



ENGLISH EDITION JK - SK

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matt 24:44



H.H. Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



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INTRODUCTION

MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2018

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2017 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2018 is "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matt 24:44). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ. To do this we will learn about the following topics:

1. Be Ready
2. Work Hard
3. Reject Foreign Thoughts
4. Serve Everyone
5. Happy To Be Ready

We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠
My best wishes for a happy
Festival
✠ Bishop Mousa

BE READY

Rahab and the scarlet cord (Joshua 2, 6)

A long time ago, in a city named Jericho, there lived a woman named Rahab. Rahab was not from God's people, but she heard about the power of God and how He saves and protects His people. Her faith in God was so strong.



One day, Joshua, the commander of God's people, sent two men to Jericho to see the city and find out everything about it. He did this so that they can be ready when they

enter Jericho and take it as God had commanded them. This would make them one step closer to taking the land that God had promised them, the land of Canaan. When the two men arrived in Jericho, they went to Rahab's house.

Rahab welcomed them into her home. The king of Jericho was told that two spies had entered the city and that they were staying at Rahab's house. The king sent messengers to Rahab telling her to bring out the spies. Rahab brought the two men up on the roof of her house and hid them from the king's soldiers so that they couldn't find them. When the soldiers left, Rahab had only one request.

Rahab asked the men to spare her and her family since she had shown them kindness by hiding them. The spies promised that her family would be kept safe as long as they stayed inside

her home when Israel came to attack the city. They told her to tie a scarlet rope and let it down from her window and that would be a sign for Israel to spare Rahab and her family.



Rahab helped them escape to go back to Joshua. She let them down by a rope from the window, since her house was on the city wall.

Rahab did as the men told her. She brought all her family in the house and tied the scarlet rope and let it down from her window. She was ready and waited for God's people to come to her city. She had faith that the men will keep their promise to her.

A few days passed then God's people entered the city of Jericho and possessed it. Joshua asked his people to spare only Rahab and her family.

Because Rahab believed, she was ready and was able to get what she wanted, as the verse says:

MEMORY VERSE:

"As you have believed, so let it be done for you." Matthew 8:13

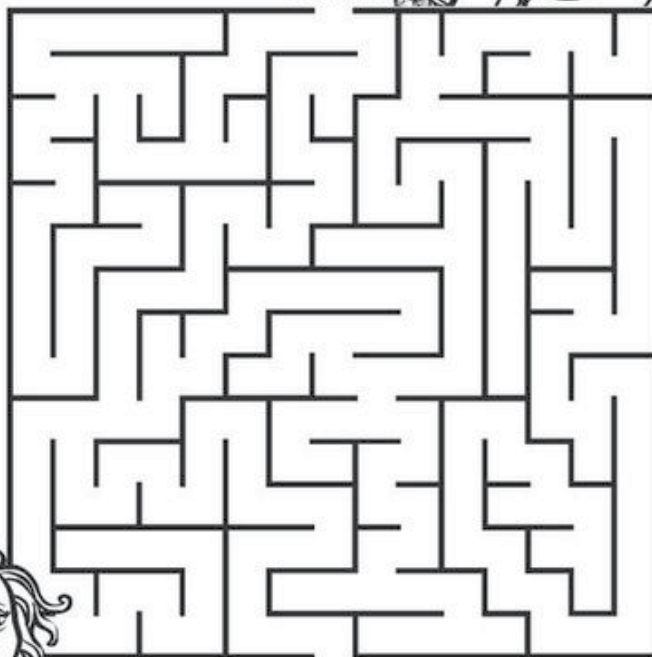
Rahab and her family lived in peace with God's people.

Rahab And The Spies

Help the spy rescue Rahab.



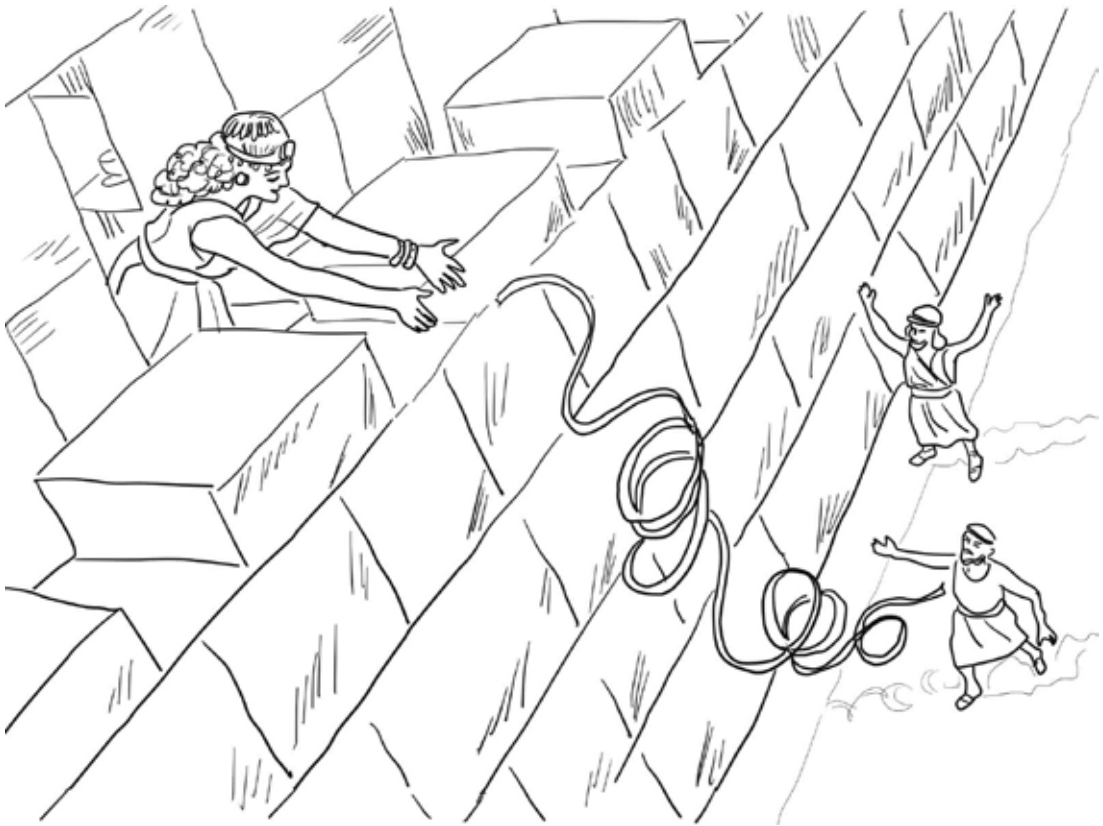
START



END



Rahab Helps The Spies



Work Hard

Preparation for the Liturgy

Every time our beautiful Church prays a Liturgy, it's time for us to come together, lift up our hearts in prayer and worship, and receive the Holy Communion. Because of how important the Liturgy is, we need to be prepared.



The Church starts to prepare for the Liturgy from the night before with special prayers called the evening raising of incense (Vespers). This reminds us that we have to prepare ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus Christ from the night before.

- We pray before we sleep
- We go to bed early



- We fast and stop eating from the night before until we receive Communion the next day

The next day, the preparation continues:

- On our way to Church, we pray the psalm, "I was glad for those who said to me, we will go into the house of the Lord".
- When we enter the Church, we do the sign of the cross and say: "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen".



- We walk quietly into the Church and say: "Hail to the Church, the house of the angels".
- We go kiss the curtain of the altar and bow down before the altar and say the Lord's Prayer "Our Father who art in heaven..."



- When Abouna starts praying, we stand respectfully and sing the Church hymns.

Likewise, the Church also prepares for the Liturgy:

- In the morning, Abouna prepares the altar, covers it with white cloth and white handkerchiefs. He



cleans the holy vessels, (the paten, the dome and the chalice) and puts them on the altar.

- Abouna also wears his white Tonya to pray the Liturgy.

As Abouna covers the altar with white, we remember that we too must have a pure heart and body to receive the Lord Jesus.

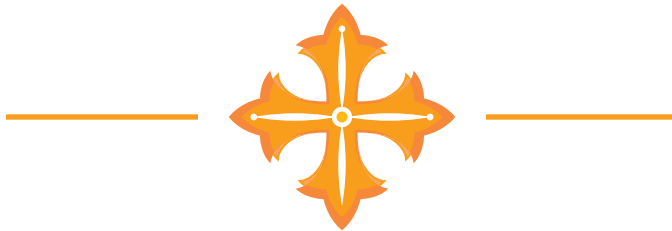
A pure heart is a heart that loves everyone. We have to reconcile with everyone and not be upset with anyone. We also have to prepare our body by fasting and

dressing in appropriate clothes to show our respect for the house of God.

That way, when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, He will live inside each one of us. Through its rites, our beautiful Church teaches us to be prepared at all times.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14: 40



Reject Foreign Thoughts

St. Ephraim the Syrian (Synexarium 15 Abib)

St. Ephraim was born in Syria to loving righteous parents who taught him the love of God. He loved our Lord Jesus very much and wanted everyone to know Him and to love Him. That's why when he went to another city in Syria and saw that many people were pagan, he started to talk to them about God. Pagans are people who do not worship God. Instead, they worship idols or other things like the sun or animals.

Obviously, St. Ephraim rejected this false belief and day after day, he taught them about the true God who created heaven and earth and everything in it.



Many people learned from him. He wrote many books to defend the Christian faith against their wrong teachings. With the grace of God, he was also able to teach and explain the

Bible in a very simple way so everyone can understand. God also gave him the gift of performing miracles.

When St. Ephraim was in Egypt, he went to a place in the desert, called Wadi El Natroun, where there are many monasteries. St. Ephraim spent 8 years there. He used to walk holding a staff to support him. One day he went to visit St. Bishoy. He fixed the staff at the door of St. Bishoy's cave to go in and greet him.



The staff flourished and became a huge tree that is still there today at the monastery of St. Mary El-Sorian.

When St. Ephraim returned to Syria, he found that many people were repeating wrong teachings about God. Someone had

written 150 poems which had wrong teachings and made people memorize them and sing them.



St. Ephraim rejected these false teachings. To defend the faith, he wrote 150 poems containing the right teachings about God and used them to stand against these false teachings. People liked them and started to memorize them and sing them instead. Throughout his life, St. Ephraim lived the verse that said:

MEMORY VERSE:

“Stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15

The Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates his feast on the 15th of the Coptic month of Abib.

Serve Everyone

The Shunammite woman and her service to Elisha the prophet (2 Kings 4: 8-18)

The Bible tells us the story of a Shunammite woman who lived with her husband in a city called Shunem. They were very wealthy. During this time also, there lived a man of God whose name was Elisha the prophet.



One day, as Elisha passed their city, the Shunammite woman invited him to come over to her house to eat. It became a regular habit, so that every time he passed by their city, he would stop there to eat.

One day, the woman said to her husband: "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let us make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp for him. That way, he can stay there whenever he comes to us." She wanted Elisha to find rest and have everything he needs.

One day Elisha came by with his servant Gehazi. He really wanted to do something for this woman and her husband to reward them for their kindness. So Elisha told Gehazi to go and tell her: "You have gone through all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you?"

But the Shunammite woman was content with what she had and did not ask for anything.

Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can be done for her?"

Gehazi said: "She has no son and her husband is old."

When Elisha heard this, he asked Gehazi to call her. Elisha told her, "About this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms."

So it was, as Elisha said, that one year later she had a son.

All this was because she served and offered love without waiting for anything in return. She really did fulfill the verse:

MEMORY VERSE:

“Through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13



A Room For Elisha



Serving Elisha



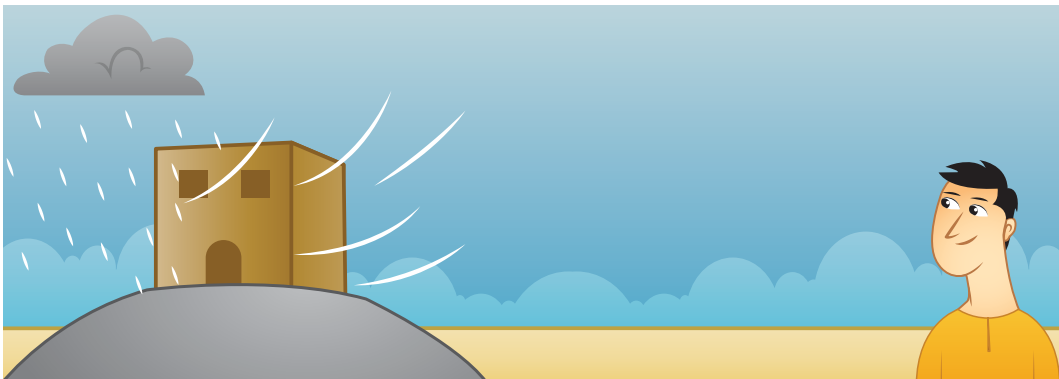
Happy to be ready

The parable of the house built on the rock and the house built on the sand (Luke 6: 46-49)

This story is about a parable that our Lord Jesus told in the gospel of St. Luke. Our Lord Jesus used to say parables to make it easy for us to understand important things that He wanted to teach us.

The parable talks about two men who wanted to build a house. One man was wise but the other man was foolish.

The wise man dug very deep in the ground until he found rock. He started building his house brick by brick until he built a big strong house with a strong foundation. One day,



it rained really hard. There was a big flood and very strong winds.

But the house was unshaken. No rain or wind could affect it, because the foundation was strong and safe as it was laid on the rock.

The foolish man, on the other hand, did not do like the wise man. He did not dig in the ground, but built his house on the sand. He also built a big house but without any foundation.

That's why when it rained, it fell immediately, because it had no foundation.

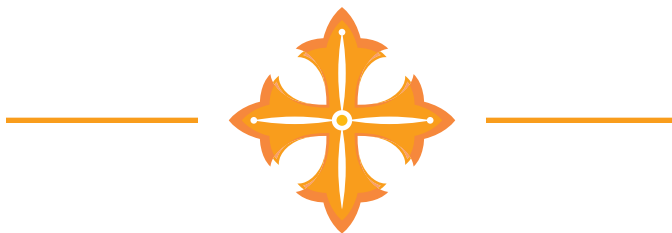


Our Lord Jesus was trying to teach us that before we build anything, we have to take care of the foundation first. For us, that means we need to listen and obey His Word, because that is what gives us a strong foundation. If we do that, we will be strong in Him, just like the wise man who built his house on the rock.

MEMORY VERSE:

"You must continue in the things which you have learned."

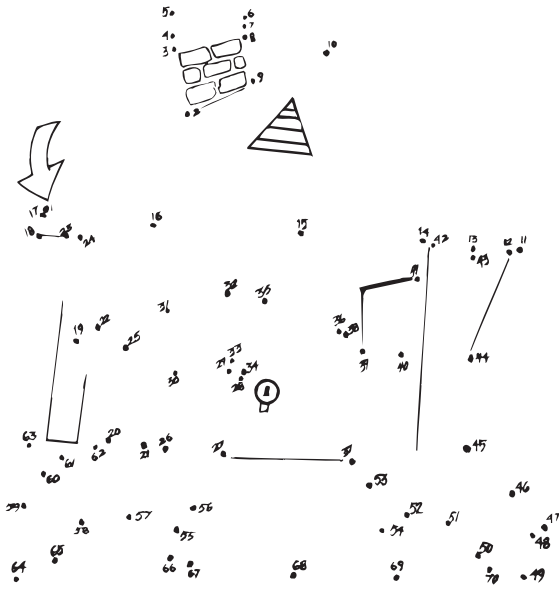
2Timothy 3:14



Wise Or Foolish

Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man. Read the story in Luke 6:46-49. Finish the dot-to-dot pictures on these pages and write below each picture whether the builder was wise or foolish.

below each picture whether the builder was wise or foolish.



House Built On A Rock Is Strong



BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Books of the Law

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

Historical Books

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles

14. 2 Chronicles

15. Ezra

16. Nehemiah

17. Esther

Poetic Books

18. Job
19. Psalm
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel

27. Daniel

Minor Prophets

28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi



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