

from gradual depopulation by casting in the new vessel of salt to renovate water, earth and man. Eliseus, signifies God the Saviour, or the salvation of God, (Eli Sen, or El Isa) and was a type of Christ both in his actions and name. St. Augustine, in his Book against Fulgentius the Donatist, writes : ' Eliseus is Christ the Saviour, who healed the sterility of the waters : that is, the infidelity of the Gentiles, by destroying death. He took the vessel of clay, that is, the body of human frailty : he cast salt into it, that is, he filled it with divine wisdom : He threw it into the water, that is, he went down into the Jordan : He healed the waters by his descent, that is, he redeemed the Gentiles by his coming, he collected his Church out of all nations and made her fruitful far and wide.'

Again we find this mysterious element in connection with the wonderful sacrifice of Nehemias, 'after the temple and altar was built. For when he sent some of the posterity of the priests who had hidden the fire in a deep pit when their fathers were led into Persia, 'to seek for the fire . . . they found no fire but thick water. Then he bade them draw it up, and bring it to him, and the priest Nehemias commanded the sacrifices that were laid on, to be sprinkled with the same water, both the wood and the things that were laid upon it. And when this was done, and the time came that the sun shone out which before was in a cloud, there was a great fire kindled so that all wondered. . . . And when the sacrifice was consumed Nehemias commanded the water that was left to be poured out upon the great stones, which being done there was kindled a flame from them ; but it was consumed by the light that shined from the altar.' (2 Maccab. i. 20, 32.)

We may thus perceive that under the ancient dispensation, and from the very beginning of the world the element of Water has played a conspicuous part, and that from the mysterious and wonderful uses to which it was applied, it served as a purification, a safeguard, a refreshment, a type, and a most instructive emblem. Let us pursue our enquiries further, and examine the history of Water under the new Covenant, and the truth of this observation will be fully confirmed.