

Lenten Lecture Series 2026

THE CROSS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

H.G. Bishop David

Mon
Mar
23



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COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND

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St. Mary & St. Mark

11th Hour (Sunset) - Vespers

INTRODUCTION TO EVERY HOUR

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless us. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.



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Make us worthy to pray thankfully:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil
one. In Christ Jesus our Lord. For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



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THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us unto Him, spared us, supported us, and brought us to this hour. Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the Almighty, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

O Master, Lord, God the Almighty, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank You for every condition, concerning every condition, and in every



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condition, for You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us unto You, spared us, supported us, and brought us to this hour.

Therefore, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, to grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men, and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, take them away from us, and from all Your people, and from this holy place that is Yours.



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But those things which are good and profitable do provide for us; for it is You Who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is of one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.



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PSALM 50

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I am conscious of my iniquity; and my sin is at all times before me.

Against You only I have sinned, and done evil before You: that You might be just in Your sayings, and might overcome when You are judged. For, behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins my mother conceived me.



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For, behold, You have loved the truth: You have manifested to me the hidden and unrevealed things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with Your hyssop, and I shall be purified: You shall wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear gladness and joy: the humbled bones shall rejoice.

Turn away Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in my inward parts. Do not cast me away from Your face; and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with a



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directing spirit. Then I shall teach the transgressors Your ways; and the ungodly men shall turn to You.

Deliver me from blood, O God, the God of my salvation: and my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips; and my mouth shall declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would have given it: You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and humbled heart God shall not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then You shall be pleased with



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sacrifices of righteousness, offering, and burnt sacrifices:
then they shall offer calves upon Your altar. ALLELUIA.

The sunset prayer of the blessed day, we offer to Christ
our King and our God, beseeching Him to forgive us our
sins. From the Psalms of our father David the prophet and
the king, may his blessings be upon us all. Amen.

PSALM 116

Praise the Lord, all you nations: let all the peoples praise
Him. For His mercy has been established upon us, and the
truth of the Lord endures forever. ALLELUIA.



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PSALM 122

Unto You I have lifted up my eyes, O You who dwell in heaven. Behold as the eyes of servants are unto to the hands of their masters, and as the eyes of a maidservant to the hands of her mistress; so our eyes are toward the Lord our God until He has pity on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. And our soul has been exceedingly filled: give the reproach to those who prosper, and contempt to the proud. ALLELUIA.



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THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (CH. 4 : 38-41)

And He arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they requested Him concerning her. And He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and served them.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with diverse diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, "You are



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Christ, the Son of God!” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak: for they knew that He was Christ.

Glory to God forever. Amen.

**Tenoo oasht emmok o piekristos nem pekyot en
aghatos nem pi epnevma ethowab je akee ak soati
emmon nai nan**

**We worship You O Christ with Your Good Father and
the Holy Spirit, for You have come and saved us.**



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1. If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where shall I, the sinner, appear? The burden and heat of the day I did not endure because of the weakness of my humanity. But, O merciful God, count me with the fellows of the eleventh hour. For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me. Therefore, I do not dare to lift up my eyes to Heaven; but rather, I rely on the abundance of Your mercy and love for mankind, crying out and saying, “God, forgive me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.”

Doxa Patri ke Eioa ke Agio Pnevmati

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



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2. Hasten, O Savior, to open to me the fatherly bosoms, for I wasted my life in pleasures and lusts, and the day has passed by me and vanished. Therefore, now I rely on the richness of Your never-ending compassion. So, then, do not forsake a submissive heart which is in need of your mercy. For unto You I cry, O Lord, humbly, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before You, and I am no longer worthy to be called Your son, so make me as one of Your hired servants."

Ke nin ke a ee ke ees toos e onas toan e oa noan ameen.
Now and forever and unto the ages of all ages, Amen.



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3. Every iniquity I did with prudence and activity, and every sin I committed with eagerness and diligence, and of all torment and judgement I am worthy. Therefore, prepare for me the ways of repentance, O Lady the Virgin; for to you I appeal, and through you I seek intercession, and upon you I call to help me, lest I might be put to shame. And when my soul departs my body attend to me, and defeat the conspiracy of the enemies, and shut the gates of Hades, lest they might swallow my soul, O you, blameless bride of the true Bridegroom.



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Then the worshipper prays:

Lord, hear us and have mercy on us and forgive us our sins. Amen. (Lord have mercy) 41 times

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Holy Holy Holy. Lord of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory and honor. Have mercy on us, O God the Father, the Almighty O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, God of hosts, be with us. For we have no helper in our hardships and tribulations but You. Absolve, forgive, and remit, O God, our transgressions; those which we



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have committed willingly and those we have committed unwillingly, those which we have committed knowingly and those which we have committed unknowingly, the hidden and manifest, O Lord forgive us, for the sake of Your Holy name which is called upon us.

Let it be according to Your mercy, O Lord, and not according to our sins.

Make us worthy to pray thankfully:

Our Father Who art in heaven ...



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ABSOLUTION

We thank You, our compassionate king, for You have granted us to pass this day in peace, and brought us to the evening thankfully, and made us worthy to behold daylight until evening. Lord, accept our glorification which is offered now, and save us from the trickeries of the adversary, and abolish all the snares which are set against us. Grant us, in this coming night, peace without pain, or anxiety, or unrest, or illusion; so that we may pass it in peace and chastity, and rise up for praises and prayers. And thus, at all times and everywhere, we glorify Your holy



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name, together with the Father, who is incomprehensible and without beginning, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is in one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

THE CONCLUSION OF EVERY HOUR

Have mercy on us, O God, and have mercy on us, who, at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, is worshipped and glorified, Christ our God, the good, the long suffering, the abundant in mercy, and the great in compassion, who loves the righteous and has mercy on



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the sinners of whom I am chief; who does not wish the death of the sinner but rather that he returns and lives, who calls all to salvation for the promise of the blessings to come.

Lord receive from us our prayers in this hour and in every hour. Ease our life and guide us to fulfill Your commandments. Sanctify our spirits. Cleanse our bodies. Conduct our thoughts. Purify our intentions. Heal our diseases. Forgive our sins. Deliver us from every evil grief and distress of heart. Surround us by Your holy angels, that, by their camp, we may be guarded and guided,



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and attain the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Your imperceptible and infinite glory. For You are blessed forever. Amen.



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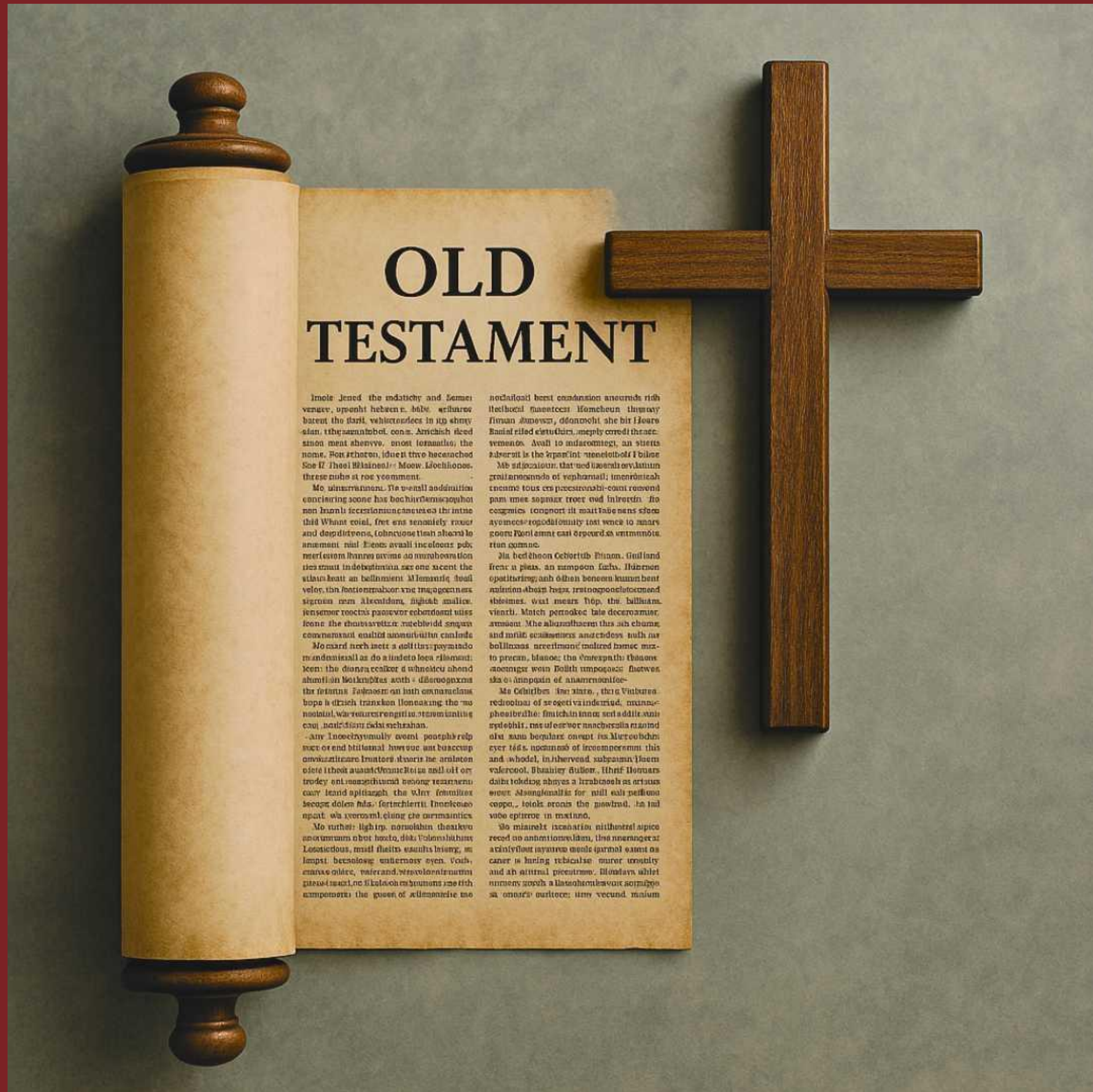




March 23, 2025

The Cross in the Old Testament

By: Bishop David



ONE DIOCESE • ONE FAMILY • ONE MISSION

Introduction

The Cross is not an accident or a last-minute plan.

- From the beginning, God was preparing humanity to understand salvation through symbols, events, persons, worship practices...etc.
- The Old Testament is full of types (shadows) that point to Christ and His Cross.

Introduction

The Cross, though fully revealed in the New Testament through the crucifixion of Christ, is richly foreshadowed (typologically) throughout the Old Testament.

Introduction

The Fathers of the Church—especially St. Athanasius the Apostolic, St. Irenaeus of Lyons, and St. Augustine of Hippo—saw the Cross as “hidden in types and symbols” from the beginning. (Key words tree, wood, blood, sacrifice...etc)

Introduction

Christ Himself reveals the mystery of the cross in the Old Testament when He says, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” (John 3:14)



1. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2-3)

- The tree in the midst of paradise becomes a symbol of life.
- After the Fall, humanity is barred from eating from the tree.



1. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2-3)

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

23 فَأَخْرَجَهُ الرَّبُّ
الْإِلَهَ مِنْ جَنَّةِ عَدْنِ
لِيَعْمَلَ الْأَرْضَ الَّتِي
أَخَذَ مِنْهَا.

24 فَطَرَدَ الْإِنْسَانَ
وَأَقَامَ شَرْقِيَّ جَنَّةِ عَدْنِ
الْكُرُوبِيمَ وَلَهَيْبَ سَيْفٍ
مُتَقَلِّبٍ لِحِرَاسَةِ طَرِيقِ
شَجَرَةِ الْحَيَاةِ.



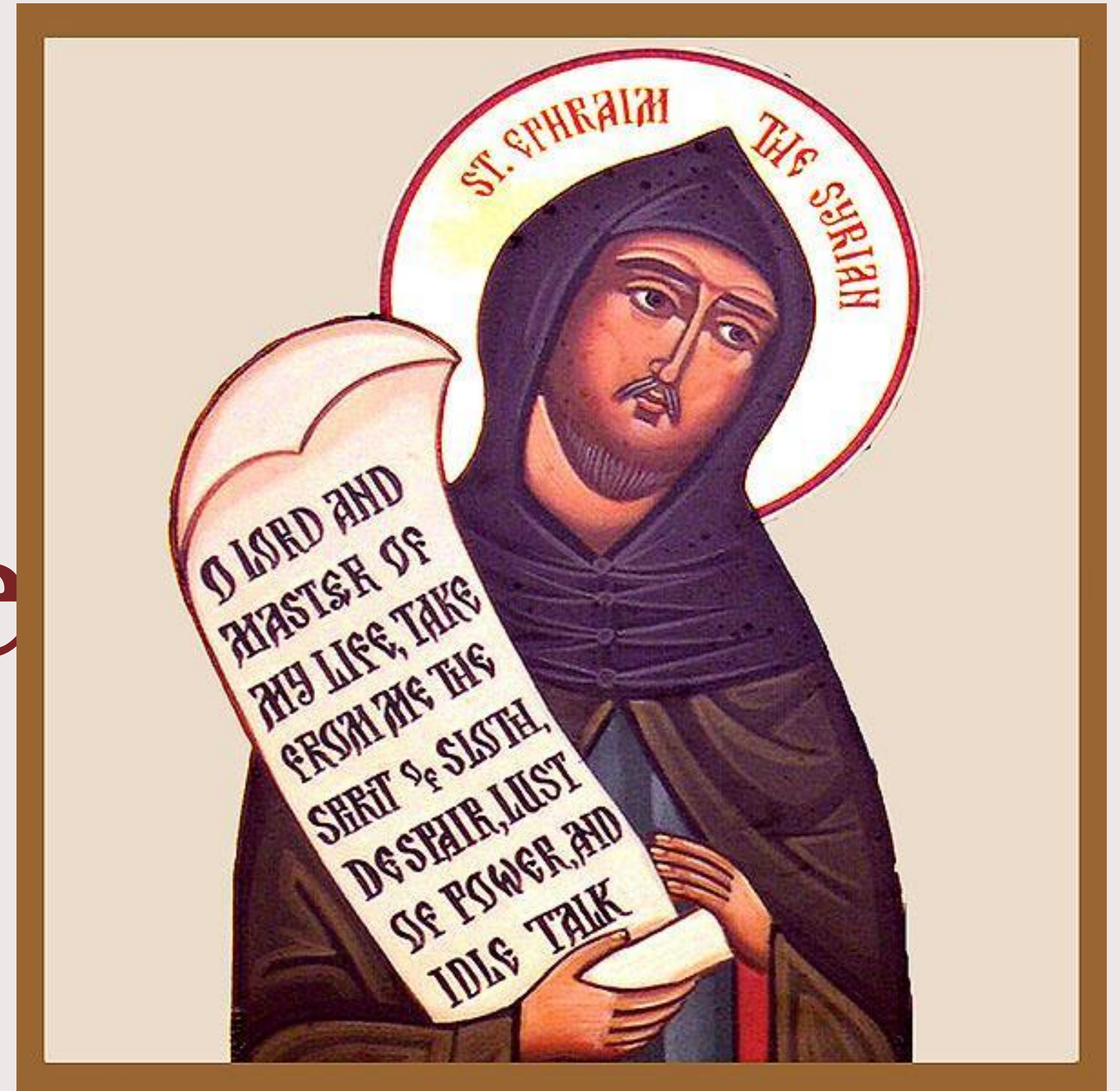
1. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2-3)

- The Cross is understood as the **new Tree of Life**, restoring what was lost.
- Christ hangs on the “tree” to give eternal life.



St. Ephrem the Syrian:

“The tree of life was hidden in the Cross.”



● Gospel Response
(Πισωμὰ νεμ πιςνοϋ...)

For Covenant Thursday:

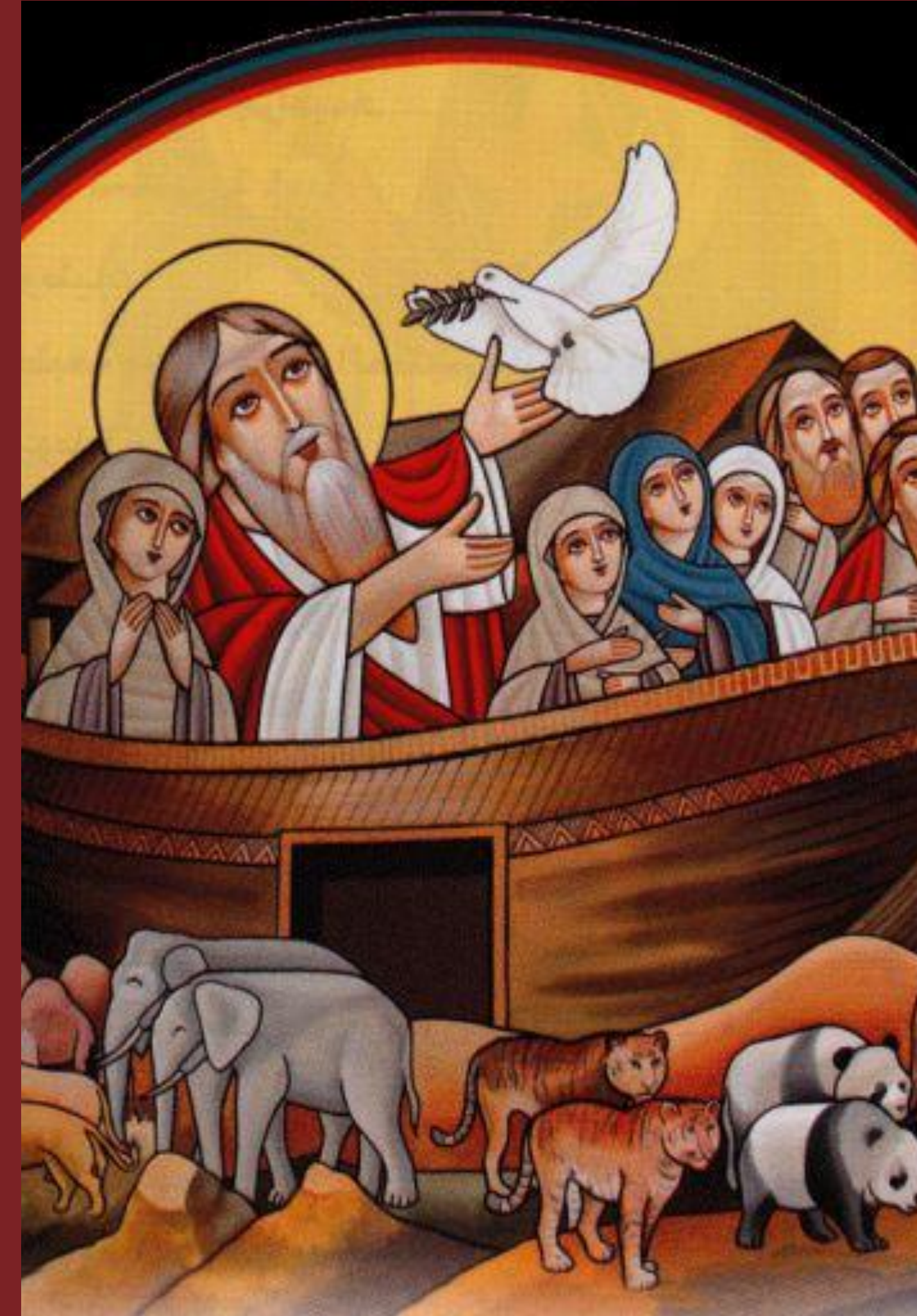
People:	Πιλᾶος:	الشعبُ:
Your	Πισωμὰ	جسدك ودمك:
Body and	νεμ	
Your	πιςνοϋ	هما لغفران
Blood, are	ἤτακ: πε	خطايانا:
the	ἴχω	
forgiveness	ἐβολᾷ ἤτε	وللعهد
s of our	νεμ	الجديد: الذي
sins, and	†διαθήκη	أعطيته
the new	ἔβερι:	
covenant,	ἐτακτης	لتلاميذك
that You	ἤνεκμάθη	
gave to	της.	
Your		
disciples.		



We	are	Ἀνερίεμε	فاستحققنا
made		ἵψα	
worthy to		ὑπιψῆην	شجرة الحياة:
eat, of the		ἵτε	لنأكل منها:
Tree of		ἵωνθ:	
Life,		εθρενορω	الذي هو جسد
which is		μ εβολ	
the Body		ἵτητϥ:	الله: ودمه
of God,		ἵτε ψαι	الحقيقي.
and His		πε ἵσωμα	
true		ὑψ†:	
Blood.		νεμ	
		πεϥςνοϥ	
		ἵἀληθινο	
		ς.	

2. Noah's Ark (Genesis 6–9)

- ✓ The ark, which saves humanity through water, is often seen as a symbol of salvation through the Cross and through water (Baptism).
- ✓ Some Fathers noted the **structure and measurements** pointing symbolically to the Cross



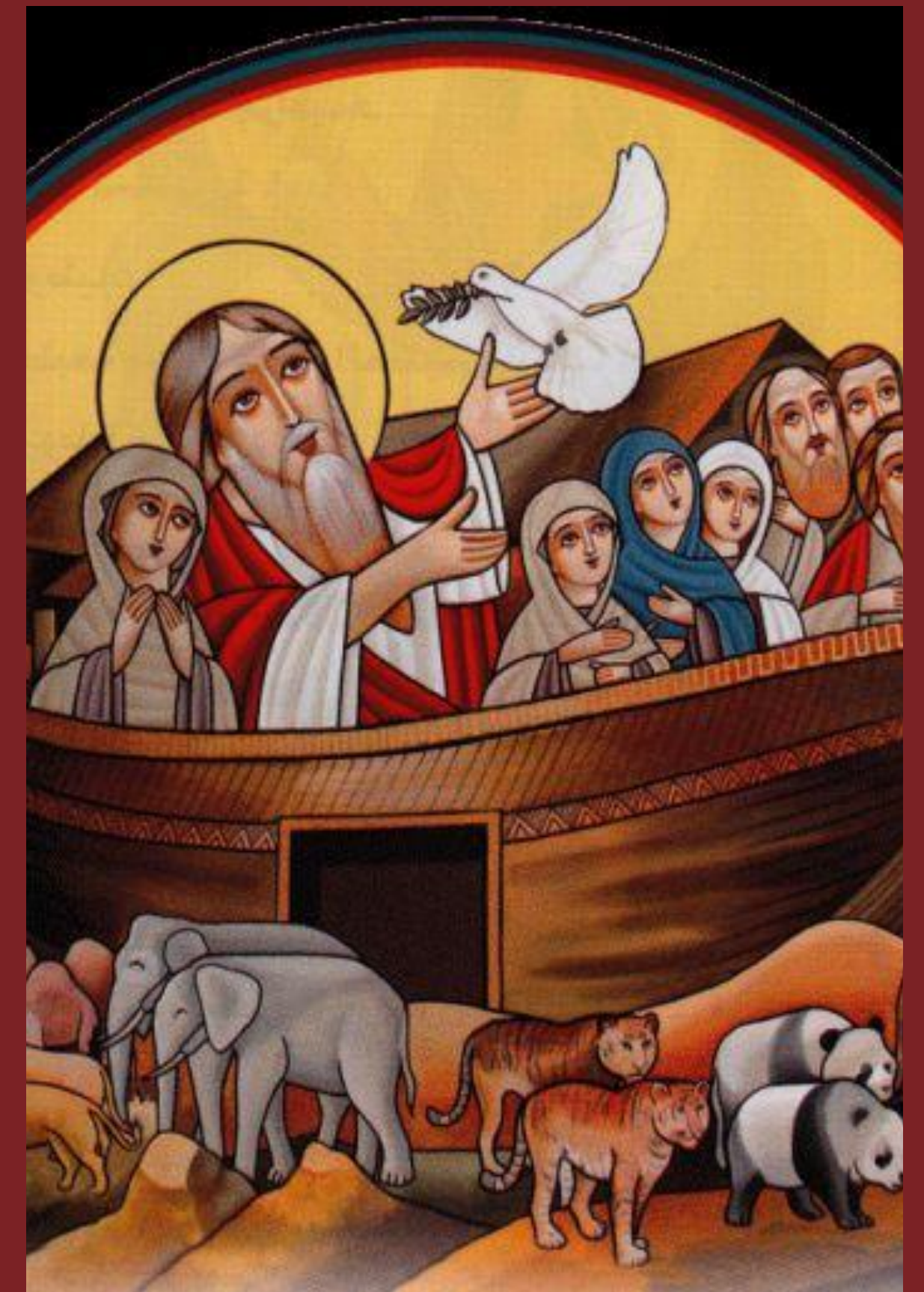
2. Noah's Ark (Genesis 6–9)

- St. Justin Martyr

He is one of the earliest and most explicit.

“The mystery of the Cross... was prefigured in the ark of Noah... and in many other things which were commanded by Moses.” (Dialogue with Trypho)

- Salvation comes through **wood**—a key recurring symbol.



3. Isaac Carrying the Wood (Gen. 22)

- Isaac carries the wood for his own sacrifice up Mount Moriah.
- This prefigures Christ carrying the Cross.



3. Isaac Carrying the Wood (Gen. 22)

□ **St. John Chrysostom:**
“Do you see the type of the Cross? Isaac carried the wood, just as Christ carried the Cross.”



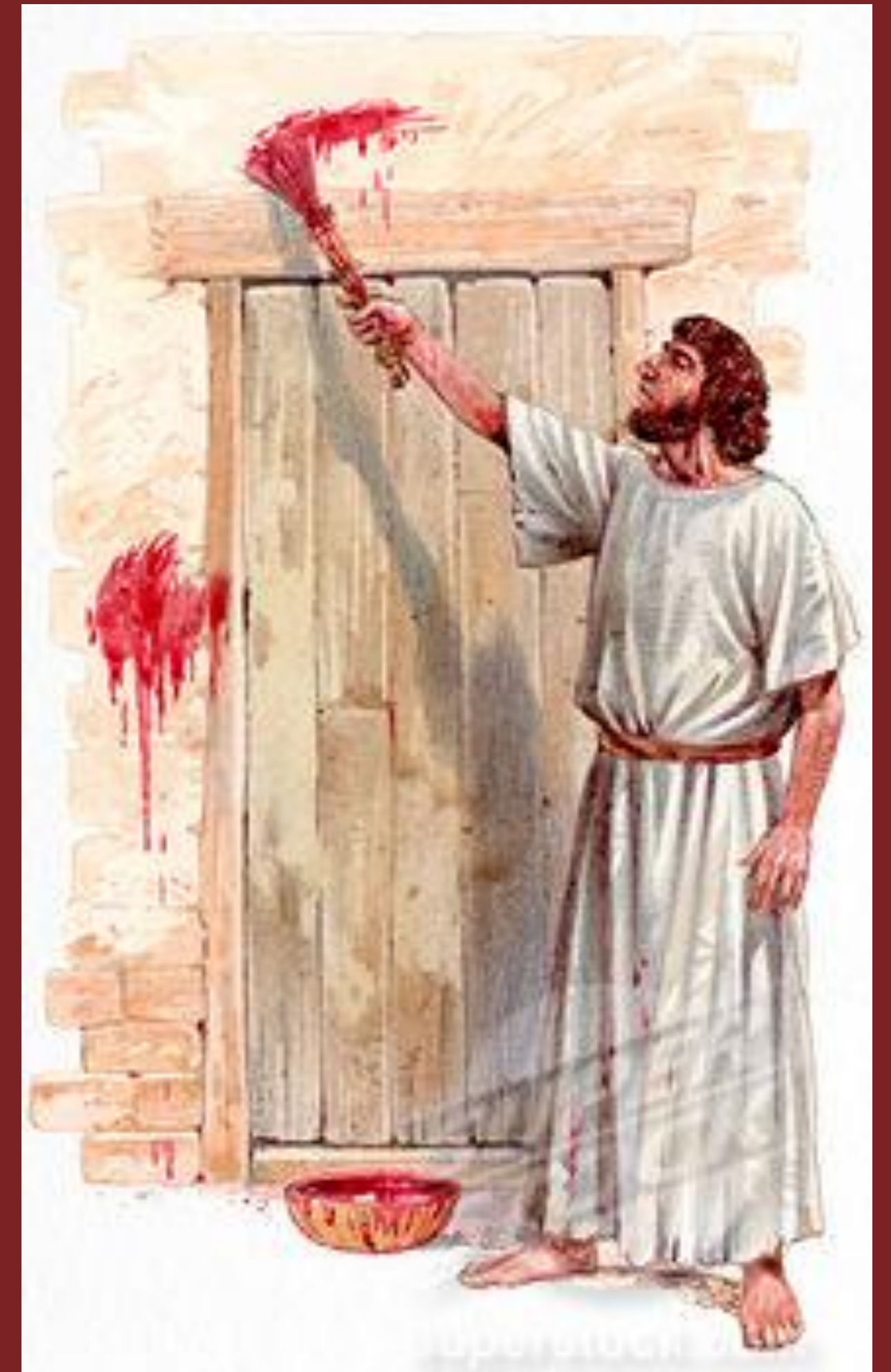
3. Isaac Carrying the Wood (Gen. 22)

□ **Isaac is a type of Christ:** obedient, offered by his father, yet ultimately spared—while Christ fulfills the sacrifice fully.



4. The Blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)

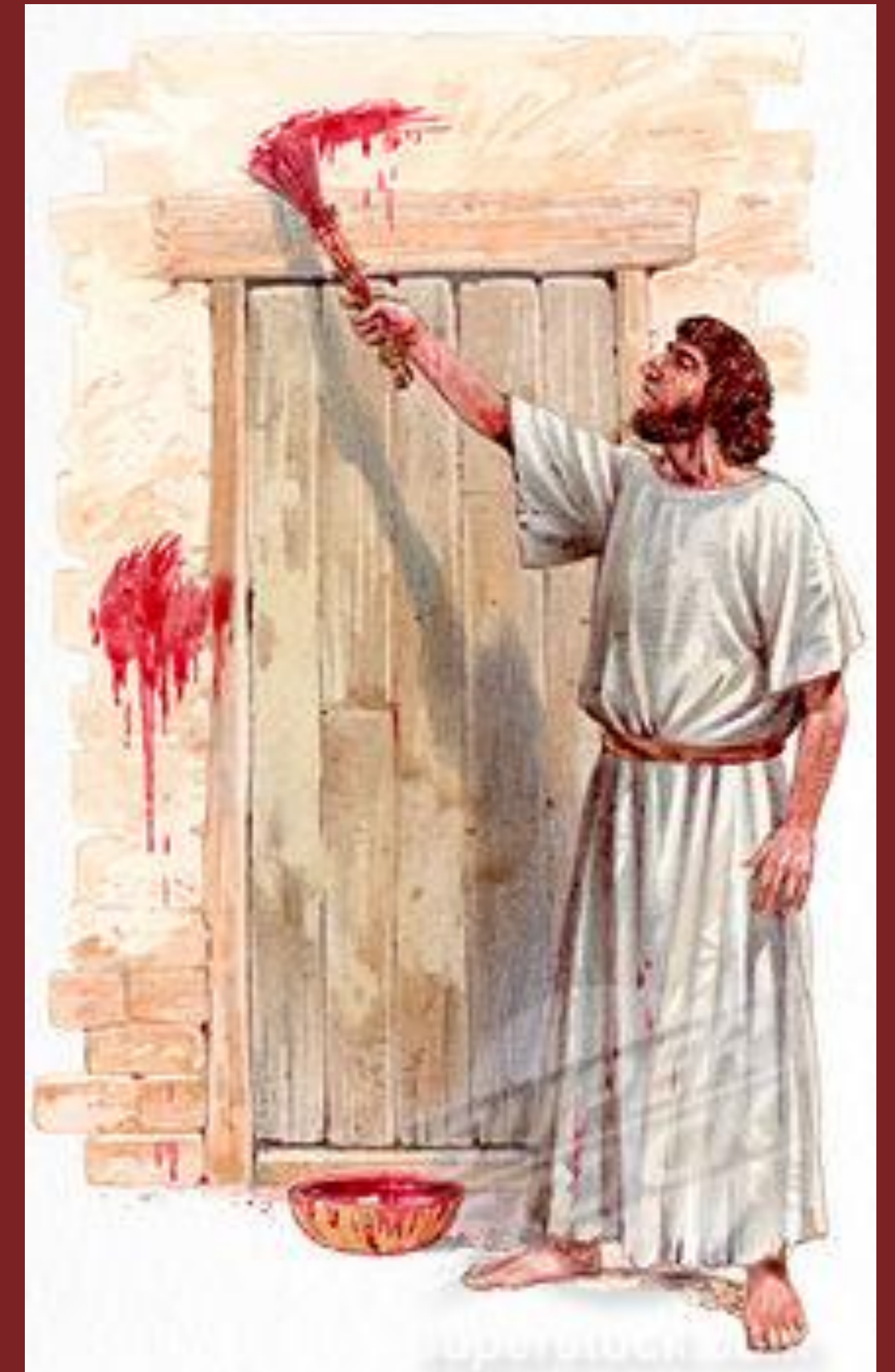
- The Israelites mark their doorposts with blood.
- The application (top and sides) forms a cross-like pattern.
- The lamb's blood saves from death—just as Christ's blood on the Cross brings salvation.



4. The Blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)

□ St. Justin Martyr

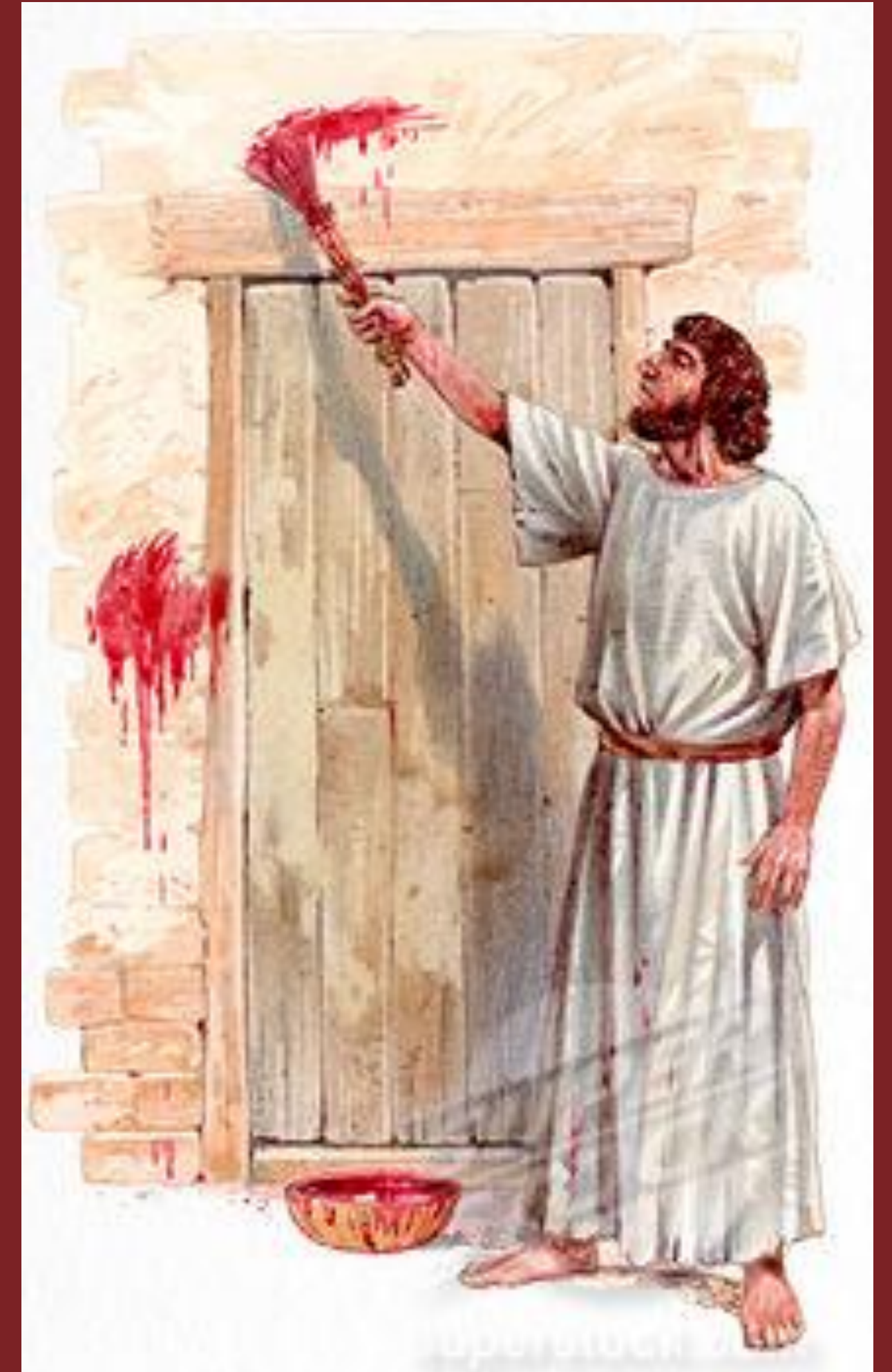
“The lamb which was slain and whose blood saved the children of Israel is a figure of Him who was crucified for us, that through His blood we might be saved from death.” (Dialogue with Trypho)



4. The Blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)

□ St. Augustine of Hippo

“The lamb was without blemish, as was Christ; the blood was applied on the doorposts, as the Cross is applied in the life of believers.



5. Moses' Outstretched Hands (Exodus 17:8–13)

- During the battle with Amalek, Moses stands with arms outstretched.
- As long as his hands are raised, Israel prevails.
- The posture clearly resembles the Cross.
- The Fathers saw this as a direct image of Christ's victory on the Cross.



5. Moses' Outstretched Hands (Exodus 17:8–13)

St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest and most explicit:

“When Moses spread out his hands, Israel prevailed... this was a sign of the Cross.”
(Dialogue with Trypho)



5. Moses' Outstretched Hands (Exodus 17:8–13)

St. Cyril of Jerusalem:
“Whenever Moses stood praying with outstretched hands, Israel prevailed... for his hands formed the figure of the Cross.”



5. Moses' Outstretched Hands (Exodus 17:8–13)

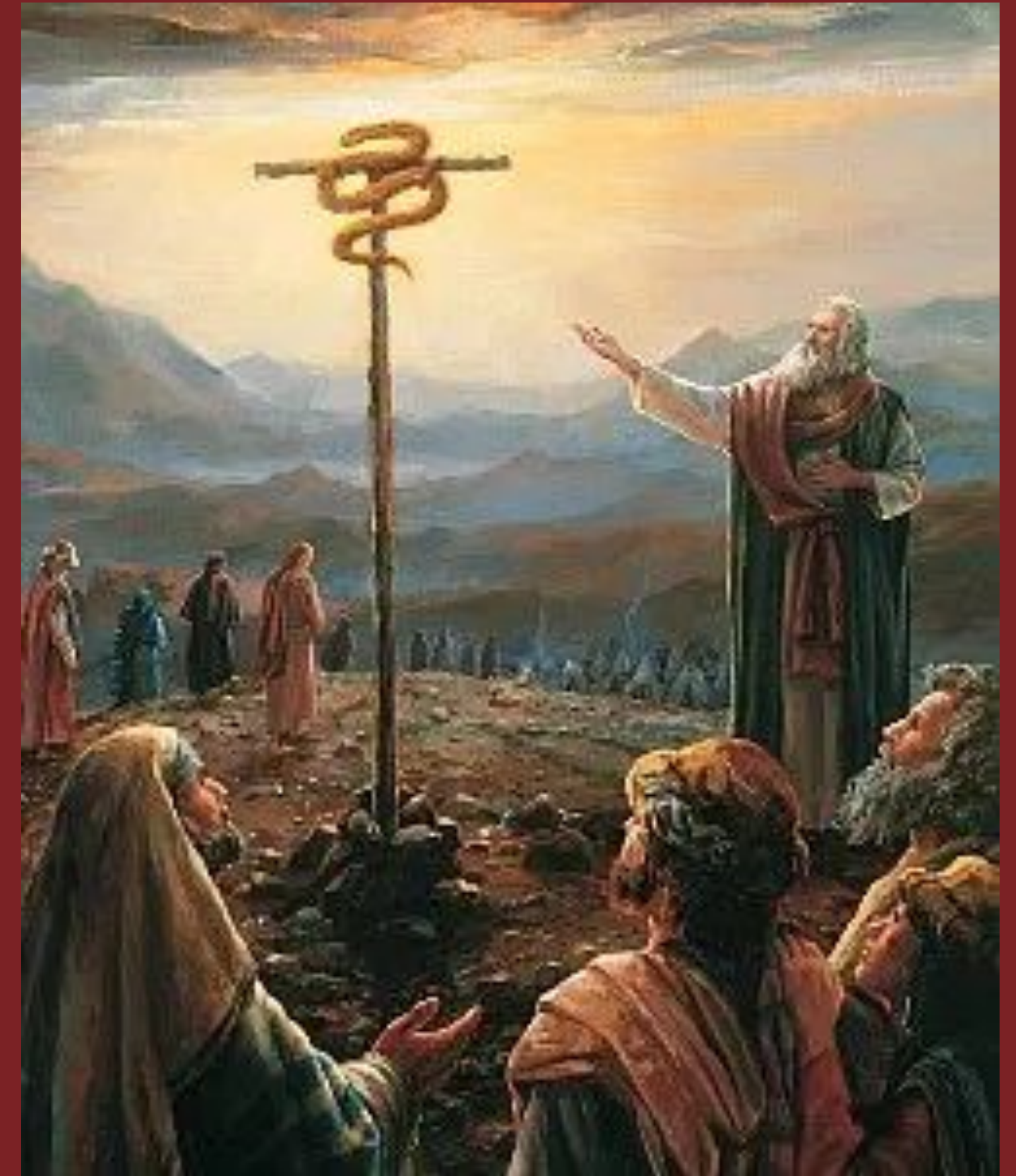
St. Ephrem the Syrian:

“Moses conquered Amalek not by weapons, but by the sign of the Cross traced in his hands.”



6. The Bronze Serpent (Numbers 21:4–9)

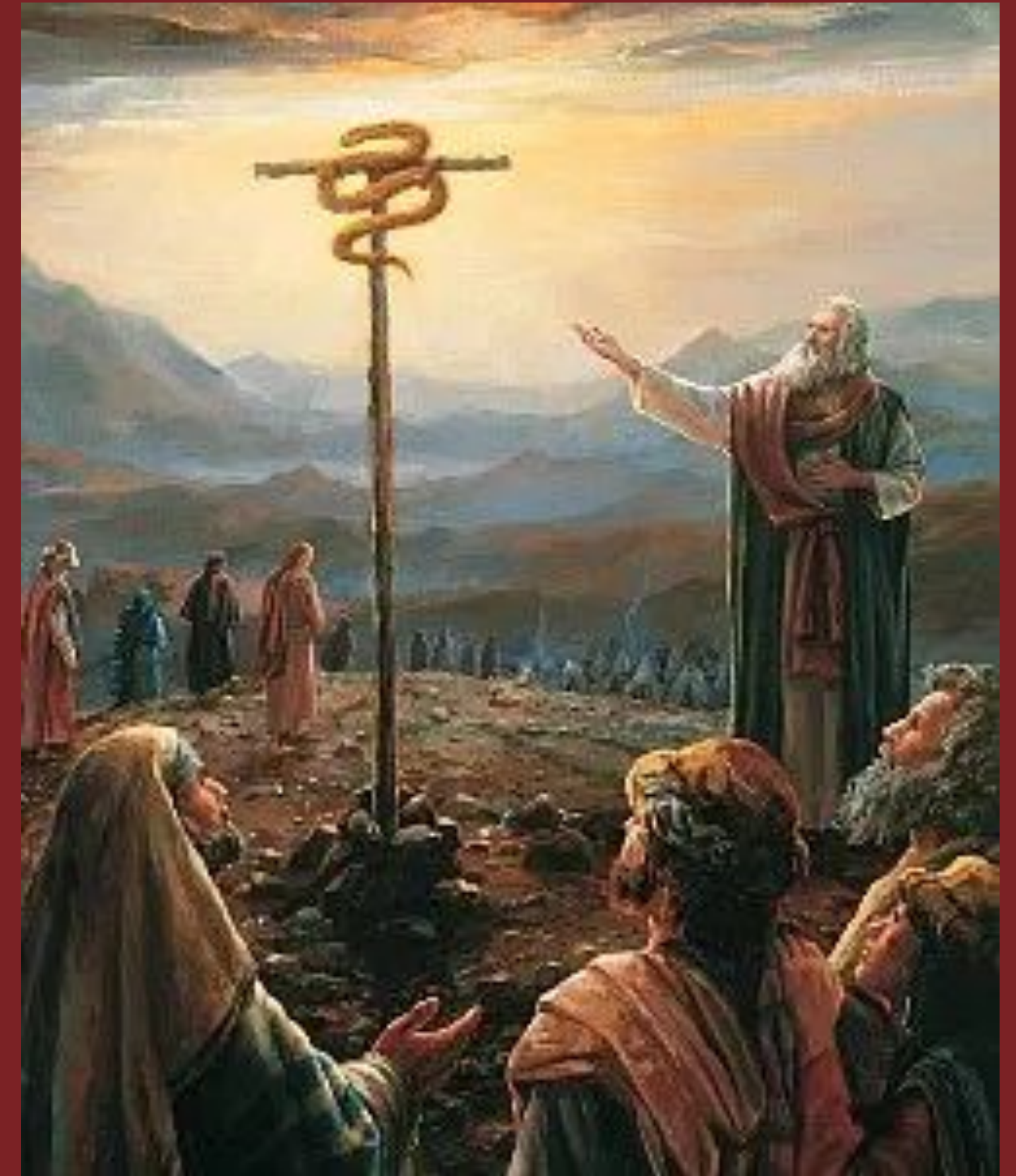
- God commands Moses to lift a bronze serpent on a pole.
- Whoever looks at it is healed.
- Christ Himself connects this to His crucifixion (John 3:14).
- The lifting up is a clear image of the Cross.



6. The Bronze Serpent (Numbers 21:4–9)

□ St. Irenaeus of Lyons

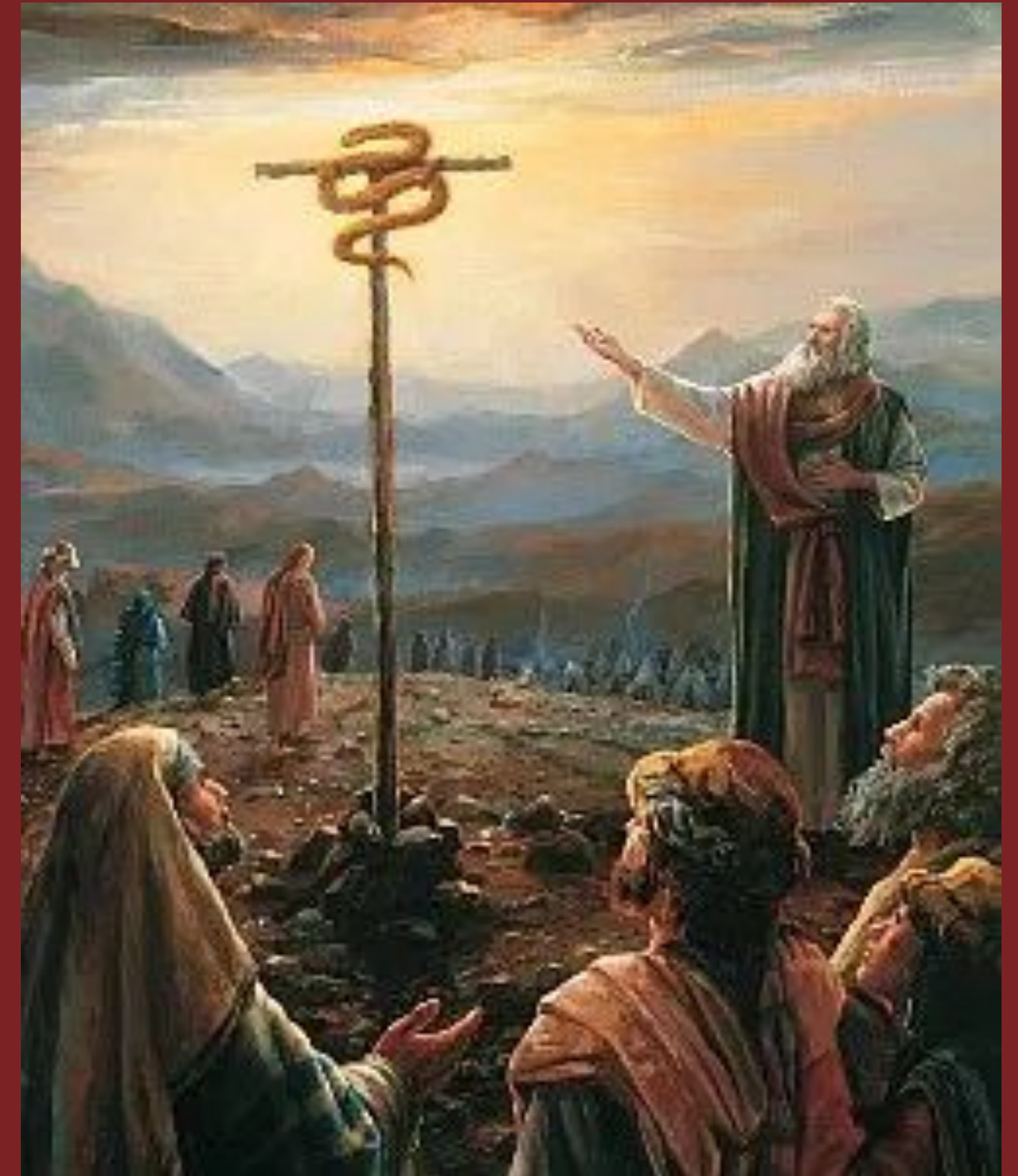
“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so was the Son of God lifted up... that He might destroy the serpent.” (Against Heresies)



6. The Bronze Serpent (Numbers 21:4–9)

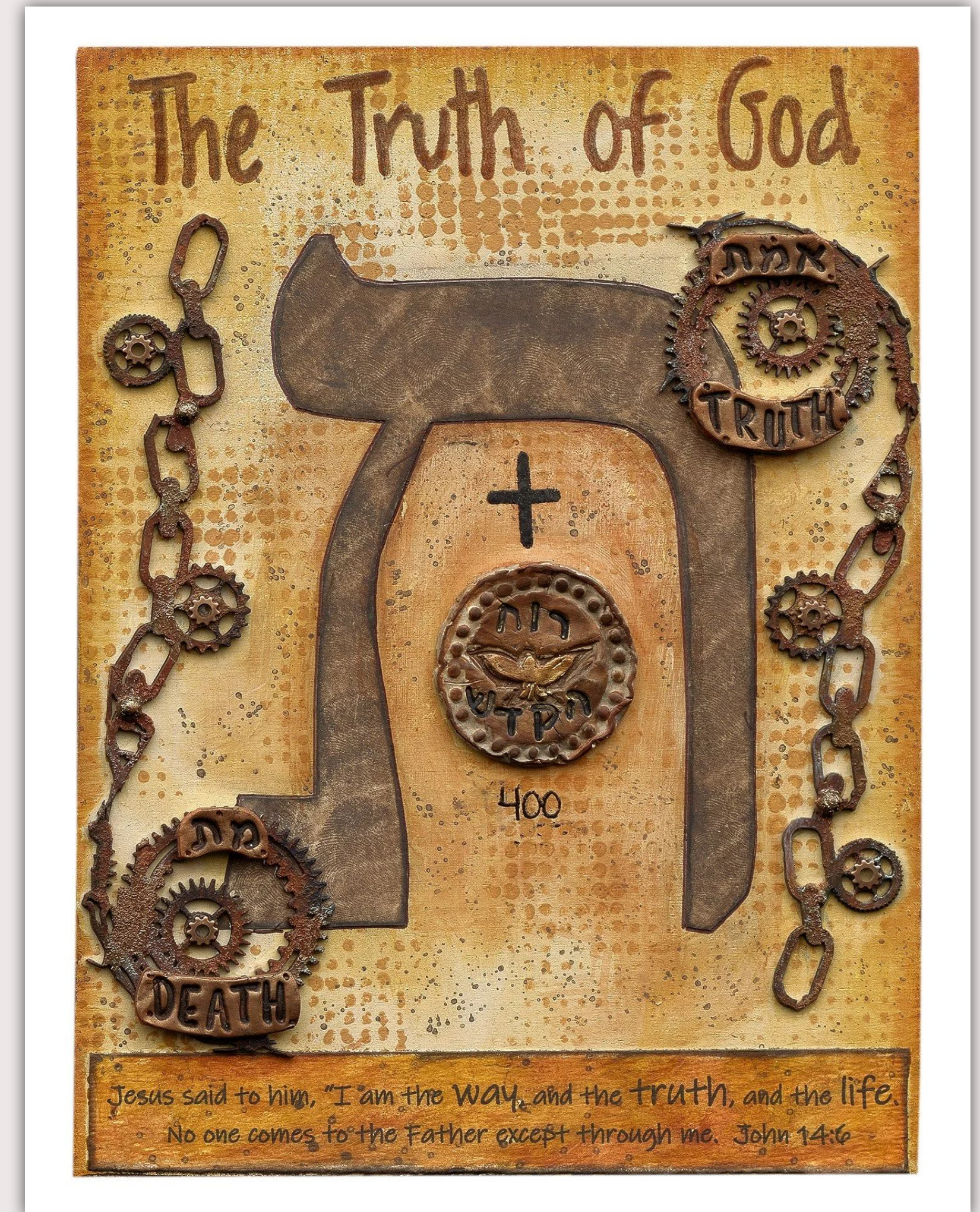
□ **St. John Chrysostom**

“The serpent was hung up, that those who were bitten might look and be healed; so Christ was nailed to the Cross.”



7. The Sign of the “Tav” (Ezekiel 9:4)

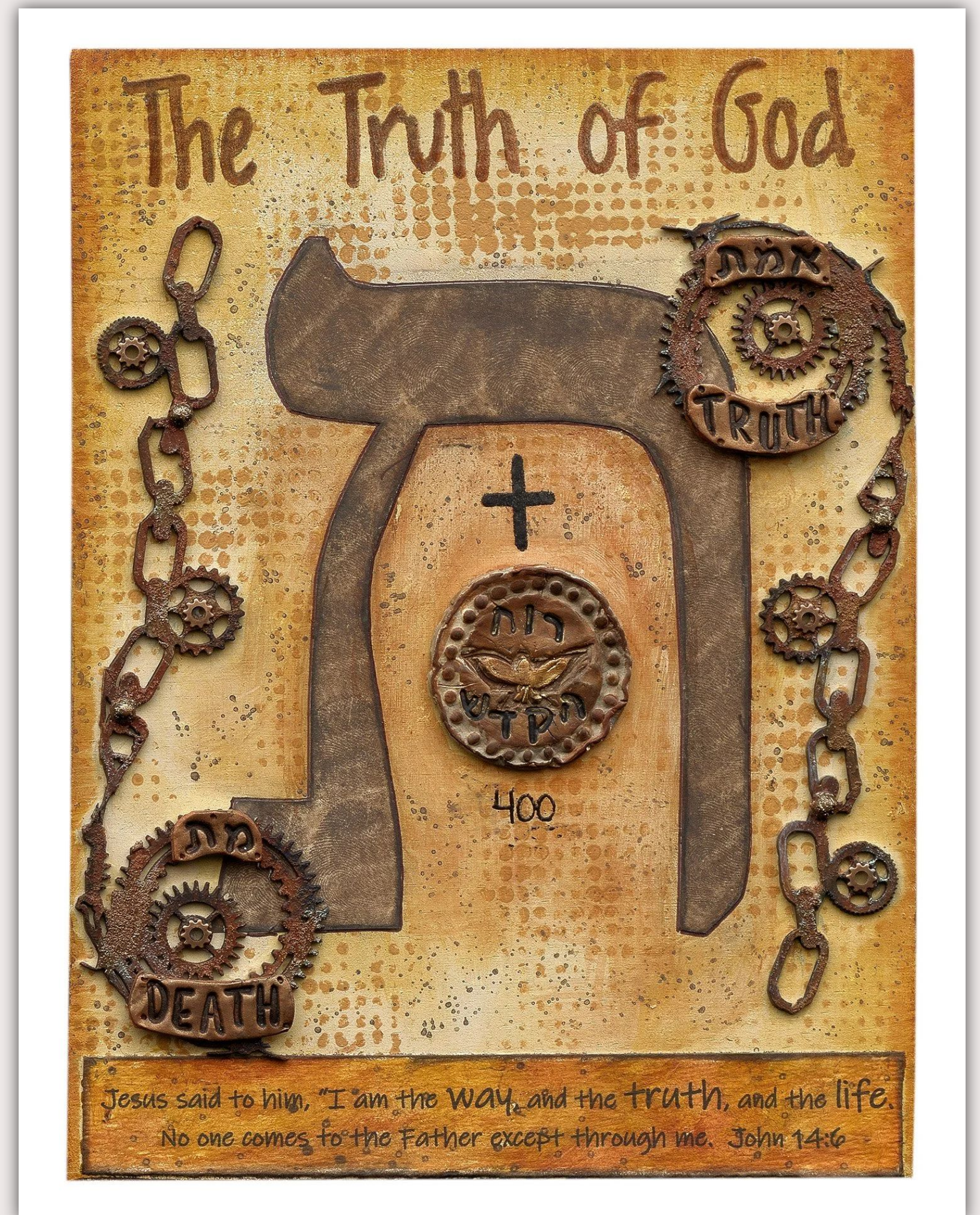
- The righteous are marked on the forehead with a sign.
- In Hebrew, this sign is the letter “Tav” (ת), which in ancient script resembled a cross.
- Early Christians saw this as a prophetic sign of those sealed by the Cross.



7. The Sign of the “Tav” (Ezekiel 9:4)

St. Jerome, A biblical scholar aware of Hebrew:

“The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which is called Tau, has the form of a cross.”



8. The Wood that Sweetened the Bitter Waters (Exodus 15:22–25)

- Moses throws a piece of wood into bitter water, making it sweet.
- The wood symbolizes the Cross transforming bitterness (sin, death) into life and healing.



8. The Wood that Sweetened the Bitter Waters (Exodus 15:22–25)

□ **St. Ambrose of Milan**

“The water was bitter until the wood was cast in; so too the soul is bitter until it receives the mystery of the Cross.”



8. The Wood that Sweetened the Bitter Waters (Exodus 15:22–25)

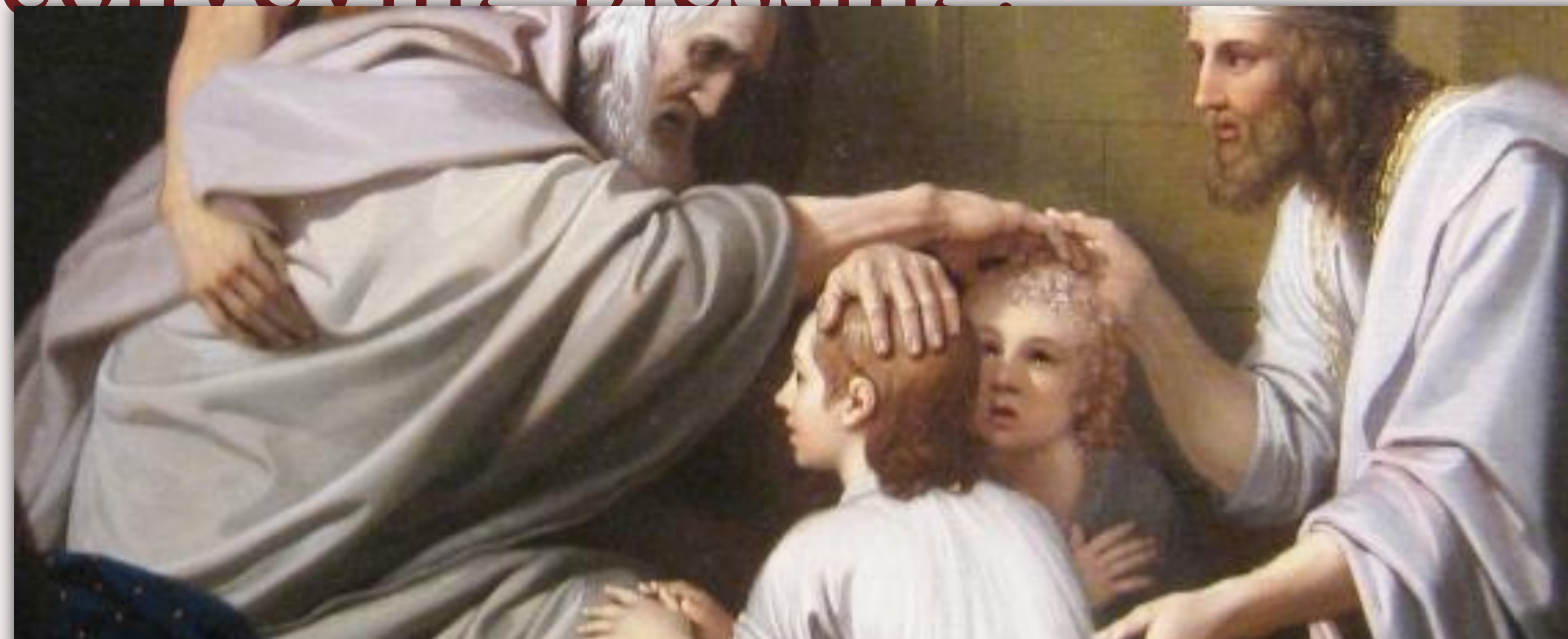
□ **St. Irenaeus of Lyons**

“By the wood, the bitter waters were made sweet, prefiguring the Cross by which man’s disobedience is healed.”



9. Jacob's Crossed Hands (Genesis 48:13–20)

- Jacob crosses his hands while blessing Ephraim and Manasseh.
- This unusual act is seen as a hidden sign of the Cross conveying blessing.



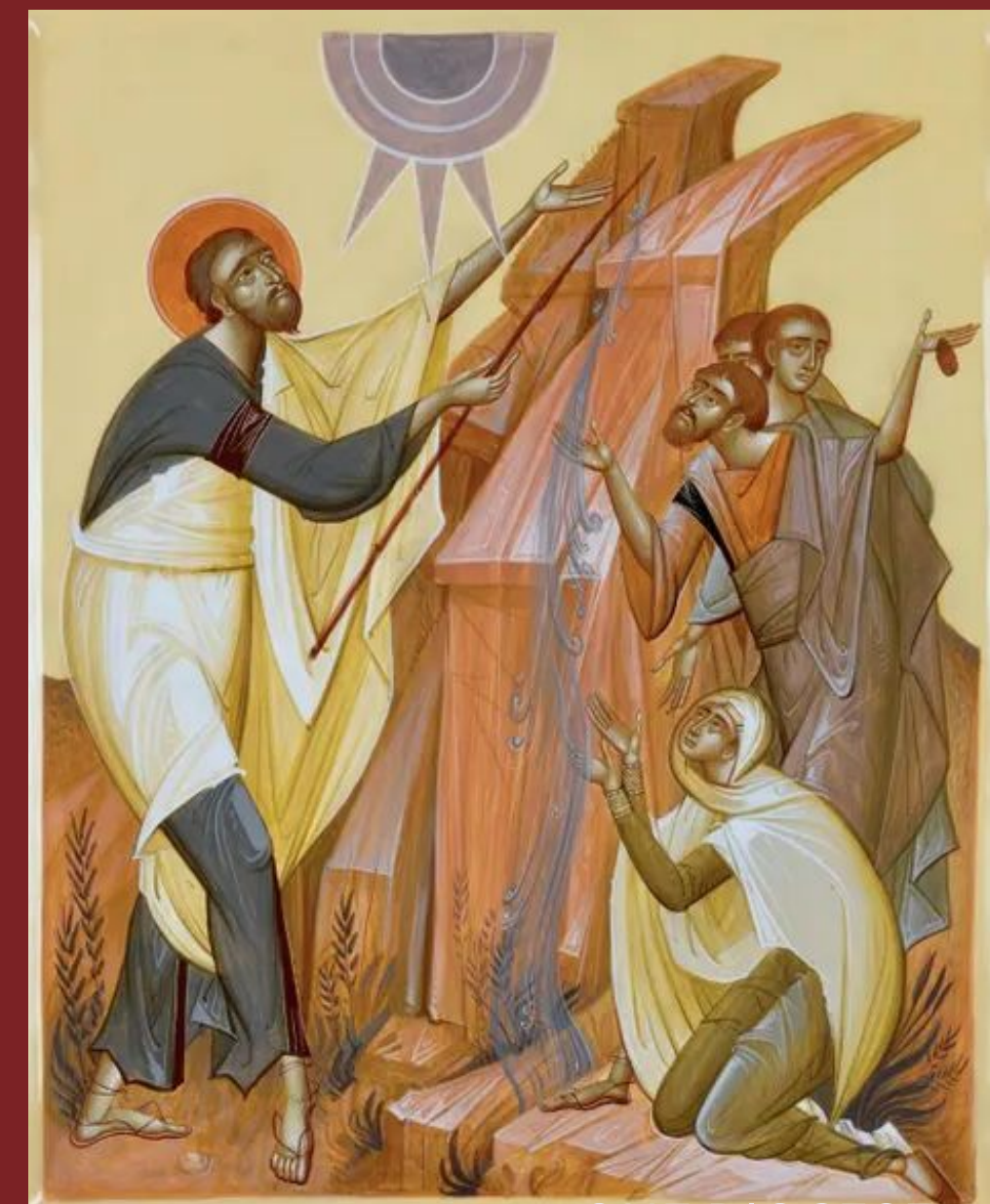
9. Jacob's Crossed Hands (Genesis 48:13–20)



St. John Chrysostom: “He did not place his hands simply, but crossed them, showing beforehand the figure of the Cross.”

10. The Rod of Moses

- The rod used to perform miracles (parting the Red Sea, striking the rock)
- Represents the power of God working through a wooden instrument, prefiguring the Cross.



10. The Rod of Moses



□ **St. Irenaeus of Lyons:** “The rod of Moses opened the path of salvation for Israel, as the Cross of Christ opened the path of eternal life for all men.”

10 The Rod of Moses



□ **St. Augustine of Hippo:** “The rod, though simple wood, accomplished mighty deeds by God’s hand; how much more does the Cross of Christ, though wood, redeem the world by the same divine power.”

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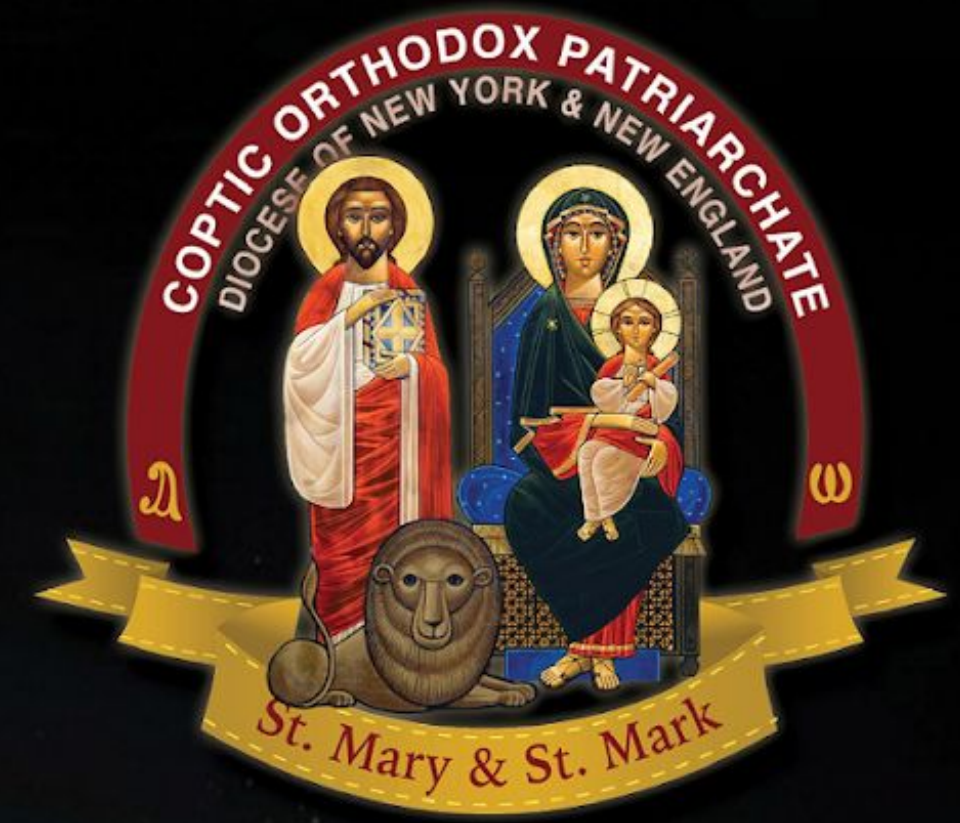


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Bible Study Series

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

In Revelations



February 19

Ephesus

"The Church That Left Its First Love"

George Hanna

February 26

Smyrna

"The Church That Suffered Faithfully"

Dr. John Abdelmessih

March 5

Pergamum

"The Church That Compromised with the World"

Dr. Samir Boutros

March 12

Thyatira

"The Church That Tolerated False Teaching"

Fr. Gregory Saroufeem

March 19

Sardis

"The Church That Appeared Alive but Was Dead"

Dr. Samir Boutros

March 26

Philadelphia

"The Church of the Open Door and Patient Endurance"

Dr. David Mikhail

April 2

Laodicea

"The Church That Became Lukewarm"

Mina Kolta

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The Seven Churches

PHILADELPHIA

*“The Church of the
Open Door and Patient
Endurance”*

Dr. Samir Boutros

BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY 3/26
7:30 PM @ Church
241 E. 62nd St. New York, NY 10065



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LENTEN LECTURE SERIES 2026

Monday, February 23

"The Cross on Trial: The Legal Case Against Christ"

Pishoy Yacoub

Monday March 9

"The Science of the Cross: How Christ Died"

Dr. Michael Karass

Monday March 23

"The Cross in the Old Testament"

H.G. Bishop David

Monday March 2

"Take Up Your Cross: Walking in His Footsteps"

Fr. Moussa Shafik

Monday March 16

"Why the Cross?"

Fr. Michael Sorial

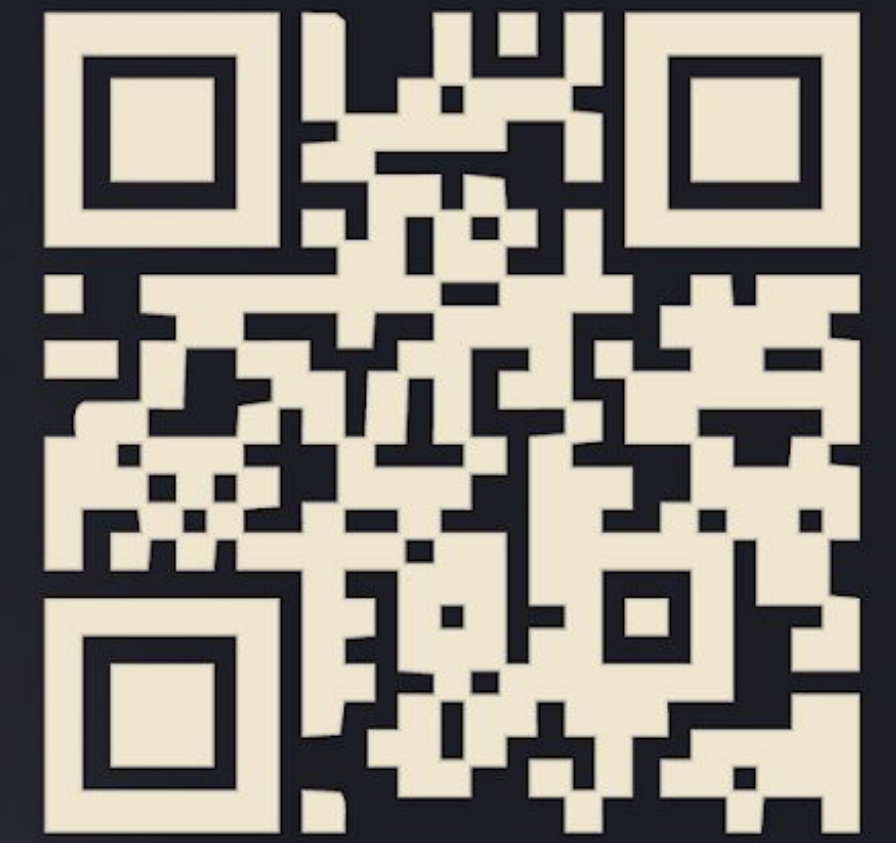
Monday March 30

"Faces at Calvary: The People Around the Cross"

Fr. John Rizkalla

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7:00 pm | Doors Open
8:00 pm | Start



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7:00 pm | Doors Open
8:00 pm | Start

Mon
Mar
30

FACES AT CALVARY: THE PEOPLE AROUND THE CROSS

Fr. John Rizkalla



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Holy Week Schedule 2026



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Date	Event	Time
Friday, April 3 Last Friday of Lent	The Divine Liturgy	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
	The Way of the Cross An SMSM Production	8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday, April 4 Lazarus Saturday	Unction of the sick	7:30 am – 9:00 am
	Matins/The Divine Liturgy	9:00 am – 11:30 am
	The Eve of Palm Sunday Vespers	5:00 pm
Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday	Morning Raising of Incense/ Procession	7:00 am – 8:30 am
	Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy	8:30 am – 12:00 pm
	Public Funeral Prayer	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
<i>Paschal Week Services</i>		
Sunday, April 5	Evening Paschal Prayers	3:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Monday – Wednesday April 6-8	Early Morning Paschal Prayers	7:30 am – 8:30 am
	Morning Paschal Prayers	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
	Evening Paschal Prayers	6:00 pm – 9:30 pm
 On Wednesday evening, please bring water for The Blessing of the Water (Lakkan) on Thursday		
Thursday, April 9 Covenant Thursday	Morning Paschal Prayers, Liturgy of the Water and The Divine Liturgy	8:00 am – 2:00 pm
	Evening Paschal Prayers	5:00 pm – 9:30 pm
 On Thursday evening and Friday morning, please bring Roses and Vinegar for Good Friday		
Friday, April 10 Good Friday	Paschal Prayers	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
	Apocalypse Night Ending with The Divine Liturgy of Bright Saturday	11:00 pm – 5:00 am
Saturday, April 11 Feast of The Resurrection	Raising of Incense, Offering of the Lamb, Act of Resurrection and Procession, Gospel and the Homily, The Divine Liturgy	6:00 pm



Christos Anesti!
Alithos Anesti!
Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!





Holy Week Schedule On Campus 2026

Paschal Week Services - Coptic Orthodox Rite

April 6	Monday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 th hour	NYU	2-4:00 pm
April 7	Tuesday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 th hour	NYU	2-4:00 pm
April 8	Wednesday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 th hour	Columbia	2-4:00 pm



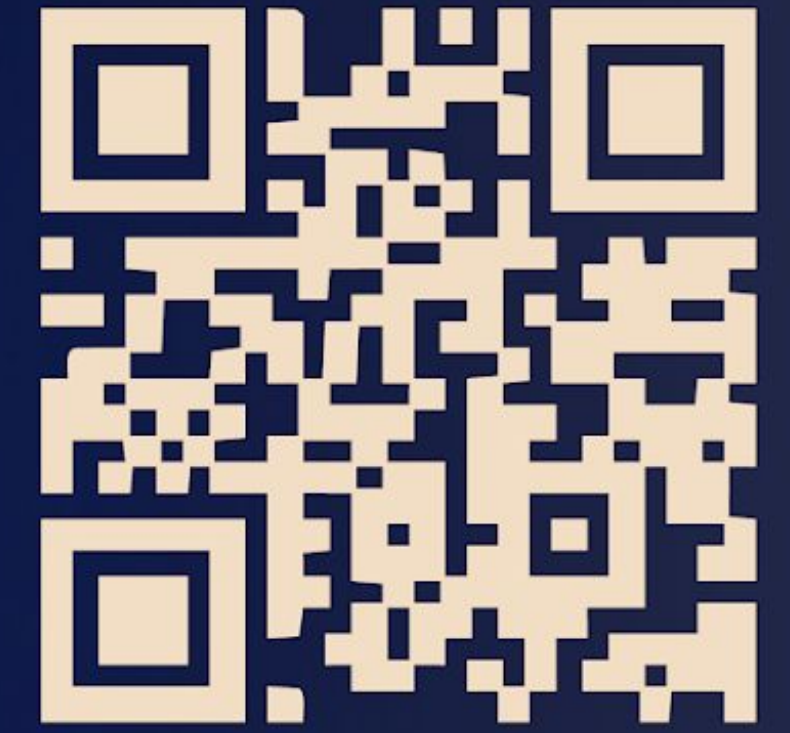
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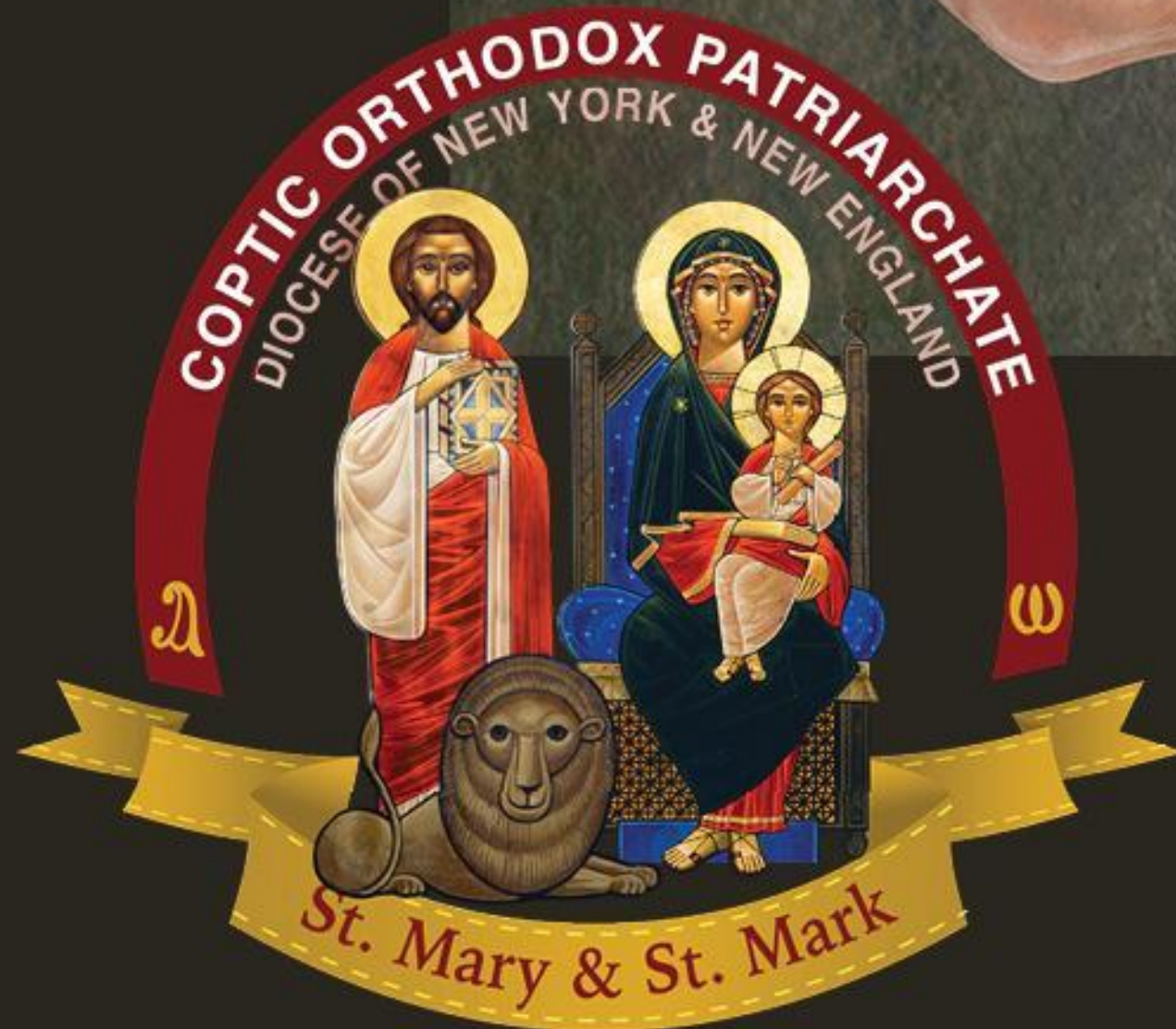


“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS.” Psalm 100:2

A CALL TO SERVE



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SOLUTIONS value loyalty relationship
professional considerate FEEDBACK FOCUS
service perform efficient ASSIST effective guidance
communicate friendly support CARE
PERSONAL trust connect HELP
patience can do EXPERIENCE satisfy
timely attitude responsible awareness



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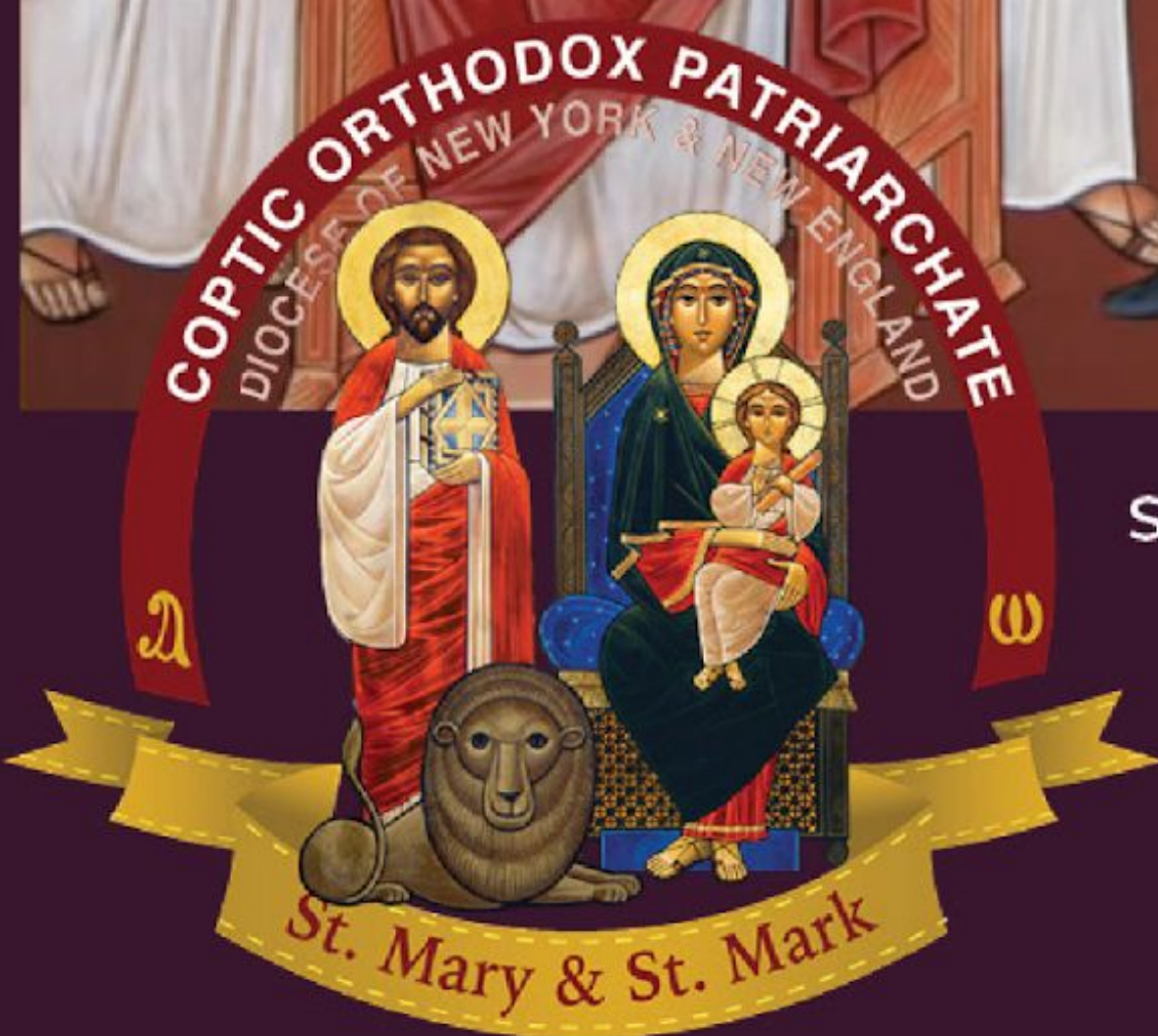


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