that, for no harm will come to you by it, just as has been the case up to now. Do you understand me, My dear Cyrenius?'

And Cyrenius, while filled in his heart with the greatest respect of the Child, said in a greatly crestfallen manner, 'Yes, yes, my Life! I understand You very well and know what great thing You have told me. But just the same I still would also like to have You pinch and squeeze me a little just as You do with Your brother.'

And the Baby said to Cyrenius: 'Oh My dear friend, you surely are not going to be more childish than I am? Do you really believe that I would love you more because of that? Oh see, in that you are greatly mistaken, for I could not possibly

love you more than I already love you. Truly, you will eternally never be able to wholly comprehend nor fathom the magnitude and depth of My love for you!

Mark it well, less than a century will go by when Rome will take possession of My citadel in great numbers. And while this time is still to come, I can assure you that you already stand on the threshold which will soon be tread by many. But understand - not in the body, but in the spirit in My future kingdom forever!

These words of the Child caused a great sensation among all those present, and Cyrenius did not know what to make of it. He therefore turned to the by standing Mary and asked her if she understood what the divine Child had now foretold.

And Mary said, 'Oh friend, if This were an ordinary human being, we human beings would also understand Him, but because He is of a higher nature, we are unable to understand Him! So let us keep all of His words within ourselves, for in time they will surely be revealed to us in their true light.'

The Mythology of Ostracine

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When they arrived in the open, Joseph and Cyrenius began to discuss several things among themselves, while Mary in the meantime took care of the Baby in the house and the sons of Joseph concerned themselves with looking after the chores around the house, wherewith the servants of Cyrenius rendered them various services.

After several discussions of lesser importance between Joseph and Cyrenius accompanied by Maronius Pilla, an important point came up for discussion, which was initiated by Cyrenius and was as follows, 'Worthy friend and brother! See, the city and the whole large domain which also comes under the jurisdiction of the city surely amounts to eighty-thousand people. Among them there are only very few of your belief and your religion.

For thousands of years, according to my knowledge they were more or less confirmed worshippers of idols. They have all of their pagan temples in this age-old city, of which the myth says that it was built at the time of the war of the gods with the Giants of the Earth, and that Zeus himself had it built as a symbol of the victory over these Giants of the Earth.

Mercury had to gather the bones of the Giants and sink them in the sea, which is how this land is supposed to have come into being. Over these Giant-bones Zeus is then supposed to have let it rain sand and ashes and now and then large and heavy stones.

Thereupon Zeus is said to have ordered the old Ceres that she should make this land fruitful and, in its center, build a citadel and a city not too far from the sea as a sign of the great victory. Zeus himself would then bring forth from the earth a people which would inhabit this land and this city for all time to come.

'From this my story you can easily see that this people, probably like no other on the face of the earth, is still of the unshakable opinion that it inhabits the city which the gods themselves have built, for which reason you always see these terribly rundown dwellings, since no human being dares to make any repairs on the work of the gods so he will not commit a sin against them.

As something quite out of the ordinary the old Ceres, assisted by Mercury and Apollo, is supposed to have built the temples with her own hands. - That is the

myth and at the same time the so far unshakable faith of this otherwise good-natured people, which despite its poverty is very hospitable and exceptionally honest. But what is to be done here if these people should demand the reconstruction of the temples?

Should one rebuild the temples for it or not, or should one convert it to your doctrine? And if one does that, what will the neighboring people who also visit this city on occasion say to that, since it has been all the more of a ruin than an actual city for a very long time?'

Anxiety Negates God's Help

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Cyrenius continued, 'Oh friend, that is surely a very difficult situation. If you have any counsel for that in the living chamber of your truly divine wisdom, then let me hear it. For the more I think about this matter now, the more critical and complicated it appears!'

And Joseph replied to Cyrenius: 'Listen to me, my esteemed friend! It is very easy to help you out of this predicament. I will give you some good advice in this matter which will show you what is right and what you should do. 'See, in your heart you are now of my living faith and love and honor the one true God along with me!

Now I will tell you this: As long as you are filled with anxiety, God will do nothing for you. But as soon as you lay all your troubles upon Him and are only concerned and anxious as to how you may know and love this true God ever more and more, He will then begin to help you in all things, and everything which still appears crooked to you today will be made straight before you tomorrow.

Therefore, have this city cleared of rubble only wherever people might still be buried beneath it, which is now being done. But leave in ruins all other temples beneath whose rubble there lie nothing than at best a few very unshapely, worthless and smashed idols. For that which is destroyed by the elements counts as much with this blind people as if the gods had destroyed it.

This people will therefore not even make the effort to rebuild these temples, for it is afraid that if it is active contrary to the will of the gods, it could draw a great punishment upon itself.

Now there are no more such priests who on the basis of a fictitious demand of the gods would have undertaken this to their own advantage by the hands and means of the people and those who still live will never build temples for idols.

So, you can be wholly without concern in this matter. The Lord of heaven and earth will bring about that which is best for you and for the whole people.

And in our time several cities will meet a similar fate anyhow in that they will be smothered with rubble here and there, so it will hardly be noticed when this old city becomes a complete ruin in ten years.'

These words of Joseph comforted Cyrenius, and he returned to the villa with him in a happy frame of mind."

A Blind Beggar Woman Regains Her Sight

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking; "When they had just shown their highest esteem, the three priests returned to their assigned chamber and remained there until sundown. They

spoke nothing, for each one of them reflected on the words of the wondrously talking Child.

Joseph gave God the glory in his heart and fervently gave thanks for the infinitely great grace that he had become the foster-father of the Son of God.

When he had thus given God the honor and the glory with Mary and his sons and Mary had also looked after the Baby, the baby was again given over to James. Joseph had Mary mend the torn garment and then went out to the acre again with his four sons and tended it.

Mary in the meantime cleaned the furnishings of the house so they might be clean for the reception of the guests, who had promised to return in the afternoon. When she was through with cleaning, she again looked after the Child to see if He needed anything. And the Baby wanted the breast and then a bath, and that with clean, cold water.

Mary did all this promptly, and when she had bathed the Baby, a blind woman came into the room to Mary and complained much about her wretchedness.

Mary said to the blind woman, I can plainly see that you are very poorly off, but what can I do to help you?'

And the woman said, 'Listen to me! Last night I had a marvelous dream. I saw that you had a very brightly shining Child. This Child wanted your breast and a bath. The bath consisted of fresh water - and when you had bathed the Child therein the water was filled with shining stars. I then recalled that I am blind and was not a little surprised that it was possible for me to see all this. But you said to me in the meantime: Woman, so then take this water and wash your eyes - and you will see!

I then wanted to reach for the water immediately and wash my eyes, but thereupon awakened - and am still blind! But this morning someone said to me, Go outside and seek! You will meet the woman with the Child, for you will not enter any house save that one only! Now I am here at the end of my great toil, fear and danger!'

Here Mary handed the bathwater to the blind woman, and the woman washed her face in it and instantly regained her sight.

At this the woman was beside herself with great joy and gratitude and at once wanted to herald this about in all of Ostracine, but Mary forbade the woman this most emphatically."

A Prophecy for Mary

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The woman then entreated Mary to let her remain with her for a time, so she might serve the house in which such great salvation had come to her. And Mary said, 'Woman, that is not up to me, for I am only a handmaiden of the Lord myself but wait here a while until my husband returns home from the field. He will let you know what is to be done!'

Here the woman fell at Mary's feet and wanted to downright worship her as a goddess, for she considered the healing of her eyesight as too great a wonder, since she was born blind. But Mary sternly rebuked her and departed into another room. The woman then began to weep at this, for she was of the opinion that she had thus offended her greatest benefactress.

At this James, who was coaxing the Baby in the same room, looked at the woman and asked her, 'Why do you weep as if someone had hurt you?' 9 The woman replied, 'Oh, you dear youth! I have just offended her who gave me the light of my eyes! Why should I then not weep?' Here James said, 'Oh, worry about something else! The young woman who handed you the bathwater is gentler than a turtledove, so she can never be offended. And if anyone did want to offend her, he still is not able to do so, for she then blesses him ten times for an offence and entreats the offender for his friendship again in such a manner that even the hardest stone could not resist!

See, that is how good this woman is! So just do not worry, for I can assure you that right now she is praying to God for you.' And so it was - Mary was indeed praying to God for this woman that He might enlighten her understanding so she then would realize that she, Mary, was only a frail woman also.

Mary was indeed of the highest nobility not only naturally (in that she was of the direct lineage of a king) but her joy consisted therein that she be humbled everywhere and by everyone.

After a while the dear, good Mary returned and earnestly asked the woman to forgive her in case she might have spoken to her too sternly. This behavior of Mary almost took the thankful woman's life from sheer love of Mary. And the woman exclaimed in the full rapture of her love, 'Oh you dear psyche of my sex, what your noblest heart has rebuked me of, nations will one day bring you! For among all the women on earth you are surely the first who stands in a covenant with the high gods all the more surely, since beside your truly divine goodness you are also so inexpressibly kind, gracious and lovely!'

Here Mary stated, 'Dear woman, after I am dead people can do with me what they like, but during my lifetime that shall not happen!' Here Joseph returned with the four sons, and Mary at once led the woman to him and told him all that had happened."

The Tale of the Woman

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When the woman quickly saw that Joseph was Mary's husband, she went over to him with the request that she might remain in his house. Joseph replied to the woman, 'Since such grace was bestowed on you as my wife told me in your presence, and you therefore wish to be grateful to this house, you may as well remain.

See, I have a fairly large piece of land here, several domestic animals and a roomy house. So, there is plenty to do and there is also enough room to live here. My wife is anyhow of a weaker nature in her bodily strength, so you will render me good service if you help her here and there in her housework. All your needs shall be taken care of, but I can give you no wages in money since I have none myself. If you are satisfied with this offer, you may remain here as long as you please, but not from any imaginary sense of duty!'

These words made the woman, who was a very poor orphan anyway, very happy indeed and she praised the house beyond measure in which so

much good came her way. Joseph asked her about her birthplace and about her age, and what her religion might be.

The woman answered, 'Man worthy of all esteem, I was born in Rome and am the daughter of a powerful patrician! My elderly appearance belies my age, for I have been a dweller on earth for hardly twenty summers. I was born blind, and a priest counseled my parents to bring me to Delphi where I would regain my eyesight by the grace of Apollo.

When this advice was given to my parents I was ten years and seven months old. My parents, who were very wealthy and loved me as their only daughter beyond measure, followed this advice. They rented a ship so they might steer to Delphi with me. But we were on the sea for hardly three days when a most powerful storm came and drove the ship into this region at the greatest speed. About two hundred fathoms from the shore- as he who saved my life often told me- the ship was thrown on a cliff, and everyone- except myself and the sailor who saved me - perished, and thus also my good parents. The opportunity never came to return to the city of my fathers. The sailor also died here five years ago, and I am now an orphaned beggar maid in this place, wasted away by great want and sadness. But since I have found such grace surely by the gods and have received the light of my eyes and can now see my benefactors, I will gladly forget my great sorrow!'

This tale of the seeming woman brought all to tears, and Joseph said, 'Oh, you poor orphan, be comforted, for here you shall find your parents again many times over!'

The Woman's Immeasurable Gain

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The seeming woman did not fully understand what Joseph meant by the gaining of several parents, therefore she asked him, 'Oh you dear, most kind man, in whose house such an infinitely wonderful and great grace has befallen me, just what do you mean by your word that I shall find my lost parents again here many times over?'

And Joseph assured her: 'Truly, you shall be held equal to my children in my house as long as you live! You shall learn to know the only and eternally true God with me, who is the Same That created you and now gave you back the light of your eyes! Yes, you shall learn to know your Lord and God personally and shall be taught by Him Himself! Very soon you will also meet a high Roman here in my house, who will order your affairs in Rome. This Roman is Cyrenius, a brother of Augustus. He undoubtedly knew your parents and upon my prompting will surely apply himself in Rome in the matter of your parents for your sake. And that will surely be the same as your parents many times over, in body and in spirit!

For if your earthly parents were alive somewhere, say, could these do more for you? Would they have restored the sight of your eyes to you, and

could they have shown you the one eternal and true God? 1Your parents would of course have provided for your earthly needs, but here you will be provided for forever if you only accept this care. Say, what is more? Your earthly parents whom the sea has swallowed, or those you have now, whom the sea must obey in the name of the one God?'

Here the seeming woman was completely silent from all her great respect and love for Joseph. For she supposed, since she had heard it whispered here and there, that Zeus lived somewhere in the vicinity of Ostracine, and that she was now in his bodily presence.

But Joseph very soon discerned the delusion of the woman and admonished her, 'Oh maiden, oh daughter! Whatever you do, do not hold me to be more than I am, and least of all for something that does not exist! I am a human being just as you are - that is all you need to know for the present. In time you will receive more light, so let us let the matter rest now. And now bring in the noonday meal; afterward we will acquaint ourselves with a number of things. So let it be!'"

Joseph Adopts a Lovely Daughter

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The sons of Joseph went at once and brought in the midday meal. Here Joseph said, 'What happened to the three? Are they going to have the midday meal with us, or would they rather eat in their room today? Go and inquire about that, and what pleases them the most shall be done!' And the sons went and asked the three, but these said nothing and motioned to the sons that they would partake of nothing before sundown, whether food or drink. This the sons reported to Joseph who was satisfied therewith and remarked, 'If the three have made that a matter of conscience, then we would sin against them if we hindered them from keeping their vow. So let us take our places at the table in the name of the Lord and gratefully partake of what God has bestowed upon us.'

Hereupon the seeming woman said, 'Oh master of this house! You are too good and I am a nobody, therefore I am really not worthy to eat at your table. I will most gratefully partake of what your kindness will bestow on me in the entrance hall of the house. Besides, my too ragged clothes and my unwashed body do not seem fit for the table of such a master as you are!'

Here Joseph told the sons, 'Go and bring four large jugs of water and place them in Mary's side room. And you, wife, go and wash the woman, and comb her, and put your best clothes on her! And when she is thus excellently and festively attired, lead her here so she can join us at the midday meal without shyness.'

In half an hour Joseph's wish was fulfilled and fully cleansed there now stood in place of the woman a very sweet, timid and most thankful girl in whose face only traces of her former sadness remained. According to her

features she was of great beauty, and lay deep humility, but also deep love in her eyes.

Joseph took real pleasure in this child and said, 'O Lord, I thank You that You have selected me to save this poor girl! In Your most holy name, I will adopt her as a full daughter!' And turning to the sons, he added, 'Look upon your poor sister, and greet her as brothers!' This the sons of Joseph did with much joy, and finally the Baby also affirmed: 'Just as by you, so is she also adopted by Me! That is a good deed and gives Me much joy!' When the girl heard the Baby speak like that, she was astonished and asked, 'Oh wonder, what is this, that this Baby speaks like a God?'"

The Maiden Recognizes the Baby

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The girl went right over to the Baby and declared: 'Oh what an extraordinary Wonder-Child You are! Yes, you are the same shining Baby of which I dreamt so marvelously that the mother bathed, and that the same bathwater afterwards gave me the light of my eyes. Yes, yes, You divine Baby! You gave me the light of my eyes! You are my Savior! You are the real Appollo of Delphi! Yes, you already mean more to my heart than all the gods of Rome, Greece and Egypt! What a high, divine Spirit must dwell in You, who has already loosed Your tongue so soon and who already makes Himself known through You so blessedly and powerfully! Hail to you people of the earth, you who live along with me in great darkness and sorrow! Here is the Sun of the heavens which will give you back sight to you blind ones, as to me! Oh Rome, you mighty conquerors of the earth, see, here before me that Champion smiles at me who will transform you into a heap of rubble! He will raise His standard over your walls, and you will go to your grave! As a storm scatters loose chaff so will you be scattered!'

Here the Baby offered His hand to the girl and wanted to go to her. And the girl took Him with great joy and loved and caressed Him. Thereupon the Baby played with the rich curls of the girl and asked her very quietly, 'My dear sister, do you really believe the words which you expressed before Me when I was still on My brother's arm?'

And the girl replied just as quietly to the Baby, 'Yes, my Savior, my Light, my first morning Sun - now I believe it all the more firmly, since You asked me about it!'

And the Baby said thereto, 'Good for you, that you thus believe in your heart as you have spoken! But I tell you this: Keep nothing more secret for the time being than just this your confession of faith! For never has the enemy of all life sharpened his ear as much as during this very time! Therefore, be silent about Me and be sure not to reveal Me if you are concerned that this enemy will not slay you forever!'

This the girl pledged most emphatically and during the time that she fondled the Baby took on an appearance of such youthful, perfect beauty that all were greatly astonished thereat, and the girl became so ecstatic in her great bliss that she began to coo and loudly exult for joy."

Cyrenius Seeks the Maiden's Hand

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "While the girl was still enthralled in her great joy, Cyrenius, accompanied by Maronius Pilla, returned to Joseph as he had promised to do the previous evening. Joseph and Mary received him with great, heartfelt joy, and Cyrenius said, 'Oh my esteemed friend and brother, what has befallen you, since to my great joy you are so happy?'

Joseph at once referred Cyrenius to the girl and stated, 'See, there with the Baby on her arms and sunk into deep bliss is the object of our joy!'

Cyrenius looked at the girl more closely and then asked Joseph, 'Did you take her into your service as a child-nurse? Where did this beautiful Israelite maiden come from?'

And Joseph answered the from curiosity burning Cyrenius, 'Oh eminent friend, see, a wonder brought her beneath this roof! She came to me blind, looking like an elderly, extremely poor beggar woman. Then she received her sight through the wondrous power of the Baby, and it became evident that she is only a maiden of scarcely twenty summers, and since she is an orphan, I have also adopted her as my daughter! That is the actual reason for our joy!'

And Cyrenius, while looking at the girl with constantly greater approbation, while she in her great bliss did not even notice him although he was present in full splendor, said to Joseph, 'Oh friend, oh brother, how much do I now regret that I am a Roman patrician! Truly, I would give anything if I were now a Jew and could ask for this glorious Jewess of you for a wife! For you know that I am single and childless. Oh, what could such a wife, blessed by you, be to me!'

Hereupon Joseph smiled at Cyrenius and asked him, 'Just what would you do if this girl were no Jewess, but a Roman woman of high station, equal to yours? If she were the only daughter of a patrician whose parents met their doom in the depths of the sea during a voyage to Delphi?'

At this Cyrenius looked at Joseph quite dumbfoundedly and said after a mute pause, 'Oh esteemed friend and brother! What are you saying? I beg you, explain yourself more clearly, for the matter seems to concern me closely!'

Joseph replied, 'My eminent friend! See, everything has its proper time, so you too must be a little patient here and the girl will tell you everything herself. In the meantime, tell me how matters stand with the corpses which were dug out of the rubble of the temple.'"

The Three-Fold Roman Marriage Law

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "And Cyrenius said to Joseph, 'Oh friend and brother, do not concern yourself about the corpses. During the night about two hundred have been restored to life, and I have been busy all morning providing lodging for them. If in the course of the rubble's removal several more unmaimed corpses should still be found, they will also be looked after just like the others. See, that in short is the whole story which now does not nearly interest me as much as this maiden, who according to your most credible story is supposed to be the daughter of a come-to-grief Roman patrician! Let me find out exactly how matters stand with this child, so that I may be able to help this poor orphan in every way possible!

See, as I told you recently, I am single and have no children. Could she possibly be better taken care of than if I, as a brother of the emperor, take her for my lawful wife? For that reason, the story of this girl becomes ever more important to me ahead of everything else. So, give me the opportunity to promptly speak with this glorious child and have a thorough discussion with her!'

Joseph now inquired of Cyrenius, 'Eminent friend and brother, you tell me that you are single, but you also told me in Tyre that you are married to one woman - only that you have no children with her. Tell me, how am I to understand that? I know that you may take another wife if the first one is sterile; but how you as a wedded husband are still supposed to be single, truly, that I cannot understand! Explain yourself more clearly.'

Here Cyrenius smiled and replied, 'Dear friend, I see that you are not familiar with the laws of Rome. I will have to enlighten you, so listen to me.

You see, we Romans have a three-fold right in marriage; two of them are not binding, only one is binding. According to the two not binding laws I may marry even a slave woman but for all that I do not have a lawful wife, but only a lawfully permitted concubine. Thereby I am still single and can take a lawful wife at any time.

The difference between the first two not binding laws consists only in that, in the first case, I may take only a concubine - without the least obligation to ever take her as a legal wife. In the second case I can also have the daughter of a house of appropriate social standing merely bound to me by her parents, with the stipulation to take her as a lawful wife if I beget one to three living children with her, of which at least one is a boy.

In the third case only does the firmly binding law go into effect, which states that I must first be firmly united with a lawful wife before the altar of Hymen by a priest set apart for that purpose and then am no more single, but married.

With us then neither the wedding (*nuptias capere*) nor the tentative matrimony (*Patrimonium facere*), but only the real marriage (*uxorem ducere*)

cancels the single status according to the laws as they are now constituted. Thus, we can enter into nuptias capere, Patrimonium facere and uxorem ducere, and only the last can put an end to the single status!

See, that is why I am all the more single, since I am unable to beget any children with the concubine, and would be single even if I did have children with her because the children begotten with a concubine have no right to the father with us, unless the father adopts them with the emperor's consent!

Now you know everything, so I entreat you to acquaint me more closely with the history of this girl, for I am now wholly determined to marry her as soon as possible in the fullest sense of the word!

When Joseph heard this from Cyrenius, he said, 'In that case I will first instruct and prepare the girl myself, lest such a proposal weaken or even kill her!'"

Victor Aurelius Dexter Latiid

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Joseph then went over to the girl who was still occupied with the Baby, tugged at her sleeve and said to her, 'Listen, my beloved daughter, have you really not noticed who is here? Do look up for once and see!'

At this the girl awakened from her ecstasy and beheld the glittering Cyrenius. Thereupon she was greatly startled and asked in a frightened tone of voice, 'Oh my dear father Joseph! Who is this so very brightly glittering man? What is he doing here? Where did he come from?'

Joseph answered the girl, 'Oh do not be afraid, my daughter Tullia! See, that is the ever so good Cyrenius, a brother of the emperor and governor of Asia and a part of Africa. He will surely put your matter in the best order in Rome, for you have already become very dear to him at first glance. Now go over and request that he hears you, then put your whole life story before him and be assured that you will not have spoken to deaf ears!'

But the girl objected, 'Oh my dear father, that I dare not do, for I know that such a lord examines with terrible strictness on such occasions, and if he finds out some point which cannot be proved, he promptly threatens one with death! Thus, it happened to me in my poverty once before when such a lord also inquired of me from whence, I came. When I faithfully told him everything, he demanded unquestionable proof of me. But since I in my completely orphaned state and in my utmost poverty could not produce these for him, he ordered me to keep strictest silence and threatened me with death if I should ever speak any more about that to anyone. I therefore entreat you, do you also not betray me or I am surely lost!'

At this Cyrenius, who had heard this low discussion, stepped over to Tullia and said to her, 'Oh Tullia, do not fear him who truly wants to spare no

effort to make you as happy as possible! Tell me nothing more than the name of your father, if you still remember it, and I will require no more. But fear nothing whatever, although your father's name is lost to you. You will be just as dear to me because you are now a daughter of this, my greatest friend!'

At this Tullia became a bit more confident and admitted to Cyrenius, 'Truly, if your gentle eye deceives me, then the whole world is a lie! So, I will indeed tell you the name of my good father. See, his name was Victor Aurelius Dexter Latiid - since you are a brother of the emperor, this name cannot be unknown to you.'

When Cyrenius heard this name, he was visibly stirred and said in a broken voice, 'Oh Tullia, he was my mother's own brother! Yes, yes, of him I know that by his lawful wife he had a blind-born daughter whom he loved more than anything else! Oh, how often have I envied him his good fortune which actually was a misfortune! But the blind Tullia was more to him than the whole world. Yes, I was quite in love with this Tullia when she was hardly four to five years old and have often declared by myself: This one or no other shall someday be my real wife! And - O God - now I find this same heavenly Tullia here in the house of my heavenly, godly friend! O Lord, o Lord, that is too much reward at one time for a weak mortal and for the little that I, who am nothing before You, o Lord, did!' - Hereat Cyrenius, who had lost his strength, sank into a chair and after a while regained his presence of mind to continue the conversation with Tullia."

A Gospel On Marriage Acceptable Before God

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

When he had recovered, Cyrenius again inquired of Tullia, 'Tullia, would you not give me your hand and become my rightful wife, if I were to entreat you to do so from the very bottom of my heart?'

Here Tullia asked, 'What would you do with me if I were to deny you that?'

And Cyrenius, though somewhat agitated, nevertheless replied with genuine good will, 'Then I would sacrifice it to Him whom you hold upon your arms, and would sadly go my way!'

And Tullia asked Cyrenius further, saying, 'What would you do if I asked Him who now rests upon my arms for advice as to what I should do, and He advised me against accepting your proposal and told me to remain faithful to the house which has received me in so friendly a way?'

Cyrenius was slightly taken aback by this question, and replied somewhat at a loss, 'Yes, then, my most wonderful Tullia, then of course I would at once and without objection have to desist from my petition! For against the will of Him whom all the elements must obey, mortal man can eternally never oppose himself. Oh but be sure to ask the Baby immediately, so I may find out where I stand as soon as possible!'

Here the Baby promptly sat upright and said: 'I am not a Lord of that which is of the world, hence you are free in all worldly matters as far as I am concerned! Once you have found true love in your hearts toward one another then you shall not become unfaithful to it! For with Me no other law counts in marriage than that which is written with glowing letters in your hearts. If you have already recognized each other at first glance according to this living law and have bound yourselves, then you shall not separate any more if you do not want to commit a sin before Me!

I recognize no worldly bond of marriage other than that of the heart - whoever breaks this, he is indeed an adulterer before Me! You, My Cyrenius, have set your heart on this daughter ever so strongly, so you shall not turn it from her again. And you, daughter, were already burning in your heart for Cyrenius at first glance, therefore you already are his wife before Me and need not first become so!

For I accept neither worldly counsel nor objection, but only the counsel of your hearts. Always remain faithful to this living law if you do not wish to become veritable adulterers before Me! And let him be accursed to who because of worldly considerations counsels against the matter of love, which is of Me! For what is more: the living love which is from Me, or the worldly motive which is from hell?

Woe also to that love which is based on the world - let it be accursed!' These words of the Baby confounded all, and no one dared to say any more on the subject of marriage."

The Seat of Life is in the Heart

Jesus is speaking: "And since after this discourse of the Baby all gazed down at their feet in consternation and no one trusted himself to speak, the Baby suddenly opened His mouth again and said: 'What are you all standing around Me for so sadly now? After all, I have not done you any harm! To you, My Cyrenius, I gave whereafter your heart thirst, and to you also, My dear Tullia. What more do you want? '

Should I perhaps declare the living adultery to be good, when you children of men have already set the punishment of death on the dead adultery? What sort of request would that be? Is not that which occurs in life more than that which is held in the judgment of death? I would say that you should be quite happy and should not mourn because it is that way!

Whosoever loves, does he love in the heart or in the head? But you have drawn your marriage laws not from the heart, but only from the head! 'Now life is only in the heart and goes from it into all parts of man and therewith also into the head, which has no life in itself, but is dead. And since you already sanction the laws of the head with death - when these are dead along with the head - how much more' fitting it is to respect the living, eternal laws of the heart!

Therefore, rejoice that I, as the living One among you, hold fast to the laws of life. If I did not do so, eternal death would already have come over all of you long ago! 'That is why I came into the world, that through Me all of the works and laws of death will be destroyed and be replaced by the ancient laws of life! And if I show you in advance what the laws of life as well as those of death are, what harm am I doing you-thereby that you mourn thereat and are afraid of Me as if I, instead of bringing you life, had brought you death?

Oh, how foolish you are! In Me the old, eternal Life has come to you, so rejoice and never be sad! Now you, My Cyrenius, take the woman whom I give you, and you, Tullia, take the man whom I have led to you in all earnestness- from now on you shall never leave each other! But when you will have been separated by the death of your body, then the surviving part shall be free according to outward things, but your love shall endure forever, Amen!'"

For Every Man I Created Only One Woman

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "This noble language on Tullia's part quite inspired Cyrenius, and he stepped over to Tullia, who was still holding the Baby upon her arms, and said to the Baby with the greatest feeling, 'O my Life, o true God of my heart- since You have already united me with this girl so graciously I, a poor sinner, also entreat You for Your blessing, to which I shall remain faithful for the rest of my life.' And the Baby thereupon sat up and replied:

'Yes, My dear Cyrenius, you I will bless with your wife Tullia. But that woman to whom you were wed until now, you must give her to Me for that. For if you did not do that, you would remain in the sin of adultery before Me; for you loved the woman and still love her greatly. But if you surrender the woman and completely give her up and sacrifice her to Me, then you have also given Me your sin. That is why I came into the world, that I might take all sin of mankind in the world upon Myself and efface it through My Love before Its divine countenance forever! So let it be.'

At this demand Cyrenius at first hesitated somewhat, for his spouse was an extremely beautiful Greek slave whom he had bought at a high price. He loved her very much because of her great beauty, although he had no children by her. And although this Grecian woman was already thirty years old, she was nevertheless so beautiful that she was worshiped by the lesser pagans as a veritable Venus. Therefore, this demand was a bit steep for the good Cyrenius, and he would much rather not have had it made at all. But the Baby did not allow Himself to be swayed by this and remained adamant in His demand.

Since Cyrenius saw that the Baby would not recede from His demand in the least, he appealed to the Baby, saying, 'O my Life! See, my spouse, the beautiful Eudokia, has grown very dear to my heart and I shall miss her

greatly. Truly, if it were possible, I would rather let You have Tullia than give up the ever so beautiful Eudokia!'

At this the Baby smiled at Cyrenius and asked him: 'Do you hold Me to be a trader? See, that I certainly am not! Or do you hold Me to be a Being that allows Himself to be bartered with concerning a spoken word? Oh, there I will tell you this: If you said to me: Let pass away the entire visible heaven and the visible earth - I would sooner listen to you than take back one once-spoken word.

Truly I say to you: Sun, moon and stars and this earth will pass away, like a garment they will age and become nothing; but My words eternally never! For that reason, you will also promptly have Eudokia brought here and only then receive Tullia, blessed by Me. But if you resist, I will let Eudokia die on you - and then will never give you Tullia. For what you do you must do freely; any activity done contrary to one's free will has no value before Me. If Eudokia dies, then you are already judged with her death and cannot become Tullia's husband anymore. But if you offer up Eudokia to Me, then you are truly free and Tullia can be your rightful wife! But two wives you cannot have according to My order - for in the beginning only one man and one woman were created. Therefore, do as I now have spoken to you, so a judgment will not come upon you!'

These words of the Child brought Cyrenius to the sudden decision to have Eudokia brought from the city, for he had taken her along from Tyre but allowed no one to see her, so that absolutely no one should be captivated by her great charms.

But even now he did not entrust her to anyone else than only to the oldest son of Joseph and to Maronius Pilla. These two, accompanied by the bodyguard of Cyrenius, went over into the residence of Cyrenius and very soon brought the beautiful Eudokia into Joseph's house. Eudokia was greatly surprised at this and did not know how it came to be that Cyrenius for the first time had her brought by strange men."

Cyrenius Makes a Sacrifice

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius now saw Eudokia opposite Tullia, he found her to be considerably more beautiful than Tullia and it hurt him to part with her forever. He therefore asked the Baby once more if he might not at least keep her as a maid and companion of Tullia. But the Baby said: 'My Cyrenius! You can take as many maids as you like into your house, but not Eudokia! Her you must leave here, and that because I want it that way for your own good.'

When Eudokia saw and quite plainly heard how this small, minor Child answered Cyrenius in a commanding manner, she was horrified and exclaimed, 'But in the name of all the gods, just what is this? A minor Child

commands him before whom Asia and Egypt tremble when he speaks! And the great commander listens fearfully to the so firmly commanding Child and willingly submits according to His declaration? Oh, that will not happen as easily as this minor Child may think! It would in fact be an utter disgrace for you, oh mighty Cyrenius, if you should actually allow yourself to be commanded by this Child. Therefore, be a man and a Roman.'

When Cyrenius heard this from Eudokia, he became provoked and declared: 'Yes, Eudokia! Right now, I will show you that I am a man and a Roman! See, even if this Child whom Tullia coaxes were not of divine origin and He were to speak to me with nearly such divine wisdom, I still would do as He says. But this Child is of the Most High, divine origin, and I thus will follow Him all the more in whatever He wants of me! - Now what would you prefer: to do what this Child of all children wants, or to die forever?'

These words of Cyrenius to Eudokia had a great effect. To be sure, she began to weep because she now would suddenly have to give up so much splendor, but in doing so she considered that a God's counsel just does not allow itself to be amended and thus resigned herself to this turn of providence.

Mary now went over to Eudokia and assured her, 'Eudokia, do not mourn over this exchange! For you gave up only a very minor splendor so you might receive another much greater one for it. See, I am also a daughter of a king, but the royal splendor is long passed away, and see, now I am a handmaiden of the Lord, and that is a greater splendor than all the kingship of the world!' These words had a very strong effect on Eudokia, and she began to take heart in Joseph's house."

Eudokia Finds a Greater Splendor

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Eudokia now asked Mary whence it came to be that this Baby was so full of miraculous power and of such a most high, divine nature, and how it came to be that Cyrenius now depended so much on the words of the Baby.

To this, Mary charmingly replied, 'Dear Eudokia! See, not every matter can be hurried unduly. Each thing needs its time, and with gentle patience we get the farthest. Once you have been with me for a while you will find out everything, but for the time being believe that this Child is greater than all the heroes and gods of Rome!

Did you not feel the great power of the storm the day before yesterday? See, it came from the mighty hand of Him with whom Tullia still plays! What the power of this storm did with the temples in the city it could also do with the whole earth! Now you know enough for the time being and may not know any more for the sake of your salvation, but when you become more versed you will also find out more. Therefore, I entreat you for your own good that

you will be silent thereof to everyone, for if you talk about it you will be judged.'

These words of Mary gave Eudokia peace, and she began to think a great deal by herself concerning what she had heard from Mary. Mary now went over to Tullia, took the Baby from her arms and said to her, 'See, this my little Son has already blessed you and you will therefore be happy forever! But over there is the poor Eudokia - she has not felt the infinite joy of the Baby's blessing. Therefore, I will also lay the Baby on Eudokia's arms, so she may feel what power goes out from the Baby.'

Thereupon Mary carried the Baby over to Eudokia and said to her assuringly, 'Here, Eudokia, is my and your salvation. Take Him on your arms for a short time and experience how sweet it is to be the mother of such a Child!'

With great deference Eudokia took the Baby in her arms, but she feared this most mysterious Child and hardly dared to stir. And the Baby smiled and said, 'Oh Eudokia, do not be afraid of Me, for I am not you're undoing but your Savior! And in the near future you will learn to know Me better than you know Me now. Then you will not fear Me anymore but love Me as I love you.'

These words deprived Eudokia of fear and she began to fondle and caress the Baby.

Joseph Accepts a Gift from Cyrenius

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Cyrenius now said to Joseph, 'Noble friend and brother! I have found my greatest good fortune in your house in every respect! Now tell me what reward you would have for yourself from me. Oh say, how can I compensate you even in the least degree for all that you have done for me? But do not in any case mention this villa which would surely be something too little and mean as a reward for you.'

And Joseph replied, 'Oh brother and friend, what are you taking me for? Do you think I am a trader in good deeds who does good only for the sake of a reward? Oh, how greatly do you err if you think that about me. See, I know nothing meaner than a paid-for benefactor and a paid-for good deed! Truly, may I and the day and the hour be cursed when I was born if I were to take from you even one star!

Do you therefore take your wife, the cleansed Tullia, to yourself in all good cheer. What you will do for her and many other poor souls, that I shall always consider and accept as a good reward for my deeds to you. But please spare this house from any endowment, because what I have is enough for all of us. What use then is anymore? You think perhaps that I will request some sort of board money for Eudokia? - Oh, do not speak of that! I take her in as a daughter and shall rear her in the grace of God. Now where indeed is the

father who allowed himself to be paid anything by anyone for bringing up his daughter?

I tell you, Eudokia is worth more than all the world, so there is no reward in the world which could be offered as acceptable to her. And the great reward which I have for all my dealings, see, He now lies in the arms of Eudokia.'

When Cyrenius perceived this great unselfishness of Joseph, he was deeply stirred and asserted, 'Truly, before God and all the people of the earth you stand alone as a man of all men. To praise you with words would be a vein effort, for you stand exalted above every word of man. But I now know what to do so I may show you how very greatly I honor and value you. I shall give you a present which you will surely not refuse. See, in Tyre I have three girls and five boys from very poor parents who are deceased. I shall have these dear children brought here to you so they may be brought up by you. That I shall see to their upkeep you may be fully assured of. Will you deny that to me also? No, Joseph, my noble brother, that you surely will not do!'

And Joseph replied, deeply moved, 'No, brother, that I shall never deny you! Therefore, send these children here as soon as possible and they shall receive the best care in everything they may need.'"

A Secret Roman Marriage Law

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "Cyrenius was quite satisfied by this assurance of Joseph and said, 'My esteemed friend, now everyone of my wishes has been fulfilled and I have nothing more that I might wish! Only one unfortunate situation still exists beside my great good fortune, and this is as follows:

Tullia, the heavenly one, is now my rightful wife. But according to convention I am a Roman and therefore must also, for the sake of the people, have myself formally married by a priest. Such a consecration can only be performed by a high priest of Hymen, and only then becomes a legally acceptable union. Now how are we going to do this here since apart from the three lesser priests not one remains?'

Here Joseph suggested to Cyrenius, 'Why do you concern yourself with that which is of no consequence? When you return to Tyre you will find enough priests who will give you their benediction for money, if you actually place any importance on this benediction. But if you remain as you are you will do better, for you are after all also a lord above your own law. Now I recall having once heard from a Roman that a secret law exists in Rome which reads thus:

If a man espouses a girl in the presence of a mute, a fool or a minor child, and these are good-natured during the espousal and smile, then the marriage is quite legal, only a notice thereof must afterward be given to the priest having jurisdiction in that locality, wherewith of course a small shining

offering must not be omitted. If this secret law is correct, what more is needed? Let the three priests come who are staying with me. These will give you a witness that you in the presence of a Child hardly four months old which smiled at you and blessed you, espoused Tullia! Once you have this quite innocent witness and a little gold, what more is there needed for the whole Roman people?'

At this Cyrenius actually jumped for joy and declared to Joseph, 'Indeed, my noble brother, you are quite correct. Such a law actually does exist, but at first, I could not recall it. Now everything is in the best order, so get me the three priests and I shall immediately confer with them in this matter.' - And Joseph promptly had the three still silent priests come into the chamber."

An Official Marriage Covenant

Ref: Vol. 3 The Childhood of Jesus: Ch 3

Jesus is speaking: "The three priest came at once, and one stated, 'Only a command of the governor may lose our tongue today, for we took an oath this morning to speak no word during this whole day and to take no bite of food. But, as stated, we now break this oath in the evening because we are forced to do so by the order of the governor. May he one day bear the responsibility for us!'

Cyrenius retorted, 'Truly, I have not compelled you, but if your conscience bothers you in the matter then I will gladly bear the responsibility. For I am after all in the house of Him who is ultimately concerned with such accountabilities, and there I believe that in the rendering of this account I shall not fare as badly as you foolishly imagine it.'

And Joseph said, 'Oh brother, the accounting is already completed, so just tell the three what you have to request of them.' At this one of the priests anticipated Cyrenius and asked him what they should do for him.

And Cyrenius briefly presented his desire to the three. Here the three affirmed, 'The law is right and so is its fulfillment, but we are only lesser priests, and our witness will not be acknowledged as binding.' And Cyrenius explained to them that because of the complete lack of a high priest, every lesser priest was then obligated to perform the official duties and administer the justice of a high priest in this instance.

The priests thereupon admitted, 'That is right, but when we were to exercise the power of high priests two days ago you condemned us! If we now were again to exercise the prerogative of a high priest, would you then not condemn us again?'

Cyrenius now replied in a somewhat aroused manner, 'At that time I condemned you because you wanted to exercise the prerogatives of high priests quite contrary to law; but now you have the legal right before you. If you act accordingly, you certainly have no condemnation to fear on my part.

Instead, I will give you an offering which will secure your livelihood. And an offering for Rome shall not be overlooked either.'

Here the three priests said, 'Good! But we do not give allegiance to the gods anymore and want nothing more to do with Rome's paganism! Will our certificate be valid if it becomes known in Rome that we have gone over to the faith of Israel?'

And Cyrenius retorted, 'You know as well as I that in Rome every testimony is valid for money. Therefore, do what I request of you. Anything else does not concern you and I shall see that it is taken care of.' This assurance moved the priests to make out the desired certificate for Cyrenius and to bless him therewith.

When Cyrenius had the certificate, he gave Tullia his hand and lifted her up as now his lawful wife. Then he gave her a ring and thereupon had royal clothes brought for her from the city."

Do Not Sigh Because of the World

Ref: "The Childhood of Jesus" by Jakob Lorber Chapter 110

Jesus is speaking: "In a short time the royal clothes were brought for Tullia, and she was attired with them.

Mary took her dress, washed it and then kept it for herself again. Cyrenius, of course, wanted to give Mary royal clothes for it also, but Mary as well as Joseph declined this in all earnestness.

When Eudokia saw Tullia in her true regal splendor, her heart became heavy so that she secretly began to sigh.

But the Baby quietly said to her: 'Eudokia, I tell you, do not sigh because of the world, but sigh instead because of your sins and you will be better off! See, I am more than Cyrenius and Rome. Once you have Me, then you have more than if you owned the whole world. If you want to have Me completely, then you must repent your sin which caused you to become sterile. If you will repent your sins in your love for Me, then only will you recognize according to the measure of your love for Me just who I actually am. And when you do recognize Me, then you will be happier than if you were the consort of the emperor himself.

See, the emperor must maintain strong guards so he will not be driven from the throne. But I am sufficient unto Myself alone. Spirits, suns, moons, earths and all the elements are obedient to Me - I need no guards and even allow Myself to be borne on the arms by you, notwithstanding that you are a sinner! So be calm and do not weep, for you have received what was taken from Tullia when she received the royal garments. And that is infinitely more than yonder kingly garments shimmering with gold, which are dead and bring death, while you are carrying the Life on your arms and will eternally never taste death if you love Me!'

These words of the Baby had such a salutary effect on the feelings of Eudokia that she began to weep in the great joy of her blissful, sublime wonderment.

When Mary noticed that Eudokia bathed her eyes in tears of joy, she went over to her and asked, 'Gracious Eudokia, what can it be that makes me discover sweet tears in your eyes?'

And Eudokia, after a sigh of deep bliss, replied, 'Oh you most fortunate of mothers in the whole world, see, your Baby has spoken to me marvelously! Truly, not mortal men in all their worldly eminence, but only gods can be capable of such words.

My breast is now filled with great thoughts and presentiments. As if from a hidden depth they ascend in me like bright stars out of the sea, and therefore I am crying from rapture!'

And Mary assured her, 'Eudokia, just be patient! After the stars the sun will also come, and in that light only will you behold where you are. - But now quiet, for Cyrenius is coming over.'

The World Is a Stage of Deceit

Ref: "The Childhood of Jesus" by Jakob Lorber Chapter 111

Jesus is speaking: "When Cyrenius with Tullia came over to Eudokia who still held the Baby on her arm, he said to the Baby, 'O my Life, o my all! To You alone do I owe this my great, wonderful happiness. I did only little for You, and You reward me so unspeakably and make me the happiest man on earth. Oh, how shall I, a poor sinner, ever be able to thank You enough for that?'



Here the Baby sat up, raised His right hand and replied: 'O My dear Cyrenius Quirinus, I now bless you and your wife Tullia so that you shall live together happily in the world. But I also tell you this: never consider yourself too fortunate in the happiness of the world but hold the world as well as its happiness to be a stage of deceit, and you will enjoy the life of the world in the right measure of wisdom.

See, everything in the world is exactly the opposite of what it appears to be! Only love alone, when it comes from the bottom of the heart, is just and true. ***Wherever you see life without love, there is only death, not life. But where you suppose death to be because of the repose of true love, there life dwells, and no one can destroy it.***

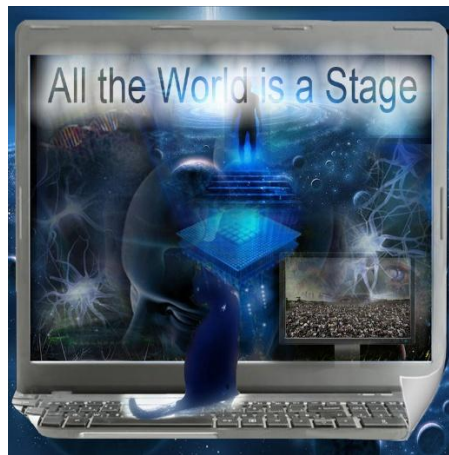
You do not know how weak the ground is where you stand, but I know, therefore I tell you all this. Dig here only a thousand fathoms deep (fathom is about 6 ft.), and you will have a mighty chasm before you which will devour you. Therefore, do not bore too deeply into the world, and do not rejoice at the discoveries in the depths of the world, for wherever anyone digs too deeply into the world, he prepares his own downfall. Do not trust the spot where you stand, for it is infirm and can swallow you if you dig there and tunnel a mine into the ground.

Consider: Everything in the world can kill you because everything carries death within itself - only love alone does not if you preserve it in its purity. But if you mix it with worldly things, it becomes heavy and can also kill you in body as well as in spirit.

Hence remain in pure, unselfish love, love the one God as your Father and Creator above all things and men as your brothers like yourself, and you will have eternal life in such a love. Amen.'

These the Baby's words of superior wisdom instilled such deep respect into Cyrenius as well as all those present that they trembled all over.

Joseph then went over to Cyrenius and said, 'Brother, get hold of yourself and with the blessing of this house go into the city. But keep everything that you heard and received here hidden for the time being. And tomorrow come and keep the wedding feast here.' Cyrenius thereupon went into the city with Tullia and his company."



The Truth is a Revolutionary Act

This is the Voice of the Teacher

"It roars and caresses. It roars when it is addressed to those who do not want to be converted. It caresses when it speaks to those who, though imperfect, have the 'good will' to find God and his Word and, having found them, to sanctify themselves. For these it becomes the caress of a Friend and the blessing of Jesus."

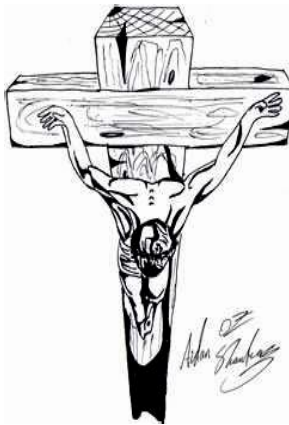
Ref: PMG V5:923

"Unfortunately, the world does not want to be saved. Only one in a thousand will be willing to know Me, and only one in ten thousand will really follow Me. And I will say even more. I will not be known even by My most intimate friends; To know means to love with loyalty and virtue." Ref: PMG Vol.1-46

As we enter into the period of the great tribulation, we need to hear the word of the Lord proclaimed clearly and forcefully like a clear trumpet. **If the bugle's sound is uncertain, who will get ready for the *battle*?** (1 Cor 14:8). **Who will be able to listen and act? Who will be able to say with Samuel, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening?'** (1 Sam 3:9)

**Harden not your heart and be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit
prepare your soul now for the coming of the Lord**

**"I Am with you always
even unto the end of the world"**



Jesus is speaking: "And I say to you: 'Take,' do take this work and '*do not seal it*' but read it and have it read '*because the time is close*' and let those who are holy become holier. (John, Revelation, 22:10)

May the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ be with all those who in this book see an approach of Mine and urge it to be accomplished, to their defense, with the cry of Love: 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

I will always be with you because it is pleasant to Me to be with those who love Me." MV Vol5: 951

