



# 1. THE FIRE AND FLOOD OF GOD

**H**ave you ever thought about how the gospel came to you, that good news of free salvation through Jesus Christ? It started with Jesus, who spoke it to the apostles. They took it as a glorious gift to many people, who carried it, one by one, like a precious treasure, to many other people, who passed it along to many more.

One by one, from one person to the next, like a roaring blaze, like a rushing river, the gospel traveled around the world, taking root like a tree in the heart of one person after another. Then finally it came to someone who told it to someone who told it to someone, who told it to you.

And this is the same way the gospel, that wonderful story of salvation through Jesus Christ, came to some ladies who became missionaries in Australia in the 1940s. They took it to a house where a boy lived named Dick McLellan, who had no idea that there was a true God. However, that boy came to believe in Jesus Christ.



## WITH TWO HANDS

When he grew up, Dick wanted to do the same for someone else that these ladies had done for him. He took that gospel to a different land where the people had never heard, in Ethiopia. When people there believed that Jesus Christ was their only hope for salvation, they too carried the precious treasure of the gospel to other people, other tribes in their own land, one...by one...by one.

And so the gospel burned, like a roaring blaze that could never be put out. And so the gospel flowed, like a raging river that can never be stopped. And so the gospel blew, like a mighty wind, never seen, but displaying breathtaking power.

And so the gospel took root in people's hearts, one... by one...by one, like a majestic forest of trees that will all grow together to bear much fruit.

*John 4:14: "But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

See Thinking Further for Chapter I on page 163.