FOREWORD

THIS book has been written for children and presented to the People of God as a means of fulfilling the earnest wishes of the Church—that the treasure of revelation, entrusted to the Church, may more and more fill the hearts of the people. The purpose of this book is to show you how God has loved His people in the Old Testament, and to help you to know and love Jesus Christ still more when you see him living among us in the Gospel.

Moses wrote about the early story of the human race, how God made the world and man, how sin and suffering had come. He showed how the Children of Israel came to be chosen as the special nation of God. He then led them on toward the Promised Land. The rest of the story tells how the Children of Israel served or did not serve God and how God promised a Savior.

The Gospel tells the story of Jesus Christ, the Divine Word Incarnate, God's own Son living among us. Without Him neither salvation nor holiness is possible.

The more you study the divine plan according to the Gospels, the more you see that Jesus Christ is true God and true Man; He is the center of creation and redemption. Through Him every grace is given to us and all glory rendered to His Father. May this book help you to love Him with all your heart as your Savior and your Friend!

FATHER LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.

CONTENTS

The Old Testament

1. God Creates the World 7
2. Adam and Eve Sin and God Promises a Redeemer 9
3. God Again Promises a Redeemer 10
4. God Calls a Man to Form His People 12
5. God Renews His Promises to Jacob 15
6. God Protects Joseph and His People in Egypt 17
7. God Chooses Moses to Lead His People . . 18
8. God's People Celebrate the First Passover . 21
9. God Guides His People through the Red Sea 23
10. God Reveals His Law to His People 24
11. Jericho Is Conquered by God's Power 26
12. God Brings His People into the Promised Land 29
13. God Gives Samson Great Strength to Help His People 31
14. God Calls Samuel to Lead His People . . . 33
15. God Chooses Saul as the First King 34
16. God Helps David Defeat the Giant Goliath . 37
17. David the King Brings the Ark to Jerusalem 38
18. God Grants Great Wisdom to King Solomon 41
19. The Prophet Elijah Speaks for God 43
20. God Calls Isaiah to Be a Prophet 45
21. People Are Taken into Exile Because of Sins 47
22. Daniel Is Saved in the Lion's Den 49

Contents *(Continued)*

The New Testament

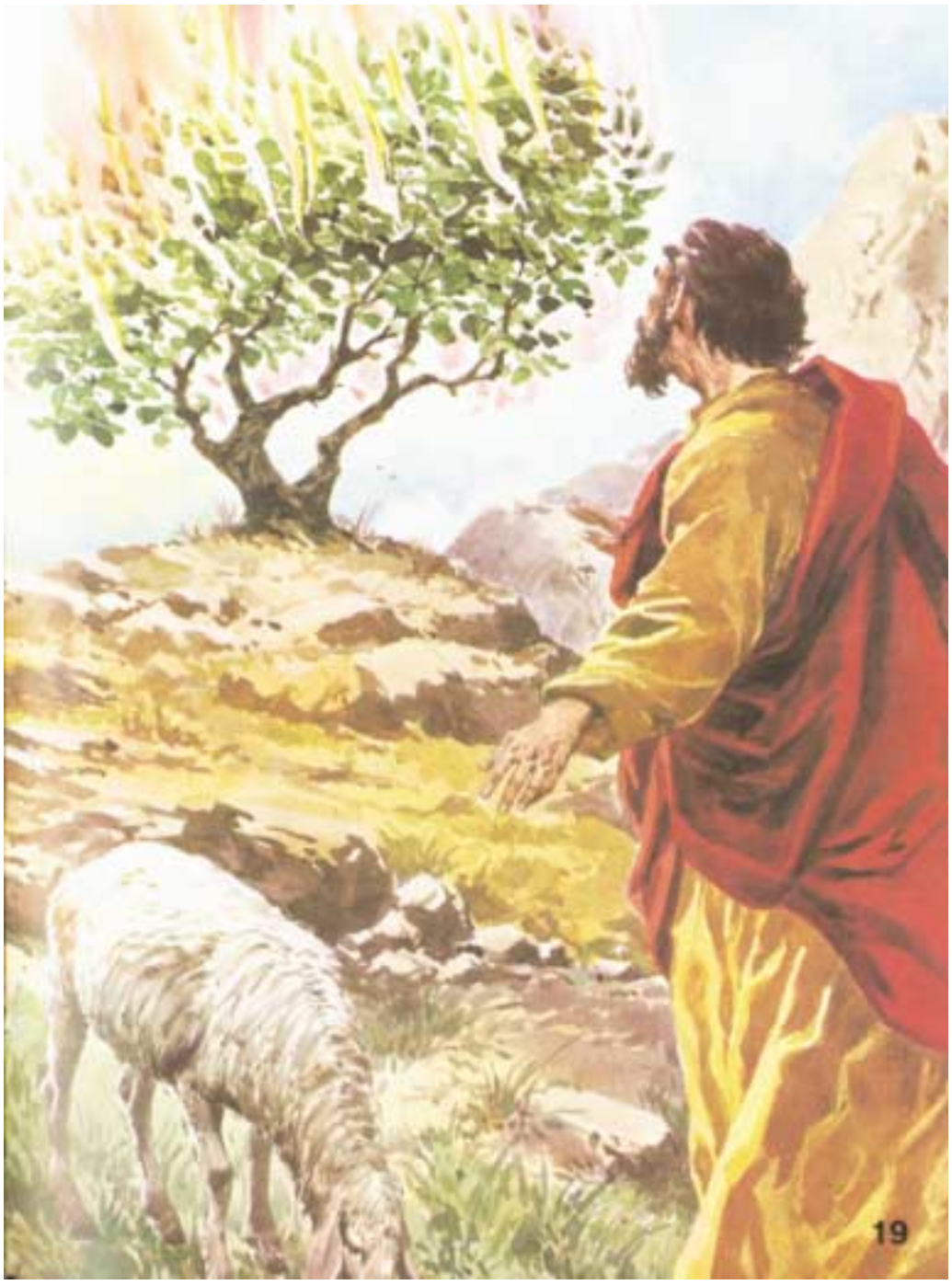
23. Jesus' Birth Is Announced to Mary 50
24. Jesus Is Born 53
25. The Three Wise Men Come to Worship Jesus 54
26. Jesus Speaks with the Teachers 56
27. Jesus Changes Water into Wine 59
28. Jesus Heals a Crippled Man 61
29. Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles 62
30. Jesus Gives the Sermon on the Mount . . . 65
31. Jesus Raises a Widow's Son 67
32. Jesus Raises the Daughter of Jairus 69
33. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People 70
34. Jesus Shows His Glory 73
35. Jesus Blesses Children 74
36. Jesus Teaches Love for Neighbor 77
37. Jesus Enters Jerusalem in Triumph 79
38. Jesus Gives Us the Eucharist 80
39. Jesus Is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns 82
40. Jesus Is Condemned to Death 84
41. Jesus Dies on the Cross 86
42. Jesus Rises from the Dead 89
43. Jesus Appears to the Women 91
44. Jesus Appears to Thomas 92
45. Jesus Ascends to Heaven 94
46. The Holy Spirit Comes Down on Pentecost . 95
47. Jesus Left Us the Church Led by the Pope . 96

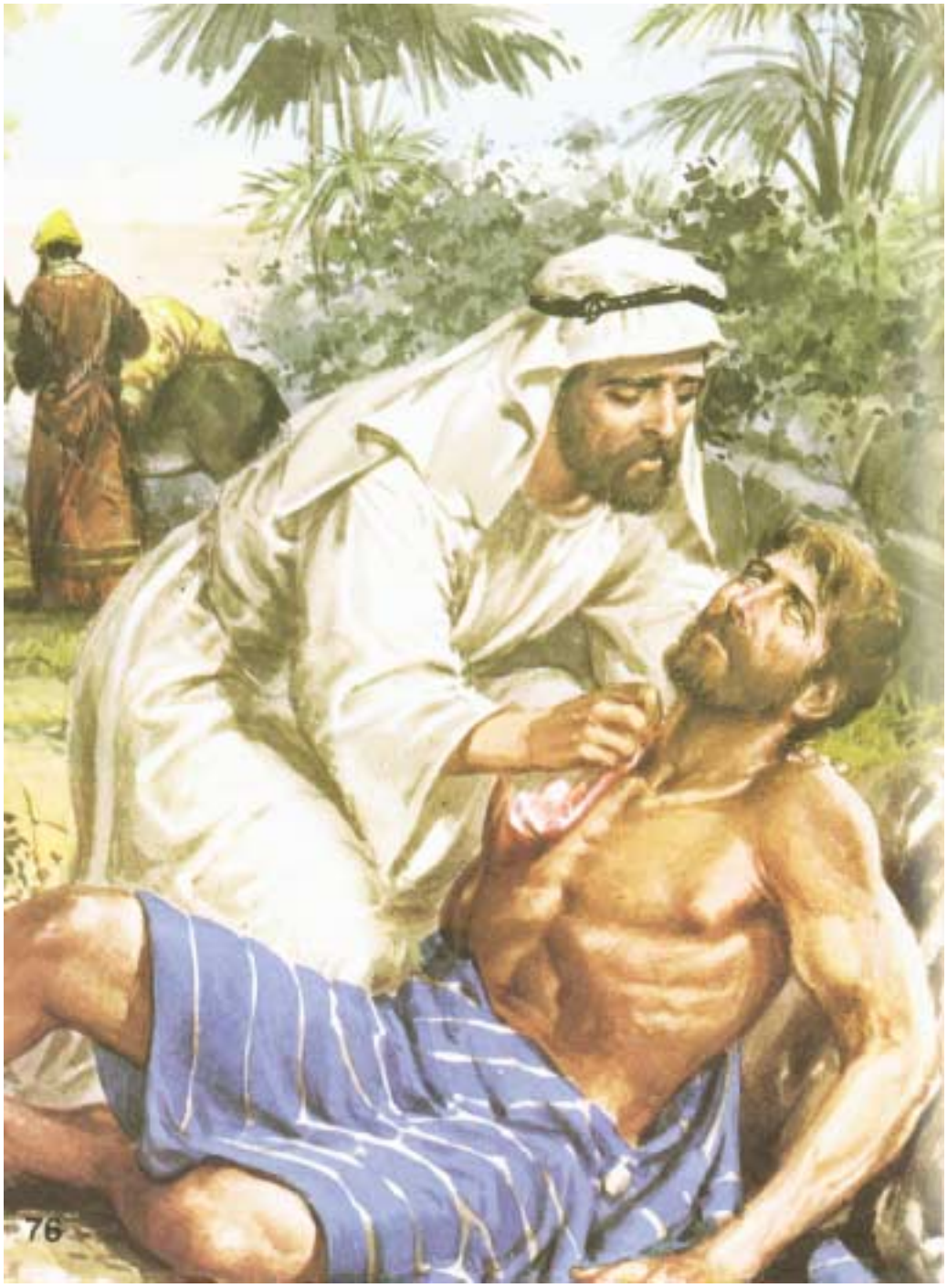
7. God Chooses Moses to Lead His People

THE Israelites grew to be a great number of people in Egypt. A Pharaoh made them work hard as slaves. He commanded that every newborn Israelite boy was to be thrown into the river.

One baby boy was placed by his mother in a boat of reeds on the Nile. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter who named him Moses and brought him up as her own son. When he grew up, Moses went to Midian and married one of the daughters of the priest there.

One day Moses saw a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. He heard God's voice telling him to go to Pharaoh to gain freedom for His people. God said: "Tell the children of Israel that I AM [God's Name] sent you to them, the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses obeyed.





36. Jesus Teaches Love for Neighbor

JESUS had just told a Teacher of the Law that the first commandment was love of God and neighbor. Then with a parable (or story) He taught us who is a neighbor.

A certain man went from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers took away all his money and left him halfdead.

Three men came along that road: a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. The first two men hurried past but the Samaritan stopped. He washed the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and left money there for his care.

Jesus asked the Teacher which of the three men had been a neighbor to the man. The Teacher said: "The man who took care of him." Jesus told him to go and do the same.