

ST. JOHN

November 1992

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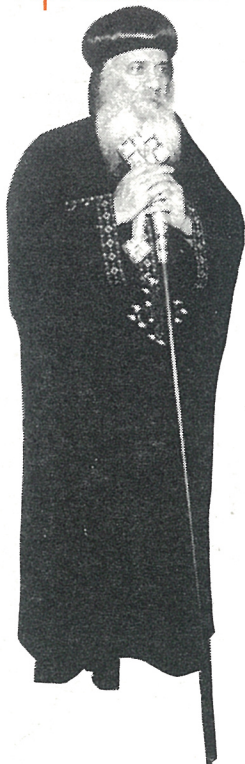
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**The Martyr
St. Mina The Miraculous
Nov 24 - Hatur 15**

**The 21 Enthronment
Of H. H.
Pope Shenouda III**



**The Martyr
St. Luke The Evangelist
Nov 1 - Babah 22**

**Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
St. John Coptic Orthodox Church
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St. Luke The Evangelist

By
Fr. Augustinos

The name Luke is a shortened form of the Greek word *Loukas* and the Latin *Lucius* which means the "Light bearer".

St. Luke was a physician and companion of St. Paul mentioned by name three times in his letters (Col.4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Tim. 4:11).

There is an agreement among the church fathers and the modern scholars, that Luke is the author of both, the third Gospel which bears his name and the Book of Acts. They sometimes call the Book of Acts, Volume II of St. Luke's Gospel, because the two books are addressed to the same person, Theophilus.

Some scholars think, he was one of the seventy apstles and one the two disciples of Emmaus. The modern view believes that Luke was not an eye witness to the Lord's life as it seems from the introduction of his Gospel, but he joined St. Paul as compantion on the Second Missionary Journey at Troas, where the account changes for the first time to the first person plural (Act 16:11). Some believe that the man of Macedonia who appaled to Paul for help was Luke the Physician, who urged this first evangelistic venture into the European continent (Acts 16:9 f.) He rejoined the Apostle Paul again at Phillipi on the Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20:5), and went with him to Jerusalem.

During the two years in which St. Paul was imprisoned at Caesarea Luke had opportunity to gather data for his Gospel; and to write a draft of it at this time. He had a well trained- mind, excellent litrary ability, and maaaarked reportorial skill (Lk 1:1-3). He served as a litrary bridge spanning the gulf between the Jewish and the Gentile world.

Luke was a multi-talented person, who served the Lord Jesus Christ as a physician and a genius historian and artist. He Painted a masterpiece icon for the Virgin Mary, which became a model to thousands of the artists all over the world.

St. Luke was martyred at the age of 84, and the emperor Constantius transferred his relics to Constantinople in the year 357 A.D.

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From Paradise of The Holy Fathers

The Virgin of Alexandria Who Hid St. Athanasius

Now therefore it is necessary for us to remember also the chosen and mighty women unto whom God also gave an equal measure of strength of will as unto men, so that they might have no cause for being feeble in the performance of the labour of ascetic excellence. I have seen large numbers of widows who were exceedingly glorious and excellent in the performance of ascetic virtues.

And among the chaste virgins whom I saw in Alexandria there was one whom I estimated to be seventy years old, and all the clergy testified concerning her that when a young woman, about twenty years old, she possessed exceeding beauty, and she was more looked at than many women, and because of her beauty she fled lest she should become the cause of stumbling unto men.

Once when the Arians were plotting against the blessed St. Athanasius, the pope of Alexandria, and were acting craftily in respect of him that they might do him harm through the perfect Eusebius, and through the wicked men who were his partisans in the days of the Emperor Constantine the Less (i.e., Constantius), and were spreading abroad infamous reports about him, and were accusing him of many things which were unseemly for Christians to do, Athanasius fled that he might not be condemned in their wicked and corrupt hall of judgment, and he told no man, neither kinsmen, nor friends, nor ecclesiastics, nor any other men where he was going.

And as soon as certain men from among the magistrates had entered into the episcopal palace suddenly, and begun to search for him and to enquire for him, he rose up at midnight, and took his tunic, and

fled to this virgin who, being greatly astonished and struck with wonder at the matter, was moved exceedingly. And the blessed Athanasius said unto her:

"Because I am sought for by the Arians, who are making unseemly accusations against me, and because I do not want to spread about an unseemly opinion of myself, and I wish not to prepare a great punishment for those who would be condemned for my sake, and be made guilty for me, I determined to betake myself to flight, and God gave me a revelation this night, saying; "There is no other person with whom you can find deliverance except this virgin."

Now therefore because of her exceedingly great joy she removed from herself and set aside all thoughts (of shame), and she became wholly the servant of our Lord, and she hid that holy man for the whole period of thirty years, that is to say, until the death of Constantius.

She used to wash his feet, and she prepared everthing of which he had need, and she attended to his bodily wants, and whatsoever he needed that she provided, and she borrowed books and brought them to him; and no man in Alexandria knew during that whole period of thirty years where the blessed Athanasius was !

And when the death of Constantius was announced, and Athanasius also heard thereof, he rose up and came by night and he was suddenly found to be in the church, and all those who saw him marvelled as they looked carefully at him; for he was like unto a man who had risen from the grave.

And he made an apology to whose who truly loved him, and spoke unto them , saying:

"I did not flee unto you, for the reason that there might not be unto you an occasion for swearing (false) oaths. And moreover, because of the search and enquiry which they were sure to have made for me I fled unto that woman concerning whom no man could suspect of harm. And I have gained two things, my own life and hers; I have helped her in many things, and I have taken care and preserved myself."

Those Who Must Be Prevented From Communion

By
Fr. Augustinos

Having Communion, is not only a great privilege and right for every true Christian, but also an obligation. It is the command of our Lord: *"Take, eat this is My body...and took the cup saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Matt. 26:26-28).

In the Gospel of St. John Chapter 6, the Lord Jesus added many essential and serious results upon having communion, such as: *Abiding in Him and He in us, having spiritual life, having everlasting life, enjoying the resurrection of the righteous at the last day.*

Therefore, Communion became the central point focused upon in the church worship. And according the New Testament, *"Whoever eats of this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself."* (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

What happens nowadays is very sad, we see many people dare to approach this holy sacrament without worthiness, as if it

were an ordinary meal! The priests sometimes do not want to embarrass them and prevent them openly, but announce and warn then give them the communion on their own responsibility.

Now, who are those people that should be prevented from communion for their unworthiness:

- 1. The unrepentant:** Sinners who still live in sin and do not repent must not take communion. The Lord Jesus said repeatedly: *"Unless you repent you will likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3,5). If the unrepentant insisted to take communion, out of ignorance, it is the duty of the priest to prevent him, or else he will take curse and condemnation instead of blessing.
- 2. The non-confessors:** Confession is an essential element of repentance. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).

It is necessary to have a father of confession and a spiritual guide. The priest is God's representative (1 Cor. 4:1), when you confess your sins and repent, he will deliver to you God's absolution and solution. Jesus breathed on his disciples and said to them, *"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained"* (John 20:22,23 see also Matthew 18:18). If you tried to take communion without confession, you are both liable and loser in the same time, and better to correct your wrong situation.

3. The disputers: All kinds of hostile disputes, strife, fighting and hatred, are obstacles and MUST prevent from having communion. The Lord says it clearly : *“If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”* (Matthew 5:23,24).

For this specific reason, the church starts her Liturgy with the reconciliation prayer, and the deacon asks all the believers who attend the sacred service to kiss one another with a holy kiss. This is not just a reminder of the importance of reconciliation, but also an obvious declaration of the Christian pure love. If you were the one at fault, admit it and apologize, and if you were the victim, forgive and forget. Otherwise, don't even think of having communion.

4. The tardy: Those who used to come to the church late, or in the middle of the service or at the end of the Liturgy, MUST NOT try to take communion. You should attend before the absolution of the servants or at least before reading the Gospel, unless you have an emergency as an exception. *“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.”*(Proverbs 8:17).

5. The Divorced: The divorced spouses for any reason other than the cause of adultery or changing religion, or annulment, are prohibited from communion. But the

victim party, according to the report of his father of confession, or who got a permission from the Clerical Council is not prohibited.

6. The falters between two opinions: The prophet Elijah said to the people: *“How long will you falter between two opinions ? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.”* (1 Kings 18:21).

In the same meaning, Jesus said: *“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”* (Matthew 12:30). He also said: *“I could wish you were cold or hot. But because you are lukewarm, I will spew you out of My mouth.”* (Rev. 3:15,16).

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons” (1 Cor. 10:21). So, faltering and limping between God's love and loving the world, is a big stumbling block disqualifies from communion.

7. Neglecting the means of grace: Neglecting to pray and/or to read the Bible, or fasting, especially nine hours before communion, are serious obstacles.

8. Un-decent attire and / or make up.

9. Recklessness and disrespect: Despising the Church, or spiritual life, by any means, such as to show disrespect, laughter, mockery or making fun of anyone or anything during the holy service, prove unworthiness, and accordingly disqualify from having Communion.

The Ideal Deacon

The image of an Angel

By Maged Makar

Imagine a guardian angel that refuses to look after the believers assigned by God, or an angel who performs half of his duties, and leaves the other half undone, or an angel who (after the fall of Satan and his angels) is not holy or blameless, who disobeys the Lord's wishes and does not fulfill them upon hearing the Lord's command. This is certainly unheard of, and likewise the deacon ought to strive to resemble an angel inside and outside the church, in praising God, in knowledge, in purity, and in service.

A young deacon is ordained; he makes an effort to come on time, and makes some effort to learn some church hymns. Now for the rest of his life all he will do is stand with the deacons and recite what he knows. This is commendable, but is this enough? Certainly not. Unfortunately, the role of the deacon in our church is by far underestimated. What is even more grieving is that some, after having been ordained, do not take the matter seriously, and do not even dress as if they had never been ordained at all. The truth is that the office of deacon has a significant role in the church. Consequently, deacons were not automatically ordained at the time of our fathers the Apostles, but were first examined for purity and good character, "*And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of the deacon*" (1 Tim. 3:10).

When the Apostles felt that too much of their time was devoted to providing for widows and the needy, consequently and having enough time to preach the gospel, they ordained seven deacons, "*of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom to look after this*" (Acts 6:3). Among the seven was St. Stephen, who was full of faith, power, and through teaching and wonderful signs did great wonders in the church. As we can see, a primary, task of the deacons in the apostolic times was to provide for widows and the needy.

Unfortunately, the common ideology now is that a successful deacon is one with a good voice and a good knowledge of church hymns. A good voice is pleasant to the ear, and solid knowledge of church hymns is crucial, (how else can we pray and worship at church without knowledge of the church's hymns. One must not forget that knowledge of church hymns is the task of the entire congregation and not just the deacons), but to say that these qualities alone are what make a good deacon makes as much sense as saying that what makes the church acceptable before God is the beauty of the building itself, and not the people in it, or that knowledge and even understanding of the Bible without faith and works is enough for salvation.

Therefore a deacon must remember that he has obligations outside the church as well. First he ought to be a light to the world and a good example - to be "*dignified, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy. . .*" (1 Tim. 3:8). Second, to know the word of God (and to teach it if he was ordained "Ognostos", or higher). Thirdly, to be compassionate to all people, serving all those in need especially widows and orphans, remembering that it was for this reason primarily that deacons were originally ordained.

The role of the deacon may be best perceived by meditating on the role of the angels. As it is the Cherubim and Seraphim's role to praise and worship God worthily and fervently, so it is also the role of the deacon to do so, with praises and a solid knowledge not only of the church hymns, but also their meaning, for it is written, "*Sing praises with understanding*" (Ps. 47:7). As an angel has vast knowledge about God, so a deacon ought to strive to be filled with every knowledge and understanding of God, and to teach others if it is the responsibility of his rank. Furthermore, "*are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation*" (Heb. 1:14), so must a deacon be a servant to all, pure in heart and blameless, well aware that, "*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world*" (Jam. 1:27).

Liturgical Hymns Meeting
4 beginners

6. A new meeting has been added to the Church's weekend program. Every Friday night from 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. there will be an Alhan meeting (Liturgical hymns) for beginners and those wanting to learn the Coptic Language. This meeting is not a deacon's meeting but a meeting for whoever wants to learn.

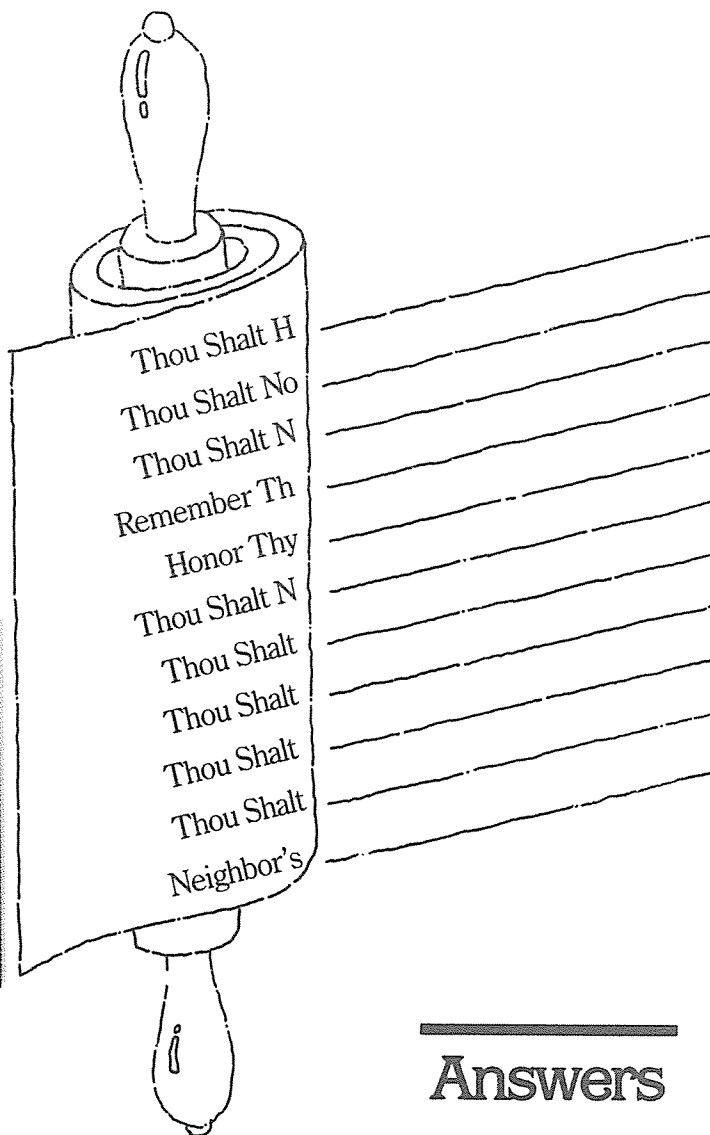
The Start Of Advent
Nov-25 - Hatur-16

The 21 Enthronment Of H. H.
Pope Shenouda III
Nov 14 1992

Bible Trivia

The Ten Commandments

See if you can unroll of the Ten Commandments and complete each of the sentences.



Answers

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.
Honor thy father and mother.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house . . . nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

SMILE & LAUGH

1. Wife : Aren't you driving too fast, dear ?
Husband: Don't you believe in a guardian angel ? He will take care of us.
Wife : Yes, I do. But I'm afraid we left him miles back.
2. Wife: There is a man at the door who wants to see you about a bill you owe him. He wouldn't give his name.
Husband: What does he look like ?
Wife : He looks like you had better pay him !
3. After a serious operation a lady was still in a coma. Her worried husband stood at the foot of her bed.
Nurse: "Well, at least age is on her side."
Husband: "She is not so young, she's 45."
At this point the patient moved slightly and quietly but firmly murmured, "44."
4. New bride: When we go in the motel, let's act like we have been married for years.
New husband: All right, You carry the bags.
5. Did you hear about the married (Sa-ie-dy) man who ran his wedding video film backwards...because he wanted to remember what it was like to be a free man !
6. Young wife: Don't forget to bring home another mouse trap.
Husband: What's the matter with the one I brought yesterday ?
Young wife: It's full !
7. Husband: Beans again !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Wife : I don't understand it. You liked beans on Wednesday and on Friday, and now all of the sudden you don't like beans
8. Q. What becomes of most love triangles ?
A. They turn into wrecktangles.
9. Q. What is a fog over Los Angeles called?
A. Bigamist.
10. Q. What is more blessed to give than receive ?
A. Advice.

Poim

Out of This Life

By
Wanda Guirguis
(from Troy - Detroit)

Out of this life, I shall never take
Things of silver and gold I made

All that I cherish and hoard away
After I leave, on this earth must stay

Though I have toiled for a painting rare
To hang on the wall, I must leave it there

Though I call it mine and boast its worth
I must give it up when I leave this earth

All that I gather, and all that I keep
I must leave behind when I fall asleep

And I often wonder what I shall own
In that other life, when I pass alone

What shall they find, and what shall see
In the soul that answers the call for me

Shall the great judge learn when my
task is through
That my spirit has gained some riches too

Or shall at last, it be mine to find
That all I 've worked for, I've left behind

Joshua (1)

By
Fr. Augustinos Hanna

+ The Book of Joshua (24 Chapters)
in two words:

1. Conquest
2. Division

+ The Book in two sentences:

- The conquest of Canaan and the entering of Israel into the promised land.
- The division of the promised land among the twelve tribes of Israel.

The main spiritual benefits of this book may be summarized:

1. Joshua as a type of Jesus (in name & work).
2. The spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10-20)
3. The honesty of God in fulfilling His promises and victory assurance.
4. Our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven by faith (in Christ) and baptism.
5. Our responsibility to live a holy life with obedience to God, is a top requirement for our salvation.
6. Our final rest and eternal inheritance.
7. God is the Omnipotent, almighty, "Pantocrator" who showed His power in the incidents: Crossing the Jordan (Josh. 3), the collapse of the walls of Jericho (Josh. 6), and the stand still of the sun and moon during the battle with the Amorites (Josh. 10:12).

Just as the Book of Genesis begins the first division of the Hebrew O.T., known as the Pentateuch, the first of the Historical Books is the Book of Joshua.

Author & Time of Writing

The name of the book is derived from its hero. The traditional theory, most probably, based on the Jewish Talmud, confirms that Joshua is the writer, with the exception of the last five

verses which talk about his death and burial. These were added by Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aron (Josh. 24:33). This is reasonable because the source material must have come directly from Joshua as an eyewitness (Josh. 5:1, 6, 13-15). And it is also concluded from the last chapter of the book that says: "*Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God*" (Josh. 24:26).

The book of Joshua takes the story of Israel's history for a period of 31 years from the death of Moses and the call of Joshua as his successor in the year 1451 B.C., through the conquest of Canaan, to the death of Joshua or little later to the death of Eleazar the son of Aron in the year 1420 B.C.

Who is Joshua?

Joshua is the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim. He was born in Egypt before the Exodus. His name was first Hoshea, but Moses changed his name to Joshua (Num. 13:8,16).

The name Joshua is equal to the name Jesus in Greek and Hebrew, and it means "Jehovah is the salvation", or "The Lord delivers". He became Moses' right hand man during the Exodus and desert wanderings. He was a fine military commander, and the first time Joshua's name was mentioned when he took the leadership of Israel's army against the Amalikites and defeated them in Raphidim concurrently with Moses' hands raised in prayer (Ex. 17:8-16). After that he was called Moses' servant and assistant, he ascended with him on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:13 & 32:17).

As the Israelites neared Canaan, Moses sent one noble from each tribe to spy out the Promised Land, and Joshua went as representative of the tribe of Ephraim. The spies reported that the Canaanites were so strong and most of the Israelites felt they could never

conquer them. Joshua and Caleb alone insisted that they could (Num. 14:9).

It was both, Joshua and Caleb alone who were to survive the 40 years of wandering in the desert which began with the exodus (of more than 600 thousand Israelites) from the land of Egypt.

Later, when God told Moses to prepare to die, Joshua was his obvious successor, and **it was on Joshua's head that Moses laid his hands** to transfer the spirit of wisdom (Num. 27:18). After Moses died, God promised to be with Joshua in the campaign, and spoke to him before every major battle.

God once sent an angel, disguised as an armed man. Joshua bluntly asked which side the angel was on. The offended angel gave no straight answer but asked him to remove his sandals from his feet for the place he stands is holy. (Josh. 5:13-6:2). scholars consider that as one of the appearances of Christ before His incarnation.

Before invading the Promised Land, Joshua first sent two spies secretly into Jericho, their first target: the men reported that all the Canaanites were terrified (Josh. 2). Encouraged by this, Joshua led Israel across the Jordan which, like the Red Sea, miraculously divided to let them across, confirming Joshua's authority in the eyes of his followers (Josh. 3).

At God's command, the Israelites circled Jericho in silence once a day for six days; on the seventh day, after seven circuits, the priests blew horns, the people shouted and the walls collapsed. (Josh. 6). Joshua captured Ai, after a preliminary defeat because of the transgression of Achan, regarding the accursed things he stole and hid under his tent (Josh. 7 & 8).

Joshua's leadership was religious as well as military. Before starting the conquest, he used flint knives to perform circumcision (which had been neglected

during the harsh desert wanderings) on all the Israelite males. Right after he celebrated the Passover in Gilgal, on the plains of Jericho. The name Gilgal means, "circle of stones" or "pulling away the shame and reproach". God said: *"This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. Therefore, the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day* (Josh. 5:9).

At God's command, Joshua divided all the territory, by lot among the tribes. He showed no favoritism to his own tribe of Ephraim which shared territory with Manasseh. When they complained that their territory was too small, he told them to cut down its forests to make more room. He assigned cities to the Levites (who, as priests, had no specific area of land) and set up cities of refuge for any who killed by error.

In his last speeches he warned Israel that they would lose the land if they neglected God's commandments. He declared his great motto: **"I and my household will serve the Lord"** (Josh. 24:15)

Joshua died aged 110 as Joseph's age and was buried in his own small city of Timnath - in Ephraim's territory. According to I Chro. 7:27 he left no male heir.

Outline of Joshua

- I. The Conquest of Canaan (chaps. 1-12)
 - 1) Preparation for invading W. Palestine
 - 2) The miraculous crossing of the Jordan (3-4)
 - 3) The Conquest in three campaigns (5-12)
 - a. Central Canaan (5:1-10:15)
 - b. Southern Canaan (10:16-43)
 - c. Northern Canaan (11)
 - 4) Summary (12)
- II. The Division of Canaan among the tribes of Israel (13-22).
- III. Conclusion: 2 closing farewell addresses by Joshua (23 - 24).

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

Satanic Warfare

Q.1. *Why does Satan seem to have so much success in his warfare against Christians ?*

A. Satan has had his ultimate coup by getting people out of the Word of God. He has pulled them away from a personal, intimate relationship with God found only through studying His Word.

Everything dealing with victory in warfare is based on our relationship to Christ- we are in Christ and He is in us - and our relationship to the Word of God. Everything about the protective armour of God needed in our warfare against Satan is in God's Word.

In Communist countries, the enemy separated people from God's Word through government banning of the Bible. In this country he's done it in a subtle, seductive way by keeping our lives so busy and involved in other things that we don't have time for the Word of God. You cannot hear the voice of God apart from the Word of God.

Q.2 *How would you define spiritual warfare?*

A. When we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, we move from one authority to another, from one kingdom to another. We move out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God (Acts 26:18).

We enter warfare when we become children of God because our allegiance changes. We have become a threat to the kingdom of Satan. Therefore, we become his enemy instead of his pawn. The more we are determined to be God's instruments or soldiers, the greater threat we are to the kingdom of Satan.

People sometimes say: "I don't want to study spiritual warfare. I don't want to get

involved on any knowledge of it because I don't want to be in warfare with the enemy." Another tactic of the enemy besides getting us away from the Word, is fear. That is why St. Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 1:7 that *God has not given us the spirit of fear, but He's given us power in Christ, love, and sound mind.*

People are usually afraid of the unknown. They are frightened of spiritual warfare because they are blinded and really don't understand what warfare is about. They are ignorant of the truth. They think they can play the ostrich, so to speak, and bury their heads in the sand and not be troubled with spiritual warfare. Instead, they are a real target for the enemy. When he charges in, they don't know it's the adversary because they have their heads buried in the proverbial sand. As long as the enemy can keep us ignorant of his schemes, we won't deal with it as spiritual warfare and, therefore, we won't have the victory.

Q.3. *How does Satan blind us ?*

A. First of all, the lost are blinded. One of Satan's tactics is to blind minds of unbelievers so they can't see the gospel.

"Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." (2 Cor. 4:3,4).

Second, Satan blinds us by keeping us from the Word. He gives us false teachers, and he raises up a host of people disguising themselves as children of God.

"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2 Cor 11:3).

He deceived Eve by causing her to question the veracity of God's Word and God's love and care for her. Likewise, he will put thoughts in our minds of anything that could keep us from trusting God and walking in total submission to Him. He causes us, in a sense, to fear God in an unholy way while convincing us that we can run our own lives by being our own gods.

Q.4. *What avenues does Satan use to harass us?*

A. His primary avenue of assault is through our minds. This is where warfare is so subtle.

We think we are going to have a frontal attack with demons, but our warfare is not against other people. *"It's against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places* (Ephesians 6:12). We have God given protection to overcome these assaults through the Holy Spirit.

In John 16 the Lord Jesus says that He's going away and sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will come to convict the world of sin. The armour the child of God is to put on is defined by St. Paul in Ephesians 6. We are to *"gird our loins with truth."* Then there is the *"helmet of salvation."* This protect our minds against Satan's wiles, accusations and attacks, and enables us to *"bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Cor. 10:5). We are also to take up the shield of faith, truth of the word of God, we can quench Satan's fiery darts. Those darts are the subtle suggestions of the enemy, so as to say: God doesn't love you; the church doesn't care of you; did you see the way that person looked at you?! etc.

Q.5. Where was Satan defeated?

A. Satan was defeated at the cross. This is what so many people don't realize. John 16:11 says that *"the ruler of this world has been judged."*

He was defeated at Calvary because the blood of Jesus Christ solved the problem of our sins. Sin is what gives Satan power in our lives. When we live in sin, we belong to him. That is why he wants to entice us into sin, and that is why we have to put on the breastplate of righteousness which is our new position in Christ. It declares us accepted by God the Father - in Christ - despite our erratic human weak nature.

Satan hates the cross because what seemed to be his ultimate moment of triumph was his ultimate moment of defeat.

Since we are one with Christ, we are safe and have authority over the enemy.

Satan does not have the power of sin and death over us any longer.

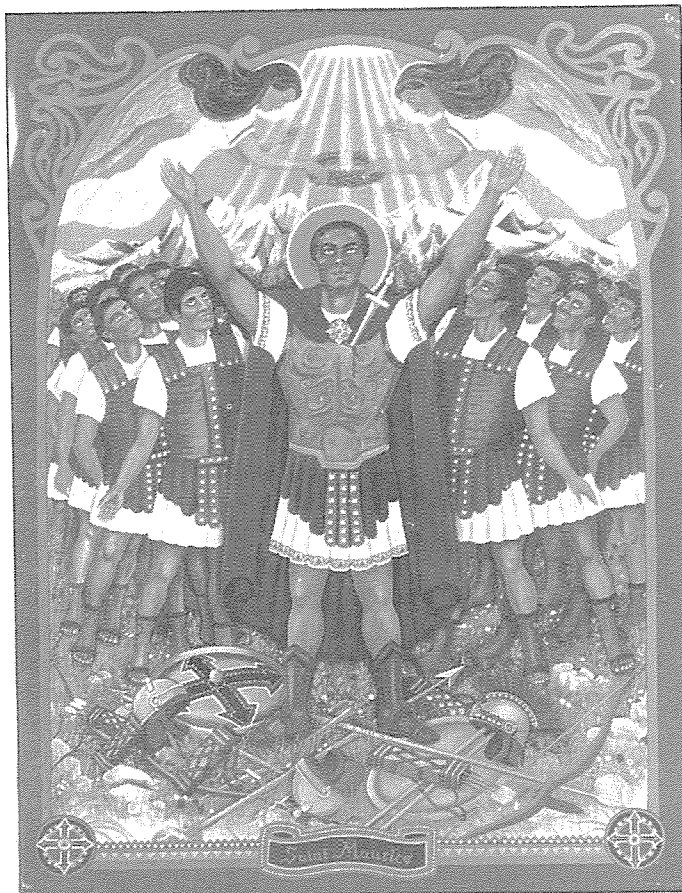
We can defeat Satan by our spiritual weapons: The sign of the Cross, the Word of God, repentance, confession, Communion, praying and fasting, serving the Lord and winning souls to His heavenly kingdom.

Saint Maurice & His Comrades of the Theban

In 1991, the Christian World celebrated the seventeenth centennial of the martyrdom of the great Coptic Martyr Saint Maurice and his comrades of the Theban Legion. H.H. Pope Shenouda delegated H.G. Bishop Serapion to attend the celebrations as a representative of the Coptic Church. In the same year, parts of the relics of Saint Maurice, and of two of his comrades, namely Saint Cassius and Saint Florentius were returned to the Coptic Church, the church to which they belong.

It is a pity that little is known among the Copts about those brave saints who evangelized many countries in Europe by witnessing to Christ, shedding their blood for His Name.

In the December issue, the full story of Saint Maurice's life, struggle and martyrdom will be published so that everyone may find out about this great forgotten saint. Read about him in December in St. John's Magazine.



RESPONSIBLE YOUTH

By
Dalia Atalla

"Let no one despise your youth" (1 Timothy 4:12).

I. What is the meaning of responsibility ?

-- Maturity:

Physical, mental, Spiritual, psychological

-- Stages:

- (1) Confidence stage: 1 - 3 years, 1 st. step, feeling you are loved and wanted.
- (2) Independence stage: 3 - 5 years, forming his personality.
- (3) Achievement stage: 6 - 12 yrs., entering school.
- (4) Faith stage: 13 - 15 yrs., accept the faith offered to you.
- (5) Self-esteem stage: 16 - 20 yrs., (10- 12 grades), ego formation.
- (6) Friendship stage: Intimately and tightly select a friend may be for life, (20 - 25 yrs.), college.
- (7) Productivity stage: 24 -40 yrs., get married, have job, have children, etc. be productive.
- (8) Stability stage: 40 yrs. on, experience.

- Membership in the Church
- Participation to have your role.

II. What are the fields of responsibility ?

- (1) Prayer
- (2) Preaching
- (3) Commitment
- (4) Setting good example
- (5) Growing in grace & spiritual knowledge
- (6) Caring for others

III. How to be responsible ?

- Spiritual father to guide you and give you information.
- Spiritual discipline (prayer, Bible, etc.) from your spiritual father.
- Spiritual atmosphere where you execute the spiritual discipline.

CHURCH NEWS

1. On November 15, 1992 the Coptic Orthodox Church will celebrate the 21 Anniversary of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III. The church celebrates for its faithful Patriarch, whose teachings and orthodox doctrine, revived the church and brought her back to her golden age. The Chrysostom (Golden mouth) of the twentieth century, the man whose life and steadfast faith is as solid as his predecessor St. Athanasios, and enlightning as the teachings and commentaries of St. Cyril, the Pillar of Faith. His Papacy has been a great blessing to the whole world and especially to the Coptic Church all around the world. May the Lord grant him long life in good health on the throne upon which He enthroned him.

In celebration of this occassion St. John Coptic Orthodox Church is going to hold a three day festival, beginning Friday, Nov. 13 - 15. Every day will begin with the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. The church memebers will be displaying all kinds of items for sale, as well as food and drinks. The largest collection of cassettes for His Holiness Pope Shenouda as well as a huge variety of pictures. Antiques, arts and crafts and much much more. In the evenings in the course of the three days, the church will show three different videos: An interview with His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and his memories, The Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the twentieth century, and a professional play on the life of St. John the Beloved.

2. The Church also wants to congratulate her beloved Priest, Fr. Augustinos Hanna for his 3 years in the Holy Priesthood. May God grant him long life in His service.

3. His Grace Bishop Pesenti of Helwan, Egypt will be celebrating the Holy Liturgy in St. John Church, Sunday, November 1. H.G. will only be staying a couple of days in California.

Trips

4. The Church will be going on its monthly trip to St. Antony Monastery on Saturday, November 7th. The Church has organized trips to the Monastery every 1st. Saturday of each month.

5. The Church Youth have made reservations for the winter conference which will from December 20-23rd. Please reserve your space soon, as spaces are limited. The cost for 4 days and 3 nights will be \$65.