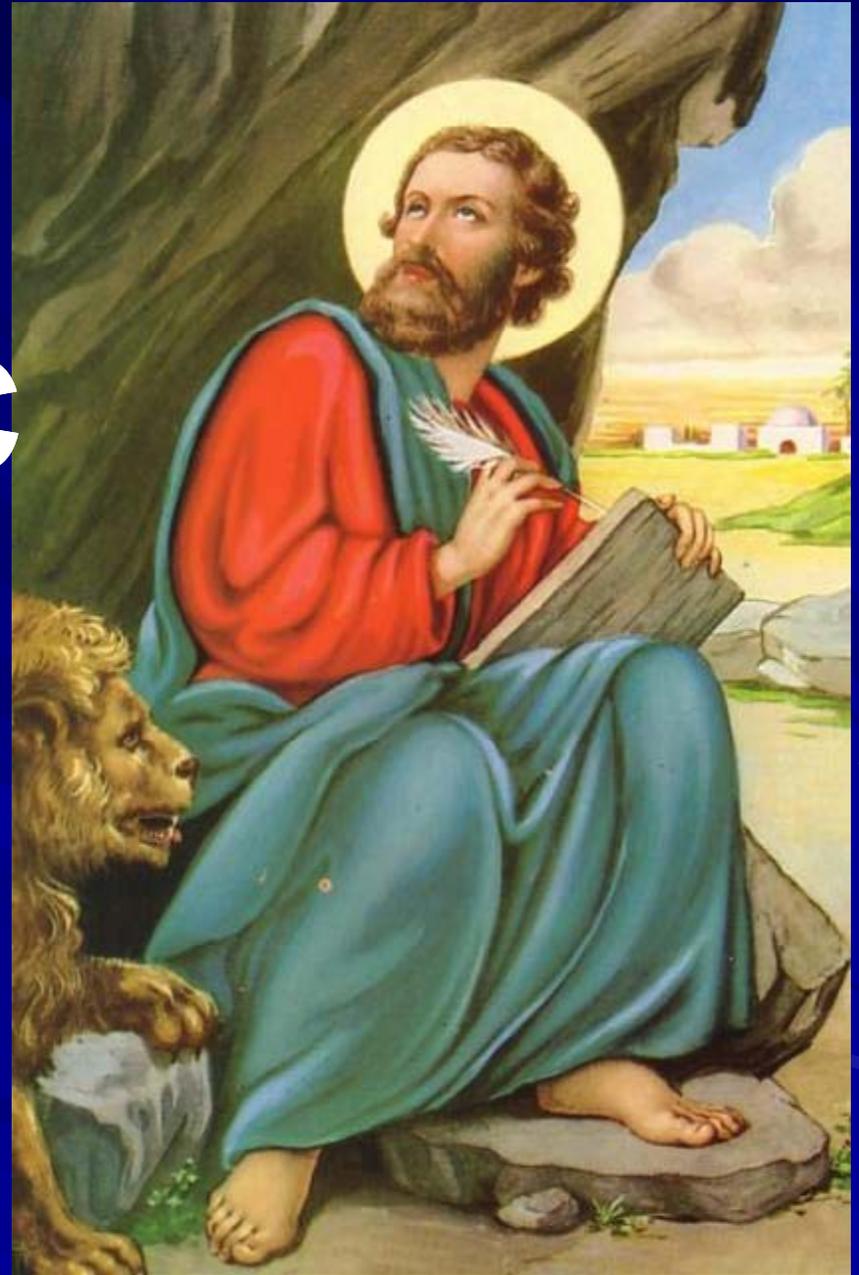


# The Apostolic Age

Pre-Servants  
Preparation



# What is the Apostolic Age?

- The Apostolic Age is the time, in which the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ lived and preached the good news of the Christian faith.
- It accounts for approximately **70 years** and extended from the foundation of the Church on the day of Pentecost on 30 AD to the departure of St. John the Apostle, 100 AD.

# *What is AD?*

- **Anno Domini** (Latin: "*In the year of (Our) Lord*"), abbreviated as **AD**, defines an **epoch** based on the traditionally-reckoned year of the birth of our Lord, God and Savior **Jesus Christ**, according to the flesh.
- Similarly, **Before Christ** (from the Ancient Greek "**Christos**" or "**Anointed One**", referring to Jesus), abbreviated as **BC**, is used in the English language to denote years before the start of this epoch.
- Some prefer the alternatives '**CE**' and '**BCE**', arguing that they are more neutral terms.

# How Did Christianity Spread Throughout the World?

- All the **Apostles** sacrificed themselves to fulfill the Lord's request for them to go everywhere in the world preaching and teaching (Mark 16:15).
- **The Holy Spirit was their leader** and was working in and through them as mentioned in the Holy Book of Acts 13:1&2 and 16:6-10.
- The time came to fulfill the prophecy of King David about the miraculous spread of Christianity through the work of the Apostles supported by the Holy Spirit ***"Yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth"*** (Psalm 19:4).
- So Eusebius, the Historian, saw the spread of Christianity all over the world fulfilled this prophecy.
- We can divide the Apostles into three groups in addition to St. Paul regarding their field of preaching.

# The First Group

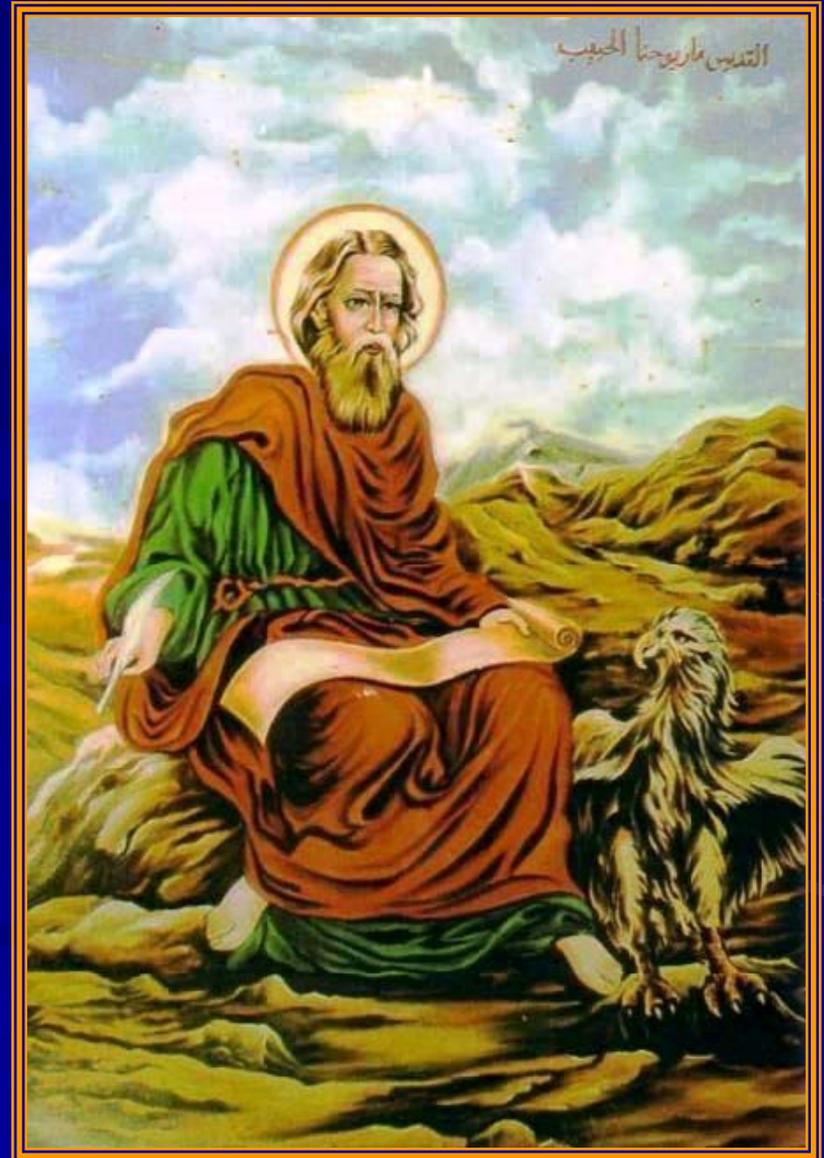
- Includes **St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Matthew and St. Bartholomew.**
- St. Peter preached in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia (1 Peter 1:1).
- St. Andrew preached in Scythia (Russia and so he is the intercessor of the Russian Church), Besporan Kingdom and the Barbarian Lands to the east of the Black Sea (Now within Russia), Turkey and Sebastpolis, Colchis, Apsaros, Trebizond, Amasia, Nicea, Nikomidea to the south of the Black Sea and finally he attained the crown of martyrdom in Greece.
- St. Bartholomew preached in the Besporan Kingdom, India, Yemen, and Armenia.
- St. Matthew preached in Persia and Ethiopia.

# The Second Group

- Includes **St. Thomas, St. Thaddeus, and St. Simon the Patriot.**
- **St Thomas** preached in Odessa, and **India.**
- **St. Thaddeus** preached in Bakr Lands (Iraq) and Odessa where he healed her king Abgr.
- **St. Simon** preached in Babylonia, and Syria.

# The Third Group

- The third group includes **St. John and St. Philip**
- They preached in Asia Minor.
- Saint John the Apostle is ***“the disciple whom Jesus loved”***.



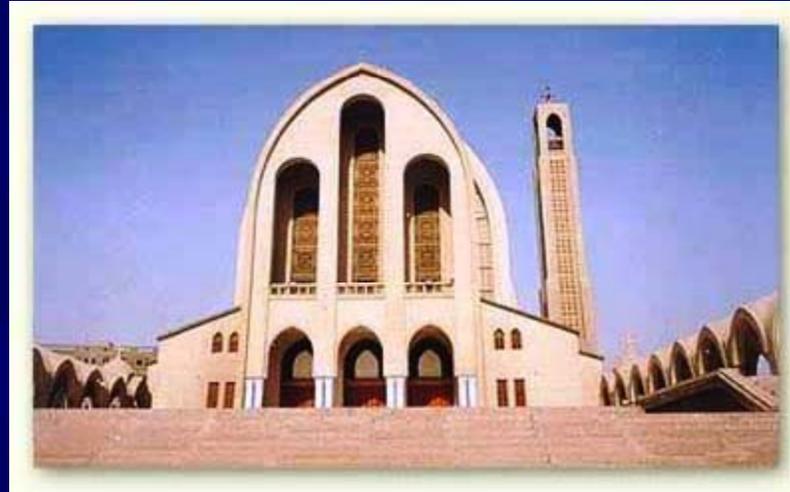
# Saint Paul the Apostle

- Preached in:
- Damascus, Syria,
- Tarsus,
- Antioch,
- Cyprus,
- Asia Minor in Antioch of Pasadena,
- Derba, Galatia, Ephesus, Greece
- in Philippi,
- Thessalonica,
- Corinth,
- and Peria,
- and in Western Europe in Italy and Spain
- and finally attained his crown of martyrdom in Rome (Romans 15:19-24, 1 Corinthians 15:10 and 2 Corinthians 11:32).



# Summation

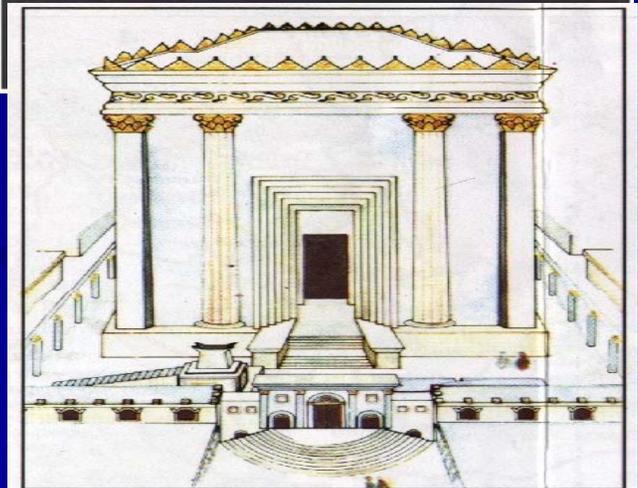
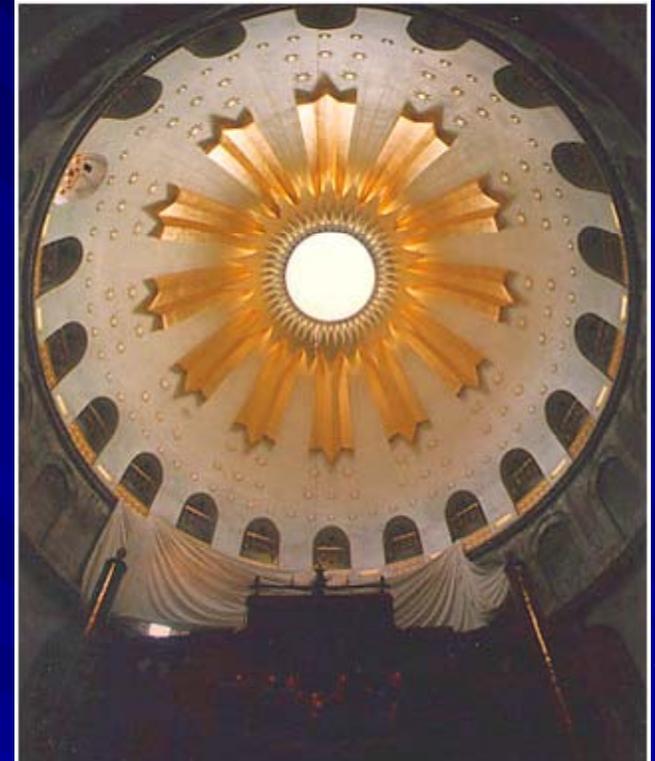
- It is certainly true that the **main factor in the spreading of Christianity was the work of the Holy Spirit.**
- But there were some factors which facilitated the work of the Apostles in their preaching which included:
  1. the Jews were everywhere with the **same Old Testament, the same belief about the true living God,**
  2. **one** international language “**Greek**”,
  3. **one** international state “the Roman Empire”, which offered peace and roads for traveling and security in sailing
  4. and finally the most common philosophy of that time that all peoples are one **united.**



# **Famous Apostolic Churches of the Apostolic Age**

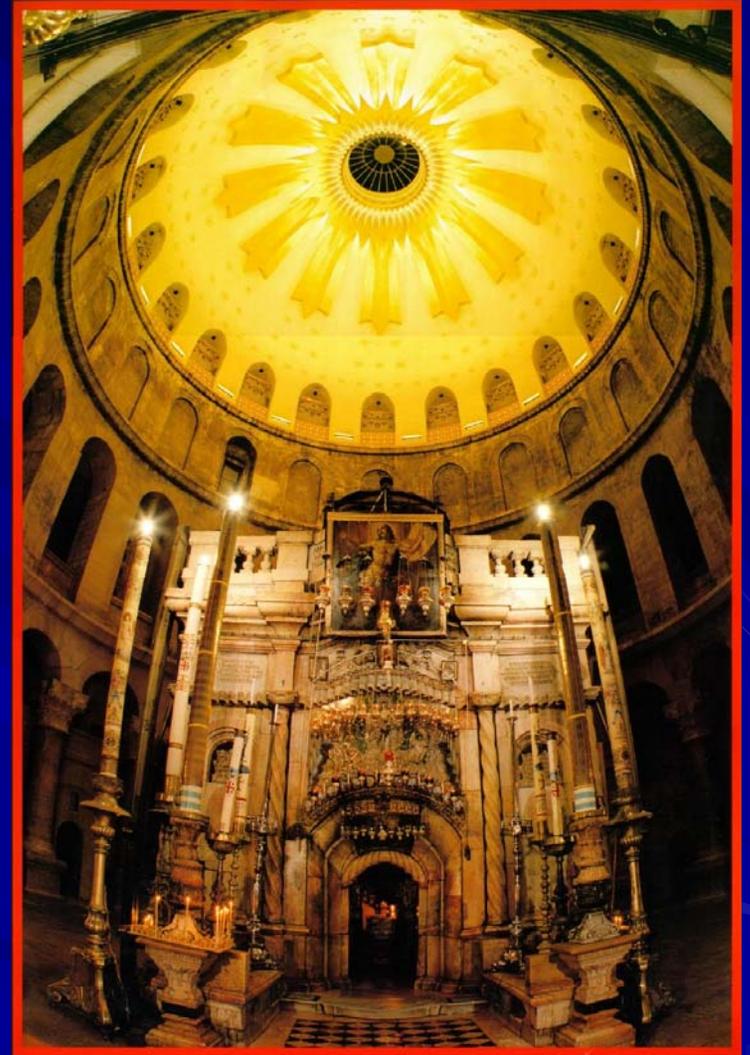
# Jerusalem, City of God

- It is the mother Church of all Christian churches during the Apostolic Age.
- Also, Jerusalem was the home of Judaism to which all Jews directed their visions and hopes.
- Jerusalem also was the first city sanctified by the Lord Jesus Christ in His flesh and His own precious blood.
- In Jerusalem, the Christian church was born spread outward, everywhere in the world and was further honored by the ministry of the Apostles and blessed by their miracles and the blood of the early martyrs, St. Stephen the Archdeacon, St. James the son of Zebedee, St. James the Just and many martyrs whom we do not know their names.
- When waves of persecution hit the church after the martyrdom of St. Stephen believers with the exception of the Apostles scattered in Judea, and Samaria (Acts 8:1).



# The Church of Jerusalem

- In Jerusalem, the **first Ecumenical Council** was held and it is called the “Mother Church” in St. James’ Liturgy.
- From Jerusalem, the Apostles oversaw the ministry throughout Samaria (Acts 8:14&15) and Antioch (Acts 11:22).
- The believers in every Church would send gifts to the poor in Jerusalem (Acts 11:30).
- **St. James the Just** was the **first bishop** for this Church until his **martyrdom in 62 AD**, and was then succeeded by **his brother St. Simon** the son of Kolb who was martyred by **crucifixion 106 AD**.
- After the **destruction of Jerusalem** by the **Roman commander Titus in 70 AD**, this See lost its **prestigious rank** until the beginning of the 4th century when **Christianity** became the **official religion** of the state.



HOLY SEPULCHRE CALVARY - JERUSALEM

# The Church of Antioch



- Antioch was the 3rd famous city in the Roman Empire behind Rome and Alexandria and it was the political capital of Syria.
- Its population was a mixture of Greeks, Syrians and Jews.
- Antioch was the **first Gentile Church** and the first Church where the believers were called **Christians (Acts 11:26)**.
- St. Paul and St. Barnabas ministered in Antioch first (Acts 11:22-26) and then St. Peter went to Antioch after Council of Jerusalem (Galatians 2:11).
- It was the base of St. Paul missionary's trips.

# Antioch's Current Primate



**His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatios Zakka I Iwas**  
**Patriarch of Antioch**

# The Church of Alexandria

- Alexandria was the 2nd city in the Roman Empire after Rome, and was the 1st city for education, philosophy and science.
- Its population was a mixture of Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Jews, Persian, and Syrians.
- Some Egyptians were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10) and of course some of them believed and ministered in Egypt even before St. Mark came to Egypt.
- The Holy Book of Acts mentioned Apollos from Alexandria who was a Jew converted to Christianity and was full of Holy Spirit, wisdom and knowledge (Acts 18:24&25).
- St. Luke presented his Holy Gospel to Theophilus a rich man from Alexandria (Luke 1:3 &4).
- However, the See of Alexandria belonged to its founder St. Mark.
- St. Mark was one of the seventy apostles and founded the Church around 57-59 AD.
- The Christian life in Alexandria was characterized by holiness, purity, and asceticism as Philo, the Jewish philosopher specifically referred to in his book "*Life of Meditation*".
- St. Mark founded the Theological School of Alexandria to replace the pagan school.



# Successor of Saint Mark



**His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**

**117<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria and the rest of the See of Saint Mark**

# The Church of Rome

- Rome was the 1<sup>st</sup> city in the world during the Apostolic Age and considered the political capital of the world.



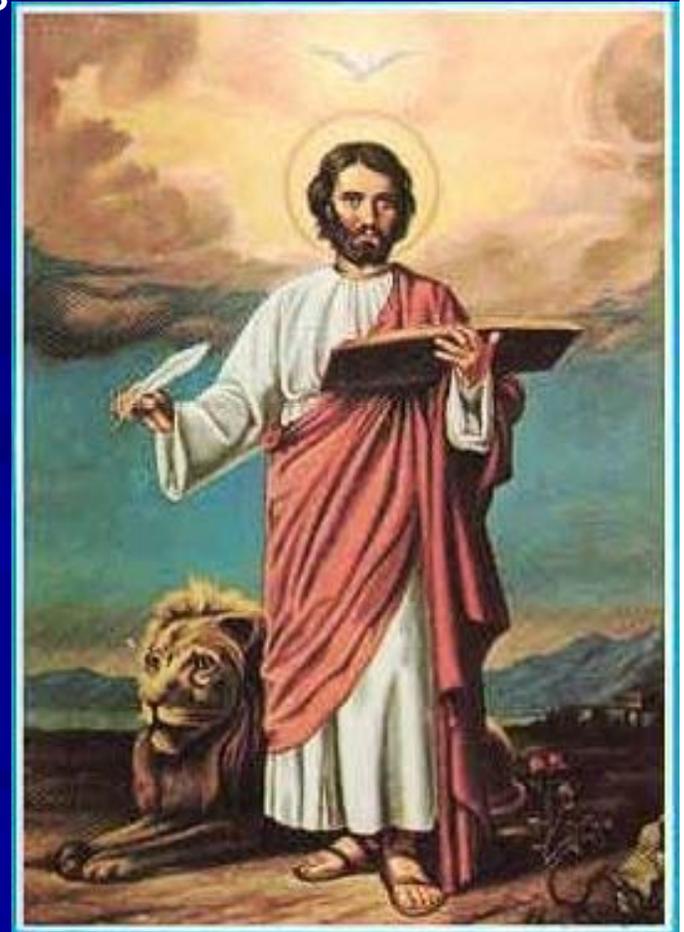
- The first preachers to Rome were those who were in attendance the **Day of Pentecost**.
- However, the **Church of Rome** was founded by **St. Paul** (Romans 1:5, 13, Galatians 2:7-9, Acts 9:15, 22:18-21, 23:11, Galatians 2:7-9, Romans 15:20, Acts 28:30, 16:3-16, 1:7).

# **Famous Persons in the Apostolic Age**

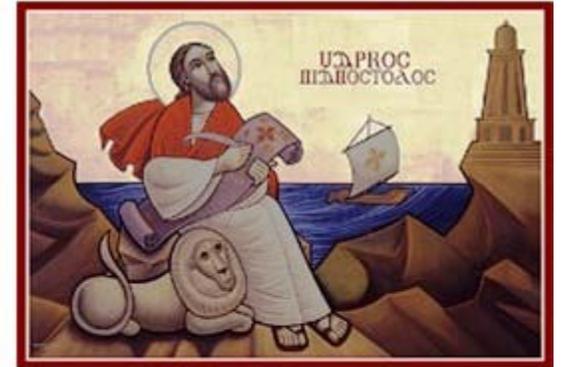
# Saint Mark the Apostle

## Beholder of God

- St Mark authored the **Gospel of St Mark** and founded the Church of Alexandria and is considered the Church's **first pope**.
- St Mark was born in **Adenapolis** one of the five western cities in northern Africa (Adenapolis, Apollonia, Bitolmais, Toshira, and Birnis).
- St Mark's parents were wealthy but as a result of barbarian tribes lost most of their wealth having to depart for the safety of Jerusalem.
- St Mark was martyred on April 26, 68 AD.
- With this in perspective, it can be calculated that St Mark was approximately 21 years of age at the time of the Lord Jesus Christ's birth.
- St Mark spent 7 years, 8 months, and 1 day on the Alexandrian Throne.



# Evangelist Saint Mark



St. Mark the Apostle

- St Mark was one of the seventy apostles and was the apostle whom was appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ to eat the Passover meal at his home.
- His home which was known as Zion's room was also the place where the apostles gathered together following the Crucifixion, the place where the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles as tongues of fire on the Pentecost, and also it is also considered the first church in the entire world.

# Scriptural References on St. Mark

**The Holy Gospel recorded the following about our first pope, the apostle, St Mark:**

- The Lord Jesus Christ celebrated the **Passover** with His holy disciples in St Mark's home (**Matthew 26:18, Mark 14:13, and Luke 12:10-12**).
- Appearance of the Lord after His Glorious **Resurrection** to the apostles happened in St Mark's home (**John 20:19, Luke 24:33**).
- The coming upon the disciples of the **Holy Spirit** on **Pentecost** happened in St Mark's home (**Acts 1:13 and 2:1**).
- **St Mark** was with St Barnabas and St Paul 47 AD (**Acts 11:27-30**).
- From 47 AD to 49 AD, the first preaching trip involving the apostles Paul, Barnabas, Mark, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos and Perga in Pamphylia (**Acts 13:1-13**).
- **50-52 AD** St Mark departed with St Barnabas to Cyprus (Acts 15:39).
- St Mark was with St Paul in Colossi (**Colossians 4:10**) in 61 AD.
- **64 AD-66 AD** St Mark departed to **Rome** for St Paul (**2 Timothy 4:11**).

# Saint Mark and the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem

- When the first Council was held in Jerusalem under the leadership of **St James the Bishop of Jerusalem**, to discuss the acceptance of the Gentiles without circumcision, St Mark attended.
- St Mark attended the first ecumenical council held in Jerusalem in **50 AD** to discuss the topic of the relevance of circumcision prior to baptism.
- The holy apostles agreed at this ecumenical council to accept the Gentiles into the Church **without circumcision** before baptism (Acts 15:23-30).
- St Mark was also one of the **seventy apostles**; therefore our Coptic Church can be rightly termed “apostolic” as it was indisputably founded by one of the original apostles.

# Saint Mark the Evangelist

- After St Mark's preaching with St Barnabas and St Paul, the Holy Spirit led him to preach on his own which brought the saint to Egypt.
- All Christians worldwide recognize St Mark as one of the four Evangelists who wrote a Holy Gospel.
- In addition, for our beloved Coptic Church, St Mark is also our preacher, our founder of the Coptic Church, and our first Pope of Alexandria.
- Although the **disciples and the apostles** are considered **ecumenical or universal bishops** for the Church in **general**, every church refers to **her initial preacher** as her **first bishop** and as such, **St Mark** is the Coptic Orthodox Church's first bishop of the **See of Alexandria**.
- Through St Mark, the prophecy spoken of in the Holy Book of Isaiah the Prophet has been fulfilled, "**...there will be an altar for the Lord in Egypt and a pillar at its boundaries...**"

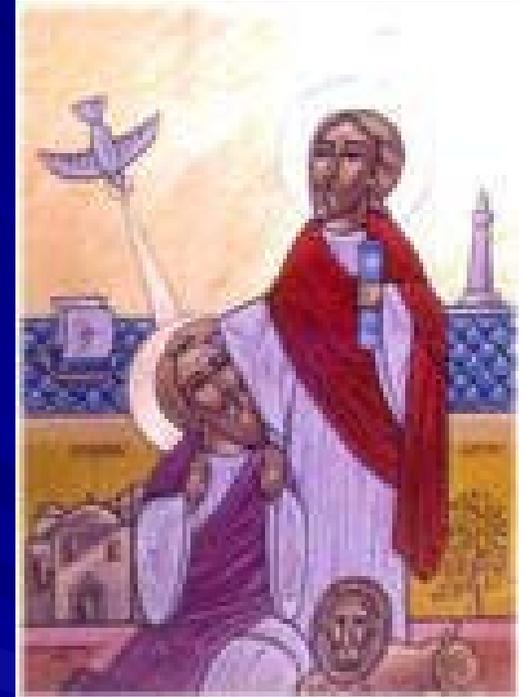


# Saint Mark's Arrival

- Following the council held in Jerusalem, St Mark and St Barnabas journeyed to Cyprus (Acts 15:36-40) and there the Holy Spirit led St Mark to preach in the Five Western Cities in North Africa.
- Following St Mark's ministry in North Africa he then journeyed to Egypt.
- The date of this founding saints' arrival into Egypt was 55 AD.
- When St Mark came to Egypt, many pagan gods were being worshipped by the Egyptians.

# Saint Mark and Saint Anianos

- Upon the first day of his arrival, St Mark wandered about the streets of Alexandria until **his worn shoes fell apart**.
- St Mark stopped at the first shoemaker shop he approached to have his shoes repaired.
- The shoemaker's name was "Anianos" and this shoemaker would later become **the second pope of Alexandria**.
- While Anianos was working to repair St Marks' worn shoes, the needle in which he was using to repair the soles of St Mark's shoes injured his hand and Anianos cried out, "**Oh God, the only One!**"
- At this exclamation, St Mark **spit upon the ground, made mud, and placed the mixture upon Anianos finger and healed it immediately**.
- Discussion ensued between St Mark and Anianos related to his One God.
- Anianos confessed to St Mark that he had only heard of such God but did not actually know of this One God.
- St Mark begins to preach to Anianos about the One God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The message of salvation through the Holy Cross was taught and welcomed by Anianos and his family.
- Anianos home is considered the **first Church in the land of Egypt**.





# Saint Mark and the Liturgy

- To establish the newly growing Church, St Mark, ordained Anianos as a bishop and along with this ordained twelve priests and seven deacons.
- St Mark at this particular time also wrote his Divine Liturgy, now referred to as the “Divine Liturgy of St Cyril.”
- St Mark first wrote the Divine Liturgy in Greek then it was translated to the language of Behari Coptic.
- Three of Saint Anianos’ assistants were Sts. Mlios, Kardanos, and Primos the future popes.



# Saint Mark and the Catechetical School of Alexandria

- St Mark founded the School of Alexandria to counteract the idolatrous school in Alexandria which had become world famous for its philosophy, science, medicine, mathematics, and astronomy.
- St Mark wrote the Apostles Teachings, Rituals, and Traditions that were specific for the See of Alexandria.

# **Saint Mark, Pentapolis and Rome**

- Following all of this, St Mark departed Alexandria in 65 AD to further his ministry in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Five Western Cities in Northern Africa.
- After continuing to strengthen the churches in North Africa, St Mark at St Paul's request joined the apostle in Rome to help in preaching and teaching those there.
- St Paul stated in the two Holy Books, II Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 1:24 that St Mark was indeed useful for the ministry.

# Persecution in Alexandria

- Bishop Anianos, his priests and deacons were known for their honesty, for their ministry, and taught through Egypt. They established the first church in Bokalia now known as “St Mark Church in Alexandria.”
- St Mark returned to Alexandria around 67 AD, where he wrote his Holy Gospel in Greek for the believers in Alexandria.
- The great success of St Mark’s evangelism led to persecution and torture of Christians in Alexandria by the idolatrous governors and people of the city.
- St Mark was one of the ones who would ultimately be put to death because of his ardent belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Suffering of Saint Mark

- On 29 Baramoudah (April 16) 68 AD, St Mark celebrated the Glorious Resurrection Feast with the believers which coincided with the celebrations of Serabis, the most famous of idols worshipped in the City of Alexandria.
- The idolaters angrily broke into the church and attacked St Mark while the saint was praying the Divine Liturgy of the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection at the altar.
- The crowds of idolaters tied up St Mark with a band around his neck and dragged him into the streets of Alexandria. From one street to another they inhumanely dragged the saint crying and screaming “Drag him to the bulls’ house.”
- The “bulls’ house” refers to the Bokalia area where the Coptic Church was later built in his honor, known as “St Marks’ Church in Alexandria.”
- They continued to torture the bleeding St Mark until finally he was thrown into prison.

# Christ appears to Saint Mark

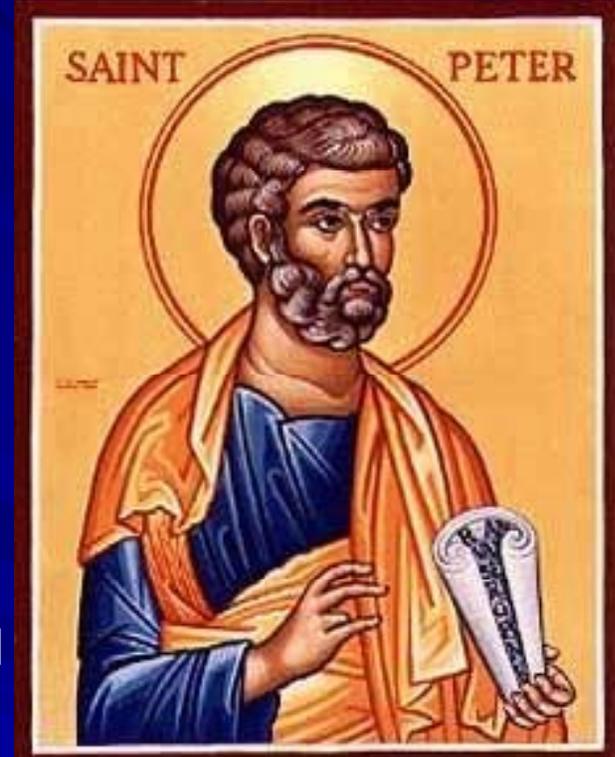
- Our **Lord Jesus Christ** through a great Heavenly light appeared to St Mark and healed him saying, ***“Be strong My beloved apostle, your heart will be filled with joy. Be in peace as tomorrow you will have the crown of martyrdom and be with Me in the Heavenly Jerusalem.”***
- The following day, the idolaters tied up the apostle once again with a neck bond and dragged his body through the streets as they had done before.
- This time they drug his body until his head separated from his body.
- Consequently, St Mark received **three crowns, the crown of apostolicity, the crown of evangelism, and the crown of martyrdom.**
- All the while during his torture, St Mark prayed, ***“Thank you Lord because you have allowed me to suffer persecution and torture for Your Holy Name.”*** St Mark near his death requested that the Lord forgive those who brought about his death and then departed from his earthly existence.

# The Relics of Saint Mark

- After St Mark's martyrdom, the idolaters hurriedly brought firewood to burn his body.
- A great wind suddenly blew, a great rain suddenly fell and the idolaters in fear scattered.
- St Mark's disciples came and affectionately carried his holy body and buried him in the Church which carries his name in Bokalia.
- St Mark's blood became the first shed in Egypt and millions of martyrs would follow his example and chose earthly death rather than deny their Lord Jesus Christ.
- This is written in the History of Patriarchs by Bishop Saouris; St Mark was martyred on the last day of Baramoudah the year 35 following the Lord Jesus Christ's Glorious Resurrection on 24 of Nissan.
- The Coptic Church celebrates his martyrdom on Baramoudah.
- A few centuries later, St Mark's body was stolen by Italian traders and taken to Venice, Italy where it remained for hundreds of years.
- **His Holiness Pope Cyril the Sixth** succeeded in returning St Marks' holy body to Egypt on 17 Baounah, June 24, 1969 AD.

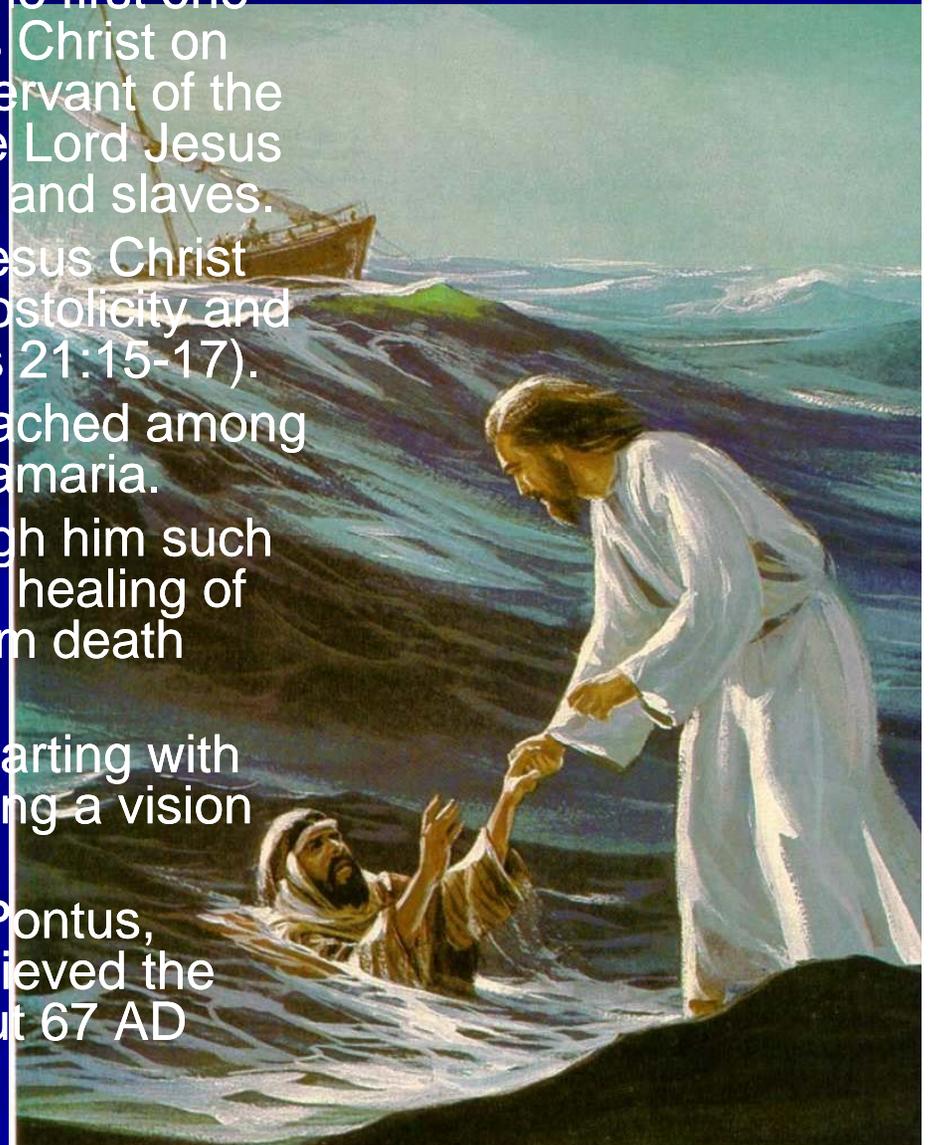
# Saint Peter the Apostle

- He is Simon the son of Jonah from Bethsaida on the Lake of Galilee.
- He and his brother St. Andrew were fishermen and might have been former disciples of St. John the Baptist.
- His first meeting with the Lord happened when St. Andrew informed him, upon advice of St. John the Baptist, we found the Messiah and they took him to the Lord Jesus Christ where the Lord told him (You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas which is translated “a stone.” John 1:42).
- However, St. Peter followed the Lord Jesus Christ as a disciple after the miracle of catching an over abundance of fish (Luke 5:1-11) and the Lord called him Peter as a symbol of his apostolicity.
- St. Peter was one of the two disciples who went to prepare the last Passover on Good Thursday and one of the three disciples who were witnesses to the miracle of raising the daughter of Jarius, Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Lord Jesus Christ’s Prayer in Gethsemane and was one of the four disciples which heard the Lord Jesus Christ’s prophecy about destruction of Jerusalem and its temple.



# Continuation on Saint Peter

- St. Peter was the first one who confessed the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the first one who preached with the Lord Jesus Christ on Pentecost and cut the ear of the servant of the high priest however, he denied the Lord Jesus Christ three times before servants and slaves.
- St. Peter repented and the Lord Jesus Christ returned him once again to his apostolicity and said to him feed My sheep. (Johns 21:15-17).
- After the day of Pentecost, he preached among the Jews in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria.
- The Lord did many miracles through him such as healing of a lame man (Acts 3), healing of Aeneas, and raising of Tabitha from death (Acts 9).
- He began preaching to Gentiles starting with Cornelius and his house after seeing a vision (Acts 10).
- He preached in Antioch, Galatia, Pontus, Cappadocia, and Bithynia. He achieved the crown of martyrdom in Rome about 67 AD during Nero's time.



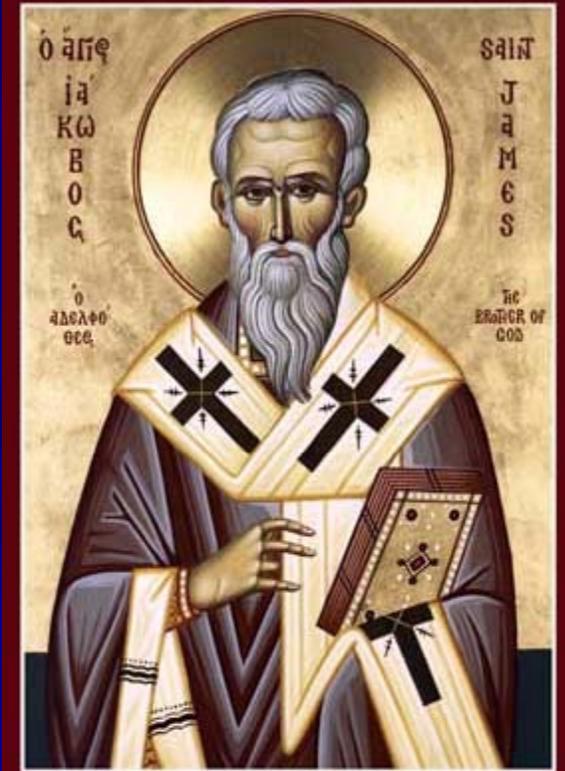
# Saint Andrew the Apostle

- He is St. Peter's brother, and a former disciple of St. John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist led him to the Lord Jesus Christ and so St. Andrew spent a day with the Lord Christ to see His wonders and teaching and when he became confident that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Messiah, he called his brother St. Peter to meet the Lord Jesus Christ who called them to follow Him.
- He followed the Lord Jesus Christ as a disciple after the miracle of catching great numbers of fish.
- The Holy Gospel mentioned St. Andrew in the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:8 &9), when Greeks asked him to see the Lord Jesus Christ (John 12:22) and when he asked the Lord about the end of the ages and destruction of Jerusalem and its temple (Mark 13:3).
- He preached in Asia Minor and states north of the Black Sea and was martyred on a cross in Petras one of the Greek cities.
- His relics were transferred from Petras to Constantinople on 357 AD and then to Amalpae City of Italy in the 11th century and the relics are still present in this cathedral at present time.



# Saint James the Elder

- He is John's brother from Bethesda.
- The Lord called him as a disciple with his brother John and so they left their father with the fishermen and followed him (Matthew 4:21 &22). He was one of the witnesses of the first miracle of the Lord Jesus Christ in Cana of Galilee (John 2:2).
- He was one of the witnesses to the rising of daughter of Jarius from death, Transfiguration, and prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane. The Lord Jesus Christ called him with his brother John the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17).
- He preached in Judea and Samaria.
- He was beheaded by Herod Agrippa and attained the crown of martyrdom in 44 AD (Acts 12:1).
- While he was on his way to be beheaded he cured a lame man and so the soldier who led him to his death believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and was martyred at the same time along with him.
- He remained a virgin all his life.
- His relics were transferred to Compostella of Spain and have remained there until today.



# Family of Saint John the Beloved

- He is St. James' brother, the son of Zebedee.
- He was the disciple whom the Lord Jesus loved (John 19:26) and he laid on the Lord Jesus Christ's chest at the Last Supper.
- He is the Apostle who became known for his virginity, simple heart, and great love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He was the only disciple who followed the Lord Jesus Christ to the Holy Cross and so the Lord Jesus bequeathed him St. Mary as a mother and from that time she lived with him (John 19:25-27).
- Many believe that St. John's family was a well-to-do- family and resided in Bethesda.
- He might have been a former disciple of St. John the Baptist for sometime (John 1:35-42).
- His mother was one of women who followed the Lord Jesus Christ and served Him (Matthew 27:55, Mark 10:40 & 41).

# Saint John and Scripture

- St. John recorded the Lord Jesus Christ's speech about Holy Communion (John 6), the only one who mentioned the meeting of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Samaritan woman (John 4), story of the Lord Jesus Christ with the woman which committed adultery (John 8), healing of the blind man, blind since his birth (John 9) and the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11), and he is the only one who mentioned the last prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ before Crucifixion (John 17).
- He was one of the three disciples who were witnesses of the miracle of raising the daughter of Jarius, in Transfiguration, and in Gethsemane.
- He went very early with St. Peter to the Lord Jesus Christ's tomb on the Glorious Resurrection Sunday and even reached the tomb first before St. Peter. He was the only disciple who recognized the Lord Jesus Christ in his apparition on Lake of Galilee after His blessed Glorious Resurrection and said to St Peter "He is The Lord" (John 21:7).

# Saint John and the Church

- He was a leader of the early Church along with St. James, was with St. Peter in performing the miracle of healing of the lame of the temple (Acts 3), witness for the Lord Jesus Christ before Synagogue (Acts 4) and laying their hands on the believers of Samaria to accept the Holy Spirit (Acts 8).
- He stayed in Jerusalem until St. Mary's departure as he took care of her.
- He preached in Judea, Jerusalem, Samaria and after her departure he preached in Asia Minor completing the work of St. Paul and St. Apollo and set his center in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-82 & 19:1-12) where he oversaw the churches in Azmer, Philadelphia, Sardis, Bergamo, and Thyatira which were mentioned in the Holy Book of Revelation.

# Late life of Saint John

- For his zealousness in teaching and preaching, the Emperor Domitian seized him and brought him to Rome where he was thrown into a pot of oil but the Lord saved him and so the emperor exiled him to Patmos around 95 AD where he saw his revelation and wrote his Holy Book.
- After Domitian's death, he returned to Ephesus to continue his preaching.
- One of the most common titles for St John is the Beloved and he mentioned this in John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7 & 20.
- He was called the "love" Apostle where his Holy Gospel, his Holy Epistles and sermons were centered upon the Christian love. Also, he defended the orthodox faith against heretics.
- He departed in 100 AD.

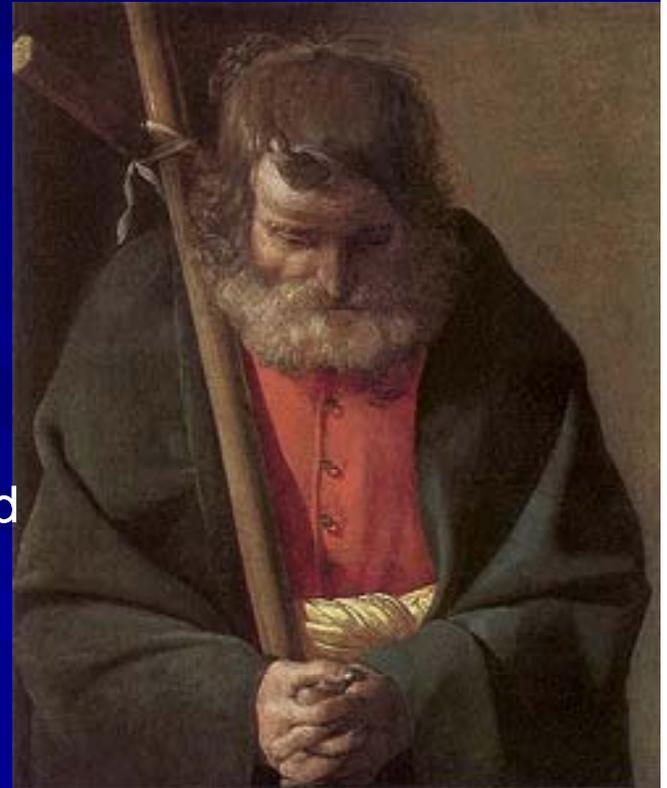
# St. James the Just



- He is James the son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve disciples.
- He was one of the 3 pillars of circumcision's church as St. Paul mentioned (Galatians 2:7-9).
- He was known as the Lord's brother as his mother was a sister to St. Mary the Virgin, the wife of Clopas which means Alphaeus in Aramaic.
- He was known also St. James the Young (Mark 15:40), the Just for his holiness and Bishop of Jerusalem.
- He headed the Council of Jerusalem in 50 AD (Acts 15).
- He wrote his Holy Epistle where he focused on good deeds as necessary along with the faith.
- He had a Liturgy in the Syrian Church.
- He was ascetic and used to kneel during prayer until his knees became like those of camel.
- For his preaching, Jews threw him down of the mountain of the temple, and then stoned him, and then someone hit him on his head putting an end to his holy life and so had the crown of martyrdom about 62 AD.
- Josephus mentioned that destruction of Jerusalem and its temple was the God's punishment for the Jews because they killed St. James.

# Saint Philip the Apostle

- He was born in Bethesda (John 1:44). He studied the law and prophecies and so he said to Nathaniel *“We found the Messiah about him Moses wrote in the Law and the prophets, Jesus”* (John 1:45).
- He was mentioned in the miracle of feeding the five thousand when the Lord asked from where we can buy food for those to eat and St. Philip answered food with 200 coins is not enough for them (John 6:5-7).
- Also, so Greeks asked him to see the Lord Jesus Christ on the Monday following Palm Sunday (John 12:20-22).
- Mentioned also in the Last Supper and when he said to the Lord ***“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us”*** and so the Lord answered him saying ***“Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, show us the Father”*** (John 14: 8-10).
- He preached in Persia, Asia Minor and Hierapolis which was close to Colossi in Asia Minor where he martyred upon a cross.



# Saint Bartholomew the Apostle

- All scholars agree that Bartholomew is Nathaniel mentioned in John 1:45 where St. Philip brought him to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He saw the Lord Jesus Christ on the Lake of Galilee after the Lord's Glorious Resurrection.
- He preached in Yemen and Armenia where he was martyred and so the Armenian Church considers him her intercessor.



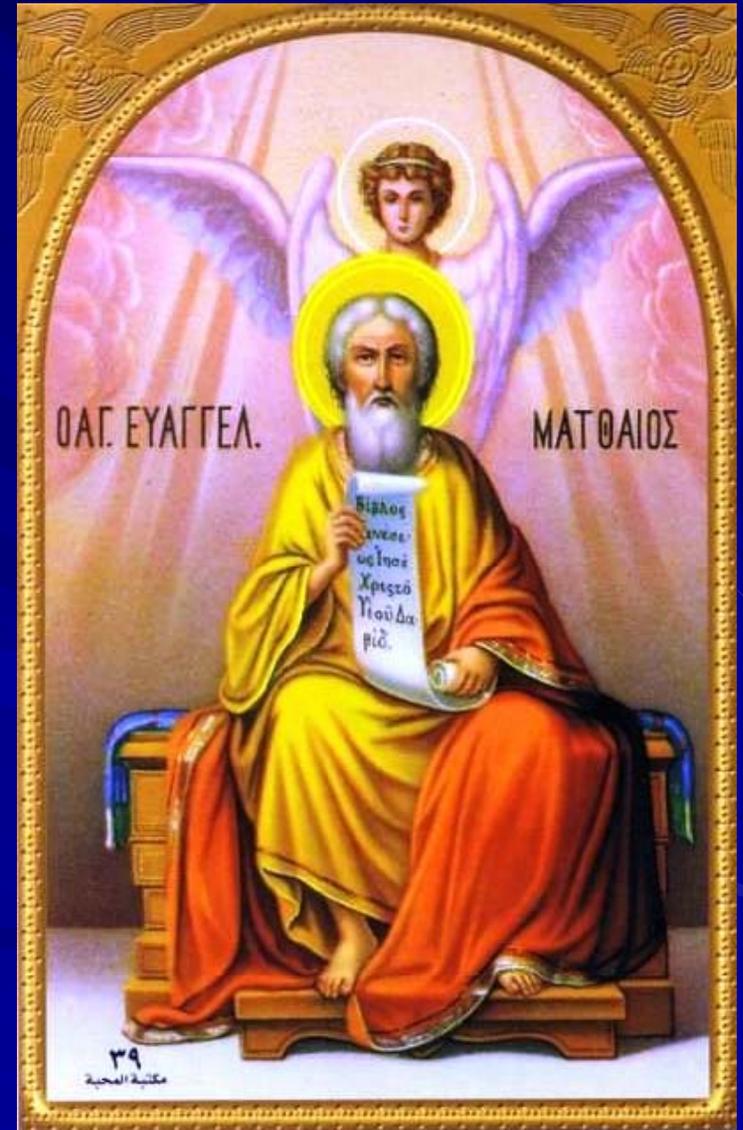
# Saint Thomas the Apostle

- From Galilee and called the Twin (John 11:16 and 21:2).
- He loved the Lord greatly and so when the Lord intended to go to Bethany, St. Thomas said to the disciples we should go also to die with him (John 11:8-16).
- In the Last Supper he asked the Lord *“Lord, we don’t know where you go so how we can know the way”* and so the Lord answered him saying *“I am the way, the truth and the life”* (John 14:1-6).
- Also, he didn’t believe the Lord’s Glorious Resurrection and appearance to the Apostles in the Upper Room on Glorious Resurrection Sunday when St. Thomas was not present and so the Lord appeared again on the following Sunday and He said to *Thomas “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands, and reach your hand here and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him My Lord and my God. Jesus said to him Thomas because you have seen ME, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”* (John 21:24-29).
- He preached in Judea, Iraq, Ethiopia, Arabia, India and China.
- He is the intercessor of the Indian Church. He attained the crown of martyrdom in Malabar of India by the pagans’ priests.



# Saint Matthew the Apostle

- He was from Galilee and called Levi. He was a tax collector despised by his people.
- When the Lord called him for discipleship he left everything and followed him (Matthew 9:9-24). He preached in Judea, Ethiopia, and Persia.
- He wrote the Holy Gospel that bares his name, addressing it to Hebrews.



# Saint Thaddeus the Apostle

- He is also called Lebbaeus or Judas, and James' brother for differentiation from the other Judas Iscariot who betrayed the Lord (Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13).
- He was one of the Lord Jesus Christ's cousins.
- He was mentioned only in John 14:22 & 23  
*“Judas not Iscariot said to him, Lord how is it that you will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world. Jesus answered and said to him if anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him”.*
- He preached in Iraq, Arabia and Persia where he was martyred.
- He wrote the Holy Epistle that bears his name and in which he warned the believers against the heretics and false teachers and brothers.



# St Simon the Apostle, the Canaanite

- He was mentioned as the Canaanite in Matthew 10:4 and Mark 3:18.
- St. Luke mentioned him as Zealot (Luke 6:15 and Acts 1:13). It is clear both Canaanite and Zealot were used interchangeably.
- He preached in Syria, Iraq and Persia where he was martyred.



# Saint Matthias the Apostle

- Was one of the seventy apostles and was chosen in the absent place of Simon Judas, the Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26).
- He preached in Judea, Samaria and Asia Minor where he was martyred.



**Saint Matthias  
the Apostle**

# St. Barnabas the Apostle

- He was a Jew from the Levi tribe. His family had settled in Cyprus and had relatives in Jerusalem, of them, St. Mark's family and so St. Paul called St. Mark St. Barnabas's nephew "son of his sister" (Colossians 4:10).
- According to our Church's tradition St. Barnabas was one of the seventy disciples.
- His name was Joseph and the Apostles called him Barnabas, which is translated Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36).
- St. Luke mentioned in the Holy Book of Acts that St. Barnabas sold his properties and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet (Acts 4:36 & 37).
- Also, he mentioned concerning him *"For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith"* (Acts 11:24).

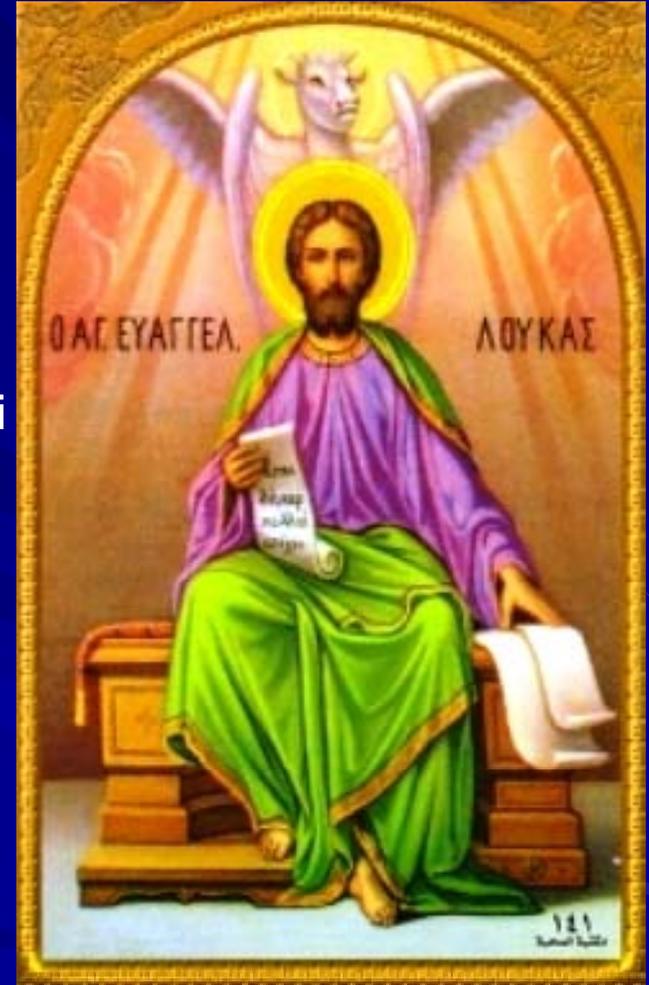


# More on Saint Barnabas

- The Apostles sent him to Antioch to minister with the Holy Gospel (Acts 11:22).
- He ministered in Antioch and brought St. Paul to minister with him for one year (Acts 11:22-26). In that year, they went to Jerusalem carrying the gifts of the believers in Antioch to the poor in Judea and in their return to Antioch they brought St Mark (Acts 12:25).
- Then, he ministered in Cyprus (Acts 15: 36-40) and joined the Council of Jerusalem.
- St. Paul appointed to him in his Epistles to the Corinthians and Colossians (1 Corinthians 9:6 and Colossians 4:10).
- He was martyred in Salamina of Cyprus where Jews seized him, stoned and burned him about 61 AD but his body did not burn. In the 5th century, God revealed to the Bishop of Cyprus the site of his tomb.
- There is an epistle in his name which was very popular in the early centuries supported by many scholars and fathers in the church but others denied it.

# Saint Luke the Apostle

- He is the 3rd Evangelist, the writer of the Holy Book of Acts and the partner of St. Paul in his ministry trips.
- Ibevanios mentioned that St. Luke was one of the seventy disciples and one of Emmaus' disciples.
- Other scholars mentioned that he was a Gentile from Antioch and converted to Christianity very early around 36 AD by one of the disciples.
- He met St. Paul in his 2nd ministry trip on his way to Macedonia and accompanied St. Paul to Philippi (Acts 16:9, 16:6-8, 16:10).
- After the founding of the Philippian Church, St. Luke remained there to take care of it until he met again St. Paul on his last trip to Jerusalem.
- He accompanied St. Paul in his imprisonment in Caesara and Rome till the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- In reality, St. Luke was a very humble person, although he wrote his Holy Gospel and the Holy Book of Acts he did not mention much about himself.
- He remained honest and faithful to St. Paul as he mentioned to St. Timothy *"Luke alone is with me"* (2 Timothy 4:11).



# Late Life of Saint Luke

- He was martyred in his 84th year in Elaea in Greece and his relics with those of St. Andrew the Apostle were transferred to the Apostles' Church in Constantinople as mentioned by St. Jerome.
- St. Luke wrote his Holy Gospel based on what he heard from witnesses as St. Mary the Virgin to a well-to-do man from Alexandria, called Theophilus about 70AD.
- He wrote the Holy Book of Acts recording the history of the Church beginning from the Ascension of the Lord to the 2nd year of Paul's imprisonment in Rome and so he is the true father of the history of the Christian Church.
- He was a physician (Colossians 4:14) and so he presented the Lord Jesus Christ in his Holy Gospel as the true physician for the human race and the true Savior of the world.
- Also, he was painter and to him it belongs the honor of painting the first portrait of St. Mary the Virgin.

# The Apostolic Assistants

# Saint Timothy the Apostle

- St. Timothy was a disciple to St. Paul and his companion in his trips of ministry.
- The first time to be mentioned was in the Holy Book of Acts at the beginning of the second ministry trip (Acts 16:1).
- He was from Lystra in Galatia of Asia Minor. His father was Greek and his mother and grandmother were righteous Jews (2 Timothy 1:5).
- And so since his childhood he grew in the way of righteousness and piety *“and that from childhood you have known the holy scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 3:15).
- As he ardently believed in the ministry of St. Paul so St. Paul used to call him his son in the faith (1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:2, and 2 Timothy 1:2).
- St. Paul chose him as his fellow in his trips and his helper in the ministry because of his righteousness and gifts.
- St. Paul circumcised him to prepare him for the ministry among Jews.
- He went with St. Paul to Phrygia, Galatia, Taroas, Philippi, Ephesus, Macedonia, and Corinth (2 Corinthians 1:1, Romans 16:21, Acts 20:3-4). He followed St. Paul in his last trip to Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:3).
- He was with St. Paul in his imprisonment in Rome as he was mentioned in the Holy Epistles that St. Paul wrote from jail (Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:1, and Philemon 1:1).
- He was ordained a Bishop for Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:18) and so St. Paul wrote two Holy Epistles to him about the duties of the priests in the ministry.
- St. Paul praised him for his wisdom and righteousness (2 Timothy 1:4, 1 Timothy 5:23).
- St. Paul called him “my fellow worker (Romans 16:21)”, “Our brother and minister of God and our fellow laborer in the Gospel of Christ (1 Thessalonians 3:2)”, “A true son in the faith (1 Timothy 1:2)”, “the beloved son (2 Timothy 1:2)”, and “my beloved and faithful son in the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:17)”.
- It is mentioned by tradition that St. Timothy lived to a very old age and was martyred in Ephesus 97 AD by pagans.

# Saint Titus the Apostle

- He was one of St. Paul's faithful disciples and he was mentioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Galatians, and Titus Epistles. He was a Greek Gentile (Galatians 2: 1& 3) and converted to Christian faith by St. Paul's ministry and so St. Paul called him his son in the faith (Titus 1:4).
- He joined the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem 50 AD (Galatians 2:1).
- St. Paul sent him two times to Corinth (2 Corinthians 2:13) and (2 Corinthians 8: 16 & 17, 12:18).
- He joined St. Paul in his 2nd imprisonment in Rome (2 Timothy 4:10).
- St. Paul ordained him as a Bishop for Crete and called him fellow and the laborer with him (2 Corinthians 8:23).
- He lived to a very old age and departed and was buried in Crete and so he is their intercessor.

# Saint Silas the Apostle

- The Apostles in Jerusalem sent him with Barnabas and Paul to Antioch, Syria and Cilicia to declare the decisions of the Council (Acts 15:22).
- He was a prophet (Acts 15:22 & 23).
- He had the Roman citizenship.
- He was a fellow for St. Paul in his second ministry trip after Barnabas had left him (Acts 15:40, 15:18-22).
- He followed St Paul in Macedonia and Philippi (Acts 16:12-39) where they suffered persecution and imprisoned there and the Lord freed them and so the Philippian Jailer believed (Acts 16:25-34).
- He followed St. Paul to Thessalonica then to Athens (Acts 17:13-15), and Corinth (Acts 18:5). He was martyred in Macedonia.

# Mountains of the Twelve Apostles



Located in South Africa's Islands